

# WEST ENERGY NEWS

May 2009

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

## Holland BPW Will Spend \$3.9 million to Lower Electric Use

Holland BPW's report to the state shows it will, in yearly steps, lower its users' electric use by: .3% in 2009, .5% in 2010, .75% in 2011 and 1% yearly 2012-15. The first 4 year effort will cost total of \$3.9 million.. "PA295 requires, having 5.55% savings, total, by 2015," says Dan Nally of HBPW. Per-meter fees will fund the work, with monthly startup fees of .78 for home meters and \$11 for industrial users.

What will Holland-area citizens see happening? Some low-income residents will get cost-free upgrades of their energy efficiency. Coupons will encourage homeowners to buy CFL lights and Energy Star appliances. Incentives will encourage turn-in of old refrigerators and freezers. Energy efficient washers, air conditioners and de-humidifiers and HVAC units will be promoted. Property owners of apartments and condos with interested families will get free CFLs and low-flow devices installed by utility contractors. Emerging residential technologies such as LED for homes, heat pump and solar water heating will be piloted. Total costs for residential programs is estimated at 1.2+ million.

Business incentives, educational services and pilot programs will cost \$2.37+ million.

In essence, the plan meets state requirements, rather than exceeding them as does the HBPW renewables plan. Citizens can watch to see that local rather than industry-wide contractors will be providing the services and ask for timely reports on electricity saved in this 4-year plan. A separate issue: Details in the plan were made available only after the plan was filed with the state. Find it at [www.hollandbpw.com](http://www.hollandbpw.com) by clicking on 'energy optimization plan'.



## DEQ asks Holland BPW for Alternatives to 78MW plant

On April 7, citing citizen concerns, Michigan's DEQ asked Holland's BPW to analyze alternatives to its proposed [78 MW] boiler, especially options that would reduce pollutants including CO-2 and mercury. HBPW is asked to describe (1) whether a smaller boiler or no boiler would be possible; (2) how energy efficiency could lower the size of boiler needed; (3) whether buying from another source or using renewables could replace the need for a new boiler; (4) how demand-reduction could change the options. The DEQ commits to making information on HBPW's response available for public comment. Look for it in July. A final decision on the plant permit is projected for the last quarter of 2009.

## Congressional and EPA Action on Energy

On March 6, EPA proposed a national registry for major greenhouse gas emissions. On March 20, the EPA ruled that, based on scientific findings, global warming constitutes a danger to public health and welfare. This decision gives a basis for EPA limits on greenhouse gas emissions, including CO-2, even without Congressional action. And on March 24, EPA put a hold on hundreds of mountaintop mining permits.

As of May 11<sup>th</sup>, the U.S. House Energy Committee was working on a plan to limit CO-2 emissions from coal-burning power plants. A 'cap and trade' provision puts limits and prices on greenhouse gases, leading to a system in which green-credits could be traded. A bill to limit mercury and acid-rain-producing emissions may be tied to the energy bill. The U.S. wind industry has asked for goals of 25% renewable electric energy by 2025.

## NEW WEST Meeting Place/Time!

Starting in May, WEST will have its monthly meeting on second Tuesday evenings. From 6:30 to 7:00, a brief business meeting; then from 7 to 8:30, a program to which all interested are welcomed. Meetings at the DeGraaf Nature Center, 600 Graafschap Rd. In Holland (on the west just north of the corner with 26<sup>th</sup> St.). Check our website for program details!

## CBS's 60 Minutes on Big Coal: Waiting for Government Funding

Jim Rogers, CEO of Duke Energy's 20 large coal plants, agrees that global warming from CO-2 emissions is a problem. Plants under his supervision emit 100 million tons of CO-2 yearly. But talking to CBS reporter Scott Pelley, he warned that "safe coal will come at an astronomical cost."

What is Rogers doing in response to his global warming concerns? He's waiting for a new national 'Marshall Plan for a low-carbon economy,' he told Pelley. Asked how he would respond to NASA climate scientist Jim Hansen's assertion that the planet needs to phase out emissions from coal within the next 20 years, Rogers didn't question the claim. His response, he said, would be: 'Mr. Hansen: we've got to keep the economy going. When the technology is developed, we'll co-invest with the government.'

What's happening at Duke right now? Two new coal plants, burning Powder River Coal, are under construction. Listen to this April 26 *60 Minutes* program at:  
<http://www.cbsnews.com/video/watch/?id=4969902n>.

## BAN Incandescents?

In 2007, Australia announced a ban on incandescent bulbs to begin in 2010. In 2008 The European Union agreed to a 2010 ban, followed by Cuba and the Philippines. The 2007 U.S. Energy Independence Act requires 25% great efficiency for light bulbs, beginning in the period of 2012-2014. Today the race for efficient light bulbs is being run between CFLs and LEDs. CFLs contain mercury that demands proper disposal. LEDs are more expensive. Keep tuned for latest updates! .

**On the Carbon Tax** "Exacting a financial penalty from those who are responsible for the scorching of the earth seems to be a requirement of any elemental morality. All reliable scientific data is signaling that the global warming crisis is moving faster than previously believed and much faster than our leaders are willing to admit."

--Rev. Paul Mayer, Climate Crisis Coalition

## 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

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



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