Rebuild Michigan

October 2008

Partner News

▶ Community Partnership Update ◀

Rebuild Michigan is designed to foster partnerships, which will promote increased energy efficiency and renewable energy use within communities. The program focuses on community-based energy planning to insure that local needs are met and that a sustained local effort is established.

Community partnerships develop comprehensive energy use strategies and organize a coalition to work towards fulfilling community energy goals.

The partnerships identify energy efficiency opportunities in commercial, institutional and multi-family buildings and encourage installation of improvements that will yield the highest energy and cost savings.

Michigan Department of Labor & Economic Growth
Energy Office

611 W. Ottawa
P.O. Box 30221
Lansing, MI 48909

Phone: 517-241-6228

Website:
www.michigan.gov/eorebuild

The Michigan Energy Office welcomes five new community partners to the Rebuild Michigan Program this month, and will provide start up assistance grant totaling $102,213 in grant awards. Grant recipients include:

- Clean Energy Coalition (Ypsilanti area)
- Ferris State University (Mecosta County)
- Delta Institute (City of Wyandotte)
- Michigan Green (Livingston County)
- Lake Superior State University (Sault Ste. Marie and surrounding U.P. areas)

Clean Energy Coalition leads the Rebuild Ypsilanti initiative to increase energy efficiency and renewable resource development within the City of Ypsilanti and Ypsilanti Township. The Clean Energy Coalition is a non-profit, non-partisan organization dedicated to promoting clean energy technologies as a way to create healthier, energy independent communities. Contact: Sean Reed at reed@cec-mi.org.

Ferris State University is heading up a collaborative Rebuild Michigan coalition to assist the City of Big Rapids and Mecosta County in maintaining economic vitality despite rising energy costs. The project will promote energy awareness, provide energy education, energy efficiency audits and implement energy efficiency projects to Mecosta area businesses, industries and organizations. Contact: Tom Crandell at crandelt@ferris.edu.

Delta Institute along with the City of Wyandotte Municipal Services, has formed a Rebuild Michigan coalition to provide energy audits, technical assistance and financing of energy efficiency projects for public and commercial facilities in the Wyandotte area. The coalition will also focus on providing community outreach to build understanding, acceptance and enthusiasm for energy efficiency and renewable energy actions to improve the environment and reduce energy costs. Contact: Todd Parker at tparker@delta-institute.org.

Michigan GREEN, located in Livingston County, is building a coalition of local government organizations, utility companies, school & community groups, and media outlets to pursue the application and implementation of energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies in local buildings. Focusing mainly on the Brighton and Howell areas, MI GREEN hopes to use "hands on" experience to inform and educate the community regarding energy efficiency and renewable energy projects being undertaken throughout Livingston County and encourage others to actively pursue future energy efficiency endeavors. Contact: Doug Russell at drussell@michigangreen.org

Lake Superior State University will collaborate with local business people, tribal & provincial government officials, educators, concerned residents, and all others, to identify local opportunities for energy use reduction and increased use/availability of renewable energy in the community and commercial/institutional buildings. LSSU will also provide project management and technical support from the Departments of Biology, Environmental Science and Engineering. With the help of the City of Sault Ste. Marie, Edison Sault Electric Company and the Sault Area Chamber of Commerce, LSSU is confident they can promote and achieve the goals of the Rebuild Michigan Program. Contact: Greg Zimmerman at gzimmerman@lssu.edu

► Community Partnership Update, Continued ◄

The Michigan Department of Labor & Economic Growth (DLEG) Energy Office recently announced three new grants totaling $30,000 to fund workshops, seminars, and tours in three Rebuild Michigan communities. These three grantees will plan and conduct energy efficiency workshops, seminars, and tours in their respective communities which will provide educational information to commercial/institutional building owners and managers and/or local commercial developers, contractors and equipment suppliers on energy efficient design of new buildings and cost-effective energy efficient retrofitting of existing buildings.

Grant Recipients

- WARM Training Center (Wayne County)
- Northern Options (Upper Peninsula)
- Urban Options (Lansing area)

► REBUILD MICHIGAN PARTNER UPDATE ◄

Since January 2008 the Rebuild Michigan Program has enrolled 49 new public agency partners. The table to the right lists the most recent program partners and the square footage they have committed to energy improvements. The Rebuild MI technical team completed Introductory Energy Evaluations (IEEs) for these clients identifying the areas where energy use can be reduced and recommending a more detailed technical energy analysis, if appropriate.

To view the complete list of new clients please go to www.michigan.gov/eorebuild and click on Rebuild MI Energy Services.

Since January, 1998, 540 school districts, local governments, and public housing authorities have joined the Rebuild Michigan program. Enrolled partners have pledged more than 108,000,000 square feet to energy efficiency projects and to date have invested more than $69,345,000 in efficiency projects, with first year savings totaling more than $9,400,000.

Public building owners that are seeking help in reducing their energy use through cost effective improvements may contact Tim Shireman at (517) 241-6281 or at shiremant@michigan.gov.

