



Watt's New? *Michigan Energy News*

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"As he discussed in the State of the State address last week, Governor Snyder will rely on the results of this process when making his comprehensive recommendations regarding Michigan's energy future in December."

Press Release,
Michigan Licensing and
Regulatory Affairs
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Electric Choice Spreads to Two New Utilities

For the first time in the eleven year history of retail electric competition in Michigan ("choice"), electric customers in the Indiana Michigan Power Company (I&M) and the Upper Peninsula Power Company (UPPCo) service territories are participating in Michigan's electric choice program. Alternative Energy Suppliers (AES) are now serving 120 customers in the I&M service territory and 4 customers in the UPPCo service territory. There are 5,672 choice customers in the Detroit Edison service territory and 1,064 choice customers in the Consumers Energy service territory. Michigan has 26 licensed AES companies. As of the end of 2012, there were approximately 10,450 customers statewide "in the queue" to participate in the choice program when and if space opens. There is currently a 10 percent cap (10 percent of an electric utility's average weather-adjusted retail sales) on participation.

Torrification Plant to Supply Carbon for Pollution Control

A new \$30 Million plant in Marquette will create proprietary carbon products made from renewable materials. This will be the largest advanced biocarbon production facility in North America. Biogenic Reagents LLC will offer a carbon product line that will include activated carbon of the type used for air pollution control for mercury and water purification. But instead of deriving the carbon from coal, the carbon will be derived from renewable biomass using pyrolysis technology. Trial testing indicates the product has better adsorptivity, better performance, and lower cost than the current coal-derived carbon. The wood feedstock for the operation will be sourced from suppliers that are certified as sustainable by third-party certification programs. The company is also exploring new carbon products and markets, including high-energy thermal carbon to replace coal and metallurgical carbon for use in the production of various metals.

Readying Michigan to Make Good Energy Decisions

The public input process announced in Appendix A of Governor Snyder's Special Message on Energy and the Environment. It now has a website (www.michigan.gov/energy/). The website contains 89 questions and asks for commenters to submit their own questions, information, reports and suggestions on what information is needed to make good energy decisions. In addition, seven public forums (each from 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM) have been set to receive "live" information:

- Lansing, February 14, Library of Michigan
- Grand Rapids, February 25, Grand Valley State University, Loosemoore Auditorium
- University Center (Tri-Cities area), March 4, Delta College, Lecture Theater
- Kalamazoo, March 18, Western Michigan University, Fetzer Center
- Detroit, March 25, NextEnergy
- Marquette, April 12, Northern Michigan University, Don H. Bottum University Center
- Traverse City, April 22, Northwestern Michigan College, Hagerty Conference Center

The agenda and speakers list for each event will be provided approximately two weeks before each session. There will be time reserved for interested members of the public to speak at the forums as well.

“Michigan is poised to be a regional and global hub for advanced energy innovation, manufacturing, entrepreneurship and development.”

Dave Simon, Secretary of EIBC Board

“Putting solar panels on the top of a city building is a nice thing to do. But if we’re going to achieve that large goal (of 100 percent renewable energy), then we’re going to have to be involved in production of electrical power.”

Mayor Heartwell,
Grand Rapids City Mayor

Michigan Energy Venues

- *Readying Michigan to Make Good Energy Decisions*, Michigan Energy Public Forum, University Center (Tri-Cities area), University Center, 1:00 PM, March 4. <http://tinyurl.com/ReadyMichiganMarch>
- *Geothermal Electricity Generation*, Michigan Energy Forum, Ann Arbor, 5:00 PM, March 7. www.annarborusa.org
- *Readying Michigan to Make Good Energy Decisions*, Michigan Energy Public Forum, Fetzer Center, Kalamazoo, 1:00 PM, March 18. <http://tinyurl.com/ReadyMichiganMarch>
- *Joint Meeting: West Michigan BioEnergy Consortium*, Wind Manufacturing Network, and Solar Supply Chain, Varnum offices in Grand Rapids, Noon, March 21. [Email ChaplaR@rightplace.org](mailto:EmailChaplaR@rightplace.org)
- *Readying Michigan to Make Good Energy Decisions*, Michigan Energy Public Forum, NextEnergy, Detroit, 1:00 PM, March 25. <http://tinyurl.com/ReadyMichiganMarch>

