

ENERGY TIDBITS – October 2009

Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) Request for Proposal has been posted at www.michigan.gov/energyoffice. Applications for grants are due at 5 pm on Thursday, October 22, 2009. Michigan received \$19.6 million through the EECBG to fund competitive grants to communities not eligible for direct EECBG awards from the U.S. Department of Energy. Michigan is making 88% available to local communities through competitive grants. EECBG Multi-Purpose Grants will help eligible cities, townships and counties implement energy efficiency and conservation strategies including building audits and retrofits, financial incentive programs, upgrades to traffic signals and streetlights, implementation and enforcement of advanced building codes, and installation of renewable energy technologies on government buildings. LED Demonstration Grants will allow local governments to implement projects using Light Emitting Diode (LED) products, to both reduce energy use and increase public awareness of LED technology.

Michigan Great Lakes Wind Council issued its report to Governor Granholm on Sept. 1, providing a roadmap for the sustainable development of offshore wind energy resources in the Great Lakes. According to the report, 20% or 7,874 square miles of the 38,000 square miles of state-owned Great Lakes bottomlands has a depth of 30 meters or less, which is practical with today's technology for offshore wind development. There are 537 square miles that are considered to be most favorable for the sustainable development of offshore wind energy. The council has identified specific areas and resources that need to be protected by a buffer zone, including a 6-mile buffer for shoreline and a 5-mile buffer for habitats of threatened or endangered species. The Council also recommends a package of legislative and rule changes to help guide the development of offshore wind energy. www.michiganlowcouncil.org

MPSC LIEEF has awarded new grants including the following: \$2 million to A123Systems, Inc to demonstrate a smart grid stabilization system combined with renewable power sources that will enable their Michigan Center of Energy Excellence plant to produce the batteries that may enhance smart grid development; \$2 million to Ford Motor to develop a demonstration site at the Michigan Assembly Plant in Wayne, a large scale Smart Renewable Power Storage system, to convert variable renewable power into firm dispatchable power, providing peak demand management; \$3 million to Michigan Suburbs Alliance to install and implement renewable energy and energy efficiency applications for local governments throughout southeast Michigan; \$4.4 million to Clean Energy Coalition to establish a Clean Energy Program at each of the Cities of Promise (Benton Harbor, Detroit, Flint, Hamtramck, Highland Park, Muskegon Heights, Pontiac, and Saginaw); and \$1.1 million to Northwest Michigan Council of Governments to implement renewable energy and energy efficiency applications at local government facilities within its 10 member counties.

Michigan Sustainable Homes & Business Tour, sponsored by the Great Lakes Renewable Energy Assoc., will be held on Saturday, October 10, 10:00 am-4:00 pm in Ann Arbor, Detroit, Lansing, Grand Rapids, Marquette, Traverse City, Northwest Michigan, Central

Michigan and Southwest Michigan. This free, self-guided tour will feature local spaces which are energy efficient, use renewable energy, and feature sustainable building practices. Posting in near future at www.michigan.gov/energyoffice

Whirlpool has announced that it will produce one million Smart Energy clothes dryers by the end of 2011 as part of the DOE Smart Grid Investment Grant program. The dryers will be capable of reacting intelligently to signals from the smart grid by modifying their energy use. In markets where utilities offer variable or time-of-use pricing, these dryers could save a typical consumer \$20-\$40 per year. The deployment of one million smart grid dryers could shift the equivalent energy of 10 coal 500 MW power plants. In 2006, Whirlpool was the first appliance company to conduct a smart grid pilot, using 150 Smart Energy dryers in the Pacific Northwest.

Solar Discovery Center has been unveiled by Dow Corning. The Center, an open, circular concrete structure, has been built along U.S. 10 in front of 136 south-facing, 30 kW solar panels. The company will use the center to educate school groups, community groups and others about solar power. The center includes a sun dial in the middle, and two interactive displays. Groups interested in touring the site can call (989) 496-4000. The two solar arrays in front of the center also serve as a testing ground for Dow Corning's silicone encapsulation technology. U.S. 10 installation is the company's third in the area. Other panels have been installed at the Hemlock Semiconductor Corp. and Dow Diamond in Midland.

