

Organizations and Individuals Recognized by Gov. Snyder for Energy Efficiency Efforts

LaBar Poultry Named Best Agriculture Project at First Annual Governor's Energy Excellence Awards

LANSING, MICH.—Individuals and organizations from across the state were honored by Gov. Rick Snyder for their commitment to responsible energy production and consumption at the first annual Governor's Energy Excellence Awards event in Lansing. Michigan has emerged as a leader in energy efficiency and the awards are meant to showcase outstanding achievements in reducing energy waste.

"Reducing energy waste doesn't have to mean scaling back or doing less. Each of the nominees have demonstrated that it's possible to do as much or more by finding new and innovative ways to get things done," said Gov. Rick Snyder. "This is important because reliable and affordable energy fuels Michigan's economy, and continuing to reduce our energy waste is one of the main ways we are going to keep energy prices affordable in Michigan."

LaBar Poultry was selected as Best Agriculture project for its work in advocating for humane and sustainable farming practices. At the farm, it's not unusual to see free-range hens hanging out by a 34 kWh solar array. Installing the solar array was just one of the many installations and improvements the LaBars took to reduce energy waste on their farm. The couple also replaced appliances with ENERGY STAR units, upgraded their lights to LED bulbs, and installed a high-efficiency geothermal system for heating and cooling.

Nominations were made in one of eight categories celebrating differing ways in which energy efficiency can be achieved in the state of Michigan. The winners and finalists in each category are listed below.

- ***Innovator of the Year***
 - Mike Forbis - Arborlight, Ann Arbor
 - Jim MacInnes - Crystal Mountain, Thompsonville – WINNER
 - Wendy Irvin - Habitat for Humanity Grand Traverse Region, Traverse City

- ***Best Project – Residential***
 - Mike and Jackie Miller, Fenton – WINNER
 - Timothy Morningstar, Saginaw
 - Charlie Richardson, East Lansing

- ***Best Project – Agriculture***
 - Jeff LaBar – LaBar Poultry Farm, Manistique – WINNER
 - Kari Panse – Panse Greenhouses, Kalamazoo
 - Judy Marteniuk-Refsal - Refsal/Marteniuk Farms, Laingsburg

- **Best Project – Industrial/Manufacturing**
 - Dennen Steel Corp, Grand Rapids
 - General Motors, Lansing
 - Michigan Rubber Products, Cadillac – WINNER

- **Best Project – Commercial (Private)**
 - Humantech, Inc., Ann Arbor
 - Marquette Food Co-Operative, Marquette – WINNER
 - Peckham Inc., Lansing

- **Best Project – Public**
 - Holland Board of Public Works, Holland
 - Michigan State University, East Lansing
 - Roseville Community Schools, Roseville – WINNER

- **Contractor of the Year**
 - Bartholomew Heating and Cooling/Energy Saving Services, Kalamazoo – WINNER
 - Cobblestone Homes, Saginaw
 - Keen Technical Solutions, Traverse City

- **Best Communication or Education Program**
 - Consumers Energy THINK! ENERGY Program, Jackson
 - Detroit Public Schools, Detroit
 - Michigan Battle of the Buildings, Greenville – WINNER

- **Honorable Mentions**
 - Best Project – Commercial (Private): Hollander Development Corporation, *Portage, Michigan*
 - Best Project – Public: City of Madison, *Madison Heights, Michigan*
 - Best Project – Residential: Regina Barnes, *Swartz Creek, Michigan*
 - Best Project – Agriculture: Coveyou Farms, LLC, *Petosky, Michigan*
 - Contractor of the Year – Randazzo Mechanical Heating and Cooling, *Macomb, Michigan*
 - Best Communication or Education Program – Michigan Farm Energy Program, *East Lansing, Michigan*
 - Innovator of the Year – Bill Ringrose, DTE Energy Efficiency Program for Business

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About the Governor’s Energy Excellence Awards: *The first annual Governor’s Energy Excellence Awards is sponsored in part by the Michigan Agency for Energy and honor Michigan organizations and individuals for their commitment to responsible energy production and consumption. The awards ceremony took place at the Wharton Center in East Lansing on September 22. More information can be found at www.mienergyexcellence.org.*

Links:

- All finalist photos:
<https://pscinc.sharefile.com/d-s1a27828c5d24fe6a>
- Governor's Energy Excellence Awards program with description of each finalist:
<https://truscottrossman.box.com/s/fl79kmnstkyd3x9ivq7wjm40v5cerii>