

ENERGY TIDBITS – June 2008

Governor Granholm is scheduled to speak at the Michigan Energy Fair on Friday, June 27 at 2:30. The Energy Fair will be back for its third year on June 27-29 at the Manistee County Fairgrounds in Onkama. The Great Lakes Renewable Energy Assoc. expect to host 5,000 people who are looking to cut their energy costs and educate themselves on green energy. The fair features a banquet on Saturday and live bands play Friday and Saturday evening, with a solar stage providing the energy. Also, Saturday is Kids Day with face painting and coloring contests. For the adults, the fair features a variety of workshops and keynote speakers. Topics for the workshops include renewable and alternative energies, policy and economics, green building, and energy efficiency. The Windspire vertical axis wind generator and Cascade Renewable Energy rooftop wind turbine will be on display. www.glrea.org

DTE/Mich Con has a new energy efficiency directory and a limited number of rebates for high efficiency natural gas furnaces, home energy audits, and Energy Star natural gas homes. DTE plans to offer an expanded rebate program for both MichCon and Detroit Edison customers, but this will depend on energy efficiency legislation now being considered in Lansing. <http://my.dteenergy.com/home/savings/index.html>

20% Wind Energy by 2030: Increasing Wind Energy's Contribution to U.S. Electricity Supply study has been released by the U.S. Department of Energy. Included in the report is an examination of America's technological and manufacturing capabilities, wind energy resources and the environmental and economic impacts of wind development. Under the 20% wind scenario, installations of new wind power would increase to more than 16,000 MW per year by 2018, and continue at that rate through 2030. The report finds that achieving a 20% wind contribution would by 2030 reduce carbon dioxide emissions from electricity generation by 25%, reduce natural gas use by 11%, increase annual revenues to local communities to more than \$1.5 billion, and support roughly 500,000 jobs in the U.S., with an average of more than 150,000 workers directly employed by the wind industry. Full report visit <http://20percentwind.org/>

Harvest Wind Farm in Pigeon was dedicated on May 23. Approximately 200 attended the ceremony. Phil Dougherty, U.S. Dept. of Energy, presented Carpe Ventem (Seize the Wind) awards to John Deere, Wolverine Power, and Michigan Wind.

Grace Grange Lodge and Stable, located in Petoskey, has earned Green Lodging Michigan certification as a Steward. The Lodge has implemented several initiatives such as installing Energy Star lighting & equipment, using low VOC air fresheners & cleaning products, and purchasing post-consumer recycled products. Grace Grange Lodge also reduces waste by avoiding single-serve packaging and single use items, composting organic waste, and offering a

comprehensive recycling program. "The Green Lodging program provides the perfect opportunity to promote our facility's environmental efforts," said Pamela Rambow, owner of Grace Grange Lodge and Stable. "Michigan is a perfect environment in which to emphasize a balance between commerce and preserving nature's bounty." <http://www.gracegrange.com/>

Lansing Board of Water and Light has just finished a \$115,000 project to get the Moores Park hydroelectric dam up and running. The dam has been out of commission since 2006, but now it's back in action and is producing enough energy (500 kilowatts) to power 200 homes.

Adaptive Materials Inc. has a new, 47,000-sq.ft. headquarters and manufacturing plant south of Ann Arbor. The new plant will allow it to become the first fuel cell company to mass produce. Adaptive Materials fuel cells are solid oxide and do not rely on expensive, scarce platinum. The fuel cells are comprised of tubes, each about the size of a coffee stirrer, which are ceramic on the outside and a porous mixture of ceramic and small bits of nickel on the inside. When exposed to a variety of fuels, including propane, the tube generates electricity.

Ontario Renewable Energy Standard Offer Program (SOP) has exceeded all expectations. It has contracted for 1,300 MW of projects in the past year. When it was launched in 2006, it expected to develop 1,000 MW over ten years. The SOP provides 42¢/kWh for power from solar panels.

Mutual Building, rechristened the Christman Building this year after a \$12 million makeover, is the first building in the world to receive two platinum LEED certifications - one for the shell and exterior and one for Christman's office space. Planning the Lansing structure with the top LEED rating in mind started with initial design work, said Gavin Gardi, sustainable programs manager for Christman. Christman is likely to save \$40,000 a year in energy costs alone.

Illumisys Inc. over the next 4 years will replace 200 fluorescent tubes in the Escanaba state office building with three successive generations of LED lamps. The first generation of the lamps are 5-10% more energy efficient than fluorescent bulbs, and last more than 25 years, vs. fluorescent tubes' estimated five-year lifespan. They also don't require ballasts or use mercury, and can be dimmed or brightened to accommodate available natural light. Illumisys lights are also now at work in a conference room on the fourth floor of Ann Arbor City Hall.

Philips' Eco FlatTV won "Best in Show" award at 2008 International Consumer Electronics Show. A built-in light sensor automatically measures the viewing room's ambient lighting and adjusts the TV's backlight for power efficiency.

\$6.5 million in Michigan Energy Efficiency Grants to 14 organizations has been approved by the MPSC. \$5 million will go to a partnership of the University of Michigan, General Motors, and DTE Energy to study plug-in hybrid electric

vehicles as an economic development catalyst, the vehicle-utility interface, and the environmental and electric utility system impacts. CFL Programs will be implemented by Superior Watershed Partnership (\$150,000), Urban Options (\$750,000) and West Michigan Environmental Action Council (\$100,000). Green Community Programs with grants up to \$50,000 will be implemented by 10 organizations. www.michigan.gov/mpsc

Lawrence Technological University's ALOeTERRA zero-energy, solar powered house has been reconstructed on the campus of Troy's city government at 500 W. Big Beaver Road. LTU students built the house on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. last October for the Solar Decathlon competition. The house will be the focal point of the city of Troy's efforts to promote energy conservation and sustainability principles. More about the effort at <http://solar.ltu.edu/>.

DTE Clean Energy Prize will challenge teams from Michigan colleges and universities to develop the best plan for bringing new clean energy technologies to market. DTE is making a five-year, \$450,000 commitment to fund the competition. The prize pool for the 2009 competition will be \$100,000, which will be divided among the winning teams. For subsequent years, it is expected that the prize pool will be \$200,000. The prize competition will be hosted by the University of Michigan, but will be open to students and faculty from all Michigan colleges and universities. For the first year, each team must have at least one University of Michigan student or faculty member. The initial competition will be held this fall with prizes to be awarded next spring. As details are finalized, information will be posted at www.dteenergy.com. Search for Clean Energy Prize.

Holiday Inn-Troy has earned Green Lodging Michigan certification as a Partner. Initiatives at the hotel include installing low flow faucets, showerheads, and toilets. The facility uses safe paints, detergents, and cleaning products and has a comprehensive recycling program which includes specifying the purchase of post consumer recycled content paper supplies. Recently, the hotel completed an energy audit that will help identify other ways to cost effectively reduce energy consumption. "We are proud to be a part of a growing list of hospitality professionals in Michigan that are 'green,'" said Brett Leiteritz, food and beverage director. "One of the most rewarding aspects of our hotel going 'green' is the opportunity we have to make our guests aware of the ways they can help the environment when they travel."

www.ichotelsgroup.com/h/d/hi/1/en/hotel/dttr?_requestid=490089

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