

ENERGY TIDBITS

July 2005

2006 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/bioproducts education, 3) Green commuting projects, 4) Green building projects, 5) Statewide energy conferences, and 6) Statewide energy events. Each project can be up to \$6,000. The deadline for proposals is Sept. 1, 2005. Contact me at 517/241-6280 or jhsarve@michigan.gov for a copy of the Request for Proposal.

Warren District Office, Dept. of Environmental Quality, had a grand opening on April 22, Earth Day. This building is the first state office building to be LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certified. For at least two years, 100% of the power for this building will come from wind energy. The roof is covered by a white membrane that will reflect the summer sun. All of the lights and sinks have automated sensors to shut them off when not in use. Reuse of old materials, eg. chairs and office panels, brought in a cost savings of \$493,000.

American Electric Power has donated a 10 kW wind generator to the Outdoor Discover Center in Holland. Check out the web page at <http://wind.aeptechlab.com/PowerGraph.aspx?DeviceID=1>

Alliance for Environmental Sustainability has been selected by the US Green Building Council to be one of 11 LEED-H Pilot Program Providers in the nation. USGBC made their selection from more than 100 applicants. The LEED Homes program is the national standard for green houses. As a selected program provider, AES will train, inspect and certify local LEED-H projects. At least 10 homes will be constructed in the next 10 months using LEED-H criteria along with at least one affordable housing project. For more information, contact Mike Holcomb, AES President at 616-878-7200 or Jeannine Reynolds, Executive Director at 616-241-5537.

Renewable Energy Day Camp for High School Students will be held on July 18 -22 at Upland Hills Ecological Awareness Center in Oxford. Cost is \$185. Students will explore and "play" with lots of alternative energy applications such as wind, solar, hydrogen, green building, ecological design and much more! The camp will also include an emphasis on diverse career paths in the emerging fields of renewable energy and related industries. www.uheac.org or call 248-693-1021 or e-mail uheac@earthlink.net.

Holiday Inn and Suites in Madison will save more than \$17,000 a year in energy costs by reducing the costs associated with heating and cooling unoccupied rooms. The savings are a result of a guest room energy management system installed in 157 guestrooms. In addition to managing heating and cooling, the controls also work with the master entry switch to activate lighting. Hotel case studies, energy tips, and links to other resources can be found at www.michigan.gov/eobnp .

Apprentice Photovoltaic Class will held on August 15-19 at the Great Lakes Renewable Energy Assoc. Center in Dimondale. Contact: www.glrea.org, 800-434-9788, info@glrea.org

Metaldyne Plant-Wide Assessment Case Study describes an energy assessment conducted at the Metaldyne forging plant in Royal Oak. The assessment focused on reducing the plant's operating costs, inventory, and energy use. If the company implements all the recommendations that came out of the assessment, its total annual energy savings for electricity will be about 11.5 million kWh and annual cost savings will be \$12.6 million. www.nrel.gov/docs/fy05osti/37650.pdf

Small Wind Electric Systems Guide is now available at www.michigan.gov/eorenew .

ENERGY TIDBITS

July 2005

Page 2 of 3

Building a Small Solar Panel System will be held on August 13, 9 am - 1 pm at Upland Hills Ecological Awareness Center. Cost for 10 Watt system is \$325. This workshop is designed to help those who are interested in solar design build their own small photovoltaic system. Pre-registration and payment are required. The workshop is limited to 10 people. www.uheac.org or call 248-693-1021 or e-mail uheac@earthlink.net.

Ethanol generates 35% more energy than it takes to produce according to a study by Argonne National Laboratory. Earlier research by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Michigan State University, Colorado School of Mines, Institute for Local Self-Reliance and others concluded that ethanol has a positive net energy balance, and a USDA study in 2004 found that ethanol may net as much as 67% more energy than it takes to produce. Since fuel ethanol was first used in the early 1980s, there have been debates about whether corn-based ethanol provides energy benefits. http://www.ncga.com/public_policy/PDF/03_28_05ArgonneNatLabEthanolStudy.pdf

Japan's Environment Ministry has launched a campaign urging government workers to leave suit coats and ties at home in an effort to conserve energy. By keeping office temperatures at 82 degrees Fahrenheit rather than 77, the effort will help Japan reach its emission-reduction goals under the Kyoto Protocol. The Energy Conservation Center says it's possible the country could save 81 million gallons of oil in one summer, just by turning down the AC. Thus a new style of office attire dubbed "Cool Biz," which includes open-neck shirts and pants in pale colors.

