



**GOVERNOR'S
ENERGY EXCELLENCE
AWARDS**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Governor Recognizes Odawa Casino Resort, Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians for Reducing Energy Waste

Best Commercial (Private) Project in Second Annual Governor's Energy Excellence Awards Competition

LANSING — The Odawa Casino Resort, Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians are among eight organizations and individuals that received the Governor's Energy Excellence Award for their successful efforts to reduce energy waste. The award winners were announced by Gov. Rick Snyder and honored at a ceremony at Michigan State University in East Lansing on August 11.

The Odawa Casino Resort was selected as Best Commercial (Private) Project for, among other things, replacing outdated lighting on the casino's gaming floor and exterior with LEDs and installing HVAC frequency drives, pressure differential transducers and energy-efficient virtual servers. The upgrades completed last year saved 1.3 million kWh of electricity and more than 25,000 MMBTU of natural gas.

“Reducing energy waste will be a critically important part of an energy policy that will preserve Michigan's comeback and protect our wonderful natural resources for decades to come,” said the governor. “The individuals and organizations honored today should be proud of their innovative efforts, and I encourage all Michiganders to take the necessary steps to be more energy efficient.”

The award for Best Commercial (Private) Project traditionally recognizes energy-saving projects completed in the previous year by owners and/or operators of commercial buildings such as multi-family residential apartments and townhomes, professional offices, restaurants, warehouses, nonprofits, and houses of worship. Finalists in the category this year were the

Keweenaw Bay Ojibwa Community College in L'Anse and Visteon Corporation in Van Buren Township. Honorable mention went to PK Housing and Management of Okemos.

Following is a comprehensive list of the other 2016 honorees by category.

Best Projects — Public

Winner: East Jackson Community Schools, Jackson

Finalist: Parchment School District, Parchment

Finalist: Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo

Honorable Mention: Michigan State University, East Lansing

Best Projects — Residential

Winner: Michael Eick, Clinton Township

Finalist: Matthew Grocoff, Ann Arbor

Finalist: Peter McWethy Kalamazoo

Honorable Mention: Whitney Jones, Kalamazoo

Best Projects — Industrial/Manufacturing

Winner: Cargill Inc. — Cargill Salt, St. Clair

Finalist: Graphic Packaging International, Battle Creek

Best Projects — Agriculture

Winner: Weiss Centennial Farms, Frankenmuth

Finalist: GDW Farms, Holland

Finalist: Miller Family Farm, Carney

Honorable Mention: Coveyou Scenic Farm Market, Petoskey

Contractor of the Year

Winner: Oscar W. Larson Company, Clarkston

Finalist: Bel-Aire Heating and Air Conditioning, Portage

Finalist: Performance Engineering Group, Inc., Livonia

Honorable Mention: Randazzo Mechanical Heating and Cooling, Macomb

Best Communication or Education Program

Winner: Habitat for Humanity of Kent County, Grand Rapids

Finalist: City of Holland

Finalist: Muskegon County Department of Veterans Affairs, Muskegon

Honorable Mention: Michigan Farm Energy Program, East Lansing

Innovator of the Year

Winner: Dennis Schultz — Terra Caloric, Alpena

Finalist: John Slagter — The Mackinac Technology Company, Grand Rapids

Finalist: Venntis Technologies, LLC, Holland

Honorable Mention: Nextek Power Systems, Detroit

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The [Governor's Energy Excellence Awards](http://www.mienergyexcellence.org) recognize Michigan organizations and individuals for their commitment to responsible energy consumption. The awards are supported, in part, by a grant from the Michigan Energy Office (MEO) with funding from U.S. Department of Energy Award #DE-EE0006226. (The MEO is a federally designated state agency within the Michigan Agency for Energy). Other event sponsors include CLEAResult, Consumers Energy, DNV-GL, DTE Energy, SEMCO Energy Gas Company, Solutions for Energy Efficient Logistics, and The Dow Chemical Company. For more information, please visit www.mienergyexcellence.org.

[Links:](#)

Finalist photos and project descriptions: <http://mienergyexcellence.org/award-finalists-and-winners-2016/>