



A Coalition of Organizations Protecting Michigan's People and the Environment

## Do I stay or do I go?

### *MEC's Sandra Turner-Handy sees reason for hope in Detroit Future City recommendations*

**L**iving in a Detroit neighborhood devastated by vacant lots and abandoned eyesores, my chief dilemma is the same one shared by my neighbors: Do I leave the city I love, or do I stay?

That question remains to be answered, but a dynamic new set of Detroit Future City recommendations has given us hope that—if we stay—there is a real and tangible prospect of re-inventing a stronger, safer and more vibrant Detroit.

The fact that I served as a process leader and ambassador for the Detroit Works Project that produced the Future City recommendations makes it even more gratifying to see a real plan for moving Detroit forward.

Let me start from the beginning.

In 2010, Mayor Dave Bing announced the Detroit Works Project (DWP) as a means to revitalize the City of Detroit. A steering committee of community leaders was formed, along with an intra-agency workgroup and a Mayor's Advisory Taskforce representing different entities in the city. A series of poorly planned and executed meetings resulted in hot tempers and screaming matches about crime, non-working streetlights, and the diminished capacity of other city services.

See **Stay or go?** page 7



Vacant lots and abandoned homes litter Sandra Turner-Handy's Eastside Detroit neighborhood.

## Fast-growing Michigan company thrives with energy-saving services

**T**hink of clean renewable energy, and wind turbines and solar panels usually come to mind before energy efficiency. But a Northern Michigan firm has harnessed the growing efficiency market to score national recognition as one of the fastest growing companies in the U.S.

Keen Technical Solutions of Traverse City is part of a changing Michigan economy where energy conservation thrives, and customers from manufacturers to homeowners embrace money-saving systems and technologies.

Co-founders Tim Pulliam and Steve Morse met while teaching energy classes at Northwestern Michigan College in Traverse City. Over dinner one night they talked about the large number of people they had certified to perform energy audits, yet how few of those audits were turning into action.



Tim Pulliam

See **Energy-saving services**, page 8



602 W. Ionia Street  
Lansing, MI 48933-1015  
(517) 487-9539  
E-mail: [info@environmentalcouncil.org](mailto:info@environmentalcouncil.org)  
Website: [www.environmentalcouncil.org](http://www.environmentalcouncil.org)  
[twitter.com/MichEnvCouncil](https://twitter.com/MichEnvCouncil)  
[facebook.com/MichiganEnvironmentalCouncil](https://facebook.com/MichiganEnvironmentalCouncil)

#### PURPOSE

Founded in 1980, MEC is a coalition of over 60 environmental and public health organizations with more than 200,000 individual members. For 33 years, MEC has provided a voice for the environment at the State Capital. In addition to serving as a clearinghouse of environmental information, MEC develops public policy, educates elected officials and the public, and provides training and support to member organizations.

*Michigan Environmental Report* is an official publication of the **Michigan Environmental Council**. Copyright 2013.

#### OFFICERS

**Chair** Christine Green, At-Large Member  
**Vice Chair** Alexander (Sandy) Lipsey, At-Large Member  
**Vice Chair** Terry Miller, Lone Tree Council  
**Vice Chair** Pamela Smith, At-Large Member  
**Treasurer** Tom Bissonnette, Michigan Nurses Association  
**Secretary** Christopher Graham, Michigan Natural Areas Council

#### BOARD MEMBERS

Lisa Brush, Stewardship Network  
Rick Bunch, At-Large Member  
Keith Cooley, At-Large Member  
Rachel Hood, West Michigan Environmental Action Council  
Robert Martel, At-Large Member  
Gloria Rivera, Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary  
Phil Roos, At-Large Member  
Jamie Scripps, At-Large Member  
Grenetta Thomassey, Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council  
Yvonne White, NAACP-Michigan State Conference  
Lisa Wozniak, Michigan League of Conservation Voters  
Education Fund

#### STAFF

**President & CEO** Chris Kolb  
**Office Manager & Assistant to the President** Judy Bearup  
**Policy Director** James Clift  
**Director of Finance & Development** Andy Draheim  
**Communications Specialist** Elizabeth Fedorchuk  
**Deputy Policy Director** Tim Fischer  
**Energy Program Director** David Gard  
**Director of Conservation & Emerging Issues** Brad Garmon  
**Development Specialist** Kate Madigan  
**Communications Director** Hugh McDiarmid, Jr.  
**Health Policy Director** Tina Reynolds  
**Special Projects Assistant** Kim Rustem  
**Community Outreach Director** Sandra Turner-Handy

#### AFFILIATED STAFF

**RE-AMP Associate** Anusuya Das  
**Midwest RE-AMP Coordinator** Jeremy Emmi  
**Transportation for Michigan Coordinator** Kathryn Gray  
**Zero Waste Detroit Organizer** Ahmina Maxey

**MER Design & Layout** Rose Homa Design

Printed on 100% post-consumer content paper with vegetable-based ink.



