

ENERGY TIDBITS

January 2004

Photovoltaic Demonstration Grants are available to public and non-profit organizations to help fund the purchase and demonstration of new photovoltaic systems that are 10 kW or larger. \$60,000 is available for a grantee but not to exceed 90% of PV system equipment, material, and supply costs. The grantee has to pay some equipment costs and all other costs including labor and installation. A total of \$180,000 is available for three projects. Proposals are due by April 15, 2004, To receive a copy of the Request for Proposal contact John Trieloff at 517/241-6224 or jjtriel@michigan.gov.

Michigan Interfaith Power and Light is a coalition open to any faith organization (congregation, office, school, etc.) in Michigan. Membership in MiIPL is \$100/year and the first 100 congregations to join will receive a free energy audit. Other benefits will be aggregated purchasing, training, networking, and information sharing. Contact Rev. Charles Morris at miipandl@yahoo.com or 734/552-0104.

2nd Annual Renewable Energy Conference will be held at Pierce Cedar Creek Institute in Hastings on Saturday, January 24, 8:30-4:00. This conference is geared to home and business owners interested in energy efficiency, and to renewable energy enthusiasts who wish to increase their knowledge and meet with area experts. Registration is \$25 for adults & \$10 for students & includes lunch. It's suggested that interested participants register early since last year's conference was sold out. Call (269) 721-4190 to register.

Catalog of Combined Heat and Power Technologies is available from the EPA at http://www.epa.gov/chp/chp_support_tools.htm.

Decker Homes is building a ranch house in Monclova Township, Ohio that is typical of suburban homes: 2,250 square feet, 3 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths and a price tag of \$379,000. It's different, though, because it has Uni-Solar solar shingles. The shingles are on about 25% of the roof and generate about 2 kW of power. The batteries store enough power to run the essentials - furnace, lights, and refrigerator - for 6 hours.

Can't Parallel Park? Prius, Toyota's gas & electric hybrid, now has an optional self-parking feature, which combines a rear-mounted camera, power steering, and special software that automatically guides the car back into its curbside destination. Motor Trend Magazine recently named the new Toyota Prius its 2004 car of the year.

First Master's Degree Program in Alternative Fuel Technology will soon be offered at Wayne State University. The first course, Fundamental Alternative Energy I, is planned for the winter semester and will be open to students with a bachelor's degree in engineering. The study will focus on many aspects including fuel cell catalysts, thermal management, control systems, smart sensors, process safety, vehicle design, traffic simulation, infrastructure management and engineering management.

Solar-Powered Lights are now marking runways at the U.S. Air Force base in Kirkuk, Iraq. Energy-efficient light-emitting diodes (LEDs) are the light source. More than 2,600 of the solar lights are now being used at military airfields throughout the world. [Http://www.carmanah.com/index.asp?a=iv&m=news&s=031001](http://www.carmanah.com/index.asp?a=iv&m=news&s=031001)

Wind Energy Town Meeting will be held in Marquette on Saturday, January 17, 2:00-4:00 pm. A small wind systems workshop is also planned. For additional information: <http://www.girea.org>.

ENERGY TIDBITS

January 2004

Page 2 of 2

Center for Resource Solutions says 10,000 companies and 110,000 homes in the U.S. use renewable energy that has been certified under its Green-e Program. The organization has launched an initiative to place the Green-e logo on packages of consumer products manufactured by companies purchasing renewable energy. The 'Made With Renewable Energy' label will encourage companies to take advantage of PR and branding opportunities from communicating their purchase of renewables, and officials say applications for authorized use of the logo have already been filed by White Wave, Interface Fabrics Group, Choice Organic Teas, and Lundberg Family Farms.

Zeeland Public Schools dedicated its 10 kW wind turbine at the Zeeland West High School on December 16. The wind generator was installed on a 85 ft. tower donated by Craig Brumels. The generator has 3 blades with a 23' diameter and will generate 15,000-20,000 kWh per year and save the school \$12,000 per year. Monitoring equipment has been installed to allow students and the public to see how the system performs.

DTE Energy Technologies has signed a \$5.4 million contract with NextEnergy to construct a microgrid in Detroit. The project will use hydrogen, natural gas and solar power, and include several emerging on-site technologies such as fuel cells and PV cells.

Looking for Someone With Energy Experience? The Industrial Assessment Centers have a student forum where resumes are listed. <http://www.iacforum.org/careers.htm>

Boulder Community Hospital is poised to become the first hospital to receive LEED certification. The new \$79 million facility features waterless urinals, a restored wetlands area, dirt roads and natural light. And when a window opens, the air conditioning cuts off. The hospital expects to save \$95,000/year on its energy bill, or 30% of its projected annual costs. That means the hospital will pay off its 2% additional construction costs in 12 years. <http://www.bch.org/aboutbch/foothillshospital.cfm/Environmental%20Impact>

Ohio has its first utility-scale windfarm at Bowling Green, where two 1.8 MW turbines will generate electricity at the Wood County landfill site. Annual output will be 6,891 MWh, sufficient for 780 homes.



Prior issues of Energy Tidbits are at:
www.michigan.gov/energyoffice under Publications.

Would you like to subscribe? Call John Sarver at 517/241-6280 or e-mail jhsarve@michigan.gov