

ENERGY TIDBITS – March 2007

Calvin College presented a seminar on wind energy to a very special guest on February 20 at the college's Bunker Interpretive Center. Michigan Governor Granholm, who has made alternative and renewable energy a focus for her administration, sat front and center as professor Matt Heun and his students walked Granholm through recent Calvin efforts to harness the power of the wind, including a grant from the Energy Office to install a 1.8 kW demonstration turbine on campus. <http://www.calvin.edu/news/releases/2006-07/granholm-visit.htm>

Michigan Agri-Energy Conference 2007 will be held on March 13-14 at the Holiday Inn South in Lansing. Join farmers, service providers, rural and agricultural leaders, researchers, and state policy makers to learn more about the latest trends in renewable energy.

<http://www.deq.state.mi.us/eforms/agrienergy2007registration.html>

Livonia Marriott has been certified at the Steward level for the Green Lodging Michigan program. The Livonia Marriott has specified the use of ENERGY STAR equipment and lighting, purchased post-consumer recycled products, and used products with low VOCs. Heather Jensen, At Your Service Supervisor of the Livonia Marriott, has indicated that "Simple changes that the Marriott has made such as the 'Reusing Linen Program' not only saves us money, but also saves the electricity." <http://marriott.com/property/propertypage/DTWLI>

Renaissance Center has earned the Energy Star designation. Extensive renovations & energy efficiency investments have saved more than 13 million kWh's annually and \$900,000. Upgrades included new lighting fixtures, high-efficiency motors on air-handling systems, automatic lighting controls, more efficient elevator drives and a green roof. About 50 other Michigan buildings and 8 in Detroit have earned the Energy Star designation including Compuware headquarters, One Detroit Center, John D. Dingell Veterans Affairs Medical Center, & American Center Building.

2007 Affordable Comfort Home Performance Conference will be April 23rd to 27th in Cleveland. This year there is a strong emphasis on Home Performance Providers as well as great technical sessions for weatherization, rehab and remodeler contractors. www.affordablecomfort.org

Dow Corning and Hemlock Semiconductor recently joined together to provide 168 solar panels to Dow Diamond to power the scoreboard at the future home of the Great Lakes Loons in Midland. The ballpark has installed the panels outside the right field fence. At peak performance, the panels will produce 28.56 kilowatt-hours of power. Dow Diamond is believed to be the only minor league baseball stadium using solar power at its facility.

Remodel Green Midwest will be held on March 16-17 at The Inn at St. John's in Plymouth. The conference and expo will highlight the opportunities for remodeling industry professionals, business owners, residents, and community officials to reinvest in our homes and workplaces. The keynote speaker will be David Johnston, author of Green Remodeling: Changing the World One Room at a Time. visit: <http://www.remodelgreen.org/> or call 734.662.6288

University of Michigan-Flint is a little more green these days. 3% of the electricity purchases come from "green" sources and electricity use has dropped about 4% in recent months, partly by asking students and faculty to be more energy aware. Greg Snyder, Director of Purchasing, says little actions can add up to some big savings. The University has a small fleet of battery-powered cars to reduce gasoline use. In the boiler room, new energy efficient pumps have been installed. An economizer on the smoke stack captures half the energy that would escape and returns it to the boiler. New energy efficient lights in a parking structure will be pay for themselves in just over two years. The University has also put in two waterless urinals that never need to be flushed.

5th Annual Renewable Energy Conference will be held on Saturday, March 17, 8:30-4:00 at Pierce Cedar Creek Institute in Hastings. The conference is geared to home and business owners interested in making their facilities more energy efficient, and to renewable energy enthusiasts who wish to increase their knowledge and meet with area experts. The conference will include a State of the State Energy Report by Jennifer Alvarado, Great Lakes Renewable Energy Assoc. Norman Christopher, Director of Sustainability, Grand Valley State University will present the keynote session. <http://www.cedarcreekinstitute.org/conferences.htm>

"Energy Autonomy" by Dr. Hermann Scheer, member of the German parliament and president of EUROSOLAR, discusses why the transition to renewable energy is essential and how it can be done. Just finished it and I recommend it.

Thumb Area Alternative Energy Fair will be held on March 17, 9:00-3:00 at the Carsonville Port Sanilac High School. <http://www.altenergyfair.com>

The EEK! curriculum teaches students about energy with hands-on, science-based, interdisciplinary lessons. The EEK! curriculum was developed by Western Michigan University and the Sustainable Futures Group with grant assistance from the Michigan Energy Office. The EEK! curriculum is designed for students from K-8. [EEK! Curriculum and support materials are available online.](#)

Solar Photovoltaic Apprentice Training will be held on March 26-30 at the GLREA Energy Demonstration Center in Dimondale. www.glrea.org

WARM Training Center assisted Habitat for Humanity of Detroit to built 30 Energy Star single family homes as part of the annual Jimmy Carter Work Project in July 2005. WARM monitored the energy performance of 28 of these homes

during the first year of occupancy. The homes saved 52% over standard construction in Michigan. www.michigan.gov/energyoffice

MPSC Staff Report On Utility Interconnection Issues can be found at <http://efile.mpsc.cis.state.mi.us/efile/viewcase.php?casenum=15113&submit.x=37&submit.y=6>

MPSC approved the following recommendations made in the staff's report: 1) utilities will be required to file interconnection reports every 6 months, 2) utilities are encouraged to educate the public about the interconnection process, 3) MPSC staff shall establish a workgroup to develop faster and less complex interconnection procedures for 10-kW-and-under interconnection projects, 4) MPSC staff shall convene a separate workgroup for interconnection projects of 30 kW or larger, and 5) Michigan Renewable Energy Program Ratemaking and Net Metering Committee shall form a task force to seek a new consensus and report to the Commission within 90 days on a simplified approach for net metering for inverter based systems smaller than 10 kW.

Green Building & Remodeling will be held on Saturday, March 3, 1-4 pm at the Upland Hills Ecological Awareness Center in Oxford. Contact: info@uheac.org or 248-693-1021

National Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, organizer of the annual Academy Awards presentation, purchased green tags from the Bonneville Environmental Foundation (BEF) to offset this year's Academy Awards telecast, Governor's Ball, Road to the Oscars Pre-Show, and the Red Carpet Event. The combined purchase of 178 green tags supports the generation of 178,000 kWh of electricity from renewable resources.

Rebuild Michigan Request for Proposal has been issued by the Energy Office to obtain proposals from organizations interested in forming a Rebuild Michigan community partnership. Public and non-profit organizations are eligible to submit proposals, but the partnership may include any combination of public and private organizations that are willing to promote building energy efficiency within the identified community. Proposals are due by Thursday, April 18, 2007. Eight grants are expected and the maximum grant award will not exceed \$24,900. No project funds may be used to purchase equipment. To obtain a copy of the RFP contact takrupi@michigan.gov. For more details on the Rebuild Michigan program, visit www.michigan.gov/eorebuild.

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