



**GOVERNOR'S  
ENERGY EXCELLENCE  
AWARDS**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

October 19, 2017

**Awards Contact:** Liz Boyd, APR  
Liz Boyd Public Relations LLC  
517-881-6713  
liz@lizboydpublicrelations.com

## **Governor's Energy Excellence Awards Presented to Eight Honorees for Reducing Energy Waste**

**LANSING, Mich.** — Eight individuals and organizations from across Michigan were recognized at the Governor's Energy Excellence Award (GEEA) for their extraordinary efforts to reduce energy waste. The winners were announced by Gov. Rick Snyder and honored at a ceremony in Detroit on October 19.

"Reducing energy waste, along with ensuring energy reliability and advancing clean energy, is a key component of Michigan's energy policy," said the governor. "We're proud of the steps taken by the individuals and organizations we're honoring, because collectively they illustrate what can be done to reduce energy waste and save money, both of which strengthen Michigan's economy."

Winners of the Governor's Energy Excellence Awards by category are:

**Best Residential Project**

Tom Tishler, Kalamazoo

**Best Public Project**

Ewen-Trout Creek School District, Ewen

**Best Agriculture Project**

Friske Orchards, Charlevoix

**Best Industrial/Manufacturing Project**

HyCAL Corporation, Gibraltar

**Best Commercial Project (Private)**

Gateway Village, Sturgis

**Contractor of the Year**

Better World Builders, LLC, Kalamazoo

**Innovator of the Year**

Holland Energy Fund, Holland

**Best Communication or Education Program**

Consumers Energy, Okemos

The GEEA winners' energy solutions ranged from improving existing structures with energy-efficient, state-of-the-art heating, cooling and lighting systems to constructing new buildings, all with a goal of reducing energy waste and improving overall sustainability.

Also recognized were 15 award finalists:

- Marti and Tom Burbeck, Ann Arbor (Residential)
- Sandra Keirnan, Holland (Residential)
- Grand Valley Farms, Rives Junction (Agriculture)
- Sklarczyk Seed Farm, Johannesburg (Agriculture)
- Verso Corporation, Escanaba (Industrial/Manufacturing)
- First Housing Corporation, Lansing (Commercial Private)
- Islamic Center of America, Dearborn (Commercial Private)
- Kalamazoo Institute of Arts, Kalamazoo (Public)
- Public Libraries of Saginaw, Saginaw (Public)
- Don Earl Heating & A/C, Sault Ste. Marie (Contractor of the Year)
- Medler Electric Company, Alma (Contractor of the Year)
- Walt Dindoffer, Temperance (Innovator of the Year)
- Carla Walker-Miller, Detroit (Innovator of the Year)
- GreenHome Institute, Grand Rapids (Communication/Education Program)
- The Heat and Warmth Fund, Detroit (Communication/Education Program)

Four other organizations received honorable mentions:

- Nash Greenhouses, LLC, Kalamazoo (Agriculture)
- Jackson National Life Insurance Company, Lansing (Commercial)
- Ann Arbor Housing Commission, Ann Arbor (Public)
- Southwest Housing Solutions, Detroit (Innovator of the Year)

Information about the honorees' innovative energy solutions can be found at:  
[mienergyexcellence.org/award-finalists-2017/](http://mienergyexcellence.org/award-finalists-2017/).

###

*The Governor's Energy Excellence Awards honor Michigan individuals and organizations who have made reducing energy waste and implementing energy-efficient practices part of their everyday lives. The awards would not be possible without the support of the Department of Energy and the Michigan Agency for Energy through the Michigan Energy Office. Other sponsors include CLEAResult; Consumers Energy; Dow Chemical Company; DTE Energy; DNV GL; ICF; ITC, a Fortis Company; and SEMCO ENERGY Gas Company.*