



**GOVERNOR'S
ENERGY EXCELLENCE
AWARDS**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Governor Recognizes Western Michigan University for Reducing Energy Waste

*Best Public Project in Second Annual
Governor's Energy Excellence Awards Competition*

LANSING — Western Michigan University (WMU) 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 university was selected as Best Public Project for, among other things, installing new ground source heat pumps; updating plumbing fixtures, faucets, and flush valves; and adding new HVAC and lighting systems in Heritage Hall—a 110-year-old facility that had become a bit of an energy hog. All in all, WMU expects the changes to prevent the equivalent of 124.2 metric tons of carbon dioxide from being released into the atmosphere.

“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 Public Project recognizes energy-saving projects completed in the previous year by public sector entities, such as universities, school districts, and municipalities. Finalists in the category this year were Eastern Jackson Community Schools and Parchment School District. Honorable mention went to Michigan State University.

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 — 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*](#) 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/>