## QUOTABLE

### “They should just call it the ‘To Hell with Nature’ bill.”

—An MEC Twitter (@MichEnvCouncil) follower, accurately describing SB 78, which would prohibit the Michigan DNR from using biodiversity as a tool for managing state forests

#### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

##### FEATURE STORIES

- 1 Do I stay or do I go?
- 1 Fast-growing Michigan company thrives with energy-saving services

##### PRESIDENT’S COLUMN

- 3 A reasonable proposal for continuing Michigan’s renewable energy momentum
- 3 Bell ringers: Environmental successes won in recent weeks

##### ENVIRONMENTAL OPINIONS

- 4 Powerful op-eds and on-point letters: Key tools in standing up for Michigan’s natural resources

##### INSIDE MEC

- 6 MEC hosts biennial breakfast to welcome new and veteran lawmakers

##### FEATURE STORIES CONTINUED

- 7 Do I stay or do I go?
- 8 Energy-saving services
- 8 Car dealership saves big energy \$\$\$

##### ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

- 10 New green headquarters near Capitol offers access and meeting space

##### MEC FUND DEVELOPMENT

- 11 Thank you to our generous supporters

##### MEC MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

# A reasonable proposal for continuing Michigan's renewable energy momentum

## MPSC: Renewable energy cheaper than the alternatives

Gov. Rick Snyder has launched a series of public discussions regarding energy policy in Michigan. The first of those seven meetings took place Feb. 14 in Lansing. A day later, the Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) released its annual report on renewable energy. The report found that Michigan is well on its way to meeting the renewable energy standard of 10% by 2015, and the price of renewable energy continues to fall.

"More renewable energy came online in Michigan in 2012 than ever before. Michigan added 815 megawatts of new wind capacity in 2012, and now has a total of 978 megawatts from 14 operating wind farms," John Quackenbush, chair of the MPSC, said in the agency's press release.

The report notes that since the passage of the state's renewable energy standard in 2008, "conservatively" over \$1.79 billion has been invested in

Michigan through 2012, and the standard can be credited with the development of over 1,000 MW of new renewable energy projects.

The report highlighted that the actual cost of renewable energy continues to fall, 10 percent less than a year ago and down 50 percent from the first contracts. The newest contracts approved by the MPSC for new wind capacity have a levelized cost of \$52 per MWh, which is half of the cost of the first renewable energy contracts approved in 2009 and 2010. (Levelized cost reflects the construction, fuel and all other costs including capital over the lifetime of an energy resource.)

The renewable energy legislation that created the 10% standard, PA 295 of 2008, also included an energy efficiency standard. When these two standards are combined, the weighted average cost of electricity is \$45.98 per megawatt hour (MWh). That is less expensive than the cost of any new

fossil fuel generation plant regardless of technology type—including combined cycle natural gas—and almost a third of the cost of electricity from a new coal plant. Importantly, it is also cheaper than the cost of existing non-renewable resources, which average around \$70/MWh for our largest utilities.

The report further states that "Commission staff believes that the cost of renewable energy will continue to decline, and the benefits from energy optimization savings and emission reductions from offset generation will continue to increase."

In addition, the Commission's 2012 *Report on the Implementation of the P.A. 295 Utility Energy Optimization Programs* found that for every dollar



Chris Kolb

See **President's column**, page 5



### Bell ringers! Environmental successes won in recent weeks

In each issue of the *Michigan Environmental Report*, we celebrate accomplishments by MEC and member groups.

#### Downward pricing trend

The Michigan Public Service Commission's February 2015 report on renewable energy found that its cost declined 12% last year, its cost continues to be significantly less expensive than comparable coal power, and that "The actual cost of renewable energy contracts...continues to show a downward pricing trend." All good data as Gov. Rick Snyder weighs a potential improvement to Michigan's 10% by 2015 clean energy standard.

#### MER readership

Gov. Rick Snyder reads each issue of the *Michigan Environmental Report* cover to cover. At least that's what he told MEC President Chris Kolb during an informal chat at a University of Michigan basketball game recently. Kolb suggested—and the governor denied—that Snyder's picture on the front page of a recent edition might have had something to do with his interest in the newsletter! Hey, governor—if you're reading this, drop us a line!

#### Detroit's future

The Detroit Works Project's Detroit Future City recommendations have given a viable blueprint for a better, if much different, Detroit moving forward. After a series of initial missteps and poorly planned outreach, Detroit Works has come through with a book-length set of findings and recommendations that can establish a foundation for future planning and decision making as the city transitions to a leaner, more efficient model.

# Powerful op-eds and on-point letters: Key tools in standing up for Michigan's natural resources

Providing the state's newspapers, niche publications and blogosphere with strong voices on behalf of Michigan's natural resources is a critical component of the Michigan Environmental Council's work. We stand ready to provide professional communications and media relations advice to member groups. In that spirit, we asked *Detroit Free Press* Assistant Editor for Community Engagement Jewel Gopwani to provide some tips and guidelines for submitting letters and opinion essays to the newspaper. Thanks, Jewel!

### 1. Conventional wisdom is environmentalists can't write their way out of a paper bag, is that right?

*I don't think that's true. I think advocates for the environment—and for anything really—need to be persuasive. That's an art, and it's something we appreciate when it's done right. Environmentalists often rely more on numbers and science, and that's where it can get tough, but we'll get to that later.*

### 2. What is the difference between a letter to the editor and an op-ed?

*A key distinction between the two at the Free Press is that letters typically are responses to something the paper has published. Op-eds—formally we call them guest columns—are individual arguments that don't react to something that has already been published. Of course there are always exceptions, but that's our rule of thumb. That's because if we publish an op-ed that responds to something we've published, someone is going to want to write an op-ed to respond to the response, and it could go on forever. Another key distinction is the word limit. We like letters to be 200 words or fewer. But again, we do make exceptions.*

### 3. What are the three most important things writers should do to increase their chances of getting a guest column published?

