

ENERGY TIDBITS – September 2009

\$2.4 Billion in Federal Grants to accelerate the development of next-generation batteries and electric vehicles will include more than \$1 billion for Michigan. Four companies -- A123, Johnson Controls - SAFT, Compact Power, and Dow Kokam, a joint venture of Dow Chemical and Townsend Kokam -- will receive more than \$800 million for advanced battery manufacture and materials. The state has offered the four companies, plus Sakti3, up to \$700 million in incentives if they meet sales goals. Chrysler, General Motors, and Ford will receive more than \$400 million to manufacture thousands of advanced hybrid and electric vehicles, and battery and electric drive components. On the educational side, Wayne State, U of Michigan Ann Arbor, U of Michigan Dearborn, Kettering, Michigan Tech and Macomb Community College will share more than \$10 million for battery training and education for researchers, technicians, service providers, first responders and the general public.

Michigan Community Action Agency Association has been approved by the MPSC to be the State of Michigan's Energy Optimization Plan Administrator. MCAAA and the following partners will administer the EO plan for the electric and natural gas providers that have chosen to use the services of an independent program administrator. Program planning, design and implementation will be handled by CLEAResult Consulting Great Lakes, Morgan Marketing Partners, Urban Options/Northern Options, WARM Training Center, JACO Environmental, Franklin Energy, Inskeep Design Partners, and Maiorana + Partners.

Participating providers whose customers will receive energy optimization services from the EO plan administrator include: Alpena Power, Bayfield Electric Coop, Edison Sault Electric, Indiana Michigan Power, Michigan Gas Utilities, SEMCO Energy Gas, Upper Peninsula Power, We Energies, Wisconsin Public Service, and Xcel Energy.

Executive Directive 2009-4 issued on July 30 by Governor Granholm set a statewide target of reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions to 20% below 2005 levels by 2025 and 80% below by 2050. Michigan state agencies are also directed to implement numerous GHG actions including transportation improvements, farm and forest conservation, new building codes, climate adaptation, and expanded collaboration with localities and tribes. The new directive is based on the work of the Michigan Climate Action Council, a diverse group of over 100 stakeholders and technical work group members, that was formed by the Governor in November 2007. The work of the MCAC culminated in issuance of a final report in March 2009, and includes 54 policy recommendations. <http://www.miclimatechange.us/stakeholder.cfm>

Cash for Clunker Appliances program has been launched by DTE. DTE Energy will pay its customers \$50 to recycle old refrigerators. As part of their new "Your Energy Savings" initiative, DTE also will offer rebates of up to \$1,500 if customers make improvements recommended during onsite energy audits.

Customers will get discounts for buying energy-efficient washers, air conditioners, compact fluorescent light bulbs and other products.

www.yourenergysavings.com

Michigan Appliance Rebate Program initial application to DOE has been posted at www.michigan.gov/energyoffice. Appliances being considered for rebates include refrigerators, dishwashers, oil furnaces, propane furnaces and water heaters, and solar water heaters. Rebates would complement rebates being offered by utility energy optimization programs which include air conditioners, clothes washers, dehumidifiers, natural gas furnaces and water heaters, and CFL's.

Ford Motor has struck a tentative deal to sell its dormant Wixom Assembly Plant to Xtreme Power, a grid storage battery company, and Clairvoyant Energy, a solar panel maker. Investment in the proposed project would initially be \$725 million to create 4,300 direct jobs, growing eventually to about \$1 billion. The two firms would use about half of the 4.7 million sq.ft. of buildings on the 320-acre site, and recruit other firms to join them. Xtreme Power would create 2,500 direct jobs at Wixom which would result in 10,000 supplier jobs. Clairvoyant proposes to install one solar panel manufacturing line initially, employing 300 people, and expects to put in three more lines later. The facilities are anticipated to be in production by 2011. In addition to state incentives, Xtreme Power and Clairvoyant also are applying for federal loan guarantees, and the site also would be declared a renaissance zone, allowing for abatement of some property taxes.

