

ENERGY TIDBITS – May 2009

Green Today, Jobs Tomorrow conference will be held on May 11 at the Lansing Center. The conference will focus on workforce and economic development for Michigan's emerging green economy. Van Jones (founder and president of Green For All and the author of The Green Collar Economy), Sen. Stabenow, and Kate Gordon (Co-Director of the Apollo Alliance) will speak. www.michigan.gov/greenjobsconference.

Hometown Energy Saverssm program has been announced by the Lansing Board of Water & Light. One of the first energy efficiency programs in Michigan, the BWL's program is multi-faceted reaching residential, commercial, and industrial customers. Programs include incentives to recycle old refrigerators and freezers, rebates for Energy Star light fixtures and ceiling fans, incentives to businesses for energy efficiency upgrades, and assistance for low-income customers. 877-674-5295

Global Wind Systems Inc. will begin hiring about 250 skilled assembly line workers to staff their new facility -- Michigan's first manufacturer of large-scale wind turbines. The company, which now has about 20 employees, was founded in September and is investing \$32 million in the plant. The company received \$7.3 million in tax credits from the Michigan Economic Growth Authority in December to create 256 direct jobs over 6 years. Chris Long, founder and CEO, said the company will likely grow within two years to more than 400 employees and hopes to source components for its 1.5 MW turbines to in-state suppliers.

State Energy Optimization Plan Administrator proposals have been requested from non-profit organizations by the MPSC. The plan administrator would design and operate energy optimization programs under a unified plan that will serve customers of 10 Michigan electric and gas providers. The initial contract has an estimated budget of \$38 million. Proposals are due May 28. www.michigan.gov/mpsc

Ann Arbor's Skyline High School has achieved a LEED Silver certification. The school has a geothermal field with 82 miles of pipe underground. The energy savings is expected to be 30 to 40%. Other features include reusing stormwater on site and a wind turbine on the roof. http://www.aaps.k12.mi.us/aaps.news/news_events#skyawards.

Michigan Saves development project will receive \$8.1 million from the MPSC Low-Income and Energy Efficiency Fund. Public Sector Consultants will receive the funding to develop a statewide, innovative energy efficiency and distributed renewable energy financing system. The project will establish an administrative structure to operate an initial capital pool to finance the installation of energy efficiency measures and renewable energy systems with no up-front cost to utility customers.

Three Renewable Schools projects will receive \$5.5 million from the MPSC Low-Income and Energy Efficiency Fund. The MPSC awarded the following grants: \$3.5 million to Recycle Ann Arbor to conduct energy audits, install renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies, and provide the associated curriculum at educational institutions

statewide. \$1 million to Elkton-Pigeon-Bay Port Laker Schools to implement energy audits, energy education, and renewable energy and energy efficiency installations at secondary technical schools. \$1 million to Great Lakes Energy Service to conduct energy audits, install renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies, and provide the associated learning tools for educational institutions throughout the state.

City of East Lansing will be requiring LEED certification on municipal structures and any structure using local tax incentives. Tax increment financing, brownfield incentives, and Community Development Block Grants will all be affected by the new policy.

Wayne State University Engineering Technology Building is installing a 6 kW Franklin Vertical Axis Wind Turbine to power the computer lab in the building.

Advanced Batteries legislation was signed into law by Governor Granholm in January. The new law provides a potential \$335 million in refundable tax credits to encourage companies to develop and manufacture advanced batteries and commercialize advanced battery technologies. Four advanced-battery companies recently announced they are investing a combined \$1.7 billion in Michigan. These companies - A123 Systems, Johnson Controls, LG Chem-Compact Power, and KD Advanced Battery have put Michigan in a good position to compete for \$2 billion in federal recovery grants.