*Find out what the needs of the publication are first, including word count and how soon they'll need the guest column and*

*if they'd even be interested in the column. Make sure to stick to the word count. Shorter is good.*

*Before starting to write an op-ed, ask yourself a question. Would you really take the time to read it? Our readers have a lot to choose from, so make sure what you're writing is provocative, smart and will hold a reader's interest. And on a similar note, make sure the piece is written for a general audience. Break down the topic and the argument in a way that anyone can understand. Avoid jargon and acronyms, and make your argument as simply and concisely as possible.*

*Follow up. Try to find out who the contact is. Editorial pages should make a phone number pretty easy to find. Call and ask who handles guest columns. Don't first ask to speak to the Editorial Page Editor because, at least at larger news organizations, that person is way too busy to keep track of the op-eds that are submitted.*

*On letters, I don't suggest this level of follow up. We receive so many letters, that we can't keep up with each person.*

### 4. What are the most common mistakes or fatal flaws writers make when submitting?

*Sending an op-ed without a photo of the author and without links to your statistics and the reports mentioned in the piece. Before we decide to run something, we'll want to give it a basic fact check. So be sure to include links to the numbers and statistics you use. We need to know that what we're printing is factually correct, no matter who writes it. Also, be sure to include a photo of yourself.*

*Be provocative and speak for yourself: I'm not interested in what a campaign or an organization has to say. I want to know what you have to say.*



Jewel Gopwani

*Don't use op-eds to applaud and give credit and shout outs to too many people. That's not what our space is for. And would you really want to read that?*

*We always like to have a group of smart op-eds handy for when we'll have print space. Print space is often unpredictable, so we need provocative pieces at the ready.*

*Be prepared to hear that we're running it only on our digital platforms. We have fewer column inches in print and more space online. We may want to run your op-ed in online and not in print.*

**5. If we send a valuable gift along with our submission, will that help? (MEC has its logo on some excellent rubber jar openers made from recycled material if you'd like!)**

*The answer to that is no. Ain't nobody got time (or space) for that!*

**6. Is it appropriate to submit the same letter or opinion piece to multiple media outlets?**

*No. Don't send your guest column to several news outlets at once. We all want exclusive content, and don't want to be running what the other guys run. Send it to one, let them know it's exclusive and that you'd like to hear back by a certain day and time before you send it elsewhere.*

**7. You worked with Hugh McDiarmid, Jr. at the Free Press, before he left for MEC. Would you say he's the best writer in Michigan?**

*Hugh learned from the best, so he's right up there with them. J ■*

**PRESIDENT'S COLUMN**

**Renewable energy momentum**

— continued from page 3

spent on energy optimization, ratepayers see a return of \$3.55 in avoided energy costs. It also found that the companies were more than meeting energy optimization standard requirements.

The governor has stated that 2015 is not an end point when it comes to energy policy in Michigan. That raises the question, if the standards laid out in PA 295 of 2008 for renewable energy (10%) and energy efficiency (1% annually), are not end points for our state's energy policies, then what should Michigan do next?

**Beyond 2015? A proposal**

Here is my proposal for new renewable energy and energy efficiency goals after 2015.

When it comes to renewable energy standards, we should maintain the same pace we are on for the near term. That would mean adding about 1.5% worth of new renewable electricity generation annually. Our progress then should be reviewed periodically to confirm it is still the best deal for Michigan ratepayers. That won't produce a snappy goal or slogan, but it will provide Michigan with a clear, achievable goal that will continue to drive Michigan investment and jobs in the renewable energy field and save residents and businesses money. It gives the energy industry a clear direction that this is where their investments should be going.

Our commitment needs to be long enough for businesses to make investment decisions without being locked into any one technology. It also provides the utilities with the flexibility they said they needed to continue to integrate renewable energy into their future plans.

On the energy efficiency side, I would set a goal of increasing the energy optimization standard annually by 0.2%. The electric and gas companies have been meeting and beating the current standard. Increasing the amount by two-tenths of a percent each year is both an achievable goal and a great deal for ratepayers. Investing in energy optimization provides the greatest return on investment and reduces costs and harmful emissions. What's not to like?

I would also suggest that, along with the continued oversight by the MPSC, in the third year of these new standards (2018) that the governor convene a stakeholder roundtable to review the available data and reassess the program. Based upon the data, we can make adjustments, if need be, to the standards.

This is not an us-against-them issue. It's an area in which we can all work together to better Michigan's future. ■

# MEC hosts biennial breakfast to welcome new and veteran lawmakers

**M**ore than 100 legislators, legislative staff and MEC member group representatives gathered Jan. 30 for the Michigan Environmental Council's biennial Legislative Breakfast. The event is held at the start of each new legislative session to welcome new and veteran lawmakers and introduce them to MEC member organizations from their regions. The breakfast gives MEC allies a chance to talk informally with decision makers about key issues and background as the new legislative session gets under way.



