

WEST ENERGY NEWS January 2010

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

Holland Sustainability Committee Holds Community Forums

Holland City wants to know what citizens are thinking about a critical issue: the sustainability of our energy and water uses. Are citizens already conserving? How could the Holland area meet the goals agreed to at the Copenhagen talks: 20% less fossil-fuel energy used by 2020 and 80% less by 2050? Are we concerned about unhealthy water pollution? Sewage spills? Flooding? What do we want the city to do about our energy and water future?

The first round of meetings will happen in each of the 6 city wards and in Park and Holland Townships.

Jan. 12 City Ward 1 Holland Heights School Media Center, 856 E. 12th Street, 6:30 PM

Jan 19 City Ward 2 St. Francis De Sales Church, 171 West 13th Street, 6:30 PM

Jan 20 Holland Township citizens, Fire Station #1, 131 Riley St., 6:30 PM

Jan 26 City Ward 3 Jubilee Ministries, 96 W. 15th Street 6:30 PM

Jan.27 Park Township citizens, Park Township, 52 152nd Ave. 6:30 PM

Feb. 9 City Ward 4 DeGraaf Nature Center, 600 Graafschap Road 6:30 PM

Feb. 16 City Ward 5 Maplewood School Media Center, 925 Central, 6:30 PM

Feb. 23 City Ward 6 First Reformed Church, 630 State St., 6:30 PM

Future meetings will be held with business, education, nonprofits & other groups.

As Committee member Paul Lilly said at the Jan. 5 meeting, "We're at the beginning of a long journey!"

For background and updates, check: www.cityofholland.com/Brix?pageID=1050, or google: 'Holland Community Sustainability Committee.' The committee recommends policy to City Council.

TEEN ENERGY AUDITORS?

West co-founder Marty Dugan always has his eyes on new possibilities for the Holland area. One of his leads this week is to *Teen Energy Specialists* in California who, after training by the **California Youth Energy Services** are providing low-cost energy audits for homeowners. "what if Holland would "copy" such a program for the HBPW service area / customer base," Dugan asks. This would educate people on how to begin immediately using less and encourage young people to help with our community reach a first goal: 20% less energy use. Is this an idea to throw out in the Sustainability meetings (above)? Want to know details? Google [California Youth Energy Services Program](#).

This month with WEST

Tues, Jan. 12 7 - 8:30 p.m. Meeting at Herrick District Library (downstairs). We'll divide into groups about: (1) reaction to proposed WEST energy-future plan; (2) outreach to churches with info on energy statements from Religious groups in our area (fact sheet is ready). (3) mapping green-energy achievements in Holland area. (4) planning statements to City Council & township gov't. ...and more. COME!!!
Tues. Jan. 26: 4:30 - 5:45 pm

