

ENERGY TIDBITS

March 2006

National Biofuel Energy Lab is made possible through a \$2 million U.S. Department of Energy grant. The Lab will open later this year as the result of a collaboration between NextEnergy and Wayne State University. Its goal is to develop and strengthen B20 specifications and standards and facilitate widespread warrant of B20 use by vehicle and engine OEMs and component suppliers. The lab is part of NextEnergy's Biodiesel Value Chain Initiative, an approach to researching and developing biodiesel use, including innovative agricultural methods to grow energy crops, fuel optimization and state-of-the-art biodiesel production. www.nextenergy.org

Energy Conversion Devices has announced a plan to expand the solar module manufacturing capacity of its wholly owned subsidiary United Solar Ovonic to 300 megawatts by 2010. The first phase of the expansion plan will include the construction of a third manufacturing facility with an annual capacity of 50 MW, which is expected to be operational in calendar year 2007. United Solar Ovonic currently manufactures solar modules at a 25-MW production facility in Auburn Hills and is currently constructing a second 25-MW production facility also located in Auburn Hills.

Federal Energy Tax Credit guidance has been provided by IRS. IRS Guidance for Home Builders is at <http://www.irs.gov/newsroom/article/0,,id=154658,00.html>. IRS Guidance for Homeowners is <http://www.irs.gov/newsroom/article/0,,id=154657,00.html>. Other information about federal tax credits can be found at our web site at www.michigan.gov/energyoffice under Frequently Asked Questions.

Go Solar Grand Rapids! Free Information Seminar will be held on Saturday, March 11, 10:00-11:30 am at the Main Branch of the Grand Rapids Public Library. Introductory Renewable Energy Seminars will be held on April 1, 9am-5pm at the WMEAC Office in Grand Rapids. Intermediate Solar Heating Seminar will be held on April 8, 9am-5pm at the GLREA Energy Center in Dimondale. www.glrea.org/events/main.html

Wisconsin Senate has passed a bill that would require the state to generate 10 percent of its electricity from renewable sources by 2015.

Mackinaw Power has been nominated by the Department of Environmental Quality for the 2006 National Small Business Recognition Awards. These awards are given by the Small Business Ombudsman and Small Business Assistance Programs nationwide, and the National Compliance Advisory Panel, along with the U.S. EPA's Office of Small Business Ombudsman. Mackinaw Power was nominated for the Small Business Environmental Stewardship Award.

Renewable Energy Basics: Explore Your Options will be held on March 18, 1-4 pm at the Upland Hills Ecological Awareness Center in Oxford. 248-693-1021 & uheac@earthlink.net

Detroit Green Map – check it out at <http://www.detroitgreenmap.org/map/index.html>.

Rebuild Michigan Grants have been awarded to the City of Marshall (\$12,376) and the City of Ecorse (\$18,309) to begin community partnerships that promote energy efficiency in commercial buildings and the generation and use of renewable energy in the community. For additional information, contact Tom Krupiarz at (517)241-6184 or takrupi@michigan.gov.

CHP Opportunities with Alternative Energy Sources will be held on Tuesday, March 14 at the NextEnergy Center in Detroit. www.shepherdadvisors.com/events.htm

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New Tax Credits for Hybrid Vehicles are complicated. While the exact amount will depend on IRS rules yet to be written, the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy has made a preliminary estimate of the credit amount for hybrid vehicles now on the market. <http://www.aceee.org/transportation/hybtaxcred.htm>

Harvesting Clean Agri-Energy Conference will be held at the Horizons Center in Saginaw on March 15. Agenda topics will include bio-gas digesters, renewable energies, and bio-fuels and bio-products. www.michigan.gov/deqworkshops

Industrial Technologies Program BestPractices Resources for Partners fact sheet describes resources and opportunities available to partners on how manufacturing plants can save energy and money by making energy efficiency improvements to their industrial process heating systems. www.nrel.gov/docs/fy06osti/39259.pdf

Eco-Efficiency Analysis Training will be held March 15-16 at the Dearborn Inn. Eco-efficiency Analysis, a methodology developed by BASF, is a key component of a successful sustainability strategy. It can answer complex questions about environmental and economic impacts of products and processes over their life cycle. Contact: bradlec@basf-corp.com or 973-600-8400

Michigan Clean Fleet Conference will be held on March 22 at NextEnergy Center in Detroit. The conference will educate public and private fleet managers, public officials, trucking companies, school districts, and other stakeholders on the various strategies, fuels, and technologies available to assist fleets in conserving fuel, decreasing emissions, & saving money. www.michigan.gov/deqworkshops select "Upcoming Workshops"

Archiopolis Energy Services is a new full service energy consulting firm that provides energy audits, retrofit design services, project management, commissioning and financing assistance for commercial and institutional clients. Contact John Barrie @ 734-668-4811.

Advancing Energy Efficiency and Productivity will be held on March 23 at the Rock Financial Showplace in Novi. <http://ww2.esd.org/EVENTS/EnergyConf.htm>



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or e-mail jhsarve@michigan.gov

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