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| |  |  | | --- | --- | | **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** | (DATE) | | **Local Contact:** (Name) (Organization) (Phone number)  (email address)  **Awards Contact:** Selma Tucker  Michigan Saves  517-484-6474  stucker@michigansaves.org | | | |

**Governor Recognizes Continental Dairy Facilities of Coopersville for Reducing Energy Waste**

*Best Agriculture Project in Fourth Annual*

*Governor’s Energy Excellence Awards*

**LANSING, Mich.** — Continental Dairy Facilities of Coopersville 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.

Continental Dairy Facilities is a fast-growing dairy processing plant that partners with one of the largest dairy co-ops in the nation. But processing over 300,000 pounds of dry milk every day doesn’t leave a light footprint, so maintenance manager Chance Rupe quickly got to work assessing the company’s energy consumption. What he found were opportunities to make the agriculture exporter’s lighting and chiller far more energy efficient. So he sought out rebate programs and incentives through Consumers Energy and set into motion the upgrading of much of the plant’s equipment. Through these efforts, Continental Dairy Facilities stands to save a staggering 1,763,543 kWh per year—a lifetime savings of 35,260,860 kWh.

“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 award for Best Agriculture Project is presented to an agricultural operation that has implemented an energy-efficiency project in the previous year.

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.”*