

Michigan Sustainable Homes & Businesses Tour Part of the ASES National Solar Tour

October 10, 2009

10 am - 4 pm

The solar tour is **free** and **self-guided**. Visit as many sites as you would like from 10am to 4pm, in any order that you would like. Enjoy the good energy, and have fun!



Southwest Michigan Area Tour

Regional Coordinator:

Four Elements Energy (info@FourElements-Energy.com or 269-267-1804)

Hastings Area Section of SW. Michigan

Thanks to funding provided by Barry County Conservancy fund of the Barry Community Foundation., tour participants can park at the Library or at Pierce Cedar Creek Institute and ride a handicap accessible bus for free on a hour long loop that also includes a stop at the Brown home on the tour.

The bus will depart from the library near the top of the hour starting at 10:00 AM. The last pick up to return from the Institute is at 3:30 PM.

The bus will depart from the Institute at the bottom of the hour starting at 10:30 with the last pick up to return from the Library at 3:00 PM.

Riders will get off at the Brown home on the 3/4 hour starting at 10:45. Riders returning to the Institute will board the 2:45 bus. Riders returning to the Library will board the 3:45 bus.

Brown's Solar Powered Farm 3297 South M-37 Hwy, Hastings



Over 3,000 watts of solar and wind generated electricity are used to power a machine tool shop, electric car, forklift, and a fleet of electric lawnmowers. Also features homemade solar thermal system for heating two structures. Stop by and meet the retired science and auto teacher reborn as renewable energy enthusiast.

Directions:

From I-94:

Take the I-94-BR exit (exit number 92) toward Springfield/Battle Creek. Merge onto I-94 BR east toward Springfield/Battle Creek. Turn left onto MI-37/Helmer Rd N. Continue to follow MI-37 for approximately 20 miles. You will pass Coburn Rd. on your right. The home is about 1000 feet beyond Coburn. If you pass E. Quimby Rd. you have gone too far.

[Click here](#) for Mapquest area map

Hastings Public Library
227 E. State St. Hastings, MI 49058



Aimed at home and business owners, the tour will cover the building blocks of an efficient building. The LEED Gold Library is equipped a rain garden, super-insulated windows with light shelves, super-insulated walls, vegetative roofs, and a 7.1 kW photovoltaic solar array. Tour participants can park at the Library or at the Institute and ride the Hastings Transit Bus for free on a loop that also includes the Brown home. The trolley will depart from the library near the top of the hour starting at 10:00 AM. The last pick up to return from the Institute is at 3:30 PM.

Directions;

Take M-37 to the stoplight at the intersection of M-37 and State Street. The Hastings courthouse is on the SE corner. From the light head East on State Street into downtown Hastings. The library is just past the third block on the North side of the street. Pass the library and turn left on Boltwood to access library parking.

[Click Here](#) For a Google area map

Pierce Cedar Creek Institute
701 W. Cloverdale Rd, Hastings



See a number of different renewable energy and efficiency technologies at this institutional facility. Visitors will be taken on a tour highlighting the Education Building and Visitors Center, both of which are earth-bermed and utilize passive solar and other environmentally friendly design features. The tour will also highlight the geothermal heating and cooling and photovoltaic electric system. A soup and sandwich lunch will be offered from 11am-1pm for \$5.

Directions:

From Kalamazoo

Take the Sprinkle Rd exit from I-94 (exit number 80) turn north on Sprinkle Road. Turn right onto Gull Rd/MI-43. Continue to follow MI-43. Turn left onto MI-43/MI-89/32nd St N. in downtown Richland. Continue to follow MI-43 for 13 miles. Turn right onto W. Cloverdale Rd (portions of this road are unpaved) and go

approximately two and a half miles. The entrance will be on your right. Look for the yellow signs with "Pierce Cedar Creek" written on them.

From Battle Creek

Take the I-94-BR exit (exit number 92) toward Springfield/Battle Creek. Merge onto I-94 BR east toward Springfield/Battle Creek. Turn left onto MI-37/Helmer Rd N. Continue to follow MI-37 for approximately 15 miles. Look for the Pierce Cedar Creek sign and Cloverdale Road. Pierce Cedar Creek will be on your left in approximately 2 miles.

[Click here](#) for Mapquest area map | [Click here](#) for map on Pierce Cedar Creek web site

All other SW Michigan Locations

Elzinga and Hoeksema Greenhouses

5268 East O Ave. Kalamazoo, MI



We have five locations with 30 acres of production area and are ranked #45 on the Top 100 Growers List by Greenhouse Grower Magazine. Our newest greenhouse, New Millennium has 16 acres, with four dedicated to organics. This facility utilizes energy generated from two wind turbines and a large solar thermal system. The organic facility gets 80% of its heating needs from the closed-loop, geo-thermal system with 200 solar energy collectors. Programmable thermostats, motion sensors turning high-efficiency lights on/off and on-site recycling compactor with comprehensive recycling program are a few more of our sustainable attributes.

Directions

From I-94 take exit 80 for Cork st. towards Sprinkle Rd. Turn Left at E. Cork St. (signs for Sprinkle/Cork). Take the first left onto Sprinkle Rd. Turn left at Commercial Ave. Commercial Ave turns left and becomes American Ave. American Ave turns Right and becomes Executive dr. Turn left at Corporate Ave. Turn right at E. O. Ave/E. Milham Ave. Destination will be on right.

For a Google map click [here](#).

Gravovac Home
51938 Pleasant Dr Mattawan, MI



This home has a dual mode solar heating system to help aid the homeowners in keeping their heating costs down during Michigan winters. The panels are made by Sunsiaray.