Top: State Rep. Vicki Barnett talks with Sierra Club volunteer Roman Collins and former State Rep. Mark Meadows. Above: State Rep. Tom Cochran talks to MEC staff including Tim Fischer (left).



Clockwise, from below: MEC's David Gard listens to Julie Lyons Bricker of Michigan Interfaith Power & Light; MEC's James Clift (right) listens to State Rep. Tim Kelly; Kerrin O'Brien of the Michigan Recycling Coalition talks with John Kinch of Michigan Energy Options.



Photos by Anusuya Das

## Stay or go? — continued from page 1

In the fall of 2011, the DWP split into two tracks. The short-term track focused on the immediate needs of improving city services and was headed by the City of Detroit.

The long-term track was split into a technical team headed by urban planners and led by New York urban planner Toni Griffin and Detroit architectural firm Hamilton & Anderson. There was a civic engagement team headed by the University of Detroit's Detroit Collaborative Design Center and Michigan Community Resources.

Its goal was to develop a strategic framework for improving the quality of life for Detroiters in areas that include safety, health, education, prosperity and income, mobility, environment, recreation, and housing. The recommendations were to revolve around the six elements of Economic Growth, City Systems/Environment, Land Use, Public Land, Neighborhoods, and Civic Engagement.

The Civic Engagement team created three arms of engagement: process leaders, ambassadors, and the street team. Process leaders were members of non-profits who had a history of organizing in the city. The ambassadors were a group of Detroiters responsible for spreading the word about DWP. The street team was the on-the-ground, one-on-one group.

I was honored to be selected as a process leader and ambassador.

Through this work, we shaped an engagement process that was true and authentic—a process that would change the dialogue from contentious to cooperative, and reinvigorate the powers of involvement and participation. A process that was made possible by generous grants from, primarily, the Kresge Foundation whose mission

**“Never in my lifetime had residents been given the chance to give vital input that was actually going to be used for more than window dressing.”**

includes assisting in the revitalization of Detroit, creating access and opportunity in underserved communities, and improving the health of low-income people.

For me, this positive process was important not just for the project—but on a deeply personal level.

I live in one of the high vacancy areas where I can look out my back window and see four blocks over because of all the vacant land. My neighborhood has depopulated over the last 10 to 15 years, leaving vacant and uninhabitable structures. Crime is the number one employer in my neighborhood.

Working with like-minded Detroiters to shape a comprehensive vision for a better city gives me hope—a far better use of time and skills than shouting about darkened street lights and unresponsive emergency services.

Buoyed with new hope, I helped create a series of community conver-

sations in all areas of the city. The conversations centered on assets and strengths of the neighborhoods and city. Attendance varied in each area at each meeting. Some meetings had 100+ residents; others had fewer than 50.

The citizen input at these meetings was extraordinary. Never in my lifetime had residents been given the chance to give vital input that was actually going to be used for more than window dressing.

Various engagement tactics were used. Issue-based roundtables hosted residents across the city. A roaming team gathered input from residents at bus stops, block clubs and businesses. Residents participated in a tele-Town Hall meeting and submitted thoughts through a 24/7 online gaming tool.

All told, more than 163,000 residents were engaged in the process.

The recommendations are public, and many wonder what the next steps are. Implementation plans are currently being developed. Once the alignment of projects and city services with jobs and education is completed, we may see Detroit as the Future City.

The process has included residents in decision-making and made quality of life a priority. It is up to all of us to ensure that it leads to measurable outcomes for a healthier, safer, more vibrant city. ■

*Lifelong Detroit resident Sandra Turner-Handy is community outreach director for the Michigan Environmental Council.*

## How to be involved

- For information on how to get involved in Detroit Future City, call 313-259-4407 or stop by Home Base at 2929 Russell in the Eastern Market.
- View the recommendations at [www.detroitworksproject.com](http://www.detroitworksproject.com).
- Stop by a neighborhood Detroit Public Library branch to review a copy.
- Invite a Detroit Future City representative to your meeting.

## Energy-saving services — continued from page 1

Businesses needed assistance turning energy audits into completed projects. The seed of their business was planted, and in 2008 Keen Technical Solutions was born.

Just five years later, Keen landed a coveted place on the Inc. 500's 2012 list of fastest growing companies in

the United States. It ranked 1<sup>st</sup> among Michigan companies and 60<sup>th</sup> in the nation. Keen finished 2011 with \$4.2 million in revenues and grew another 50 percent last year.

To date, Keen has helped clients conserve more than 216,000 megawatt hours (mWh) of energy. That is equiv-

alent to taking 26,000 Michigan households off the grid for a year—comparable to meeting the needs of a small city through energy conservation.

Keen presents clients with customized plans that make the most impact on energy bills. These are often changes to lighting, heating and cool-

# Car dealership saves big energy \$\$\$

**D**ick Genthe Chevrolet, a 90-year-old, family-owned car dealership located in Wyandotte, has reduced energy costs 30% annually and saves close to \$40,000 each year as a result of implementing Keen Technical Solutions efficiency plans.

Their energy use declined so significantly that their energy provider, DTE Energy, took notice. According to Andrew Genthe, one of the family members that owns the dealership, the utility sent a team over to take apart the dealership's power box to make sure there was no theft or technical malfunction that reduced demand so significantly.

