

ENERGY TIDBITS – March 2008

Citigroup, J.P. Morgan Chase, and Morgan Stanley have announced new environmental standards that are expected to make it more difficult for large coal-fired power plants in the US to get financing. The standards anticipate some form of cap-and-trade program becoming law in the U.S. in coming years and seek to force utilities to plan for the inevitable. Coal plants seeking funding would first have to prove they can be financially viable under a cap-and-trade system. The 3 banks said that they would consider funding energy efficiency measures and renewable energy projects ahead of coal plants and that when funding coal projects they'll heavily favor plants that can successfully capture and sequester their carbon emissions.

Pierce Cedar Creek Institute's 6th Annual Renewable Energy Conference will be held on March 15. Home and business owners, college students, teachers, and anyone interested in renewable energy will benefit and enjoy the day. www.cedarcreekinstitute.org

California Public Utility Commission (CPUC) has approved long-term prices for the state's utilities to buy renewable energy from their customers. For 7 of the state's utilities, the so-called "feed-in tariff," approved on January 31, applies to renewable energy systems located at public water and wastewater facilities. But for PG&E and SCE, a separate feed-in tariff applies to any customer-located renewable energy system up to 1.5 MW in capacity. The tariff requires signing a long-term contract for 5, 10, or 15 years, but the price is adjusted based on the time of day of the power generation. Facilities earning the tariff cannot be participating in other state incentive programs.

Clean Energy Coalition, based in Ypsilanti, has been awarded a \$110,000 grant from the Energy Office to provide incentives to public service stations and public fleet owners for converting fuel delivery systems to ethanol (E85) fuel. The incentives will cover 50% of the conversion costs up to \$5,000 per site. Projects must be completed and dispensing E85 by September 30, 2008 and station and public fleet owners must commit to purchasing E85 for at least 3 years after receiving the incentive. Sean Reed at 734-717-1455 or reed@cec-mi.org

Peaches Bed & Breakfast, located in Grand Rapids, has earned Green Lodging Michigan Leader certification. Peaches B&B has implemented several environmental initiatives such as installing Energy Star lighting and equipment, using low VOC cleaning products and paints, and offering a towel and linen reuse program to guests. Peaches B&B also reduces waste by asking vendors to take back packaging, avoiding single use disposable items, using refillable dispensers for bathroom amenities, and offering a comprehensive recycling program for guests and staff. "At Peaches, we feel that we are not just caretakers of this historic home, but also of the earth," said owner Jane Lovett. "We take advantage of every possible avenue for re-using, re-purposing,

recycling or donating. This not only helps protect our world by reducing our environmental footprint, it saves money.” <http://www.peaches-inn.com/>

Compact Fluorescent Lights Sales doubled to 290 million units during 2007 and accounted for about 20% of the U.S. light bulb market by year-end, according to the EPA.

ASHRAE Seminars on Sustainability: SOS for the Environment will be held on March 11 at Lawrence Technological University in Southfield. The conference provides continuing education on sustainability and promotes sustainable design practices among building design professionals, building owners, facilities managers and construction professionals. www.detroitashrae.org

Michigan's University Research Corridor is investing up to \$900,000 of its own resources in seed grants to speed up the development of "revolutionary but feasible" alternative energy research involving researchers at two or more of the URC universities (MSU, UM, WSU). The universities will consider proposals from faculty related to novel research in energy policy, materials (including nanomaterials), clean energy sources, transmission, and storage.
www.urcmich.org/commentary/urc_est_2008.pdf.

Mid Michigan Community Action Agency has a new energy efficient building. A description of the heating, lighting, and insulation measures can be found at www.michigan.gov/energyoffice under News and Information.

State Wind Outreach Team has been formed by the Energy Office to provide education and outreach on wind energy. This effort is supported by DOE's Wind Powering America program. The State Wind Outreach Team's goal is to provide accurate, balanced, current, and complete information to inform both individual purchase and development decisions and public policies.
www.michigan.gov/eorenew under Wind Working Group

Green Building for Performance, Durability, Comfort, and Health: Tactics for Success is a one-day seminar being held at Northwestern Michigan College on March 5, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Doug Garrett will talk about the City of Austin's Green Building Program. www.nmc.edu/energy.

Kevin Taylor of Warren has been selected to receive an IEEE-USA Professional Achievement Award. Kevin is being honored "for conceiving and coordinating the Future Energy Technology's Employment Challenge career program in Detroit" in October of 2006. The event drew 150 attendees to the NextEnergy Center. Kevin will be honored with 21 other award recipients during the IEEE-USA Annual Meeting in Indianapolis on April 26.

Washtenaw County will set up an 80 meter meteorological tower to test wind potential for the county. No wind studies have been conducted at this height in

this part of Michigan. Plans for erecting the tower are slated for February 21. Chrysler is a partner for the project, providing the site for the tower and \$30,000, as one of their new corporate mandates is being "green".

www.ewashtenaw.org/government/departments/planning_environment/planning/wind_power/

Michigan Energy Conference will be held April 11-12 at Ferris State University. The conference is intended to educate and encourage collaboration among industry, policy makers, utilities, and consumers. Contact: www.ferris.edu/mec

Rebuild Michigan grants from the Energy Office to develop community partnerships have been awarded to Upland Hills Ecological Awareness Center (\$24,400), Michigan Suburbs Alliance (\$24,900), Alliance for Environmental Sustainability (\$12,720), and Michigan State University/Kent County Extension (\$15,829). Each partnership will develop a 2-5 year action plan and organize a coalition that will work toward fulfilling community energy goals. These new coalitions will initially focus their efforts on energy efficiency opportunities in participating public, commercial, and multi-family building owners.

Renewable Fuels Summit, part of the ongoing biofuels collaboration between Michigan State University and Michigan Technological University, brought Swedish bio-energy experts to Bay de Noc Community College to talk to an overflow crowd of more than 130 Hans Gulliksson, an energy expert with a Swedish energy agency, spoke about bioenergy as both a development strategy and an environmental advantage. Gullikson said that bio-waste provides a good chunk of the electricity and steam heat used by most Swedes at home and on the job, using a system of decentralized power plants. "We do production in every municipality or village," he said.

Making Energy Star Homes Work for You! + An Intro to Green Building seminars will be held throughout Michigan starting on March 14. Workshops will be held in Dearborn, Jackson, Pontiac, Gaylord, Mt. Pleasant, Kalamazoo, and Traverse City. www.warmtraining.org

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