

ENERGY TIDBITS – September 2007

3rd Annual Energy Choices for a Sustainable Future conference will be held on Saturday September 29th, 9:30-5:30 at Oakland Community College in Auburn Hills. The conference offers a full day of informative workshops and seminars on Wind Energy, Green Building & Remodeling, Solar, Insulation, Lighting, Biodiesel, Tax Credits, Energy Education for Teachers, Geothermal, and much more. Pat Hudson will present an Energy State-of-the-State, David Cooper will speak on The Real Costs of Coal Power, and Debra Rowe, Ph.D. will discuss Energy Trends and Opportunities. www.uheac.org

2008 ENERGY STAR Home Grants will be available to licensed residential builders to build and promote an ENERGY STAR home. It is expected that 5 builders will be selected for grant awards up to \$8,000 each. Builders can submit applications from now until December 14. Typical grant awards are for homes targeted for Spring 08' construction. See www.michigan.gov/energyoffice (scroll down to "Energy Office News and Information", "Energy Star Home Promotional Grant").

Michigan Sustainable Homes & Businesses Tour, part of the American Solar Energy Society's National Solar Tour, will be held on Saturday, October 6, 10:00-4:00. Don't miss this opportunity to speak with homeowners and experts and learn about renewable energy technologies, green building practices, energy efficiency, and more. To find a tour near you visit www.glrea.org or contact GLREA at 800-434-9788. Want to sponsor the tour? Contact GLREA.

Consumers Energy's Green Generation program has reached an enrollment of 10,000 customers supporting the voluntary green power program.

Governor Granholm helped celebrate the grand opening of NextDiesel, Michigan's largest biodiesel manufacturing facility. The plant is the first alternative energy facility to be built in one of Michigan's ten Alternative Energy Renaissance Zones, geographic areas that are virtually tax-free for any business located in one of the zones. The 30,000 sq-ft facility is expected to create up to 25 new jobs and produce 20 million gallons of biodiesel annually, with the potential to manufacture up to 100 million gallons annually. Multiple feedstocks from soybean and palm oil to chicken fat and beef tallow will be used to make the biodiesel.

Anderson House Office Building has been recognized by EPA with a 2006 Energy Star award. Improvements made to the building have already saved Michigan taxpayers about \$850,000. The award is given to the top 25% of buildings nationwide that demonstrate superior energy performance. \$500,000 has been spent on projects like pressurization of the building and energy-recovery units. To date, 53 Michigan buildings has been awarded Energy Star labels.

Michigan Biomass Energy Program (MBEP) has announced that up to \$2500 is available for biomass workshops or events occurring between October 1, 2007 and May 30, 2008. Proposals are accepted on an ongoing basis until available funds are spent. For application requirements, please visit our website at www.michigan.gov/biomass.

Michigan Alternative Energy Database is now online at <http://www.wwj.com/pages/831997.php>. WWJ Newsradio 950 staff have compiled the directory of 300+ alternative energy companies.

DTE Energy has announced a long-term agreement with Heritage Sustainable Energy to provide wind power for the DTE GreenCurrents voluntary green power program. The 10-year agreement will enable Heritage to build a new 6,500-acre wind farm in Richland Township in Missaukee County. Heritage Sustainable Energy has begun construction of Stoney Corners Wind Farm, which will start up with two 2.5 MW Fuhrlander 2500 wind turbines. The facility is expected to be in operation as early as March 2008, with an ultimate capacity planned to be in excess of 100 MW.

Harvest Wind Farm is going up in Huron County. 6 turbines were up in late August. Total of 32 are planned. Check www.michigan.gov/energyoffice under News and Information for a few pictures.

City of Ann Arbor has won the Climate Innovation Invitational and a Grand Prize of \$1,000. The contest sponsored by ICLEI—Local Governments for Sustainability is designed to gather and bring innovative climate protection ideas to others. As a result of the contest, Dave Konkle will present at the Sundance Summit – Mayors' Gathering on Climate Protection taking place this September.

