

ENERGY TIDBITS – April 2008

Michigan Senate has voted to require that state government use more green energy. SB 1000 approved unanimously would require that 3% of electricity in state buildings come from renewable sources by 2009 , 10% by 2010, 20% by 2020, and 25% by 2025. Republican senators favor their approach over proposed renewable requirements in the House that would affect all utilities and power providers in Michigan. The Senate bill would let the state off the hook if renewable energy costs 5% more than traditional power.

Michigan Senate has also voted to require electric suppliers to offer green power programs (SB 1041). SB 1040 passed and will provide up to a \$200 tax credit for a homeowner to cover any extra costs of participating in a green power program.

Does Your iPod Battery die while you're on the treadmill? Keep an eye out for a new knee brace designed to harvest energy from a walker's stride. From only one minute of movement, the device described in *Science* can generate enough energy to power a cell phone for half an hour.

Green Advantage Training Workshop will be held on April 17, 8-5, at the Motherhouse of the IHM Sisters in Monroe. Building contractors and subcontractors should attend to learn the latest green building practices. The certification exam will be held on April 24 at Henry Ford Community College. LEED Innovation Credit can be granted for Green Advantage Certified Contractors and Subcontractors. www.greenadvantage.org

The Betsie Bay Inn, located in Frankfort has earned Green Lodging Michigan (GLM) Steward certification. The Inn has implemented several environmental initiatives such as offering a towel and linen reuse program, using safe cleaning products, detergents and paints, and using Energy Star lighting and equipment. The Inn also has a comprehensive recycling program for guests and staff and specifies that paper purchases are made from 30% (or greater) post consumer recycled material. "Going green in a balanced way is just a matter of common sense," said Lesley Perkins, owner and general manager of the Betsie Bay Inn. "'Waste not, want not' was a common saying I learned as a child that I still believe in today. The Betsie Bay Inn has saved money, time and energy by putting our program in place," she said. <http://www.betsiebayinn.com/>

Republic of Lakotah which has seceded from the US has plans for a wind energy project according to Russell Means. Means has been talking with a California company about plans to put windmills on land owned by both Native Americans and non-Natives willing to become citizens of the new republic which encompasses land in N. Dakota, S. Dakota, Nebraska, Montana, and Wyoming.

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

Moon Power will soon be certified by the Michigan Renewable Energy Exchange (MI-REX). Eligible technologies will include photovoltaic systems that capture moonlight and tidal energy systems. Since Moon Power renewable energy certificates are rare, it is expected that they will sell for around \$100 per MWH.

Earth Day Expo 2008 will be held on Saturday, April 19th, 11am-6 pm at the Oakland Center at Oakland University. Expo is free and will offer dozens of exhibits, informative presentations, lively music, organic food, kids' activities, and more. www.earthdayexpo.org or call 248-693-1021.

PHEV Pilot Program to integrate plug-in hybrid electric vehicles into Michigan's electric grid will become part of the Michigan Public Service Commission's ongoing smart grid collaborative. The PHEV aspect of the smart grid collaborative will include using vehicles which incorporate vehicle-to-grid (V2G) systems, analyzing the environmental effects of PHEV adoption, analyzing the effect on utility system load duration curves and capacity requirements, and analyzing time-based pricing policies. PHEV technology has the potential to provide peak load power during high demand periods if a utility's system provides V2G capability through a smart grid.

CIA has apparently been green for years -- yet nobody managed to find out. The agency's new campus in Chantilly, Va., was just outed as "green." The new campus has earned LEED green-building certification and features a green roof, preferred parking for carpoolers, energy-efficient equipment, and waterless urinals.

St Clair County 6th Annual Earth Fair will be held on April 18-19 at Goodells County Park. Contact: www.stclaircountystormwater.org

T. Boone Pickens, who has a net worth of \$2.5 billion and runs BP Capital Management, a private equity firm, and Mesa Power, plans to build a 4,000 MW wind energy facility in Pampa, Texas, in the Panhandle section, which could cost as much as \$10 billion.

Rebuild Mid-Michigan Commercial Energy Seminar will be held on May 20, 8:00-4:30 at the Lansing Center. Utility bills, O&M practices, HVAC, retrofitting older buildings, lighting, and renewable energy will all be covered. www.urbanoptions.org or 517-337-0422 ext 6

Greenhouse will become the first eco night club in the U.S.—in time to make it New York Fashion Week's buzziest hot spot. In the three-story space on 10th Avenue, LED lights replace standard bulbs, the toilets are programmed to use

less water, furniture is covered with recycled material, and an organic drinks menu is in the works. The club hopes to get LEED certification. Greenhouse locations are also being considered for Paris and Las Vegas.

Green Lodging Michigan workshop will be held in Traverse City on April 22, 8:30-11:00 at the Bayshore Resort. Northwest Michigan Sustainable Business Forum and Traverse City Light & Power are sponsoring this program on green practices in the lodging industry. To register for the free workshop, contact Patty O'Donnell at 231-929-5039 or pattyodonnell@nwm.cog.mi.us

Jernhusen, a Swedish firm has found a cheap, eco-friendly source of energy to warm one of its offices: body heat from a quarter million commuters steaming through Stockholm's central train station. Body heat already warms the station itself but the surplus will provide as much as 15% of the heating in a planned 4,000 sq. meter office building. The investment will be around \$31,200.

Titan Energy has grown from 2 to 30 employees at the NextEnergy Center in 2 years. The company's Sentry 5000 unit (60 kW) brings power, water purification, satellite communications, heating and cooling to emergency and disaster scenes in a single unit that can be towed easily behind a small truck. Titan is working with NextEnergy to develop a revolutionary electric hybrid unit for the U.S. Defense Logistics Agency. The Sentry EH will contain DC batteries, a photovoltaic system, a wind turbine and a state-of-the-art AC/DC gateway. This advancement will allow the Sentry EH to run for extended periods of time without refueling. www.titanenergy.com

John Deere Wind Energy is building an eight-turbine, 10 MW wind farm in Panhandle, Texas that is scheduled to open in May. Steelcase has committed to buying the farm's entire output of renewable energy credits for its first 5 years of operation. And it is paying a premium — it declines to say how much — for the right to name it the Wege Wind Energy Farm, after Peter Wege, the son of the founder of Steelcase and a prominent environmentalist in Michigan.

Sustainable Energy Project Development Workshop for Public Institutions will be held on May 22 at Oakland University. Administrators and facilities managers can become educated on how to install profitable projects based on sustainable wood and wind energy. The workshop will discuss wood chip boiler systems and community & small scale wind power. www.oakland.edu/energy

Basic Energy Auditing and Resources workshop by Robert Fegan, DTE, will be part of the Institute of Electronics and Electrical Engineers (IEEE) Spring Technical Conference at the University of Michigan – Dearborn. <http://www.ieee-em.org/2008%20Conferences/Spring2008ConferencePoster.pdf>

Solving Power Quality Problems Through Power Factor Correction and Harmonic Mitigation will be held on April 17, 5:30-8:00PM at the Hampton Inn in Sterling

Heights. Contact Kevin Taylor, Chair, SE Michigan PES/IAS, at k2356@aol.com or 586-573-0713.

Solar Panel Workshop: Build Your Own Small PV System will be held on April 26 at Pierce Cedar Creek Institute in Hastings. Bob Kildea will teach you how to build your own small PV system that can power an appliance that uses no more than 500 watts. Contact: 269-721-4190

April Fools if you're ready to buy Moon Power renewable energy certificates! But do visit the Republic of Lakotah. Energy Tidbits is free. To subscribe, contact me at sarverj@michigan.gov.