



WARM Training Center

Summer News 2009

Promoting Affordable Sustainable Communities Since 1981

WARM'S FIRST ANNUAL AWARDS BREAKFAST

A great success!



David Orr

WARM welcomed David Orr as key note speaker, and honored four champions at our First Annual Awards Breakfast on June 10th, held at the Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit (MOCAD). WARM was joined by Andrew Humphrey, WDIV (Channel 4) Detroit Meteorologist, to present the unique awards to our 2009 honorees.

Over 140 people joined us to recognize community leaders, enjoy a locally grown breakfast, and hear David Orr's engaging presentation on the challenges facing the planet and solutions we can embrace. WARM thanks Masco Corporation Foundation, LISC, MSHDA, Charter One and Edible Wow for sponsoring the event.

WARM presented Awards in Energy Efficiency and Sustainability to four champions in our community who have promoted energy efficiency and sustainable building practices. They were Kathryn Underwood, City of Detroit Planning Commission; Fred and Barbara Erb, Founders of The Erb Institute; Father Charles Morris, Co-Founder of Michigan Interfaith Power & Light; and Wayne Appleyard, Co-founder of Sunstructures Architects. We sincerely appreciate their leadership and have been inspired by their work.

To find out what our champions are up to, visit: www.warmtraining.org/2009awardees.html



Kathryn Underwood



Wayne Appleyard



Father Charles Morris



Wendy Erb

Financial Incentives to Go Green

Great financial incentives are now available to help people and businesses improve their energy efficiency and invest in renewable energy.

Tax credits include incentives for:

- Homeowners. Up to 30% of the costs of energy efficient improvements and investments in renewable energy systems.
- Businesses. Up to 30% of the costs of installing solar, fuel cells, small wind, and 10% of the cost of installing geothermal.

DTE Energy
(www.YourEnergySavings.com)

&

Consumers Energy
(www.consumersenergy.com) both have incentive programs and rebates ranging from \$250-\$350 for home energy audits.

Sign up for a home energy audit at
(www.warmtraining.org)

COLLABORATING ON GREEN JOBS INITIATIVE

The influx of money targeted to weatherize homes has created a need for people with specialized weatherization skills. WARM has developed a curriculum to deliver this training and has teamed up with Henry Ford Community College to offer Weatherization Specialist Training through the City of Detroit's Workforce Development program. The 10-week course was developed with the help of an employer advisory group to ensure the participants would receive the kind of classroom and hands on training needed to compete in this growing job market.

The course is being offered at two locations, Focus: HOPE and SER Metro. These established job training organizations will provide the needed support services including math, reading, employment skills and placement help to ensure success.

"This training makes the phrase 'green jobs' real. It will give displaced and chronically unemployed residents a chance to compete for a job paying a living wage. At the same time the training is a first step on one of several career paths the participant could choose to take."

- Linda West,
Director of Workforce Development at
Henry Ford Community College

Waiting lists for upcoming classes are now forming, Contact Focus: HOPE at: (313) 494-4300 or SER Metro at: (313) 945-5200 ext. 223. This training is free to individuals who have recently been or are currently unemployed.



Students working with lighting exercise with
A house size training model in background

News Briefs

Board Changes

Thank you Rick Schiller as you step down after 10 years of service on WARM's Board of Directors. We welcome Tim O'Brien, President of O'Brien Construction, to the Board of Directors. We greatly appreciate your willingness to step up to the challenges.

New Staff Members

A WARM welcome to Chris Pratt, WARM's new Energy Analyst and Instructor, and Tris Palmgren, Program Manager for D-YES Detroit Youth Energy Squad. Welcome aboard Chris and Tris!

Social Networks

WARM is now on Twitter, Facebook, and MySpace. Join our network and keep up to date on new seminars, events, and other happenings at WARM.

Thank You Community Foundation of Southeast Michigan

WARM was surprised, appreciative, and very honored to be one of 25 honorees at the 25th Anniversary Celebration for the Community Foundation of Southeast Michigan this June. The Community Foundation awarded \$25,000 grants to each of the 25 honorees in appreciation of their work. WARM was recognized for helping to promote sustainable communities. We are very thankful to the Community Foundation for this generous grant, we still don't know how they managed to keep the awards a secret until the live announcements!

WARM'S NATIONAL TV DEBUT

Steve Thomas and the film crew of Renovation Nation, a Discovery Network production, featured on the Planet Green channel visited WARM this summer. The purpose of their visit was to capture the installation of the first 'official' wind turbine in the City of Detroit. The turbine was successfully installed, caught on tape, and is located on top of our energy demonstration center on Michigan Avenue. It's purpose is to demonstrate the principles of wind energy rather than power a significant portion of the electric load.

Thanks to Tom Bowes of the IBEW (International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers) and Warren Coklow, of Detroit Power Systems, LLC for volunteering their time to help with the installation, and for graciously tolerating re-takes, Steve's humor and the time warp of TV production.

Often with firsts, things take a little longer than expected. WARM staff member Chris Pratt spent many hours securing the permit for the installation. Based on that experience WARM is now working with other groups interested in installing turbines and with the City of Detroit Building and Planning Department to streamline the process and promote more renewable energy installations in Detroit. Look for an email announcing the air date as soon as it becomes available. If you are interested in hosting a viewing party contact Laurie at LDiener@warmtraining.org

The installation was made possible through grants from the State of Michigan and Detroit Edison Foundation.



D-YES! YOUTH IN ACTION

Youth Help Families Save Energy. WARM is partnering with Voices for Earth Justice to support the Detroit Youth Energy Squad. D-YES is an innovative program that strives to reduce household energy costs and greenhouse gas emissions by training young people ages 16-24 to help lower-income households conserve energy. Crews help lower-income residents understand their energy bills, recommend behaviors that conserve energy, and install about \$100 worth of free energy-saving supplies, such as reusable storm window kits, low-flow showerheads, and weather stripping. Crew members completed a 30-hour training that covered a range of topics, including climate change, green jobs, and communication skills.

The program was developed by Voices for Earth Justice (VEJ), an interfaith non-profit that works on environmental issues ranging from toxins to climate change, and received initial funding from a Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) grant and DTE Energy. WARM initially partnered with Voices for Earth Justice to teach and train youth, and quickly realized that the program could help 10-15% of the low-income families that WARM educates, specifically those who are physically unable to complete suggested repairs and retrofits themselves, typically senior citizens and individuals with disabilities. D-YES began in March 2009, currently employs 2 crews of three youth, and has already made over 100 homes more energy efficient.



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