Andrew Genthe says they achieved their energy savings primarily through more efficient lighting, which also improved the quality of light in their lots. According to Genthe, their return on investment is just three years, and their savings have been good for business.

"The more liquid our company is in our cash flow, it allows us to be more aggressive in our business," said Genthe. "We are able to focus that money in areas we weren't able to before." He adds



Both indoor and outdoor lighting upgrades helped Genthe Chevrolet save thousands of dollars annually on energy bills.

that they have expanded their service area, adding 10 employees. The energy savings helped to make that possible.

As for working with Keen, Genthe said it was like working with friends. One of the Keen employees Genthe worked with most closely, Robert

Underhill, even ended up buying a Chevy Volt from the dealership. Genthe was so satisfied with their savings that they have helped Keen get in contact with dealerships around Michigan and even outside of the state. ■

<i>Company:</i>	Dick Genthe Chevrolet
<i>Investment:</i>	\$122,200 (after \$25,000 DTE rebate)
<i>Return on investment:</i>	3 years
<i>Annual energy savings:</i>	\$39,497.93
<i>Annual displaced energy:</i>	356,066 kWh
<i>Displaced capacity:</i>	106.9 kW

ing, or automation. The plan includes the cost of the project, the energy savings and cost savings to be achieved, and how long it will take for the savings to pay off the investment. Typical paybacks for Keen's clients are less than three years, and some are less than one year.

**Dollars and sense**

Keen puts the savings in compelling terms for its clients. For a car dealership, Keen equates how many cars the company would need to sell to achieve the thousands of dollars saved by making the energy upgrades. For Goodwill Industries of Northern Michigan, they related the savings to the number of meals served to people in need.

However you slice it, the energy upgrades free up money that can be put back into building a company. As Pulliam says, "Efficiency is a good investment."

Keen also helps businesses finance their energy upgrades. Keen has partnered with banks and organizations like the Traverse City Area Chamber of Commerce. Keen and the Chamber set up an energy efficiency fund, which loans money to companies to do a project. The company then pays back the Chamber with part of its energy savings.

Keen Technical Solutions has 11 employees, and sends work to subcontractors across the state who perform lighting upgrades, boiler installations and other jobs. Today, 90 percent of Keen's work is in the private sector. A ticker on the company website shows a real-time savings of their clients: \$21.5 million and climbing.

Keen equates how many cars the company would need to sell to achieve the thousands of dollars saved by making the energy upgrades. For Goodwill Industries of Northern Michigan, they related the savings to the number of meals served to people in need.

"Energy optimization has created a micro economy. We reinvest back into our people and the local infrastructure, giving good wages to our employees, and offering good benefits," said Pulliam.

**State policy a catalyst**

State policies encouraging energy efficiency are helping to get businesses to act. The main energy efficiency policy is Public Act 295, which passed in 2008 with strong support from the Michigan Environmental Council. It requires utilities to demonstrate 1% of annual electricity savings (and 0.75% for natural gas utilities) each year by 2012 and each year thereafter. Part of this is passed on through rebates to ratepayers for their upgrades, and almost all of Keen's clients take advantage of these rebates.

Pulliam says he hopes to see further policies driving energy efficiency and renewable energy, which Keen also incorporates into its plans for some clients.

**Environmental plus**

The environmental and public health impact of energy conservation is significant. Since the majority of Michigan's energy comes from fossil fuels, every dollar saved by energy reduction means reduced pollution,

cleaner air and water, and less greenhouse gases emitted.

"We like to say that when it comes to energy policy, better efficiency is our first, second and third priority," said David Gard, Michigan Environmental Council's energy program director. "We love renewable energy, but efficiency beats generation for cost savings and emissions reductions every time."

Keen shares with its clients the positive environmental impact of their energy savings. For example, the energy upgrades made by car dealership Dick Genthe Chevrolet has an annual energy savings of 356,066 kilowatt hours (kWh). This is equivalent to saving 718 barrels of oil, or planting 67 acres of trees each year.

Pulliam is clearly happy doing the work that he does, and hearing him describe his company makes you understand why. "You kind of feel like a rock star," he says. "You show up and your customers are happy. They like you because you are helping them save money."

He adds, "It keeps the level of enthusiasm up, so everybody is able to have fun, do well and share in that together. It is a light-hearted and exciting team to be a part of. Like a family."

—By Kate Madigan, MEC

# MEC's new green headquarters near Capitol offers access and meeting space

The historic Morgan B. Hungerford House at 602 W. Ionia Street just blocks from the Capitol building is the Michigan Environmental Council's new home.

In fall 2012, MEC moved into the 5,581 square foot building. Its location, size and amenities offer great access to policymakers and a welcoming space for hosting member group meetings. It also gives MEC the opportunity to "walk the talk" of environmental stewardship and sustainability.

For the previous 32 years, MEC rented office space, most recently for almost 16 years on Pere Marquette street in a building owned by MEC supporter Jeff Padden (Public Policy Associates). While there, we grew from a staff of 4 to 14, with 4 or more interns each semester. We had simply outgrown our space.

Closer proximity to the Capitol and state agency buildings was a key consideration. Our new home on the corner of Pine and Ionia is just three blocks from the State Capitol and the major state agencies that MEC staff and member groups visit most.

