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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 Consumers Energy of Okemos for its Homeless Shelters Initiative to Reduce Energy Waste**

*Best Program in Fourth Annual Governor’s Energy Excellence Awards*

**LANSING, Mich.** — Consumers Energy of Okemos 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.

Consumers Energy had a vision to help housing shelters make the investments in energy-efficiency that would otherwise be unaffordable. Enter the Homeless Shelters Initiative—an offshoot of the company’s Small Business Nonprofit Energy Efficiency program. Through the initiative, the utility designs, implements and supplies labor and resources for crucial energy-efficiency projects at little or no cost to shelters. In fact, Consumers provided $2.8 million last year to improve the energy performance of almost 40 shelters around the state.

Because of this program, several homeless shelters are safer, more comfortable and more energy efficient, and staff can spend newly freed-up dollars where they matter most—on the people who rely on their services and compassion.

“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 Program is presented each year to an organization that has overcome the barrier of communicating with others about the benefits of energy efficiency by developing effective communication tools, marketing campaigns and customer or behavioral engagement programs. This year, the other finalists in this category were EnergySmart Grocer of East Lansing and the Residential Energy Performance Labeling Pilot Program of Holland. The House of Worship Rewards program of Jackson 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.”*