

ENERGY TIDBITS

July 2004

2005 Community Energy Project Grants will be available to public and non-profit agencies to implement the following types of projects in Michigan: 1) Solar energy demonstrations, 2) Bioenergy/biofuels education, 3) Green commuting projects, 4) Green building projects, and 5) Statewide energy conferences and/or events. Each project can be up to \$6,000. The deadline for proposals is Sept. 1, 2004. Contact me at 517/241-6280 or jhsarve@michigan.gov for a copy of the Request for Proposal.

Advanced High Performance School Buildings Workshop will be held on August 24 at the State Historical Library and Museum in Lansing. Additional information is available at www.michigan.gov/eoworkshops

Clean Air Excellence Award from EPA has been given to a pilot program that converts paint fumes into hydrogen at the Ford Rouge complex in Dearborn. Ford, which developed the "fumes-to-fuel" technology with Detroit Edison, uses the hydrogen to power a solid oxide fuel cell. The system captures volatile organic compounds and concentrates them into hydrocarbons. A reformer is used to turn the mixture into a hydrogen-rich gas, which is fed into the fuel cell. Launched last year, the pilot program can handle about 5% of the paint shop's fumes and generates about 5 kW. A 100 kW unit that will be installed later this year will be capable of processing all paint VOCs and will produce enough electricity to light the entire paint line. The program was partially funded by the Michigan Public Service Commission.

Calvin College has installed a 20 kW solar photovoltaic system on the Vincent and Helen Bunker Interpretive Center. A wealth of information is available at <http://solar.calvin.edu/index.html>.

3-4 Months is all the time needed for a wind turbine to recover the amount of energy that goes into its production, operation and scrapping over its 20-year lifetime. As a result, a turbine will save between 63-78 times the energy input over that 20 years, according to 'Wind Energy - The Facts,' a 330-page report by the European Wind Energy Assoc. and the European Commission. The external costs to society of generating electricity from wind turbines are estimated at less than 0.26 Eurocents/kWh, while environmental costs for coal-fired generation range from 2-15 Eurocents/kWh, the same report notes.

Solar Tour of Michigan can be found at www.michigan.gov/eorenew under publications. The Tour features a wide range of applications at 15 solar sites in Michigan.

Michigan Biomass Energy Program has announced its 2004 Biomass Grant to fund projects that expand markets for energy and fuel derived from Michigan biomass resources; maximum awards of \$30,000. Proposals are due 5pm, August 5, 2004. To request an RFP, contact Dulcey Simpkins at 517-214-6223 or dlsimpk@michigan.gov.

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Page 2 of 2

Draft Wind Energy Siting Guidelines are available by contacting me at jhsarve@michigan.gov or 517-241-6280. Comments will be appreciated.

Oakland Community College is offering its AET 2400 course in Energy Management online for students throughout Michigan this fall. This course teaches how to reduce both energy consumption and pollution in residences and commercial buildings. Students conduct a commercial energy audit for their final project. Students range from interested persons with no background to builders, architects and engineers. Students can register either through Oakland Community College at www.oaklandcc.edu or through the Michigan Virtual College Network at <http://vcampus.mccvlc.org/> For more information, call Dr. Debra Rowe at 248-246-2553.

Tom Stanton's Top Book Pick - Bornstein's *How to Save the World* (Oxford University, 2004) chronicles the efforts of a couple dozen "social entrepreneurs" and "social venture capitalists" who are beginning to apply sustainability principles to a variety of societal problems. His book explores how these people have been successful in making significant social changes, by focusing on the need to identify "general patterns" and "spread those principles" to practitioners.

electronic Environmental Resources Library (eERL) is just finishing its first year of development, thanks to an NSF grant. A team comprised of educators and practitioners will be testing the site through Summer 2004. eERL is tailored for community college students and educators and practitioners in environmental technology areas. However, if you are interested in finding information on a variety of environmental topics, from climate change and sustainability to compliance, go to <http://www.eerl.org/>

Greening the Lodging Industry program of Green Seal offers a purchasing and operations guide and a certification program to identify environmentally responsible lodging. <http://www.greenseal.org/greeninglodge.htm>

Energy Star Labels have been earned for 26 Michigan commercial and institutional buildings. http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=business.bus_index



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