



Great Lakes Energy News

GLREA News

Wind Farm Tours of the Lake Winds Energy Park will be available again this year at the June 7 & 8 Michigan Energy Fair in Ludington. There will be four tours: 9:30 am and 2:30 pm on Friday and 9:30 am and 11:30 am on Saturday. There are limited seats, but you can register by emailing johnsarver3@gmail.com with day and time preference.

Friday there will be 20 workshops for energy and facility professionals. You can find the workshop schedule by double clicking the Michigan Energy Fair tab at our web site. There is a \$25 fee for the Friday workshops and evening reception and you can register online. Saturday will be free for attendees –16 workshops, exhibits, kids' activities, Green School art contest winners, and music. There will be a Saturday evening banquet at Luciano's for \$15. You can purchase a ticket now at www.glrea.org.

Michigan News

HB 4245, a bill to exempt small renewable energy systems from property taxes in Michigan, has been introduced by Rep. Kevin Daley. The Michigan House Tax Policy Committee took testimony on the bill and received support from the Michigan Chamber of Commerce, Michigan Farm Bureau, Michigan Energy Innovation Business Council, and GLREA. Jim Carter, GLREA Board member, made comments on the economic benefits that would result from the property tax exemptions.

Lansing Board of Water & Light, in cooperation with City of Lansing and Renewz Sustainable Solutions, has unveiled a new solar-powered, two-bay, electric vehicle-charging carport at the Lansing City Market. The BWL has installed more than 40 charging stations in the region, 17 residential units and the rest operated at business and public sites.

http://www.lansingmi.gov/view_news.jsp?id=3261

Michigan Energy Office and participating utilities are offering incentives to attend upcoming [Building Operator Certification](#) (BOC) training. **BOC** is a nationally recognized training and certification program focusing on energy efficient building operations and preventative maintenance. Classes are scheduled to begin this August in Grand Rapids and Traverse City. For more information and an application, look under the “What’s New” heading on the [Rebuild Michigan program](#) webpage.

Michigan Energy and Technology Center (METC), a consortium of Michigan State University, Rockford Berge, Consumers Energy and other Michigan clean technology companies, has announced plans for a multi-year effort to enhance the infrastructure at the Port of Muskegon, the only deep water port on the Michigan side of Lake Michigan, and expand its potential for exporting Michigan products.

<http://detroit.cbslocal.com/2013/05/06/renewable-energy-group-forms-to-boost-wind-power-industry-in-michigan/>

New Wind Turbine will be used at Muskegon County’s Wastewater Plant. In 2012, the county signed a lease agreement with Gamesa Energy USA to investigate developing a wind farm on the 11,000-acre property. Wind speed testing on the site confirms a viable project, but Gamesa has indicated the site’s capacity will be higher than previously thought due to a new turbine. The new G114 will work more efficiently because of a larger blade (114 meters or 374 feet). Each turbine could produce 2 to 2.5 MW and about 50 could be located at the site.

The earliest the wind farm could be built would be in 2015.

[http://www.mlive.com/news/muskegon/index.ssf/2013/05/future_of_proposed_muskegon_co.html?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed:+MuskegonNews+\(Muskegon+Chronicle+News+-+MLive.com\)&utm_content=Google+Reader](http://www.mlive.com/news/muskegon/index.ssf/2013/05/future_of_proposed_muskegon_co.html?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed:+MuskegonNews+(Muskegon+Chronicle+News+-+MLive.com)&utm_content=Google+Reader)

Understanding Solar Power in Ypsilanti: Dave Strenski at TEDxEMU. Check it out at

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mx0pTz-Qc40&feature=youtu.be>

LG Chem Michigan Inc., a subsidiary of South Korean company LG Chem, has announced that it plans to launch commercial production of automotive lithium-ion battery cells in Holland in July. The plant initially will manufacture batteries for General Motors’ Chevrolet Volt.

<http://www.grbj.com/articles/76802-lg-chem-turns-on-car-battery-production-in-holland>

Grand Valley State University's Michigan Alternative and Renewable Energy Center (MAREC) in Muskegon will circle back to some 75 low-income residents in Muskegon and Oceana counties to see how solar energy has worked for them. MAREC has received a \$44,000 grant from the Michigan Energy Office to study solar thermal systems in Michigan's climate. Part of the grant will support a review of the solar systems put on the 75 houses. MAREC Program Director Kim Walton wants to investigate how to optimize solar installations in Michigan and part of the state grant will look at test beds with solar panels at various angles to the sun. Come winter, one of the test beds will be swept of snow while the others will be left to the whims of the West Michigan winter.

http://www.mlive.com/news/muskegon/index.ssf/2013/05/gvsu_energy_center_to_use_stat.html

Greenlancer CEO Michael Sharber was recently interviewed by Fox News Robin Schwarz.