New Leader for New Michigan Energy Group

The Michigan Energy Innovation Business Council (EIBC) was launched in 2012 as a coalition of clean energy businesses working together to make a difference in Michigan’s economy. The multifaceted goals of the organization include attracting capital, informing energy policy, engaging the public, and promoting innovation and entrepreneurship. Activities have included conducting its inaugural forum and members’ meeting in March 2012 at NextEnergy Center and an Energy 101 session in Lansing in January 2013. The president of the organization, Dan Scripps, assumed his position in October. He is scheduled to provide comments at two of the Energy Public Forums—bringing a perspective on clean energy jobs and advanced energy to Michigan’s energy discussion. A former state representative, he has worked as a Washington attorney on “green banking,” as well as serving as vice president of capital innovation with Advanced Energy Economy, one of EIBC’s national partner organizations.

Solar Array for Grand Rapids Superfund Site?

The United States Environmental Protection Agency has awarded a grant to the City of Grand Rapids to do a feasibility study for a solar array at a former superfund site. The Butterworth Landfill was an unlined, 60-acre landfill operated by the city until 1973. It has now been investigated, closed, and capped to prevent the migration of any pollution. Therefore, the solar structures would need to avoid penetrating the cap. The study will evaluate the concept of a solar array and calculate the energy production potential of the site. In 2012 the city installed a 122 kw solar array at its water system offices. Grand Rapids has been recognized by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce as the most sustainable mid-size community in the U.S. It was recently recognized by the U.S. Conference of Mayors with a Climate Protection Award for its green house gas emission efforts. EPA’s Green Power Partnership has listed Grand Rapids as the 20th greenest local government in the nation.

Michigan Shorts

Ω City of Ann Arbor has approved a Climate Action Plan that has 88 recommendations for the city to implement to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions, targeting a 90 percent reduction by 2050 Ω The 28 MW Garden Wind Farm in Garden Township of Delta County (Upper Peninsula) became fully operational in September of 2012 Ω Zeeland Board of Public Works will purchase 3 MW of capacity for 20 years from Exelon Wind’s Beebe Wind Farm near Ithaca Ω The Montmorency-Oscoda-Alpena Solid Waste Management Authority is working with Recovered Energy Resources toward a summer startup of construction of a gasification plant at its landfill Ω Windspire Energy (formerly Mariah Power) has been sold to ARC Alloy LLC of Reedsburg, Wisconsin ΩΩ

If Ontario Can Do It, Should Michigan Follow?

As the Governor’s energy policy forum process kicks off, one question that has to be on the table is “What does Michigan plan to do with its coal-fired generation?” Ontario has asked that question and has answered by announcing the retirement of all of its coal-fired generation by the end of 2014. Should Michigan follow this lead, understanding that it currently has a different generation mix? What does the “data” say? If one is looking for certainty in fuel prices, one need look no further than wind or solar—no future cost escalation there. [Delivered coal prices have doubled in recent years; who can predict natural gas prices?]. A recent study by the Michigan Environmental Council suggests that Michigan pays \$1.5 billion in health-care costs and damages each year due to pollution from in-state coal-fired generation. Consumers Energy has announced \$6.5 billion in expenditures through 2017, in part to upgrade old coal-fired power plants. But are upgrades the right policy? The technology driven airline industry is retiring planes earlier and earlier in a massive cost cutting effort. When is the right time to schedule the retirement of coal-fired plants to save money by looking at new electric generating technology and new ways of doing business? To quote a proverb, “There may be no time like the present.”



- Corporate
- Real Estate
- Labor/Immigration
- Energy
- Environmental
- Litigation
- Estate Planning/Tax