Directions

From I-94, take exit 66 towards Mattawan. Turn left at N. Main st. Take the second left onto Territorial Rd. Take second left onto Oak dr. Take first left onto Pleasant Dr. Destination will be on right.

For a Google map click [here](#)

Heliotrope II
10350 S. Gurd Rd., Dowling



A must see beautiful renewable energy demo home; Passive energy efficient solar design, net-metered photovoltaic electricity, solar hot water and radiant "thermal battery" heating system, counterflow design masonry heater, air-to-air heat exchanger, 24 volt refrigerator and freezer, and barrier-free design.

Directions:

Take the Sprinkle Rd exit from I-94 (exit number 80) go north. Turn right onto Gull Rd/MI-43. Continue to follow MI-43. Stay straight in Richland to go onto MI-89/D Ave E. Continue to follow MI-89. Turn left onto 40th St N. When 40th St N ends, turn right onto E. Baseline Rd. Turn left onto S. Kellogg School Rd. Turn right past Hickory Corners onto W. Gilkey Lake Rd/CR-601. Continue to follow CR-601. Turn right onto Pifer Rd/CR- 412. Turn left onto S Cedar Creek Rd/CR-601. Turn right onto W Drake Rd. Turn right onto Gurd Rd.

[Click here](#) for Mapquest area map

Kildea/Poirer Home
6645 W. R Avenue, Schoolcraft



This photo shows the solar electric system that will be installed at Bob and Louise's new home, which powers Bob's electric truck and part of the home's geothermal system. The balance is provided through the state's Green Energy program. Passive solar design, solar thermal system, and energy efficiency measures offer plenty of ideas to prospective home builders.

Directions:

Take US-131 S. south of I-94 to Exit 31, Centre Ave. Turn right onto W Centre Ave. At the first light after turning right, turn left onto 12th St S. After 1 mile turn right onto R Ave W. If you reach 8th St. S, you have gone too far.

[Click here](#) for Mapquest area map

Marcotte Home
4749 S M-43 Hwy, Hastings



This home features a Skystream 3.7 wind generator that provides the home with 25% of its' power. The fully integrated wind generator was made especially for the home. A geothermal system uses the earth's energy to provide heating and cooling to the home. The homeowners are currently the process of testing a Power-Save system, which purports to save you 25% on your energy bills. Come see the exciting features of this energy-conscious home!

Directions:

From Kalamazoo

Take the Sprinkle Rd exit from I-94 (exit number 80) turn north on Sprinkle Road. Turn right onto Gull Rd/MI-43. Continue to follow MI-43. Turn left onto MI-43/MI-89/32nd St N. in downtown Richland. Continue to follow MI-43 for approx. 17.5 miles. End at home.

From Battle Creek

Take the I-94-BR exit (exit number 92) toward Springfield/Battle Creek. Merge onto I-94 BR east toward Springfield/Battle Creek. Turn left onto MI-37/Helmer Rd N. Continue to follow MI-37 for approximately 14 miles. Turn left on Pifer Road. Follow Pifer Road for approximately 5.5 miles. Pifer Road will curve to the right and turn into Kingsley Road. Follow Kingsley Road for 2.5 miles until you reach W Cloverdale Road. Turn left on W. Cloverdale Road and take for 1.5 miles. Turn Right on M-43. Home will be approximately 4.5 miles down the road.

[Click here](#) for Mapquest area map

Sunflower Farm

25485 County Road 681, Bangor



Sunflower Farm includes a solar house we built in 2002. It has two Whisper 200 turbines and a 1000 watt photovoltaic assembly for electric power. Since we are off the grid, we have batteries to store power. Flat plate solar panels and a loop in the masonry stove provide hot water. Heat is provided by the south windows, masonry stove and/or hydronic tubes in the concrete floor.

Directions:

Take the M-43 W, west of Kalamazoo toward South Haven to Bangor. Turn right onto N Center St / CR-681 in downtown Bangor. The home is exactly one mile North of the intersection of M-43 and Center Street.

[Click here](#) for Mapquest area map

Temple Home

**1997 E. Y avenue
Vicksburg MI 49097**



Features an 8 panel PV Installation. That powers the majority of the energy needs for the home.

Directions

From 131 Turn east at W Xy Ave. Slight right at Portage rd. Portage rd turns slightly left and becomes E Y ave. [Click here](#) for a Google map.

Toy/Crotser-Toy Home
54630 60th Ave, Lawrence



See how an 1899 farmhouse was retro fitted with wind power, solar hot water, geothermal heating/cooling and additional insulation. Also see demonstrations of a solar photovoltaic system and who a site is assessed for solar and wind energy potential. Go to this link for a virtual tour of the home. <http://www.ireport.com/docs/DOC-9941>

Directions:

Take I-94 west to the Lawrence exit (#52). At the stop sign on the exit ramp [You will see the Waffle House in front of you] turn left heading north onto 52nd St. (also known as Paw Paw St. or County Road 365). Go north 1 mile. Then turn hard, hard, hard left onto CR 215, also called Corwin Road, [You will see the Acapulco Restaurant]. Eventually CR 215 curves south toward I-94 [do not cross I-94, you have gone too far]. Then turn right onto 60th Ave and proceed 1/10th of a mile. You WILL see the wind generator and tower once you turn onto 60th Ave. The driveway is on your right (see "Toy" sign).

[Click here](#) for Mapquest area map

To review a geomap for the whole South West Michigan area tour please go [here](#).