Clean Energy Coalition (CEC), an Ypsilanti-based nonprofit organization promoting clean energy technologies, was awarded a \$15 million grant from the U.S. Dept. of Energy for its Michigan Green Fleets project. The project will assist nine project partners in purchasing 271 alternative fuel vehicles, including hybrids and compressed natural gas (CNG) cars, trucks and buses, and install 19 alternative fueling stations in multiple sites across the state. www.cec-mi.org

WARM Awards in Energy Efficiency and Sustainability went to four community champions: Kathryn Underwood, City of Detroit Planning Commission; Fred & Barbara Erb, founders of The Erb Institute; Father Charles Morris, co-founder of Michigan Interfaith Power & Light; and Wayne Appleyard, co-founder of Sunstructures Architects. www.warmtraining.org/2009awardees.html

Michigan Biomass Energy Program Request for Proposals seeks to obtain proposals for state projects that contribute to the deployment/enhanced performance of fully commercialized biomass energy technologies. MBEP plans to award multiple grants up to \$24,950 per project. The deadline for proposals is September 18. The RFP is posted at www.michigan.gov/energyoffice under News and Information.

Ford Motor's future electric cars will "talk" to power grids across the country. Ford released details of a two-year collaboration with 10 utility companies and U.S. Department of Energy on the design of a system that allows car owners to control when they charge vehicles and for how long. Ford's first battery electric vehicle, the Transit Connect commercial van, will be available next year. A battery electric Ford Focus compact car will go on sale in 2011. Utility companies say their grids already are ready to handle electric cars, although some drivers are likely to need additional equipment installed in their garages, depending on the vehicle's voltage requirement.

Allegan County Fair's theme this year is RED, WHITE, & BLUE GOES GREEN. A sustainable energy building will help individuals and families improve their energy conservation efforts. The Fair goes Sept. 11-19 at the fair grounds in Allegan.

Ann Arbor Home Rehab has cut its energy use by 80%. The one-story ranch has just over 2,000 square feet and is anticipated to earn the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Platinum Award from the U.S. Green Building Council. The house is the third green home partnership of builder Doug Selby, Meadowlark Builders, and architect Michael Klement. The house has foam insulation blown on just underneath the roof, and solid foam just under the shingles, creating a net insulation value for the roof near R-50. Studs are placed 24 inches apart to allow more room for wall insulation. A geothermal heating and cooling system is expected to heat and cool the house for \$35 per month. Because of the advanced framing techniques being used in the home, it was razed to floor level and rebuilt. The original deck and basement were kept intact. www.wwj.com/Ann-Arbor-Home-Rebah-Cuts-Energy-Use-80-/5056076

Turning Rutabaga into Oil is being worked on by Michigan State University researchers who say they may be able genetically modify the turnip-like vegetable to churn out more oil and store it throughout the plant. The rutabaga hasn't had much presence on U.S. dinner tables, an advantage in using it for biofuel. MSU professor Christoph Benning says he's focusing on the rutabaga because the root vegetable already has the "machinery" for producing oil and it grows well in northern states.

City of Grand Rapids Waste Water Treatment Plant (GRWWTP) was the one plant from Michigan and one of only 8 plants from the US recently recognized by the UN. The sustainable management practice of "biogas" production from biosolids in landfill is a practice that is both green and cost effective. GRWWTP is currently finalizing the new dewatering system for biosolids. <http://www.ci.grand-rapids.mi.us/>

National Energy Foundation has been selected by Consumers Energy to conduct an energy efficiency education program targeted to grades 4-6. One component of Consumers Energy's 2009-2014 Energy Optimization Plan, the program has

been designed to produce measurable electricity and natural gas savings, while also providing a quality energy education experience.

Ann Arbor Mayor's Energy Challenge calls for the city to use 30% renewable energy in municipal operations in 2010. For the year ending June 30, 2009, Ann Arbor municipal operations finished at 12% renewable energy. On July 1st, the City issued a [Request for Proposals](#) to purchase 15,000 megawatt-hours of renewable energy credits (RECs) annually through a long-term contract. This REC purchase will take Ann Arbor to 35% renewables across municipal operations. Bids are due September 15.

Lake Superior State University in Sault Ste. Marie is studying the potential of reed canary grass pellets as an environmentally friendly and economical heating fuel, as well as a possible economic stimulant for the Eastern Upper Peninsula. Reed canary grass is abundant in the Eastern UP and is considered a problem plant due to its aggressive growth. The first phase of the study wanted to prove the grass's practicality as a pellet fuel. The recently completed second phase demonstrated how the grass could be made into small pellets as fuel for heating spaces such as a house.

Weatherization Specialist Training has been developed by WARM and Henry Ford Community College. The 10-week course was developed with the help of an employer advisory group and is being offered at two locations: Focus: HOPE and SER Metro. Contact Focus HOPE at 313-494-4300 or SER Metro at 313-945-5200 ext. 223.

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.