

## ENERGY TIDBITS – April 2009

Governor Granholm created the Michigan Climate Action Council in November 2007 and charged it with developing a Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions inventory and forecast, state reduction goals and potential actions to reduce emissions. On March 1, the MCAC Climate Action Plan was released; a 595-page document containing 53 policy recommendations calling for Michigan to achieve a 20% reduction below 2005 levels by 2020 and an 80% reduction by 2050. <http://www.miclimatchange.us/index.cfm>

Statewide Net Metering Program has been established by the MPSC. The new rules provide for the transfer of current net metering customers to the new program within 30 days of the rules' effective date. For net metering customers that are 20 kW or less, the rules provide for crediting at the full retail rate and measurement of monthly net usage with the customer's existing meter, if it is capable of measuring the flow of energy in both directions. The MPSC also approved new electric interconnection rules.

[www.michigan.gov/netmetering](http://www.michigan.gov/netmetering)

First Conservation Day at Okemos High School led by a group of 14 students called the Alternative Energy and Sustainability Initiative resulted in a 30% reduction in energy use. The students asked other students and staff members to make changes such as turning off TV's and lights, unplugging personal appliances, turning off computers, and posting assignments online instead of printing them.

Crematorium in the Swedish town of Halmstad, which has been criticized for its heavy pollution, has announced plans to use the waste heat from its body-burning operations to heat its own facilities and eventually also heat other buildings in town.

4<sup>th</sup> Annual Earth Day Expo will be in downtown Rochester on Sat. & Sun., April 18th & 19th. The Expo is moving to Main Street and will offer many fun, informative, & earth-friendly activities including: 150+ green & wellness exhibits, presentations, food, farmer's market, kids' corner, films, entertainment, prizes, sustainability tours, free yoga and massage, and a community-building Connections Cafe. There is no charge.

[www.earthdayexpo.org](http://www.earthdayexpo.org)

Michigan Energy Fair will be held on June 26-28 approximately 10 miles off shore from Onkama. According to Jennifer Alvarado, Executive Director of GLREA, "There has been so much interest in off-shore wind energy that we decided to move the Fair to a floating platform similar to what will be used for an off-shore wind farm. Bring your bathing suit." The Fair will have 70 workshops, 120 exhibits, and a water slide.

Solar-Powered Parking Meters have been ordered by the Ann Arbor Downtown Development Authority. The DDA ordered 25 solar meters and expects to install them on Main, Liberty and State streets as the first test phase before replacing all of downtown's 1,500 parking meters.

DELEG Deputy Director Liesl Clark presented Energy Star Home Grants of \$5,000 to

five builders from across the state on April 1 at Urban Options in East Lansing. Michigan builders compete for the grants based on energy efficiency, marketing plans and innovations. Grant recipients are Gontina Building & Design (Clawson), Heartland Builders (Rockford), MJC Builders of Troy (Macomb), Phil Johnson Construction (Twin Lake), and Charles Rycenga/Tri-Cities Area Habitat for Humanity (Grand Haven).

2nd Annual Michigan Energy Conference will be held at Ferris State on April 16-17. Guest speakers include Paul Proudfoot, MPSC, Jeff Goody, Vestas, Bill Harper, Chevron Energy Solutions, Michele Buckler, FTC&H, Stephen Hamstra, GMB Architects Engineers, and Dan Radomski, NextEnergy. [www.ferris.edu/mec](http://www.ferris.edu/mec)

Home Energy Rating System (HERS) sessions will be held April 16 at the Ferris State Energy Conference. A Rater Update meeting will be in the morning and a "Becoming a HERS Rater/Energy Auditor" meeting will be in the afternoon. Attendance is free to all existing HERS Raters and those interested in becoming a Rater or Energy Auditor. RSVP & information at <http://www.ferris.edu/MEC/>

Gov. Granholm joined Denmark's Minister of Climate and Energy Connie Hedegaard in signing a memorandum of understanding initiating a partnership to explore development and share experiences in the areas of renewable energy, energy efficiency and job creation.

Ann Arbor's 2009 Earth Day Festival will be Sunday, April 26, 12:00 - 4:00 pm at the Leslie Science & Nature Center. Youth-oriented educational displays, art projects, live animal programs, and experiments will all be part of the fun. The All Species Parade is a chance for area children to dress up as their favorite animal or plant. [www.a2earthday.org](http://www.a2earthday.org)

AT&T has announced plans to invest up to \$565 million as part of a long-term strategy to deploy more than 15,000 alternative-fuel vehicles over the next 10 years. AT&T expects to spend an estimated \$350 million to purchase about 8,000 Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) vehicles and approximately \$215 million to begin replacing its passenger cars.