The location and additional space allow us to serve as a convenient base of operations for our 60-plus member groups and partners visiting from around the state. We have wireless access for guests, comfortable places to prep for meetings with legislators, and ample parking. In fact, we had enough extra room to welcome MEC member group Michigan Recycling Coalition as tenants.

Built in 1890, the building most recently housed the offices of the legislative team for Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Michigan, which owned it for more than 30 years. A large addition was constructed in 1980. The Morgan B. Hungerford House was listed in the State Register of Historic Places in 1984.

### Going for LEED Gold

Prior to moving in, Julie Howe of Pace Howe Design in Old Town Lansing guided us in renovating the space using sustainable materials and practices. We:

- Installed fixtures that conserve water, including low-flow toilets and highly efficient faucets;
- Installed linoleum bathroom floors, made with natural ingredients such as linseed oil, wood powder and jute backing, with 33% recycled content and 34% rapidly renewable raw materials;
- Recycled and/or donated the existing carpet;
- Chose new carpet that is PVC free, 40% recycled content, and low VOC; and
- Used low-VOC paint.



The Morgan B. Hungerford House was listed on the State Register of Historic Places in 1984.

We're working to achieve Gold Certification for our new home under the LEED Existing Building Operations and Maintenance Program. Gavin Gardi of The Christman Company is guiding us through this process.

Through this initiative, MEC staff will monitor our organization's behavior to ensure we live according to conservation principles and minimize our environmental footprint. Formal policies will guide us in:

- Managing our solid waste stream (recycling and trash disposal);
- Purchasing food, equipment and office supplies;
- Cleaning our office space and common areas;
- Removing snow and maintaining/irrigating our landscape; and
- Making alterations to the building's interior and exterior.

As one example, we are using 100% post-consumer recycled paper for stationery, business cards and copy paper. We'll track our compliance throughout 2013.

If resources permit over time, we'll take additional steps to move MEC beyond our initial LEED-Gold plan.

Ultimately, our building provides us with a brick-and-mortar demonstration of the economic and environmental benefits of green buildings that we can leverage in our work to improve public policy. Our new home is the next major step in MEC's long-term journey to increase our political stature and clout; stand toe-to-toe and shoulder-to-shoulder with powerful interests; and win bigger and more frequent victories for Michigan's environment. ■

# Thank you to our generous supporters

We are grateful to the following individuals and organizations who made financial contributions to the Michigan Environmental Council, December 2012 through January 2013:

- |  |                                     |                                       |   |
|--|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|
| Bonnie & Charles Adair                       | Tracy Dobson                        | Betty Jo Kolb                         | Sally Mead Hands                                  |
| John Allison & Julia Miller                  | Steve & Judy Dobson                 | Pamela & Lee Larson                   | Foundation  |
| Augustine Amaru                              | Dorrell Farms (Bruce & Ileana Thal) | Myra Larson                           | Benjamin Sanford                                  |
| Suzanne Antisdell                            | Sandy & Jerry Draheim               | Marilyn & Joey Latterman              | Harriet & Alvin Saperstein                        |
| Shirley & Don Axon                           | EarthShare                          | Maryln & Gordon Lawrence              | Scenic Michigan                                   |
| Tom & Ellen Baird                            | John & Katherine Edgren             | Judie & Jerry Lax                     | Jonathan M. Schakel & Megan L. Sharp              |
| Richard & Nancy Barr                         | Michael Eliasohn                    | Jean Ligon                            | Douglas Scripps                                   |
| Stuart Batterman & Gloria Mason              | The Energy Foundation               | Bruce & Barbara MacArthur             | David & Kate Share                                |
| Lorne Beatty                                 | EQ - The Environmental Company      | Jim & Chris MacInnes                  | Nancy Shiffler                                    |
| Karen Bednarek                               | Betsy Foote & Thomas Gebhardt       | Katy Maiolatesi & Andy McGlashen      | John Sickler                                      |
| Stephen & Judy Bemis                         | Mr. & Mrs. William Clay Ford, Jr.   | Stephen & Carol Manchester            | B. Miller Siegel                                  |
| BISSELL Inc.                                 | Susan Ford (Triford Foundation)     | Bob Martel & Lisa Sessa               | Nancy Sippel                                      |
| Tom & Molly Bissonnette                      | Bruce Forni                         | MASCO Corporation Foundation          | Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary |
| Adella Blain                                 | Twink Frey & Jim McKay              | Celeste McClellan & Barbara Zmich     | Tom & Ruth Small                                  |
| Martha & Peter Blom                          | William Frey                        | Janice McDiarmid                      | Richard Soble & Barbara Kessler                   |
| Janis Bobrin                                 | Christopher Fries                   | Nelson & Catherine Meade              | Dr. Robert Soderstrom                             |
| James Boyd                                   | Fae Fuerst                          | James Meenahan, P.E.                  | Sandra Sorini Elser                               |
| Mark Brewer                                  | Patricia Ganter                     | Rebecca Mehall                        | Julie Stachecki                                   |
| Nadine Brown                                 | Nancy Gard                          | Meijer                                | Johanningsmeier                                   |
| Linda Bruin                                  | The Garden Club of Michigan         | State of Michigan                     | Thomas Stanton                                    |
| Dr. Bunyan Bryant                            | Elaine Gazda & James McIntosh       | Philip & Connie Micklin               | Marilyn & George Stephan                          |
| Eunice Burns                                 | Lois Gehring                        | Cheryl & Josef Miller                 | Julie Stoneman                                    |
| Paula & G. Allen Burton                      | Dr. Orin & Charlette Gelderloos     | Brenda Millett                        | Stewart G. Swift                                  |
| Honorable Pamela Byrnes & Kent Brown         | Ruth R. Glancy                      | Robert & Anita Naftaly                | Mary Lou & John Tanton                            |
| David & Susan Campbell                       | Emily & Frank Gobrigh               | Phillip & Eleanor Newman              | Paul Tomboulian                                   |
| Barbara Carr                                 | Charles Grayson                     | Roger & Coco Newton                   | Grant Trigger                                     |
| Betty Challis                                | Christine & Philip Green            | David & Marilyn Nichols               | Laura & Tom Trudeau                               |
| Philip Chamberlain                           | Susan Greenberg                     | Emily Nietering                       | Marianne Udow-Phillips & Bill Phillips            |
| Dick & Sue Chase                             | Susan Greenberg                     | Novi Energy                           | Valeri Valoppi                                    |
| Ken Clark & Jodi Mullet                      | William & Helen Louise Gregory      | Arthur Nusbaum                        | Suzanne & Carl Van Appledorn                      |
| Mark Clevey                                  | Bob Grese                           | Jo Elyn Nyman                         | Amanda Van Dusen                                  |
| James Clift                                  | John & Debra Griswold               | John & Gwen Nystuen                   | Melvin & Gloria Visser                            |
| Katie Coleman                                | David & Dorothy Gubow               | Ron & Lynn Olson                      | Kim Waldo   |
| Robert & Diane Collier                       | Sherry Hansen & Dr. Lee Rome        | Olson, Bzdok & Howard P.C.            | Rosalind Wares                                    |
| Michael & Janis Colman                       | Dick & Sandy Hansen                 | John Ortega                           | Jane & Price Watts                                |
| Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan  | Judith Harris                       | James & Emily Ostrowski               | Tom Weisskopf & Susan Contratto                   |
| Susan Conger                                 | Vicky Henry & John Kerr             | Terry McGovern & Carol Paine-McGovern | Byron & Laura West                                |
| Jean & Phelps Connell                        | James Hewitt                        | Deborah Aviva Panush                  | Timothy Wheeler                                   |
| Alan Connor                                  | Dohn Hoyle                          | Walter Pascal                         | John & Deanah White                               |
| Bill Craig                                   | Edith Hurst                         | Patagonia, Inc.                       | Chuck Wilbur                                      |
| Vivian W. Day & John W. Stroh III            | The Hurst Foundation                | Shirley W. Paul                       | Veronica Wilkerson Johnson                        |
| Michael Dempsey                              | Irish Boat Shop, Inc.               | Michael Penskar & Maureen Martin      | Bruce Wilson & Carol Hollenshead                  |
| Alan & Lisa Dengiz                           | Mitchell Irwin                      | Brian Peters                          | Anne Wiseman                                      |
| Detroit RiverFront Conservancy               | Mark Jenness                        | Thomas S. Porter                      | Pamela Withrow                                    |
| Detroiters Working for Environmental Justice | Thomas Jensen                       | Ethel Potts                           | Arthur & Shirley Wolfe                            |
| James Diana                                  | Mary Johnson, M.D.                  | Bill Rastetter & Cary Weed            | Patricia Woollcott                                |
| L. Jean Dickinson                            | Lynn Jondahl & Judy Martin          | Barbara Reed                          | E. Gabriel Works                                  |
| Jeannine LaPrad & David Dickinson            | The Joyce Foundation                | Simon & Phyllissa Ren                 | Lisa Wozniak                                      |
| Thomas & Barbara Dierwa                      | Tess & Kip Karwoski                 | Tina Reynolds                         |   |
| Suzanne Dixon                                | Kelly Keenan                        | Mark & Susan Richardson               |   |
|  | Ada & Dave Kidd                     | Richner & Richner, LLC                |   |
|  | Tim Killeen                         | Rockefeller Family Fund               |   |
|  | Elaine & David Kirshenbaum          | Felix Rogers                          |   |
|  | Jean & Arnold Kluge                 | Phil & Katherine Roos                 |   |
|  | Chris Kolb                          | Ken Rosenman                          |   |
|  | Rob Kolb                            |                                       |   |

# Michigan Environmental Council

602 W. Ionia Street  
Lansing, MI 48933-1015

Nonprofit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Lansing MI  
Permit No. 324

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

## MEC MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

PHOTO CREDIT: ROSE HOMA

4 Towns Citizen Action Team  
(248) 363-6128

Alliance for the Great Lakes  
(616) 850-0745  
www.greatlakes.org

Anglers of the AuSable  
(248) 651-5751  
www.ausableanglers.org

Arab Community Center for Economic  
and Social Services (ACCESS)  
(313) 842-7010  
www.accesscommunity.org

Brownstown Land Conservancy  
(734) 782-5834

Citizens for Alternatives to Chemical  
Contamination  
(989) 544-3318  
www.caccmi.org