46 Energy Frontier Research Center grants have been awarded by DOE to generate breakthrough alternative energy technologies. University of Michigan's \$19.5 grant will allow researchers, led by Peter Green, to pursue new technology to improve the efficiency of solar materials. The "center" is not expected to be a physical building but instead a research collaboration aimed at bringing together 22 scientists. Michigan State University's \$12.5 million grant will focus on lowering the thermal conductivity and manipulating the electronic density of states to improve a broad range of materials including nanostructured composites. <http://www.er.doe.gov/bes/EFRC.html>

Delphi Corp. will turn over a shuttered laboratory in Shelby Township for use as a federally backed facility for research into advanced automotive technologies. The new public-private group called the U.S. Automotive Partnership for Advancing Research and Technologies, or U.S. Autoparts will be comprised of suppliers and government researchers and will focus on advanced lightweight materials, biofuels, and batteries. DOE will invest up to \$9 million in the effort over 4 years, while the state of Michigan will invest \$5 million over the same period. About a dozen researchers will work at the site initially, but it will eventually support around 200 people.

Governor Granholm raised a Windspire wind turbine to provide power and officially open Mariah Power's MasTech Wind Turbine manufacturing site in Manistee. Governor Granholm told the crowd of about 500 community members and school children that "green jobs are going to be a part of everything we do." And that, "Michigan has the skilled work force needed to meet today's high demand for renewable energy." <http://www.pnewswire.com/mnr/mariahpower/37948/>

2009 Energy Conference and Exhibition hosted by The Engineering Society of Detroit

and DTE Energy will be held on May 5 at the Rock Financial Showplace in Novi. The 13th annual conference will feature four educational tracks, exhibitors, special energy awards and an executive session led by CEOs of major companies. The luncheon speaker, Monica Martinez, MPSC Commissioner, will share information on new legislation that will assist businesses on energy saving programs. www.esd.org

Michigan Renewable Energy Exchange (MI-REX) renewable energy certificates have been certified for 2008 and are available for purchase at www.michigan.gov/eorenew.

California Air Resources Board has adopted the nation's first low carbon fuel standard, which is aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions from California's transportation fuels by 10% by 2020. The Low Carbon Fuel Standard (LCFS) program will require transportation fuel providers to lower the carbon intensity of their product mix by meeting a performance standard that will decline over time. Fuel providers either will have to provide more low-carbon fuels, such as cellulosic ethanol made from biomass, or buy credits from other fuel providers.

Greening the Heartland Conference will be held on May 31-June 2 at Detroit Marriott, Renaissance Center in partnership with COBO. For the first time, USGBC Detroit Regional Chapter in partnership with The Engineering Society of Detroit will bring one of the largest and most successful conferences on green initiatives to Detroit. Featured speakers include David Suzuki, PhD, co-founder of The David Suzuki Foundation, Thomas Cahill of CH2M HILL, Doug Farr of Farr Associates, Keith Cooley of NextEnergy, David Konkle of ICLEI Local Governments for Sustainability, and Susan Mortel of the Michigan Dept. of Transportation. The Detroit Marriott Ren Cen just received Leader certification in the Green Lodging Michigan program. www.greeningtheheartland.org

Michigan's Energy Future Today, a new cable show, began on 80 cable stations in April. The first program featured DELEG Director Stanley "Skip" Pruss who provided an overview of Michigan's plans for its energy future. Also featured was DELEG Deputy Director Andy Levin who discussed the first-ever Green Today, Jobs Tomorrow Conference that will be held May 11 at the Lansing Center. The show is hosted by Deputy Director Liesl Clark.

Two Men busted in Westland felt kitchen grease had the smell of money. Produced from frying oils, the grease can easily be converted into biodiesel. Cops say an employee of a grease disposal company used his car to block two men in the alley behind Ashley's Beer and Grill at 2 a.m. on a Tuesday. Nearby, the trap behind Olympic Coney Island was emptied of almost 1,000 pounds of grease worth \$160.

Alternative Energy Supplier Development Conference will be held at Saginaw Valley State University on May 21 to help manufacturers and suppliers effectively compete in the emerging alternative energy marketplace. The conference will provide attendees with detailed information on product specifications and requirements, components and subassemblies, market demands, trends and drivers, supply chains, product producers,

and support resources. <http://www.svsu.edu/cbed/entrepreneurship/conferences.html>

Princess Elizabeth Station in Antarctica will have eight 6-kW wind turbines designed to withstand temperatures of -76 degrees F and winds of over 201 mph. This station is the only polar base operating entirely on renewable energy rather than diesel generators. Wind speed at the site averages 53 mph. In addition to wind, both solar thermal and electric systems will be used.

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