

WEST ENERGY NEWS June 2010

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

www.westmichiganenergy.org

KEEP UP WITH LOCAL ENERGY ISSUES!

What's Happening with DeYoung permit?

- ♣ Michigan Public Service Commission is close to a permit decision
- ♣ DNRE is reviewing all MPSC data and letters, headed toward its decision
- ♣ Holland City Council will need to approve any future action recommended by Holland Board of Public



What about the City Sustainability Committee?

- ♣ On May 21st, the committee worked up a statement of possible policies and measurable targets for a Holland Sustainable Energy plan.
- ♣ On June 9, 5:30 pm, the committee will present this statement to City Council and HBPW for comments. It's an open meeting--public welcome!

What's Happening with WEST?

- ♣ WEST is gathering input on the city energy plan through meetings with community leaders interested in sustainable energy
- ♣ WEST website www.westmichiganenergy.org has:
 - sustainable energy plan under consideration
 - global, national, state goals for greenhouse gas reductions
 - summary of comments on DeYoung sent to state agencies
- ♣ WEST meets on the 4th Tuesday of each month, 7 pm, to discuss issues and plan responses. All welcome on June 22, July 20, August 24. At Solar Century, 486 B Century Lane. Drive into second row of offices. Bring a chair!!
No restroom on site.
*** GREAT ideas and INTERESTING discussion!****

TAKE ACTION!

- ♣ WRITE city council with ideas for our energy future
- ♣ COME to June 9, 5:30 pm discussion on Holland sustainability plan. City Hall
- ♣ BRING your ideas to WEST on June 22. 486-B Century Lane, Holland



WEST Says YES to

ideas for energy efficiency, conservation, sustainability, and significant lowering of energy production, making a difference locally with seven future generations in mind.

**WEST meets to discuss current issues and responses on 4th Tuesdays
June 22, July 20, Aug. 24
meetings at
Solar Century
486B Century Lane
Holland
All welcome!!!**

Co-chairs:
Don Triezenberg and Sara Leeland
Treasurer: Russ Packard
Founders: Marty Dugan & John Fulenwider
Facebook editor: Sylvia Avsharian
News editor: Sara Leeland

www.westmichiganenergy.org
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HOLLAND COAL DOLLARS GO SOUTH & WEST

For every boxcar or shipload of coal that travels into or through Holland, dollars are flying out of state. Holland's BPW imports coal from Pikesville, Kentucky and from the western Powder River Basin.

Holland lists its electricity production costs as \$46.6 million in 2010, but does not separate out the cost of coal as an item in the online budget.

In its May 2010 report, the Union of Concerned Scientists tracks the dollar-drain from coal-burning states.

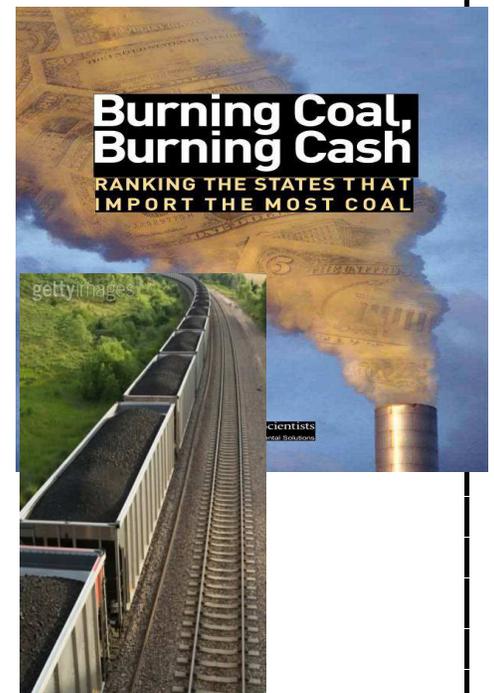
Michigan, which imported 36 million tons of coal worth \$1.4 billion in 2008, ranks as the 7th most coal-dependent state in the nation. Our coal imports provide 60% of electric energy.

States that send coal-dollars out of state are also spending less on energy efficiency. Before the 2008 state energy law, Michigan ranked at the very bottom of coal-importing states in energy-efficiency spending.

States spending least on energy efficiency have also failed to gain cuts in energy use, the UCS report says.

Ways to keep our dollars and jobs closer to home? Work on energy efficiency and alternative energy development.

The report is online at: www.ucsus.org.



The U.S. EPA has issued new rules targeting power plants and oil refineries that are responsible for 70 percent of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. In July 2011, the new rule will cover all new facilities with GHG emissions of at least 100,000 tons per year.

According to the EPA, in 2005 the James DeYoung plant in Holland emitted 465,712 tons of carbon dioxide. The proposed new 78MW plant application projected 476,008 tons of CO₂ per year.

Month by month, coal-burning is looking more expensive.