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*"ECD took these actions to facilitate a sale of the USO business in a manner that enables USO to be competitive and viable for the long-run. During the bankruptcy and sale process, USO will continue to operate and serve its customers while moving forward on its development of advanced nano-crystalline silicon photovoltaics."*

Energy Conversion Devices website

# Watt's New? *Michigan Energy News*

## New Trade Association for Advanced and Renewable Energy

The new Michigan Energy Innovation Business Council conducted an introductory noon-time panel presentation at the Capitol in Lansing on February 8. Focused on growing Michigan's advanced energy industries, it has issued a benchmark study on jobs (20,700) and economic impact (\$4.9 Billion) attributable to the advanced and renewable energy sectors. The study also sets out the opportunities for Michigan to leverage its production and intellectual assets to become a hub of new energy manufacturing. The panel addressed various energy manufacturing areas, including wind, solar, bio-energy, biofuels, advanced energy storage, and energy efficiency equipment. See [www.mieibc.org](http://www.mieibc.org)

## Michigan Wind Turbine to be Manufactured

Traverse City-based Heron Wind has received a \$948,233 six-year loan from the State of Michigan Strategic Fund, supported by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, to assist the company in the development and manufacturing of its mid-scale wind turbine, the H-777. The turbine will be equipped with an advanced "sweep twist adaptive rotor" and STAR® wind turbine blades that can increase wind energy generation between 10 percent and 15 percent depending on the wind site. The nominal 750 KW system is projected to be capable of generating between 1.5 and 2.4 million kWh per year in a moderate wind regime. The estimated install cost for the wind turbine system is approximately \$2,000 per kilowatt. See [www.heronwindmfg.com](http://www.heronwindmfg.com)

## Exelon Wind has Michigan Projects

Exelon Wind's 90 MW Michigan Wind 2 project in Minden City recently entered commercial operation. Together with the nearby Michigan Wind 1 project and the Harvest I Wind project in Elkton, Exelon now has 212 MW of Michigan generation. It expects to commence construction on Harvest II Wind, a 59.4 MW project in nearby Pigeon in the first quarter of 2012. Meanwhile, Consumers Energy obtained MPSC *ex parte* approval of its power purchase agreement amendment with Exelon Wind to move the Blissfield Wind Energy LLC project from Lenawee County to Gratiot or Ionia counties. [Jewi Wind has also cancelled its efforts to develop a wind project in Lenawee County.]

## Bankruptcy Filings and Sale by Energy Innovator

Both United Solar Ovonic (USO), with manufacturing plants in Greenville, and its parent company, Energy Conversion Devices of Auburn Hills, filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy reorganization on February 14. The reorganization plan calls for USO, maker of flexible, lightweight thin-film photovoltaic solar panels, to be sold in order to shed the debt and legacy costs from that entity. In a related development, the day before the filing Energy Conversion Devices sold Ovonic Battery Co. to BASF Corp. for \$58 Million. This subsidiary was a pioneer in nickel-metal-hydride batteries such as those used in the Prius hybrid automobile. ECD's other assets include Ovonyx, Inc. which is pursuing the commercialization of its phase-change random access memory technology.

## Michigan Shorts:

Ω The Michigan Memorial Phoenix Energy Institute, founded in 1948 to support the peaceful uses of atomic energy, has changed its name to the University of Michigan Energy Institute Ω The MPSC has commenced an investigation (Case No. U-17000) into the deployment of smart meters, including the