DTE Energy has filed with the MPSC to add 1,200 MW's of renewable energy and establish energy efficiency programs. Last October, the Michigan legislature passed a law calling for the state's electric utilities to serve 10% of their retail sales with renewable energy by 2015. To meet the goal, DTE has proposed to build 1,200 MW of renewable energy and contract with third-party producers for the rest. DTE expects the majority of its renewable energy to come from wind resources, with a small portion - about 20 MW - coming from two solar energy pilot projects. DTE has acquired easements on more than 50,000 acres of land in Huron County for development of a wind farm.

Macomb County All Things Green Conference & Expo will be held on April 30 at the IBEW Training Center in Warren. Business professionals will have the opportunity to learn about cost-cutting measures and new business opportunities - Alternative Energy, Energy Audits, Tax Credits, Wind, Solar, Batteries, Bio-Mass, Healthy Workspaces, Energy Efficiency, Green Careers, Sustainable Design & Construction, and Workforce

Development. [\*All Things Green Conference and Expo\*](#)

Manure from 1.3 million turkeys will provide energy to run Sietsema Farm Feeds. When fired up in August, it will be the world's first biomass-powered turbine engine designed to produce electricity. See [Manure into Power](#) for the full story

Mt. Carmel Cemetery is the first cemetery in Michigan and the first Catholic cemetery in the US, to receive Green Burial Council certification to offer green burials. This twelve-and-half acre cemetery, located in the heart of Wyandotte, will initially dedicate a half acre for burial without embalming or vaults. Caskets in the green burial section must be bio-degradable and families will have the option to substitute shrouds as well. Native Michigan landscaping will set the green burial section apart. [www.greenburialcouncil.org](http://www.greenburialcouncil.org)

Green Advantage Training will be held April 23, 8-5 at the IHM Motherhouse in Monroe. This specialized training prepares students to understand principles behind sustainable buildings, integrate green practices and strategies into construction, learn about the LEED rating system, and take the Green Advantage Certification Exam to be held at Henry Ford Community College on April 29. <http://www.greenadvantage.org/MonroeMI4-23-09.php>

Superior Watershed Partnership (SWP) has a new project that will provide over 3,700 families with a free box of 12 CFLs. The SWP received a \$150,000 MPSC grant and is using schools to distribute the bulbs. Native American Indian Tribes from across the Upper Peninsula have welcomed the program as a way to make tribal housing more energy efficient. [www.superiorwatersheds.org](http://www.superiorwatersheds.org)

Green Today, Jobs Tomorrow conference will be held on May 11 at the Lansing Center. The conference will focus on workforce and economic development for Michigan's emerging green economy. Van Jones (founder and president of Green For All and the author of The Green Collar Economy), Sen. Stabenow, and Kate Gordon (Co-Director of the Apollo Alliance) will speak. T [www.michigan.gov/greenjobsconference](http://www.michigan.gov/greenjobsconference).

Electric Projections by the state's two largest utilities—DTE Energy and Consumers Energy—point toward a decline. [DTE now predicts its customers' energy use will fall by 6 percent](#) between now and 2013, and [Consumers now predicts a 5-percent decline](#) by 2018.

Clean Energy Prize has gone to a plan to use algae to treat wastewater and produce the raw materials for biofuels. The competition was established by DTE Energy and the U. of Michigan along with sponsors, Masco Corp. Foundation and The Kresge Foundation. Team Algal Scientific Corp., comprised of business and engineering students from the University of Michigan and Michigan State University, earned the top prize of \$65,000.

West Michigan Chapter of the Association of Energy Engineers will hold its April 16, 4:30-6:30 dinner meeting in Big Rapids at the Holiday Inn. This dinner meeting will be held in collaboration with the Michigan Energy Conference at Ferris State. <http://www.acteva.com/booking.cfm?bevaid=178559>

April Fools! Michigan Energy Fair is still on land, but who knows in the future. Energy Tidbits is free and is prepared by John Sarver, Michigan Dept. of Energy, Labor, & Economic Growth. To subscribe, contact [sarverj@michigan.gov](mailto:sarverj@michigan.gov).