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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 Genesee Intermediate School District of Flint for Reducing Energy Waste**

*Best Public Project in Fourth Annual*

*Governor’s Energy Excellence Awards*

**LANSING, Mich.** — The Genesee Intermediate School District (GISD) 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.

Each day, more than 67,000 students and almost 8,500 educators step foot into one of the GISD’s buildings to provide or receive state-of-the-art education. The GISD wanted its 21 public school districts and 13 charter schools to be just as state of the art, so they set out to reduce energy usage and lower operational costs. HVAC equipment was installed, parking lot lights were converted to LED lights and buildings received new insulation. Additionally, three new 15-ton packaged rooftop units and a new energy management system were installed at Flint’s Base Camp Challenge Center, which offers innovative team-building opportunities for schools, nonprofits, and other organizations.

“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 Public Project recognizes energy-saving projects completed in the previous year by public-sector entities, such as universities, school districts and municipalities. This year, the other finalists in this category were the Holland Board of Public Works of Holland and the Van Buren Intermediate School District of Lawrence. The University of Michigan of Ann Arbor 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.”*