Clean Water Fund  
(517) 203-0754  
www.cleanwater.org/mi/

Concerned Citizens of Acme Township  
(616) 485-3749

Detroit Audubon Society  
(248) 354-5804  
www.detroitaudubon.org

Detroit RiverFront Conservancy  
(313) 566-8200  
www.detroitriverfront.org

Dwight Lydell Chapter of the Izaak  
Walton League of America  
(616) 866-4769  
www.michiganikes.org

East Michigan Environmental Action Council  
(248) 258-5188  
www.emecac.org

Ecology Center  
(734) 663-2400  
www.ecocenter.org

Environment Michigan Research &  
Policy Center  
(734) 662-9797  
www.environmentmichigan.org

Environmentally Concerned Citizens  
of South Central Michigan  
(517) 383-2519  
www.eccscm.org

Friends of the Au Gres-Rifle Watershed  
(517) 410-8959  
farwatershed.com

Friends of the Cedar River Watershed  
(231) 347-1519

Friends of the Detroit River  
(734) 675-0141  
www.detroitriver.org

Friends of the Rouge  
(313) 792-9900  
www.therouge.org

Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa  
and Chippewa Indians  
(231) 534-7500  
gtbndians.org

HARBOR Inc.  
(231) 526-5060  
www.harborinc.org

Huron River Watershed Council  
(734) 769-5123  
www.hrwc.org

Kalamazoo Environmental Council  
(269) 344-0536  
www.kalamazooenvironmentalcouncil.org

Kalamazoo River Cleanup Coalition  
(269) 382-0490  
www.kalrivercleanup.org

Lapeer Land Conservancy  
(810) 664-5647  
gblc.lapeer.org

League of Michigan Bicyclists  
(517) 334-9100  
www.lmb.org

League of Women Voters of Michigan  
(517) 484-5383  
www.lwvmi.org

Legacy Land Conservancy  
(734) 302-5263  
www.legacylandconservancy.org

Liaison for Inter-Neighborhood  
Cooperation  
(517) 349-6466

LocalMotionGreen  
(313) 881-2263  
www.localmotiongreen.org

Lone Tree Council  
(989) 686-6386

Michigan Association of Railroad  
Passengers, Inc.  
(586) 726-9737  
www.marp.org

Michigan Audubon Society  
(517) 886-9144  
www.michiganaudubon.org

Michigan Botanical Club  
(313) 845-9728  
www.michbotclub.org

Michigan Citizens Against Toxic Substances  
(734) 587-3631  
www.mcats.org

Michigan Citizens for Water Conservation  
(231) 972-8856  
www.savemewater.org

Michigan Coalition on the Environment  
and Jewish Life (MI-COEJL)  
(248) 642-5393  
www.mi-coejl.org

Michigan Energy Options  
(517) 337-0422  
www.michiganenergyoptions.org

Michigan Interfaith Power and Light  
(248) 808-2518  
www.miipl.org

Michigan Land Trustees  
(269) 343-4748  
www.michiganlandtrust.org

Michigan Land Use Institute  
(231) 941-6584  
www.mlui.org

Michigan League of Conservation Voters  
Education Fund  
(734) 222-9650  
www.michiganlcv.org

Michigan Mountain Biking Association  
(248) 359-7509  
www.mmba.org

Michigan Natural Areas Council  
(734) 975-7800  
www.cyberspace.org/~mnac

Michigan Nature Association  
(517) 655-5655  
www.michigannature.org

Michigan Nurses Association  
(517) 349-5640  
www.minurses.org

Michigan Organic Food and Farm Alliance  
(MOFFA)  
www.moffa.org

Michigan Recycling Coalition  
(517) 974-3672  
www.michiganrecycles.org

Michigan Trails and Greenways Alliance  
(517) 485-6022  
www.michigantrails.org

Michigan Trout Unlimited  
(517) 599-5238  
www.michigantu.org

Mid-Michigan Environmental Action Council  
(517) 292-3078  
www.midmeac.org

Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance  
(MEEA)  
(312) 587-8390  
www.mwalliance.org

Muskegon Save Our Shoreline  
(231) 670-6059  
www.muskegonsaveourshoreline.org

NAACP-Michigan State Conference  
(313) 835-9671  
www.michigannaacp.org

Northern Michigan Environmental Action  
Council  
(231) 946-6931  
www.nmeac.org

Republicans for Environmental  
Protection, Michigan Chapter  
(269) 651-9397  
www.repamerica.org/mi/mi\_index.html

Romulus Environmentalists Care  
About People (RECAP)  
(734) 753-4320

Scenic Michigan  
(231) 347-1171  
www.scenicmichigan.org

Sierra Club, Michigan Chapter  
(517) 484-2372  
michigan.sierraclub.org

Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate  
Heart of Mary  
(734) 240-9700  
www.ihmsisters.org

Six Rivers Regional Land Conservancy  
(248) 601-2816  
www.sixriversrlc.org

Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy  
(734) 484-6565  
www.smlcland.org

Stewardship Network  
(734) 996-3190  
www.stewardshipnetwork.org

Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council  
(231) 347-1181  
www.watershedcouncil.org

Transportation Riders United  
(313) 963-8872  
www.detroittransit.org

Upper Peninsula Environmental Coalition  
(906) 524-7899  
www.upenvironment.org

Voices for Earth Justice  
(248) 351-9001  
www.voices4earth.org

West Michigan Environmental Action  
Council  
(616) 451-3051  
www.wmeac.org