Green Building: Intensive Design Planning Session will be held at the Eco-Learning Center in Traverse City on July 18-21. The session will feature Dan Chiras, author of "The New Ecological Home" and Rusty Smith, Auburn University Professor of Architecture. Contact: 231/620-4775

NextEnergy, Inc. has received a \$43,000 grant from the Energy Office to serve as the coordinating agency for the Detroit Area Clean Cities Coalition. Initially the Coalition focused on alternative fuels such as compressed natural gas, electricity, propane, ethanol and biodiesel. The program now also offers additional information and assistance to area fleets interested in adopting technologies such as hybrid electric gasoline and diesel vehicles and idle reduction equipment for heavy-duty trucks and buses. For additional information, contact Rachel Kuntzsch at 313-833-0100 ext. 180 or detroitcleancities@nextenergy.org.

\$6 Million in Low-Income and Energy Efficiency Fund Grants has been approved by the MPSC on Jun 30. This round of grants is devoted to promoting energy efficiency among all customer classes in Michigan.

Automation Alley Technology Center - \$550,000 to install two building integrated solar power electric systems, an integrated energy management system, and a battery back-up system in Michigan.

Elkton-Pigeon-Bay Port Laker School District - \$265,000 for the installation and grid tying of two wind turbines and a solar panel on the property of the Laker School District located in the upper thumb area of Michigan.

Grand Valley State University - \$1 million to build a pilot plant that converts animal biomass into methane gas. It will be used to generate electricity.

Michigan Department of Environmental Quality/Next Energy - \$185,000 for the development of analysis to identify appropriate sources and quantities of energy efficiency and renewable energy feedstocks/technologies available and to optimize net economic benefits to Michigan's economy.

ENERGY TIDBITS

July 2005

Page 3 of 3

Michigan State University/Biosystems & Agricultural Engineering - \$2 million to construct an anaerobic digester, including an anaerobic membrane bioreactor, an evaporator, reverse osmosis equipment, an expanded facility for struvite production, a constructed wetland, and provisions for visitors.

NextEnergy Center - \$150,000 toward the development of an interactive fleet user's Web site in Michigan that will assist in determining and evaluating fuel economy improvements, emission reductions for various types of powertrain technologies, and alternative fuel vehicles.

Northwestern Michigan College (Michigan Technical Education Center) - \$450,000 for the "Northern Michigan Energy Demonstration Center-Renewable Energy Training Laboratory"; that will focus on the training of students for residential energy efficiency and renewable energy systems.

Ovonic Fuel Cell Company LLC - \$400,000 for the development of a prototype "Ovonic Regenerative Fuel Cell"; to be used by customers that require reliable backup power through an uninterruptible power supply system.

Traverse City Light & Power - \$400,000 to demonstrate how an integrated renewable energy district heating and wind power plan can be developed, implemented, and administered on a community scale in a cost effective manner, providing economic and environmental benefits.

U.P. Steel - \$530,000 to assist in development of a pilot mill using a new microwave/electric arc furnace steelmaking technology.

West Michigan BioDiesel LLC - \$70,000 for the purchase of items to assist with safe and efficient production using recycled vegetable oil for feedstock at its plant.

RFP Opportunity: Rebuild MI Community Partner Technical Assistance Contractor The purpose of this RFP is to obtain bids for a technical assistance contractor to assist the Rebuild Michigan Community Partners with development or expansion of their capacity to help commercial building owners increase the energy efficiency of their buildings. The contractor will provide technical and varied consulting services, including introductory energy evaluations, to a maximum of eight (8) Rebuild Michigan Community Partners. Proposal Due Date: July 25, 2005. For more information or to obtain a copy of the RFP please contact Tom Krupiarz, Project Manager, Rebuild Michigan at 517.241.6184 or takrupi@michigan.gov.



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