

ENERGY TIDBITS – May 2008

Community Energy Project Grants will be available to non-profit and public organizations to conduct community education projects in Michigan related to renewable energy, building energy efficiency, and transportation energy efficiency. Each project proposal can request up to \$6,000. The grants will cover one year from Oct. 1, 2008 through Sept. 31, 2009. It is expected that 15 projects will be funded. The deadline is July 15. Contact sarverj@michigan.gov for the RFP.

Governor Granholm visited the Harvest Wind Farm in Pigeon on April 21 to highlight the need for a Renewable Portfolio Standard. The Michigan House just passed an energy package that included a 10% by 2015 RPS. The Governor had a roundtable discussion on wind energy with community leaders at Laker Elementary which is in the middle of the 32-turbine wind farm. Rep. Terry Brown, D-Pigeon, indicated that the Huron County community pulled together to welcome the Harvest turbines and residents hope to see more big blades in the near future. Noble Environmental Power plans to begin the long-delayed construction of 46 turbines later this year near Ubyly.

Net Metering HB 1246, introduced by Sen. Bruce Patterson, would establish a statewide program for small generators powered by a renewable fuel or fuel cell. Generation capacity could only be enough to meet the customer's own electric needs and could not exceed 550 kW. A utility or an alternative electric supplier (AES) would not have to allow for net metering that was greater than 2% of its in-state peak load. Any equipment that was certified by Underwriters Lab or approved by a building inspector would be eligible. A utility or an AES could charge an application fee of up to \$100. For systems capable of generating less than 10 kW or for eligible electric generators using a single bidirectional meter that measured only net energy, the credit would have to be at the same rate the customer paid for service from the electric utility or AES. www.legislature.mi.gov

DTE & ESD Energy Conference & Exhibition will be held on May 6 at the Rock Financial Showplace in Novi. <http://ww2.esd.org/EVENTS/EnergyConf.htm>

Crystal Mountain Resort in Thompsonville has earned Green Lodging Michigan Leader certification, moving up from the Steward level. Crystal Mountain becomes the first resort to achieve this highest level of accreditation and was one of the first facilities to achieve certification when the program was launched in Oct. 2006. Crystal Mountain implemented additional initiatives such as installing carbon monoxide detectors, expanding their recycling program, adjusting purchasing standards on paper products to 30% or greater post-consumer recycled content, and limiting vehicle idling. The resort joined Energy Star's Change a Light, Change the World campaign as a pledge driver to encourage use of compact fluorescent light (CFL) bulbs. Last fall, Crystal Mountain received the White Pine Award from the Michigan Chapter of the Sierra Club

which recognizes a non-member who has shown a strong commitment to the environment. www.crystalmountain.com

Ford Motor Company's actions to reduce the amount of energy used to manufacture vehicles have earned it the U.S. EPA's 2008 ENERGY STAR Award. A three-time ENERGY STAR Award winner, the 2008 award for Sustained Excellence recognizes Ford's continued leadership and commitment. In 2007, Ford improved energy efficiency in the U.S. by 4.5% and saved \$18 million. Since 2000, Ford's U.S. facilities have improved energy efficiency by nearly 30%.

ENERGY STAR criteria for residential water heaters will go into effect on January 1, 2009 - Tankless (.82 Energy Factor), condensing (.80) & storage heaters (.62 going to .67 on 9/1/2010).

DLEG Director Keith W. Cooley presented Energy Star Home Grants up to \$8,000 each to five builders from across the state on April 1 at Urban Options. Michigan builders compete for the grants based on energy efficiency, marketing plans and innovations. Grant recipients included Kloha Contracting (Freeland), GreenLife Homes (Wyoming), T. Hawkins Builders (Negaunee), James D. Compo, Inc. (Farmington Hills), and Sean McCardel Construction (Traverse City).

Michigan Energy Fair will be held on June 27-29 at the Manistee County Fairgrounds in Onekama. Over 70 workshops, 100 exhibitors and more. www.glrea.org

Governor Granholm has signed a package of bills to create "anchor zones" that provide incentives to companies to attract other growing companies. The first of two bills provides tax credits for anchor companies that attract or influence suppliers or customers to expand anywhere in Michigan. A second bill grants the anchor company a Michigan Business Tax credit incentive for up to 10 years for successfully encouraging a customer or supplier company to locate within a 10-mile radius of the anchor company's facility. The anchor zone incentives are directed at high-growth, high-technology industries targeted in the governor's 21st Century Jobs Fund initiative, particularly in the area of alternative energy.

International Conference on Peak Oil and Climate Change will be held on May 30-June 1 at the Calvin College Fine Arts Center in Grand Rapids. <http://sustainabilityconference.org>

LEED Platinum Certification has been awarded by the U.S. Green Building Council to Hybrid Homes, LLC and Image Design, LLC for a new green home in Onekama. This home is one of 37 Michigan projects that have been certified under the LEED for Homes program. It is the first Platinum level home certified in West Michigan and only the 23rd in the nation. The home will be on display during this year's Michigan Energy Fair on June 27-29. The house incorporates

Low-E argon gas windows, cement board siding, high efficiency lighting, insulated concrete forms, soy based insulation, passive solar design, solar hot water, radiant floor heat, wind generator, programmable thermostats, mechanical ventilation, zero volatile organic compounds paint, bamboo and cork flooring, radon venting, barrier free/lifetime design, dual flush toilets, and Energy Star appliances. www.wmhybrid.com or www.imagedesignllc.blogspot.com

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

Affirmations Community Center in Ferndale plan to attain a LEED-EB certification. Sustainable features include new decking, roofing, and siding are high recycled content steel with local VOC finishes, lighting design allows for daylighting and control of solar gain, 25% energy savings, energy recovery wheels for HVAC, green cleaning materials, and purchase of renewable energy credits for 2 years.

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