

ENERGY TIDBITS

April 2005

2005 Energy Star Home Grants were awarded by DLEG Director David C. Hollister at Urban Options on March 22. The recipients are: Olde World Custom Homes (Traverse City), Steinorth Fine Homes (Traverse City), C.L. Gruner (Ada), T. Joseph & Sons Construction (Linden), and Raymar Homes (Hudsonville). Builders compete for the grants based on energy-efficiency, marketing plans and innovations. Some of the innovative features of the five houses include radiant floor heating, soy-based wall insulation, water retention basins for capturing rain water run-off, and passive solar designs. The deadline for the 2006 grants will be mid December. If interested, check www.michigan.gov/energyoffice in the fall.

Opportunities to Save with Renewable Energy: Focus on Wind Power will be held on April 21 in Warren. Learn the details on renewable energy and wind power at the second annual conference for the benefit of administrators, business officers, and building management officials in the educational, municipal and agricultural communities. Conference registration is required. Call (586) 498-8840 or (734) 285-7273.

New Residential Energy Code was going to be effective February 28. On February 24 the Ingham County Circuit Court issued an injunction on the implementation date of the revised Michigan Uniform Energy Code. As a result of the judge's order, the code did not go into effect and is not being enforced.

USDA Section 9006 Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency grant applications will be due June 28. \$11.4 million will be initially available for grants. USDA is setting aside the other \$11.4 million for guaranteed loans. These funds will be administered under a final rule to be published in the Federal Register later this fiscal year. Any funds for loan guarantees not used by August 31, 2005 will be awarded to grant applicants. The basic grant program and application processes are largely unchanged from last year. The minimum grant size is \$2,500 and the maximum is \$250,000 for energy efficiency improvements and \$500,000 for renewable energy systems. Grants can provide up to 25% of total project costs. www.elpc.org/farmenergy/index.htm

World's Largest Wind Turbine, the REpower 5M, was recently inaugurated in Germany. The 5 MW unit has a rotor diameter of 126 m. Two turbines are proposed for a demonstration project off the coast of Scotland.

Introductory Renewable Energy Seminars will be held on Saturday, April 16, 9 am - 5 pm at the Great Lakes Renewable Energy Association in Dimondale. Contact: Brendan Schaffler, (800)434-9788, info@glrea.org Website: www.glrea.org

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Voluntary Net Metering program has been approved by the MPSC for a minimum of five years. Utilities that signed the agreement have until April 28 to file their proposed tariffs. The program covers solar, wind, geothermal, biomass, including waste-to-energy and landfill gas or hydroelectric. The MPSC approved an amended version of the consensus agreement reached with utilities. Based on comments filed, the Commission rejected a provision in the agreement that would have required that all renewable energy certificates associated with the customer's generation be owned by the utility. Under the agreement, net-metered customers will be credited for net excess generation (NEG) at the utility's retail price of generation. Any credits will be carried over from month to month, limited to a 12 billing-month cycle. At the end of each 12 billing-month cycle, cumulative NEG credits, if any, may be retained by the utility and the customer's credit reset to zero. The value of any generation credits retained by the utility will be used to offset net metering programming costs. The following utilities signed the consensus agreement: Alpena Power, Indiana Michigan Power, Edison Sault Electric, Upper Peninsula Power, Wisconsin Public Service Corp., Wisconsin Electric Power, Northern States Power, Consumers Energy, Detroit Edison, Michigan Electric Cooperative Assoc., and Michigan Electric and Gas Assoc.

Consumers Energy is seeking competitive bids for the development of renewable energy projects that will supply 265,000 megawatt-hours of renewable energy. The Renewable Resource Program is a replacement and significant expansion of a smaller Green Power Pilot Program which Consumers Energy offered from 2001-2004. Under a separate MPSC order, Consumers Energy created a \$5 million annual fund for the company's Renewable Resource Program that will be used to offset the costs of Consumers Energy's purchases. Consumers Energy's 1.75 million electric customers will have the option of choosing to purchase a larger part of their electric supply from green power sources, following commercial operation of the independent projects. That is expected by the end of 2005. The utility's Request For Proposal offers independent green power developers long-term power supply contracts of up to 20 years. A copy of The Request For Proposal is at www.consumersenergy.com/greenenergy.

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Energy Management Pathfinding, a new report from the Alliance to Save Energy, offers case studies of the energy management strategies developed by 10 major U.S. corporations including Frito-Lay, Kimberly-Clark, and 3M. The case studies, an analysis of their findings, and a corporate self-test for energy management are available online at <http://www.ase.org/section/topic/industry/corporate/pathfinding>.

Energy and the Economy Summit will be held on April 20 at Lawrence Technological University in Southfield. Contact: <http://www.ltu.edu/energysummit/>

Flex Your Power is California's statewide energy efficiency marketing and outreach campaign. Check out their web site at www.fypower.org (Bill Decker Sr)

2005 Southeast Michigan Biodiesel Bus Tour will introduce you to key biodiesel facilities and players on April 11. Leaving from Lansing at 7:30 am and returning at 5:30 pm. Contact 734-994-4780 or sreed2@ci.ann-arbor.mi.us.

Voters in Columbia, MO adopted a local renewables portfolio standard (RPS) last November. The City of Columbia will generate or purchase electricity generated from renewable energy sources at the following levels: 2% by 2007, 5% by 2012, 10% by 2017, and 15% by 2022. Eligible energy sources include solar, wind and bio-energy. The RPS was passed with 78% of the vote. www.columbiansforcleanenergy.com

New Ballasts made after April 1, 2005 will use more efficient electronic technologies, although existing magnetic ballasts may be repaired through 2010. That revision, according to the Appliance Standards Awareness Project, will save 13.7 billion kWh's by 2020 and by 2030 net benefits will reach \$2.6 billion.



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