<http://www.myfoxdetroit.com/story/22265187/greenlancer-approaches-green-engineering-in-assembly-line-fashion>

DTE power purchase agreements for Next Era Resources' Pheasant Run Wind Farms have received ex parte approval from the MPSC. The price for the PPA is up to \$49.25 per MWH. The average net capacity factor for the Thumb wind farm is estimated to be 43%.

Beyond Michigan

Minnesota Legislature has passed a solar energy bill that will result in the development of more than 450 MW of solar by 2020. Investor-owned utilities (IOUs) must generate at least 1.5% of their total electric retail sales from solar sources by the end of 2020. Municipally owned utilities and rural electric coops will not have to comply. At least 10% of the new solar standard must be met by solar devices of 20 kW or less. The bill authorizes additional production-based incentives for systems that use "Made in Minnesota" solar modules. The bill raises the net metering system size cap from 40 kW to 1 MW for IOUs. The credit under net metering for excess generation from systems between 40 kW and 1 MW will be avoided cost rate; projects under 40 kW will continue to receive retail rate. The legislation directs the Department of Commerce, Division of Energy Resources (DER) to develop a Value of Solar Tariff (VOST) rate calculation that utilities could opt in to in lieu of net-metering. Vote Solar worked with Fresh Energy to ensure the bill also included a shared solar component.

<http://www.greentechmedia.com/articles/read/minnesota-is-a-governors-signature-away-from-450mw->

[of-solar](#)

General Electric will supply three wind turbines that include battery storage to Invenenergy LLC for a Texas wind farm. The agreement is part of an 86-turbine order that Invenenergy plans to install at its Goldthwaite Wind Energy facility in Mills County. It's the first order for the 2.5-120 Brilliant turbine that GE announced in January, incorporating short-term power-storage capabilities. The system uses software to analyze wind speeds and retains excess power during gusty periods that's fed to the grid when breezes wane.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2013-05-01/ge-wins-order-for-three-wind-turbines-with-storage-technology.html>

Climate Change Survey covering 11,994 peer-reviewed academic papers by 29,000 scientists over 20 years has found that 97.1% agree that climate change is caused by human activity, with dissenters representing a "vanishingly small proportion." However, only 42% of Americans see the connection.

<http://www.commondreams.org/further/2013/05/16-2>

Goldman Sachs is putting up \$1 billion dollars to finance the development of renewable energy projects. In the U.S., Goldman Sachs has reached an agreement with rooftop solar installer SolarCity under which the bank will provide more than \$500 million in financing for about 110 MW of rooftop solar. The new combined lease financing represents an expansion of an agreement that was originally reached between SolarCity and Goldman Sachs in 2012 and is the largest agreement of its kind in the U.S.

http://www.climatechangebusiness.com/climate_change_news

Events

Michigan Energy Forum - Brownfield Development for Power Generation will be held on June 6, 5-7 pm at SPARK, 330 E. Liberty. The panel will discuss opportunities and key issues associated with renewable energy generation on contaminated land and will touch on opportunities for entrepreneurs, installations in Michigan, national market and policies that could shape the industry's development. <http://www.annarborusa.org/events>

West Michigan Bioenergy Consortium will meet on June 6 at noon at Varnum offices in Grand

Rapids. Email chaplar@rightplace.org

Michigan Energy Fair is the largest & longest running event of its kind in Michigan and will take place in Ludington on June 7-8. www.glrea.org

4th Annual EV Event at the RET Center Windsor will be held on June 8, 10 am – 2 pm. See the latest in electric vehicle technology. www.RET-center.com

West Michigan Wind Manufacturing Network will meet on June 13 at noon at Varnum offices in Grand Rapids. Email chaplar@rightplace.org

Annual Ann Arbor Green Fair will be held on Friday June 14th from 6-9 pm.
www.a2gov.org/greenfair

Workplace Charging Workshop will be held on June 18, 9-5 at NextEnergy, 461 Burroughs, Detroit. The workshop will explore the opportunities, policies, funding, and industry and government support to accelerate workplace charging.
<http://www.nextenergy.org/workplacecharging/>

International High Performance Building Conference (IHPB 2013) is being held at Lansing Community College on June 19 and 20. Building academics, researchers, and practitioners will come together to discuss cutting edge technology and its impacts on the design-engineering-construction process as well as the implications for education.
<http://www.ihpbc2013.org/>

West Michigan Solar Supply Chain will meet on June 20 at noon at Varnum offices in Grand Rapids. Email chaplar@rightplace.org

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