

## ENERGY TIDBITS – October 2007

LEED-EB grants from the Energy Office have been awarded to Western Michigan University (\$15,000) and Urban Options (\$12,800). The grants will be used to assist with measuring, verifying and certifying two buildings under the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design for Existing Buildings (LEED-EB) program. WMU and Urban Options will add energy efficiency and environmental improvements that will qualify them for silver certification through the U.S. Green Building Council LEED-EB program. Western Michigan University will focus its efforts on the College of Health and Human Services building. The building's current energy systems and equipment will be evaluated and fine-tuned to ensure they are performing at peak efficiency. WMU will then pursue improvements to HVAC systems and look to reduce the amount of outside air that is currently being brought into the building. Urban Options will be making improvements to their Demonstration House in East Lansing. Building improvements will include the use of lighting, temperature and ventilation controls and increased use of natural daylighting in occupied spaces. Both grantees have agreed to institute a plan for maintaining high energy efficiency building performance once certified and also to develop case studies for publication.

“Giving” by Bill Clinton includes NextEnergy in Chapter 12. The book highlights the work of a number of extraordinary people and organizations that are saving lives and solving problems. [www.nextenergy.org](http://www.nextenergy.org)

MiSo, the U-M solar house that participated in the DOE 2005 Solar Decathlon, has found a home at the U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens. The 650-sq.ft. house has one bedroom, living and dining space, a bathroom, a small kitchen and a laundry area. Some 32 solar panels are used to power the house. The public will be able to get a glimpse of the project beginning in September.

Ford Motor Co. and Southern California Edison will team up to test rechargeable hybrid vehicles in an effort to speed up mass production of the new technology. The utility, which serves 13 million people in 11 counties outside Los Angeles, will get a Ford plug-in hybrid vehicle by the end of this year and as many as 20 by 2009 to test their durability, range and impact on the power grid.

Lawrence Tech will offer 11 degree programs at the new University Center scheduled to open at Lansing Community College in January 2008. Also available will be a certificate in energy and environmental management. More at [www.ltu.edu](http://www.ltu.edu).

Ontario Power Authority has awarded their first Standard Offer Contract to SkyPower Corp. and SunEdison Canada LLC for a 9.12 MW solar park to meet the needs of Norfolk County in South-Central Ontario. A 20-year power purchase agreement for the solar park was awarded. SkyPower and SunEdison Canada will own, build and maintain the solar park and interconnect with local utility

Norfolk Power.

Great Lakes Bioneers Conference which describes itself as “hundreds of people meeting at the crossroads of ecology and social justice ...and eating really well” will be held on October 19-21 in Traverse City (Northwestern Michigan College, [www.glbconference.org](http://www.glbconference.org)) and Detroit (Marygrove College, [www.sustainabledetroit.org/bioneers/](http://www.sustainabledetroit.org/bioneers/)).

“Energy-Efficient Electrochromic Windows on the Threshold” describes how electrochromic windows may be the next generation of energy-efficient windows. It is suggested that they will increase annual energy efficiencies for commercial buildings by 15 – 20%. <http://eetd.lbl.gov/newsletter/nl25/1windows.html> .

Merrill Lynch Energy Efficiency Index (EEI) was recently launched with a universe of 40 global companies found in 4 sectors that should benefit from improved energy efficiency. Merrill Lynch singled out the automotive industry, building materials, capital goods, and semiconductors as sectors that will most likely gain from an increase in efficiency. Earlier this year, Standard and Poor's launched its Global Thematic Index Series, which includes the S&P Global Clean Energy Index. Other well-known indexes that follow clean energy include the WilderHill Clean Energy Global Innovation Index, the NASDAQ Clean Edge U.S. Index, the KLD Global Climate 100 Index and the Ardour Global Indices. The EEI joins Merrill Lynch's family of "clean" energy indexes including Merrill Lynch Renewable Index.

Michigan Sustainable Homes & Businesses Tour will be held on Saturday, October 6, 10:00-4:00. Don't miss this opportunity to speak with homeowners and experts and learn about renewable energy technologies, green building practices, energy efficiency, and more. To find a tour near you visit [www.glrea.org](http://www.glrea.org) or contact GLREA at 800-434-9788.

Ann Arbor Downtown Development Authority has awarded \$630,000 to the City of Ann Arbor for LED lighting in the downtown and \$100,000 for a solar electric system at the Farmers Market.

Building America program has a new best practices handbook for builders, *High-Performance Home Technologies: Solar Thermal & Photovoltaic Systems*. The guidebook explains current photovoltaic and solar thermal building practices and provides useful tips. It contains chapters for every member of the builder's team, including supervisors, architects, designers, site developers, marketers, managers and homeowners. Many of the building tips and information are illustrated with real-life case studies of builders who design and construct energy-efficient homes in all climate zones. You can download the document from [www.buildingamerica.gov](http://www.buildingamerica.gov).

China will fund the world's first ecologically sustainable city. Situated on a Manhattan-sized island north of Shangai, the approved and under-construction

"Dongtan" will produce its own clean electricity, only allow zero-emissions vehicles within city limits, provide 65% open space, cluster high density green buildings in walkable neighborhoods, and reuse 90% of all waste. Expected completion is 2020.

Solar Parking Meter in Kalamazoo has been reported by Bob Kildea. The meter covers 8 parking spaces on Rose St. Go Solar!

Small Wind Turbines have recently been installed in the Lansing area. Horrocks Farm Market has installed a 1.8 kW Skystream. Two Men and a Truck installed a 10 kW wind turbine and 3 solar panels. They have also purchased software to monitor the systems and data will be available on their web site in the future. The company has also installed motion sensors to control lighting, shut down one boiler during the summer, installed rain/ground moisture sensors to manage sprinkling, and purchased Energy Star appliances.

HB 5218 has been introduced by Rep. Kathleen Law in the Michigan House. The bill is the first of its kind in the US to introduce the European policy of Advanced Renewable Tariffs. The province of Ontario launched a similar program in 2006 and a bill for solar energy tariffs was introduced into Hawaii's legislative assembly earlier this year. In Advanced Renewable Tariffs, the tariffs or price paid per kWh for electricity fed into the grid differs by technology. For example, the tariff for solar energy is much higher than that for wind energy. The tariffs proposed in HB 5218 are equivalent to those in Germany and the highest in North America, e.g. small wind turbines: \$0.25/kWh and rooftop solar less than 30 kW: \$0.65/kWh.

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