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**Michigan Energy Venues**

- Michigan Manufacturers Association, *Wind Energy Outlook Roundtable*, Lansing, 8:30 AM, February 23. [www.tinyurl.com/MMA2012Feb23](http://www.tinyurl.com/MMA2012Feb23)
- Michigan Energy Forum, *How a Wind Farm Gets Built*, Ann Arbor, 5:00 PM, March 1. [www.annarborusa.org/events/details?e=11311](http://www.annarborusa.org/events/details?e=11311)
- Energy Innovation Business Council, conference with NextEnergy, Detroit, March 5. [www.mieibc.org/news](http://www.mieibc.org/news)
- AWEA *Midwest Wind Energy Summit*, Chicago, March 6-7. [www.awea.org/events/AWEA-Midwest-Wind-Energy-Markets-Seminar-2012.cfm](http://www.awea.org/events/AWEA-Midwest-Wind-Energy-Markets-Seminar-2012.cfm)
- Joint Meeting of West Michigan Bioenergy, West Michigan Wind Manufacturing Network, and West Michigan Solar Supply Chain, Grand Rapids at Varnum, 11:30 AM, March 15. Email [chaplar@rightplace.org](mailto:chaplar@rightplace.org) for details
- Michigan Integrated Suppliers, *Energy Moves Michigan Forward Summit*, Lansing, March 21. [www.midwestintegratedsuppliers.com](http://www.midwestintegratedsuppliers.com)
- World Affairs Council of Western Michigan, *Energy Geopolitics: An Issue of National Security*, Grand Rapids at Aquinas College, 6:00 PM, March 26. [www.worldmi.org/GD2012.pdf](http://www.worldmi.org/GD2012.pdf)
- *5th Annual Michigan Energy Conference*, Grand Rapids at Frederik Meijer Gardens, April 12. [www.ferris.edu/mec/](http://www.ferris.edu/mec/)

costs, estimated savings, safety, and type of information to be gathered. **Ω** Duke Energy Renewables has discontinued its efforts to develop a wind farm in Benzie and Manistee counties. **Ω** The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has listed the Palisades nuclear power plant as one of the four worst-performing nuclear reactors of the 104 in the U.S. **Ω** Public comments are now being received on the proposed overhaul and upgrade of the Ludington Pumped Storage facility from 1657.5 MW to 1785 MW. **Ω**

**Solar Street Lighting to Protect Turtles**

Solar Street Lights USA has developed a “turtle friendly” streetlight that has been awarded the Wildlife Lighting Certificate from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. The streetlight minimizes impact to marine turtles and their habitat, and is being adopted by communities to prevent artificial light disorientation of nesting turtles. The Holland, Michigan based company produces a wide range of other solar lighting systems for streets, highways, bus shelters, parks, parking lots, billboards, security and street signs utilizing both LED and induction light technology. Among its projects are street lights installed in Louisiana, Phoenix, Hawaii and Jamaica. See [www.solarstreetlightsusa.com](http://www.solarstreetlightsusa.com)

**MPSC Reports on Electric Competition and Renewable Energy**

Under mandates to provide periodic reports on the effectiveness of statutes, the Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) issued two reports in February. The first report on electric competition [[www.tinyurl.com/MPSCChoice](http://www.tinyurl.com/MPSCChoice)] found that both Detroit Edison and Consumers Energy were fully subscribed on their electric choice programs which allows 10 percent of their customer load to be supplied by one of 23 licensed alternative electric suppliers. There were 7,045 customers in the program, with 2,900 more customers in the queue waiting to get into the program. The second report [[www.tinyurl.com/MPSCRPS](http://www.tinyurl.com/MPSCRPS)] found reasonable progress is being made on implementing Michigan’s 10 percent renewable energy standard by the 2015 deadline. The MPSC report noted that the two most recently approved power purchase agreements for renewable energy had leveled costs of \$61 to \$64 per Mwh, which it found to be substantially lower than the cost of new coal-fired generation.

**Let’s Start Measuring....**

It is said that “we measure what we value”. The converse is also true: “We value what we measure”. Governor Snyder has shown some of what he values in the creation of various State of Michigan dashboards. It is past time to create an energy dashboard to measure increases in Pure Michigan energy production. Here is a suggestion:



	Prior	Current	Goal	Progress
Average cost of electricity in \$/kwh:				
- Residential	___¢	___¢	=	?
- Commercial	___¢	___¢	=	?
- Industrial	___¢	___¢	=	?
Percentage of kwhs produced by renewable generation	___%	___%	^	^
Percentage of residential households involved in net metering	___%	___%	^	^
Percentage of State of Michigan vehicles that are:				
- All electric	___%	___%	^	?
- Hybrid	___%	___%	^	?
- Biodiesel	___%	___%	^	?
Number of “green energy” manufacturing jobs in the State of Michigan	___	___	^	^
Number of advanced energy storage jobs in Michigan	___	___	^	^
Number of electric cars driven in Pure Michigan ads	___	___	^	?
Number of MEDC positions dedicated to renewable energy manufacturing	___	___	^	?



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