

# ENERGY TIDBITS

June 2005

**Eco-Innovation 21: The Local/Global Imperative** will be held in Grand Rapids on June 20-22. This year Michigan is the host state for the Multi-State Working Group (MSWG) Annual Workshop. MSWG convenes government, business, and academic interests to conduct research, promote dialogue, create networks, and establish partnerships that improve the state of the environment, economy, and community. Online registration is available at [www.michigan.gov/deqworkshops](http://www.michigan.gov/deqworkshops), click on "Upcoming DEQ Workshops." For more information about MSWG, go to [www.mswg.org](http://www.mswg.org).

**DEQ's Environmental Education Curriculum** provides middle school students with the opportunity to learn about environmental topics including energy. The Energy Resources unit has been designed for grades 7-9 and is aligned to the Michigan Curriculum Frameworks.

[http://www.michigan.gov/deq/0,1607,7-135-3307\\_3580\\_29678---,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/deq/0,1607,7-135-3307_3580_29678---,00.html)

**Renewable Energy Workshop: Building a Solar Panel System** will be held on Saturday, June 11, 9 am - 1 pm at Pierce Cedar Creek Institute in Hastings. This workshop is taught by Bob Brown and is designed to help those interested in solar design build their own small PV system. The workshop is limited to 12 people. Call (269) 721-4190

**Via-Car Carsharing** is now in Detroit. Payment is made through the purchase of prepaid cards. When the reservation is made, the code number from the card is entered verifying that sufficient time has been purchased. Via-Car's strategy is to place vehicles at large apartment & condo complexes, where card machines are also located, rather than the traditional "neighborhood" model. Membership is a one-time \$200 with \$35/year renewal. [www.via-car.com](http://www.via-car.com)

**EnergySmart Schools Incentives** are available to encourage Michigan public school districts to integrate energy education into their curriculum during the 2005-2006 school year. Awards of \$4,000-\$6,500 per district for up to 6 school districts will be made for faculty workshops and educational materials. A school district must be enrolled or enroll in the Rebuild Michigan program. More: [www.michigan.gov/eorebuild](http://www.michigan.gov/eorebuild). Applications must be submitted by July 1, 2005.

**America Honda Motor & Climate Energy** have partnered to develop and market a micro combined heat and power (MCHP) device. MCHP converts natural gas energy normally wasted in a conventional heating appliance into electric power, increasing the efficiency by 85%. More than 15,000 such systems have been up and running in Japan since 2003.

# ENERGY TIDBITS

June 2005

Page 2 of 3

**3-Watt FlameTip Cold Cathode Lamp** can replace incandescent bulbs in chandeliers, accent lighting, decorative, sanctuaries and theaters. Can be used in dimming and rapid cycling applications. Replaces 15W to 20W incandescent lamps. [www.wattbusters.com](http://www.wattbusters.com)

**Solar & Wind Workshops** will be held at the Great Lakes Renewable Energy Assoc. Center in Dimondale. Intermediate Solar Heating Seminar will be held on June 4. Advanced PV Certification Course will be held on June 6-8. Introductory Renewable Energy Seminars: Solar & Wind will be held on June 11. Contact: [www.glrea.org](http://www.glrea.org), 800-434-9788, [info@glrea.org](mailto:info@glrea.org)

**Ford Van Dyke Transmission Plant** in Sterling Heights implemented compressed air measures between 2000 and 2003 that saved over one million kWh's. The total cost for upgrades was \$336,000 and the energy and maintenance cost savings were \$165,000 yielding a 2 year simple payback. <http://www.nrel.gov/docs/fy05osti/37535.pdf>

**Superior Wind Energy** has proposed a 100 MW wind park in the Gros Cap area overlooking Lake Superior. The project will include 66 1.5 MW commercial turbines, each 117 meters (383 feet) from base to furthest blade sweep. Landowners will be eligible for about \$6,500 per turbine annually. The award of 354 MW of wind capacity in five projects last November by Queen's Park nearly doubled Canadian capacity.

**Rocky Mountain Institute** has updated Home Energy Briefs, a series of nine publications that provide energy and money-saving tips for homeowners. The series includes lighting, space cooling and heating, water heating, cleaning appliances, electronics, kitchen appliances, the building envelope, and whole system design. <http://www.rmi.org/sitepages/pid171.php#LibHshldEnEff>.

**NextEnergy** has its new headquarters and laboratory center in Detroit, alongside a micro-grid of power generators using hydrogen, sunlight and natural gas as fuels. In addition to lab space, the NextEnergy Center, a 45,000 sq.ft. building on Burroughs St. will include offices, a showroom area, an 80-seat auditorium and three training rooms. The micro-grid contains four Plug Power fuel cells, two STM Power Stirling engines, a Ford internal combustion engine that runs off hydrogen, two GM internal combustion engines that burn natural gas, and two Uni-Solar PV cells. A hydrogen fueling station will also be built. [www.nextenergy.org](http://www.nextenergy.org)

# ENERGY TIDBITS

June 2005

Page 3 of 3

**United Solar Ovonic** plans to invest more than \$80.2 million to locate a new PV production facility in Auburn Hills. Tax credits valued at more than \$6.1 million over 20 years and a \$100,000 Economic Development Job Training Grant helped the company decide to locate the facility in Michigan over a competing site in Ohio. To further support the project, the city of Auburn Hills has proposed a tax abatement valued at \$109,100 and is willing to support Next Energy personal property tax exemptions that could be worth an estimated \$6.9 million over the next eight years. The facility is expected to create 625 new jobs, including 230 directly by the company. United Solar currently employs nearly 200 employees in Troy and Auburn Hills.

*If President Bush is looking for a similar legacy project, there is one just crying out – a national science initiative that would be our generation’s moon shot: a crash program for alternative energy and conservation to make America energy-independent in ten years. (The World is Flat by Thomas L. Friedman)*



Prior issues of Energy Tidbits are at:

[www.michigan.gov/energyoffice](http://www.michigan.gov/energyoffice) under Publications.

**Would you like to subscribe?** Call John Sarver at 517/241-6280 or e-mail [jhsarve@michigan.gov](mailto:jhsarve@michigan.gov)

The Department of Labor & Economic Growth will not discriminate against any individual or group because of race, sex, religion, age, national origin, color, marital status, disability, or political beliefs. If you need assistance with reading, writing, hearing, etc., under the Americans with Disabilities Act, you may make your needs known to this agency.