



**GOVERNOR'S
ENERGY EXCELLENCE
AWARDS**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 11, 2016

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Governor Recognizes Habitat for Humanity of Kent County for Reducing Energy Waste

*Best Communication/Education Program in Second Annual
Governor's Energy Excellence Awards Competition*

LANSING — Habitat for Humanity of Kent County was 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 organization was selected for Best Communication or Education Program for, among other things, partnering with Grand Rapids Public Schools to teach high school students how to build LEED-certified homes and with Grand Rapids Community College to run LEED-certified home construction, green remodeling, and sustainable residential design programs.

“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 Communication or Education Program is presented each year to an organization that has overcome the barrier of communicating the benefits of energy efficiency by developing effective communication tools, marketing campaigns, and customer or behavioral engagement programs. The finalists in the category this year were the City of Holland and the Muskegon County Department of Veterans Affairs. Honorable Mention went to the Michigan Farm Energy Program in East Lansing.

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

Best Projects — Commercial (Private)

Winner: Odawa Casino Resort, Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians, Petoskey

Finalist: Keweenaw Bay Ojibwa Community College, L'Anse

Finalist: Visteon Corporation, Van Buren Township

Honorable Mention: PK Housing and Management, Okemos

Best Projects — Public

Winner: Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo

Finalist: East Jackson Community Schools, Jackson

Finalist: Parchment School District, Parchment

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 Jonas, Kalamazoo

Best Projects — Industrial/Manufacturing

Winner: 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, Livonia

Honorable Mention: Randazzo Mechanical Heating and Cooling, Macomb

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](#) 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/>