Orjiakor Isiogu, the head of the Michigan Public Service Commission's telecommunications' arm, was appointed today to chair the three-person commission by Gov. Jennifer Granholm.

"Cool Globes: Hot Ideas for a Cooler Planet" is being hosted by the City of Chicago from June through September 2007. The innovative project uses public art to inspire individuals and organizations to take action on global warming. Over 100 globes, 5 feet in diameter, and made from a variety of materials, are on display along the lakefront to create awareness about potential solutions to global warming. www.greatlakeswiki.org/index.php/Cool_Globes

Great Oak Cohousing in Ann Arbor has a web site on their solar hot water project that includes measured use and cost recovery to date. www.gocoho.org/campus/ch_sdhw

National Petroleum Council has completed its report and assessment on the future of U.S. oil and natural gas supply. The 400+ page study titled "Facing the

Hard Truths About Energy" was delivered to the Dept. of Energy on July 18 and calls for aggressive policies to moderate a projected 50-60% growth in energy demand by 2030. The petroleum council recommends increasing vehicle fuel economy standards, improving energy efficiency in buildings, and adopting policies to price carbon. The report is the product of more than a year's work by analysts and executives from the nation's leading oil and gas companies, as well as the Alliance to Save Energy and other leading energy, environmental, and consumer organizations. www.npc.org.

Steve Hamstra, PE has been named by the international Association of Energy Engineers as a "Legend in Energy" at the 30th Annual World Energy Engineering Congress in Atlanta. This award is in recognition of Steve's lifetime activities in energy efficiency engineering. Congratulations Steve.

Michigan Interfaith Power and Light (MiPL), a statewide nonprofit organization, is seeking a dynamic individual with proven management skills and a deep commitment to the environment to be the executive director. Applicants must demonstrate a proven track record at the executive level of a nonprofit organization or similar entity. Established in 2003, MiPL's 100 + members have committed to take action on global warming. MiPL facilitates that action through energy conservation and renewable energy programs, education and outreach, and public policy advocacy. Please contact MiPL at MiPLSearchCommittee@mipl.org

Lawrence Tech is one of 20 universities selected to compete in DOE's 2007 Solar Decathlon on the Mall in D.C. in October. Check out the Fox news story at http://media.myfoxdetroit.com/special/head/header_FOXe.html

Introductory Renewable Energy Seminars will be held on September 8, 9am-5pm at Oakland University. Contact: www.glrea.org

Go Solar Oakland County Information Seminar will be held on September 15 (10:00 AM- 11:30 AM) at Oakland Center, Oakland University. Contact: www.glrea.org

Renewable Energy Workshop: Building a Solar Panel System will be held on September 15, 9:00-1:00 PM at Pierce Cedar Creek Institute in Hastings. Contact: www.cedarcreekinstitute.org or 269-721-4190

LEED for Homes Builder Seminar will be held in Grand Rapids on September 21. This orientation session for builders will be at the Alliance for Environmental Sustainability. www.allianceES.org or 616-458-6733

Home Energy Rating System (HERS) Rater Training will be held on September 26 – 30 at Urban Options in East Lansing. Attendees will learn how to perform certified home energy ratings for the EPA Energy Star® Homes Program. Contact: www.urbanoptions.org

25th Anniversary Excellence in Building Conference & Expo will be held on October 9-11 in St. Paul, MN. The keynote speaker will be Sarah Susanka who will share the message of her latest book, "Not So Big Life: Making Room for What Really Matters." www.eeba.org

DTE Energy/MichCon is planning to hold several Energy Efficiency Seminars across their service territory in the Fall of 2007. Each seminar location will have two sessions – one for residential customers and one for commercial customers. <http://my.dteenergy.com/products/energySeminars/energyEfficiency.html>

Energy Tidbits is free. To subscribe, contact me at sarverj@michigan.gov.