

# WEST ENERGY NEWS

November 2009

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

## ENERGY THOUGHTS from Holland Mayor-Elect Kurt Dykstra



"Holland is a microcosm of what the whole country faces [in looking at our energy future]," Mayor-elect Dykstra told Century Club members at a City Hall meeting on Nov. 2. "We should have nuclear power. For the foreseeable future,

we are going to get most of our energy from traditional sources."

Reflecting on renewable energy sources, Dykstra commented that: "We'll see windmills popping up. But when it's a hot day, people want air conditioning. We don't want it to depend on the wind blowing or the sun shining."

The location of the DeYoung plant is still an open question, Dykstra said. But the current location insures harbor dredging (based on the amount of commercial traffic). "And DeYoung's boiler runs the snow melt system."

Does this match your energy expectations for the future? What would *you* add to Mr. Dykstra's approach? You can respond to the Mayor-Elect by addressing a letter to him at City Hall (270 S. River, Holland MI 49423) or by e-mail at:

## INSULATE YOUR ELECTRIC SWITCHES!

If you've not already done so, it's time to stop by a hardware store and pick up low-cost packs of insulation for light and plug-in power switches. Focus on all switches in exterior walls. It will make the 'envelope' of your home tighter and save energy!



Tuesday Nov. 10<sup>th</sup>, 7 p.m.

Thinking about the big energy issues?



Come hear.... PAUL ISELY

"What to Expect from  
Cap & Trade"

Paul Isely is chair of the Economics Dept. at Grand Valley State, teaching Environmental Economics and Business Cycles & Growth (both regional and national). He has written on renewable energy, traditional energy pricing, and innovative businesses. He has been interviewed by West Michigan TV, radio and newspapers as well as by NPW, USA Today and the AP wire. An on-line student reported: "He knows his stuff and can teach it!"

HOPE COLLEGE MAAS AUDITORIUM  
264 Columbia Ave., Holland MI

Sponsored by WEST & the Physics/Engineering seminar on renewable energy

## Public Issues should be discussed in Public

After finding that the Boatwerks Restaurant was the site of a 'public-invited' meeting of the Holland Board of Public Works, WEST's Don Triezenberg joined Carol McGeehan of the League of Women Voters in requesting City Council to direct that public meetings be held in public places.

Critical BPW issues being discussed include: underground CO2 sequestration, location of a new and expanded power plant (should a state permit be issued), integration of renewable energy, and the strength of work on energy efficiency to lower power needs.

Meetings at City Council Chambers would allow good space for public attendance as well as allowing MAC TV to show them live.

Interested in Renewable Energy?

Join us for a community

## OPEN HOUSE

Saturday, December 5, 2-4pm

16004 Van Buren St, West Olive  
(1 mile south of Port Sheldon, on the corner of  
Van Buren & 160th St.)

- View 2 homes w/solar photovoltaic systems
- Discuss options for your home or business
- Learn more about pricing and installation

Questions?...call Kris @ (616) 836-5257



Residential and Commercial  
Renewable Energy Systems

To learn more, visit [www.huntergreenpower.com](http://www.huntergreenpower.com)

## WEST Says YES to

ideas for energy efficiency, conservation, sustainability, and significant lowering of energy production, making a difference locally with 7 future generations in mind.

WEST holds public meetings with speakers

on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month from 7-8:30 pm

(see p. 1 for Nov. Talk)

WEST's next planning meeting will be in Herrick Library November 24. 4:30 - 5:30 p.m.

Co-chairs:

Don Triezenberg and Sara Leeland

Treasurer: Russ Packard

Founders: Marty Dugan & John Fulenwider



## WHAT WILL THE HOLLAND COMMUNITY LOOK LIKE IN 2050?

In an Oct. 19<sup>th</sup> report to City Council, the new Sustainability Committee announced its intent to focus on Energy and Water Management sustainability issues. The committee will:

- Identify major stakeholders & facilitate meetings with these organizations
- Engage the public by meetings & surveys
- Conduct studies & prepare reports
- Make recommendations to City Council and the Board of Public Works

To follow the activities of the Sustainability Committee, attending meetings on 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday, 5 pm at 2<sup>nd</sup> floor meeting room, City Hall. On line, go to [www.cityofholland.com](http://www.cityofholland.com) and type in 'sustainability committee' in its search system.



DWELL-TECH owner Brian Bosgraaf and his team ran a door-blower at DeGraaf Center's meeting room on Oct. 13,

giving the WEST audience a 'see how it works' demonstration of checking a space for energy leaks. An infrared camera pictured the intensity of the incoming draft at specific points, such as light switches and the line between wall and ceiling.

Interested in a test of your home? Contact Dwell Tech at 616-395-2620 or through their website at

[www.dwelltechsolutions.com](http://www.dwelltechsolutions.com).