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| **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** | (DATE) |
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**Governor Recognizes Major General Michael Stone of Lansing for Reducing Energy Waste**

*Innovator of the Year Award in Fourth Annual*

*Governor’s Energy Excellence Awards*

**LANSING, Mich.** — Major General Michael Stone of the Michigan Army National Guard was among eight winners in the organizations and individuals recognized at the Governor’s Energy Excellence Awards for successful efforts to reduce energy waste. The winners were announced by Gov. Rick Snyder and honored at a ceremony in Grand Rapids on September 5.

The Michigan Army National Guard hasn’t always been top of mind when people think about energy efficiency, but Major General Michael Stone has spent the last several years changing that perception. Since his 2011 appointment to Assistant Adjutant General for Installations, he has championed the reduction of energy waste.

By working with key stakeholders from the military, surrounding community, and private sector, the Michigan Army National Guard secured more than $3 million to fund a microgrid, solar array, battery storage system and experimental wind funnel. Not only are these massive improvements saving money and energy, but they also ensure the site can continue operations during times of grid failure.

“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.”

The Innovator of the Year award is presented each year to a person, organization, program, company, or product that drives innovation and significant progress in Michigan’s energy-efficiency industry. This year, the other finalists in this category were Dave Heinz of Petoskey and Kenneth Randazzo of Detroit. Michael Abraham, Jr. and Sam DiNello of Sterling Heights received an honorable mention.

Following is a comprehensive list of the 2018 honorees by category.

**Best Projects — Residential**

*Winner:* James Stump, *Lyons*

*Finalist:* Nancy Choura, *South Haven*

*Finalist*: Roy Cole, *Holland*

*Honorable Mention*: Robert Katrinic, *Holland*

**Best Projects — Agriculture**

*Winner*: Continental Dairy Facilities, LLC, *Coopersville*

**Best Projects — Industrial/Manufacturing**

*Winner*: ArcelorMittal, *Detroit*

*Finalist*: Verso Corporation, *Escanaba*

**Best Projects — Commercial (Private)**

*Winner*: IBEW Local 58, *Detroit*

*Finalist*: Metea Court Apartments, *Buchanan*

*Finalist*: Otsego Apartments, *Jackson*

**Best Projects — Public**

*Winner*: Genesee Intermediate School District, *Flint*

*Finalist*: Holland Board of Public Works, *Holland*

*Finalist*: Van Buren Intermediate School District, *Lawrence*

*Honorable Mention:* University of Michigan*, Ann Arbor*

**Contractor of the Year**

*Winner*: WMGB Home Improvement, *Wyoming*

*Finalist*: Albert Heating & Cooling, *Sault Ste. Marie*

*Finalist*: Ecotelligent Homes, *Farmington Hills*

**Innovator of the Year**

*Winner*: Major General Michael Stone, *Lansing*

*Finalist*: Dave Heinz, *Petoskey*

*Finalist*: Kenneth Randazzo, *Detroit*

*Honorable Mention:* Michael Abraham, Jr. and Sam DiNello*, Sterling Heights*

**Best Program**

*Winner*: Homeless Shelters Initiative, *Okemos*

*Finalist*: EnergySmart Grocer, *East Lansing*

*Finalist*: Residential Energy Performance Labeling Pilot Program, *Holland*

*Honorable Mention:* House of Worship Rewards*, Jackson*

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*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; ITC; and SEMCO ENERGY Gas Company.*

*For more information on the awards, go to* [www.mienergyexcellence.org](http://www.mienergyexcellence.org)*. For winner and finalist photos and project descriptions, click on “Finalists.”*