

November 2008

WEST Energy News

Holland, MI

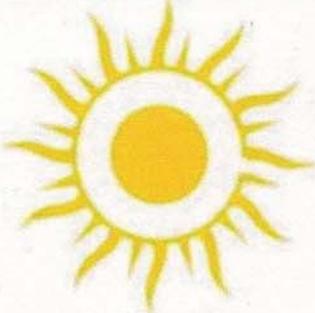
www.westmichiganenergy.org

"To educate and advocate for a clean, sustainable energy future for the Macatawa area."

WEST

YES to:

- Renewable Energy
- Energy Conservation
- Energy Efficiency
- Significant Lowering of all Pollution for Energy Production
- Making a difference in our community, with Our Seven Future Generations in Mind



WEST meets on the
First Tuesday of Each Month
8 - 9:30 am at
Holland Area Arts Council
150 East 8th St.
between Columbia & Lincoln.

JOIN US!!

Co-Chairs:

Chris Byrnes
David Trudell

Committees:

Policy: Mark Rich
Education & Events: Don
Triezenberg
Research: David Trudell and
John Fulenwider
Newsletter: Sara Leeland
John Fulenwider

Send news or comments to:
saraleeland@sbcglobal.net

ENERGY WEEK 2009

Look forward to the second annual *Energy Week* in Holland from March 14 to 21, 2009! WEST will coordinate with the City in the St. Patrick's Day parade and in events sponsored by Holland-area groups. The League of Women Voters has already planned to host a forum on "*Holland's Response to Global Warming: Actions and Needs.*" Have any ideas for what you'd like to see -- or bring to the event? Contact WEST from our web site and we'll get back to you!

"KILOWATT OURS"

Film showing in Holland!

WEST is circulating the leading DVD-film about switching from coal to renewable energy, and ways to conserve energy to cut costs and pollution. If you are part of a church or other group that would like to show the film, contact Don for a copy at:

don.triezenberg@gmail.com

LAKE MICHIGAN WIND POTENTIAL Off-shore is Strong

Lake Michigan wind could produce over 300,000 megawatts (mw) of electricity, says a new report from the Land Policy Institute at Michigan State University. That is far more than earlier estimations of 16,500 mw.

By contrast, Holland's projected new coal-fired plant would produce 78 mw.

"Michigan's Offshore Wind Potential" uses 2008 data on potential turbine spacing and depth scenarios.

The report is intended to support state policy to guide offshore wind development.

To download the report, go to:

www.landpolicy.msu.edu

click on *Downloadable Research.*



Thanks To:
VIABILITY LLC
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**HELP WEST
Find Residential &
Business ENERGY
AUDITORS !!**

People are looking for ways to lower their electricity bills.

Holland area phone book lists electric companies, contractors and supplies, but gives no clue about finding Energy Auditors.

Michigan Interfaith Power and Light lists one Grand Rapids Residential Auditor (www.advancedhomeperformance.com) and one Commercial Auditor (G-Energy, Jenison; 616-457-8601).

Do you know an Energy Auditor in Holland?

SEND WEST the names and we will run them in the next issue.

Send to:
saraleeland@sbcglobal.net

CUT YOUR ENERGY USE?

Ken Freestone, Holland Charter Township, says he reduced his use by 70% over the past four months. "I went from 1068 kWh in May to 667 kWh in June to 411 kWh in July and then 260 kWh in September." "I have been very aggressive around our house about what uses power and where those "vampire" appliances have been lurking. I think it is paying off. I am not sure which things have worked best but it looks like all of them combined are doing the trick." He insists this was accomplished without sacrificing comfort.

Whether it's the cost of sequestering CO² from coal-burning power plants or building new wind turbines, energy costs are going up. So energy conservation will really help your budget, and at the same time it lowers your contribution to Global Warming.

Some recommendations to get you started:

- **Compact Fluorescent (CFL) bulbs.**
More efficient and they provide a softer light.
- **Energy efficient furnace.**
Recommend greater than 93% efficiency.
- **Insulate water heater and hot water pipes.**
- **Use appliance off-switches.**
So they are not draining energy when they are not in use.
- **Put electronics on power strips.**
Turn them off when not in use.



Ken Freestone

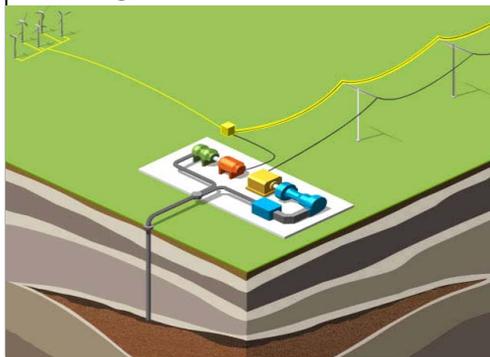
Have a story about your achievements?
E-mail it to saraleeland@sbcglobal.net.

WIND ENERGY STORAGE Works Starts in New Jersey and Iowa

How will you turn on the lights when the wind is not blowing? In Holland, both the City Council and Board of Public Works have raised that question.

Michael Nakhamkin, a top thinker in the field, has an answer. He teamed up with Energy Storage and Power LLC to develop a way. Run compressors that pump air into sealed underground caverns, then release it when needed. The method has been used at an Alabama plant since the 1990s; the latest version will aim at quick responses to energy needs.

Further West, the Iowa Stored Energy Plant Agency (ISEPA), a joint project of municipal utilities in Iowa and several nearby states, plans to compress air using low-cost, off-peak wind electricity as well as wind that is not being sold on the grid at that time.



(Summarized from AP Article; "New Jersey Company to Develop Wind Energy Storage, by Ernest Scheyder.

Photo from drawing of planned wind energy storage in Iowa.
http://www.isepa.com/about_isep.asp