Detroit Edison is rolling out a new program designed to help homeowners and businesses use solar energy. By enrolling in the program, called SolarCurrents, DTE Energy customers are eligible for a one-time payment from the utility to help for installation of solar panels. After the panels are in, customers will get a discount on their electric bills for the next 20 years. Trevor F. Lauer, vice president of retail marketing for DTE Energy, said: "When all is said and done, SolarCurrents can help reduce the cost of purchasing and installing a qualified solar energy system by 50 percent or more." For more information (313) 235-4SUN

Energy Conservation Apprenticeship Readiness (ECAR) Program will train individuals from underrepresented groups for apprenticeships in renewable energy and energy efficiency. The program is a key component of the Michigan Energy Corps. DELEG will use \$1,396,968 in American Recovery & Reinvestment Act funding in support of the program. The tuition-paid, fast track, customized training will equip women, minorities and low-income individuals with the skills and certification needed to enter and succeed in energy conservation-related construction apprenticeships. Eligible candidates will be selected from 8 cities identified by the Cities of Promise Initiative: Benton Harbor, Detroit, Flint, Hamtramck, Highland Park, Muskegon Heights, Pontiac, and Saginaw. Participants will complete an intensive nine-week program comprised of 270 hours of training in 19 curriculum components including applied math, employment skills, and principles of green construction, and will earn multiple certifications including a National Career Readiness Certificate. www.michigan.gov/greenjobs

Michigan Public Service Commission staff report indicates that neither Consumers Energy nor the Wolverine Power Supply Cooperative successfully showed they need to build new coal-fired power plants in the state. The MPSC staff report to the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality comments on Consumers' electric generation alternatives analysis for its proposed new 930-MW, coal-fired plant in Bay County's Essexville. The staff released an identical report on the Wolverine's proposal to build a new 600-MW, coal plant near Rogers City in Presque Isle County.

Northwestern Michigan College will have a one-week, intensive, entry-level training on Residential Wind Systems on Oct. 12-16. Cost is \$775. Call 231-995-1700 to register or for further information. NMC will also be having one-week, intensive training on Solar PV and Solar Hot Water Systems. www.nmc.edu/ees

SMART's Sustainable Urban Mobility & Accessibility Summit is back by popular demand at UM on Nov. 9-12. Moving Minds: The Next Transportation Infrastructure will bring researchers together with business leaders, entrepreneurs, practitioners and policy makers from around the world. This year's summit will give special attention to understanding the cultural, psychological, and aspirational underpinnings of our relationship to transportation. <http://um-smart.org/resources/conference09/overview.html>

ConnecTech-Livingston is pleased to announce the Livingston Energy Summit and EXPO, which will take place at Cleary University's Johnson Center on Oct. 30, 7:00-4:30. Interstate Traveler, DTE Energy, State Representative Bill Rogers, Consumers Energy, Leviton Products, and the IBEW will be speaking on state-of-the-art technologies and the latest developments in green energy and products, as well as a range of interests from manufacturing to environmental, nuclear, solar, energy savings, products, education, and jobs.

Province of Ontario has released the final steps of the Green Energy Act (GEA). The GEA introduces North America's first comprehensive feed-in tariff program that guarantees specific rates for energy generated from renewable sources. GEA allows all sizes of generators, from homeowners to large developers, to participate; has prices that are intended to cover total project costs and provide a reasonable rate of return over a 20-year contract; provides incentives for aboriginal and community-based projects; has different prices for different technologies and different project sizes; and includes domestic content requirements.

Energy Tidbits is free and is prepared by John Sarver, Michigan Dept. of Energy, Labor, & Economic Growth. To subscribe, contact sarverj@michigan.gov. Previous copies can be found at www.michigan.gov/energyoffice under Publications.