

ENERGY TIDBITS – August 2007

Michigan Energy Fair on June 22-24 in Onkama attracted over 4,000 this year. Attendance grew by 60% over last year's Fair. Presented by the Great Lakes Renewable Energy Assoc. (GLREA), in partnership with Manistee County, the Fair had over 220 volunteers, 100 exhibitors, and 70 workshops. Tours were also offered of *Hybrid Homes* new build in Onkama, a home currently being reviewed for LEED-H Platinum designation – the first in Michigan. Another new feature was a solar stage for musical performances and the Kid's Day. Power supply was provided by the solar panels of Northwestern Michigan College. The 3rd Annual Michigan Energy Fair will take place in Onkama from June 27-29, 2008. Exhibitor packets and Call for Presenters will be available in Fall 2007. For more information, please contact the GLREA at 800-434-9788 or info@glrea.org

Manufacturing and Developing Wind Energy Systems in Michigan Conference will be hosted by Michigan State University, Michigan Economic Development Corp., and NextEnergy on September 10 and 11 at the Kellogg Hotel & Conference Center on the campus of MSU. The program will look at wind industry supply chain manufacturing opportunities, issues, experiences, resources, and networking, as well as wind turbine siting and development opportunities in the state. The conference will specifically focus on jump-starting wind projects in Michigan and on helping wind turbine original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) find and do business with quality Michigan suppliers. [www.landpolicy.msu.edu/windconference2007/Wind front.html](http://www.landpolicy.msu.edu/windconference2007/Wind_front.html)

Printer's Row downtown condominium project is the first Lansing area project certified under the LEED for Homes pilot program. The entire project meets Energy Star standards. The green building and energy efficiency standards help such projects stand out in a tough housing market, developer Gene Townsend has said. "Several years ago, it dawned on me that the most green thing we could do is build in an urban area," he said. "To do that, we had to create a remarkable product."

25th Anniversary Excellence in Building Conference & Expo will be held on October 9-11 in St. Paul, MN. The keynote speaker will be Sarah Susanka who will share the message of her latest book, "Not So Big Life: Making Room for What Really Matters." www.eeba.org

Mascoma Corp. will build a \$100 million cellulosic ethanol plant in Michigan. It would be one of the first commercial plants in the country to produce cellulosic ethanol, which is fuel made from plant material such as switchgrass, sugarcane or, in this case, wood. The company hopes to have the facility running by late 2008 or 2009 and it will be located in northern Michigan or the Upper Peninsula. Mascoma will work with Michigan State and Michigan Tech to develop the

technology for making cellulosic ethanol. The Michigan Economic Development Corp. will assist the company in site selection and provide tax incentives.

Home Energy Rating System (HERS) Rater Training will be held on September 26 – 30 at Urban Options in East Lansing. Attendees will learn how to perform certified home energy ratings for the EPA Energy Star® Homes Program. Brad Mann, Urban Options, and Greg Nahn, Wisconsin Energy Conservation Corp. will conduct the training. Contact: www.urbanoptions.org

Mayor John Hieftje of Ann Arbor spoke at the 10th Annual Congressional Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy EXPO in Washington, D.C. Mayor Hieftje talked about the Ann Arbor Green Energy Challenge which commits to 30% renewable energy by 2010.

LEED for Homes Builder Seminar will be held in Grand Rapids on September 21. This orientation session for builders will be at the Alliance for Environmental Sustainability. www.allianceES.org or 616-458-6733

Bayshore Resort, located in Traverse City, has earned Green Lodging Michigan certification at the Steward level. The Bayshore Resort has implemented many initiatives at their facility such as fluorescent lighting throughout the hotel, an optional towel/linen reuse program, and purchasing Energy Star qualified products. "At the suggestion of the State's Green Lodging program we put together a team of concerned staff members to develop a policy that will guide the resort toward the goal of having an environmentally responsible hotel operation," said Roger Funkhouser, general manager of Bayshore Resort. "We became involved because it was the right thing to do. Our philosophy will be to more strongly consider 'green' options whenever possible, such as recycling and re-use of products, and reduction of energy use." www.bayshore-resort.com

Energy Management (AET 2400) and Introduction to Solar and Other Renewable Energies (AET 2010) will be offered as online courses at Oakland Community College. Students can combine these courses with other online courses and a 1 credit in person course to receive a certificate in Renewable Energies from Madison Area Technical College. www.oaklandcc.edu/EST

Steve Transeth, the Legislative Service Bureau bill drafter who authored every major piece of utility law in Michigan over the last 20 years, has been appointed to fill the seat on the MPSC left by Peter Lark. Because Transeth is an independent, Governor Granholm is free to fill the other vacancy with a Democrat. Transeth has said he sees his focus on the MPSC being on the promotion of more renewable energy alternatives to oil and coal.

Michigan Renewable Energy Exchange (MI-REX) has its first program participant – a 1.95 kW PV system in Grand Haven. MI-REX is a new pilot project operated by the Energy Office to provide a means for owners of small solar and wind

electric systems to sell Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs). At this time, the Energy Office is accepting applications to participate in MI-REX. 2007 MI-REX Certification Applications and MI-REX Certificates for purchase will not be available until early 2008. www.michigan.gov/eorenew

U-M celebrated its 10-year anniversary as an ENERGY STAR partner. All general fund buildings have completed the Energy Star program which includes mechanical and lighting system upgrades. More than 216 energy-efficient projects have been implemented in general fund buildings since the partnership began in 1997. Estimated annual energy cost savings due to these projects is well over \$4.6 million per year. In 2004, the EPA recognized the University's efforts when it named U-M the Energy Star Partner-of-the-Year. http://www.plantops.umich.edu/utilities/energy_management/

DTE Energy/MichCon is planning to hold several Energy Efficiency Seminars across their service territory in the Fall of 2007. The seminars will bring people who are seeking energy efficiency together with those who can provide solutions – both information and products. Each seminar location will have two sessions – one for residential customers and one for commercial/ industrial customers. The commercial/industrial session will be in the afternoon from about 1:00 until 4:00 pm, and the residential session will be in the evening from about 6:30 to 9:30 pm. <http://my.dteenergy.com/products/energySeminars/energyEfficiency.html>

Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy Outreach Grants will be available to one or more non-profit or public organizations to conduct outreach projects in Michigan to promote and market 1) Solar Energy, 2) Wind Energy, 3) ENERGY STAR Products, and 4) ENERGY STAR Homes. It is expected that four projects will be selected, one in each project area, but the State of Michigan reserves the option of funding more than one project in a project area. An organization can only submit one proposal for each project area, but can submit for any number of project areas. Each project can be up to \$60,000. The activities in the proposed grants will cover one year from January 1, 2008 through December 31, 2008. The deadline for proposals is September 19, 2007. To request, the Request for Proposal, contact John Sarver at sarverj@michigan.gov.

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