

# WEST ENERGY NEWS

June 2009

"to educate and advocate for a clean, sustainable energy future  
For the Macatawa area" [www.westmichiganenergy.org](http://www.westmichiganenergy.org)

## On the Front Edge ... Of Energy A series of Tuesday Evening Events

**June 9** Mark Kornelis, Community Action Agency  
7 pm "Impact of the federal stimulus:  
Energy-saving for lower-income family homes"

Each year, the Ottawa County program headed by Mark Kornelis installs insulation and other energy-saving products in 50 to 80 area lower-income homes. The new federal stimulus will grow that program to about 500 homes. That not only cuts energy use but grows jobs and the area economy. Come and find out how you can help this Holland-area program.

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**JULY 14<sup>th</sup>** Bob Mihos, HBPW Conservation Manager  
7 p.m. "What does the new energy optimization  
plan mean for YOU?"



In early April 2009, all Michigan utilities filed with the state an optimization (efficiency/conservation) plan. The HBPW plan covers residential, business and large industrial users, with an energy savings goal working up to a total of 5.5% by 2015. How can citizens and businesses and local job-hunters interact with this program? Bob Mihos is the man in charge.

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**AUGUST 11<sup>th</sup>** Jeff Ebihara, V.P. at Consert, Inc.  
7 pm "What can the new 'Smart Grid' do to  
lower energy costs in your home?"

The new 'smart grid' technology includes home meters that would let customers use electricity when demand is lowest, lowering utility needs to generate so much power during peak times, also cutting user costs. Ebihara, of Park Township as well as a start-up N.C. company working on two-way communication between a home device and a utility, will help us envision the fast-arriving future.

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Sponsored by WEST Energy  
ALL EVENTS AT DEGRAAF NATURE CENTER

600 Graafschap Rd. Holland 49423 Free Open to the Public

## Global ENERGY

Global investments in renewable energy overtook those in carbon-based fuels for the first time in 2008, attracting a record \$155 billion, the United Nations reported on June 3, 2009.

Wind, solar and other clean technologies attracted \$140bn compared with \$110bn for gas and coal for electrical power generation. The biggest clean growth came from China, India and other developing countries. Reported by *The Guardian UK*



2009 is a crucial year in the global effort to address climate change. On June 1-2 in Bonn, emissions control additions to the Kyoto treaty were developed. The UN Climate Change Conference Dec. 7-18 in Copenhagen will offer a new agreement.

"We need to act urgently, as the most vulnerable among us are already suffering daily," said the Chinese delegate at Bonn.



## WEST Says YES

to:

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

WEST meets on the  
second Tuesday of each month  
6:30 -8:30 p.m. At  
DeGraaf Nature Center

Co-chairs

Chris Byrnes & Dave Trudell  
Committees

Policy: Mark Rich

Education: Don Triezenberg

Research: David Trudell

John Fulenwider

Energy Week: Marty Dugan

Newsletter: Sara Leeland

saraleeland@sbcglobal.net

WEST online at: [westmichiganenergy.org](http://westmichiganenergy.org)



## ★★Hermann Miller gets Energy Stars★★

On June 1, the global furniture company based in Zeeland announced its entrance into the energy management business with *Convia*, a **high-tech wiring system that allows offices, restaurants, and stores to control their heating and electricity uses, thus saving money.**

The Convia system will be used in the U.S. Green Building Council's new office in Washington, D.C., now expected to achieve a LEED Platinum rating.



In 2008, Herman Miller said that its own investments in energy efficiency had given a 32 percent rate of return. A 2007 study showed that the company had reduced its landfill waste by 80%, hazardous waste by 91%, overall emissions by 87%, and water use by 67% -- all while doubling sales.

**Michigan has surprising potential for solar power, says Environment Michigan (EM).**

Our state averages more than four peak sun hours per day, while

Germany, a global solar energy leader, receives only two peak hours a day, according to EM. Nearly \$80 billion in the federal stimulus bill is earmarked for clean energy: \$33 billion in clean energy, \$27 billion in energy efficiency, and \$19 billion in green transportation.

[www.environmentmichigan.org/newsletters/summer09](http://www.environmentmichigan.org/newsletters/summer09)



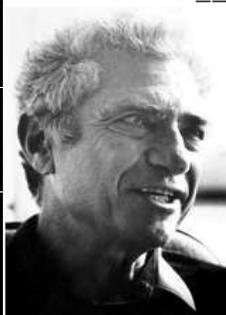
## Join WEST!!

We need new members to help with our educational outreach to Holland-area people and groups. **YOU could help us organize an event for a group you belong to. OR you could help circulate our newsletter and fliers, speak out for a clean energy future at public meetings about energy...and more. WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE WEST TO DO? WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP DO IT?**

Contact Don Triezenberg at:  
<[don.triezenberg@gmail.com](mailto:don.triezenberg@gmail.com)>

**KODAK pioneers the Organic Light Emitting Diode (OLED) technology in the late 1970s.** Now Kodak is creating OLED lighting panels with applications in industrial, commercial and residential settings. **The Department of Energy has awarded Kodak \$1.7 million to develop the technology.** "OLED solid state lighting has tremendous potential to transform the future of the lighting industry... to lower-cost and more energy-efficient systems," said James Buntaine, Chief Technology Officer and Vice President, Kodak OLED Systems.

Noted in Environmental Leader....June 4 2009



Jack Steinberger, the European Nobel-prize physicist, has a big idea: **link solar thermal power from Africa to Europe via high-voltage undersea cables.** His proposed 3- to 3.5-gigawatt power plant would cost an estimated \$32 billion to build. Steinberger believes that 80 percent of Europe's energy needs could be met by solar thermal power plants in the Sahara by 2050. -- from *London Times*

