



PRESS RELEASE

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Group seeks to recognize responsible energy production and consumption Governor's Energy Excellence Awards Steering Committee issues call for nominations

Lansing – When you have plans to renovate an old, energy-hog grocery store to expand your growing food co-op, most people wouldn't expect that you could triple your square footage and reduce energy costs. But that's what happened for the [Marquette Food Co-op](#).

It actually became an award-winning endeavor, with the co-op selected as one of only eight winners in the First-Annual [Governor's Energy Excellence Awards](#) in 2015. Marquette Co-op won in the Best Commercial Project category.

Nominations for potential 2016 winners are open from now until May 20. The GEEA Steering Committee is again seeking to recognize individuals and organizations for their commitment to responsible energy consumption and production with the second-annual awards program.

"We're seeking to recognize the innovative ideas of Michigan residents, students, farmers, public sector employees, non-profit organizations, small business owners and major corporations," said steering committee chair Mary Templeton. "The Governor's Energy Excellence Awards are more than just a recognition program. They are a forum for sharing best practices and inspiring others to follow their lead."

Online nominating is available at [mienergyexcellence.org](#). **Deadline for submitting nominations is May 20, 2016.** The Second-Annual Governor's Energy Excellence Awards winners will be announced at a celebration later this summer. Energy-efficient project work must have been completed between Jan. 1, 2015 and Dec. 31, 2015.

Nominations can be made in eight categories recognizing the diverse approaches Michigan residents and organizations use to reduce energy waste.

- Innovator of the Year – Recognizes innovation in Michigan's energy-efficiency industry
- Best Communication, Education or Program – For communicating benefits of energy efficiency
- Contractor of the Year – Presented to an energy-efficiency contractor
- Best Projects: Residential – Presented to a homeowner
- Best Projects: Agriculture – Presented to an agricultural operation
- Best Projects: Industrial/Manufacturing – Presented to a manufacturing operation
- Best Projects: Commercial – Presented to owners or operators of commercial buildings
- Best Projects: Public – Presented to a public sector entity

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Through conservation and efficiency, Michigan has emerged as a leader in innovative and effective energy practices, according to [Michigan Saves](#), the managing organization for the Awards. The open, online nomination process allows any resident or organization to share and be recognized for pioneering these best practices.

A complete list of award rules and nomination criteria is available at mienergyexcellence.org.

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“Energy efficiency doesn’t mean doing less; it means doing as much or more, but using less energy to get it done. Energy efficiency is the best example of a no-regrets policy Michigan can have.”

Gov. Rick Snyder, Special Message on Energy, 2012.