Public Agency	Enrolled Sq. Footage
Clinton Community Schools	367,258
Grand Valley State University	527,600
Madison School District	462,800
Standish-Sterling Community Schools	527,200
City of Farmington Hills	316,706
City of Hastings	88,373
Milford Township	78,386
City of Perry	33,201
City of Rochester Hills	245,018

► Energy Myths ◄

- Myth: the higher you set your thermostat, the faster your office space will warm up.
  Fact: it takes the same amount of time for the temperature to reach 70°F, whether the thermostat is set to 70°F or 90°F. Setting the thermostat all the way up only wastes energy and increases heating costs.
- Myth: dimming incandescent lights by 50% will reduce costs by 50%.
  Fact: as the voltage drops, the filament cools and the wavelength spectrum of the light output shifts further into the infra-red which uses more energy.

Fore more energy myths busted go to http://hes.lbl.gov/hes/myths.html

►Actively Engage in Energy conservation◄

Motivating employee involvement is an integral part of an energy conservation campaign. Communicating to employees the importance and benefits of reduction in green house gas (GHG) emissions and reduction in energy use and costs often isn't enough. Several case studies have shown that active engagement of employees in communications campaigns and employee outreach produce improved success rates. To begin energy reduction, a local public agency or commercial business owner can have a qualified energy auditor conduct an introductory energy evaluation (IEE) outlining the areas where energy improvements can be made. The building owner can then proceed with engineering to make the necessary improvements. However, without the employees' participating in energy reduction behaviors, the outcomes could be minimal. With a complimentary communications campaign, the building owner/manager can uses several media (e.g. Posters, e-mails, flyers, newsletters, a website, TV screens, etc.) to inform the employees on how they can help reduce energy. Through outreach, employers can ask for volunteers to help implement energy awareness and conservation throughout the workplace such as assisting in turning off unneeded lighting, equipment, electronics, etc. Quarterly (or whenever the owner/manager chooses) employees are updated on how their efforts have affected GHG emissions and energy usage during that period of time, showing employees that they are making a difference in their workplace. Employee incentives and/or scorecards are also successful at bolstering employee engagement in energy conservation and reduction.

For more information on active employee engagement in workplace conservation efforts, read the following case studies: *Raytheon: Changing Attitudes Towards Energy* and *Grundfos: Flex Your Power*

►Green Building Consulting Blog◄

WARM Training Center announced the launch of their new *Green Building Consulting Blog*. The blog pulls information from builders, energy efficiency experts, and other valuable resources to provide answers to community questions about going green. Jacob Stevens Corvidae, Green Programs Manager at WARM, reasoned that the blog was a need for consumers and building owners to assist them in their search for greener alternatives. The website features questions such as: '*What are the advantages of using LEDs over CFLs'?* and *'What are the fuel alternatives for large delivery vehicles?'*

To view WARM's green blog, go to http://www.warmtraining.org/gogreen/.

►Featured Publications◄

DTE Energy GreenCurrents Agreement Enables MI Company to Build New Wind Farm

DTE Energy, along with Heritage Sustainable Energy, LLC, signed a 10 year agreement to build a 6,500 acre wind farm in Richland Township, Michigan. The wind farm will give both residential and commercial customers the option of choosing environmentally friendly renewable energy for their home and/or business.

http://dteenergy.mediaroom.com/index.php?s=43&item=226

Micro Inverters for Solar Energy: Working Independently, Generating Power Collectively

Enphase Energy has created a micro converter for solar panels that could revolutionize the industry and make consumers rethink going solar. The new converter would allow each separate panel to operate independently from the others, thus panels could be placed in multiple locations and maximize panel efficiency.

http://www.green-energy-news.com/arch/nrgs2008/20080076.html

Cold-weather Energy Saving Tips for Businesses

Consumer's Energy produced a list of several money-saving ideas. Some of the ideas business owners can put to work in minutes at no cost to them, others are good energy saving investments when owners or facility managers are ready to replace equipment or do remodeling.

http://www.consumerenergycenter.org/tips/business_winter.html

Publications are available via the DLEG Energy Office Publications page at www.michigan.gov or from above listed URL.

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If you would like to receive the newsletter electronically please email Stephanie Epps at eppss@michigan.gov

►ENERGY EVENTS◄

Fifth U.S. Conference on Peak Oil & Community Solutions

October 31—November 2
Oakland University

Register Online At:
http://www.plancconference.org/

Wind Site Assessment Workshop

November 8, 2008
9 AM—6 PM
Tustin Community Center

Tustin, MI
http://www.windpowerservicesllc.com/workshops.html

Energizing Michigan's Green Future

November 13, 2008
7:30 AM—4:15 PM
Fretzer Center

Western Michigan University
http://www.southwestmichigansustainablebusinessforum.org/

Dollars and Sense of Renewable Energy

December 6, 2008
1:00 PM—4:00 PM
Oxford, MI

Register Online At:
https://www.z2systems.com/np/clients/tif/event.jsp;jsessionid=1381B059D2C2D90547 96A6F46C2BD29D?event=107

Strategies for Purchasing Renewables Webinar

December 8, 2008
1:30 PM—3:30 PM

Register Online At:
http://www.eere.energy.gov/windandhydro/windpoweringamerica/calendar.asp

Advertise your future energy efficient events with the Rebuild Michigan Partner Newsletter!

*If your school district, community, or local facilities are hosting an energy event and you would like to advertise your event, email your requests to Stephanie Epps at eppss@michigan.gov and see your area's event in the next Rebuild MI Partner News.