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| **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** | (DATE) |
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**Governor Recognizes James Stump of Lyons for Reducing Energy Waste**

*Best Residential Project in Fourth Annual*

*Governor’s Energy Excellence Awards*

**LANSING, Mich.** — James Stump of Lyons was among eight winners in the individuals and organizations 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.

James and Ann Stump—a farmer and retired schoolteacher, respectively—have lived in the tiny village of Lyons for years. While the community is close-knit and cozy, homes and businesses in the area lack access to natural gas infrastructure and must rely on delivered fuel. After a hike in propane prices, James and Ann decided to take control of their energy future.

They hired a team from ESI Heating and Cooling to get to work. A ground source heat pump system was installed in the home, complete with a Wi-Fi enabled thermostat and a high-efficiency tankless propane water heater. Because of these efforts, the Stumps reduced their annual electricity usage by 3,264 kWh and their annual propane usage by 1,678 gallons, shrinking their carbon footprint by an amazing 80 percent.

“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 Residential Project is presented each year to a homeowner who has performed retrofits that produce significant energy savings. This year, the other finalists in this category were Nancy Choura of South Haven and Roy Cole of Holland. Robert Katrinic of Holland 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.”*