

ENERGY TIDBITS – May 2007

NextEnergy has released a report that assesses the impact of energy efficiency and renewable energy policies on Michigan's economy. The results of the study clearly show that investments in energy efficiency programs and the adoption of a Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) will create up to 19,000 additional jobs and increase the Gross State Product by as much as \$1.6 billion all while making an investment in the future of Michigan's environment. The report is available for download from <http://www.michigan.gov/deq>

GreenCurrents, a green power program from Detroit Edison, was recently announced. For \$2.50 a month, residential customers can purchase a block of 100 kWh's of renewable energy. Customers can also choose to match 100% of their home's electricity consumption with renewable resources for an additional cost of two cents per kWh – or about \$10 to \$15 per month for a typical household. Business customers can purchase a 1,000 kWh block of green energy for \$20 a month – or match all of their electricity usage with renewable power for an additional cost of two cents per kWh. Additional information is available at www.GreenCurrents.com, or by calling (866) 207-6955.

St. Elizabeth Catholic Church and Father Charles are in the news again. The church's energy efficiency, solar, and wind efforts have been recognized in an article in the March 2007 issue of La Nuova Ecologia, the biggest environmental magazine in Italy. If you know Italian, check it out.

Fireside Home Construction has won a 2007 Energy Value Housing Silver Award for the category of custom home in a cold climate and the People's Choice Award. This award program supported by DOE and the National Assoc. of Home Builders is in its 13th year. Deadline for 2008 applications is July 27. www.nahbrc.org/evha/

WARM Training Center and Bagley Housing in SW Detroit are working together on 23 affordable and green homes. They are the first Detroit area single family homes to meet the Enterprise Foundation's Green Communities criteria and are part of Michigan Green Communities, a partnership between MSHDA, the Enterprise Foundation, and the Great Lakes Capital Fund. The first homes will be ready this Spring. www.greencommunitiesonline.org/michigan

Energy Efficiency Programs legislation has been introduced by Rep. Frank Accavitti. HB 4583 would have the MPSC ensure that electric and natural gas utilities use cost-effective energy efficiency investments in their resource portfolios. Annual incremental energy savings would be required to be .75% of total sales by 2010. 75% of the dollars collected from customer surcharges would be used for utility incentives to customers. 25% of the dollars would be used by the MPSC for market transformation and education programs.

<http://www.legislature.mi.gov/documents/2007-2008/billintroduced/House/htm/2007-HIB-4583.htm>

Assoc. of Energy Engineers, West Michigan Chapter will hold a May 2 meeting at 11:30-1:00 at the Watermark Country Club in Grand Rapids. There will be a presentation on the proper equipment to implement an effective submetering system. Interested persons can register by following this link: <http://www.acteva.com/booking.cfm?bevaid=133210>

Canada's Largest Solar Farm near Sarnia ---right across the river from Port Huron--- will have more than a million solar panels on the ground and will generate 40 megawatts of power by 2010. The Ontario Power Authority has agreed to purchase the electricity for a standard offer of 42 cents/kWh under a 20-year contract. <http://www.thestar.com/Unassigned/article/207415>

2007 ESD/DTE Energy Conference: Advancing Energy Efficiency & Productivity will be held on May 15, 8:00 to 3:00 at the Rock Financial Showplace in Novi. The conference will feature more than 100 exhibitors and topics ranging from Conservation, Alternative Resources, Green Roofs, On-Site Generation to Emerging Technologies. Contact: 248-353-0735, x4115 or twalker@esd.org

Collaborative on Smart Grid Infrastructure will be convened by the MPSC staff to improve the state's electric grid. A smart grid would feature advanced metering; monitors and sensors throughout to help control power flows; self-monitoring; automated restoration when disruptions occur; and price information provided to customers. The Commission has directed the MPSC staff to convene a collaborative process to monitor national smart power grid infrastructure developments. When options appear cost-effective and practical to implement, the MPSC staff has been directed to establish evaluation criteria and standards that would trigger pilot programs or broader deployment in Michigan. This is Case No. U-15278.

Solar Hot Water & Pool Heating Seminar will be held on May 12, 1:00-4:00 PM at Upland Hills Ecological Awareness Center in Oxford. Contact: info@uheac.org or (248) 693-1021

Energy Star Label public awareness has jumped to 68% of U.S. households, according to a recent nationwide survey. Additional results from the survey show that: more than 60% of households reported being favorably influenced by the Energy Star label and more than 30% of U.S. households knowingly purchased an Energy Star qualifying product or appliance in the past year. http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=news.nr_news#awareness1

Intermediate Solar Heating Seminar will be held on June 2, 9 AM - 4 PM at the GLREA Energy Demonstration Center in Dimondale. Contact: www.glrea.org

Whirlpool Corporation has received the 2007 ENERGY STAR Partner of the Year Award for Sustained Excellence from the U.S. Dept. of Energy and the U.S. EPA. This special award is given to a select group of organizations that have exhibited outstanding environmental leadership year after year, while sustaining product and marketing excellence. This unique honor represents the company's 8th ENERGY STAR Award. Among the reasons cited in recognizing Whirlpool was the company's commitment to offering a variety of ENERGY STAR products, as well as the company's training programs, marketing campaigns and innovative national consumer education activities.

Brandon Knight, one of Michigan's young environmental leaders, was featured in the 2nd Annual *Vanity Fair* Green Issue for groundbreaking work on college and university campuses. Recognized as one of *Vanity Fair*'s 2007 global citizens, Brandon coordinates efforts to address climate change through policy change and awareness-raising on over 20 university and college campuses across the Midwest as part of the Campus Climate Challenge. www.climatechallenge.org.

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