

ENERGY DEMO CENTER FEATURES NEW EXHIBITS

Foundations Support Programming and Façade Improvements

WARM's Energy Demonstration Center has more exhibits and is a better model of sustainable building, thanks to the Bank One, Home Depot and MASCO Corporation Foundations.

The \$10,000 Home Depot Foundation grant supported development of new stationary and traveling exhibits on reducing energy costs with appropriate sealing and insulating techniques.

Other new exhibits funded by the grant include solar tubes installed in interior offices to demonstrate day lighting techniques and a lighting display with a side-by-side comparison of household lighting options.

"Kids really respond to our *Seal and Save* exhibit," said Jacob Corvidae, Green Programs Manager. "We use non-toxic smoke in a clear model house to show them typical places where houses have air leaks. They can seal the leaks with rope caulk and see the difference that makes. It's a lesson we hope they'll share with their families."

Bank One Foundation's grant supported WARM's façade improvement, which included fiber cement panels on the building front, a new exterior door, glass block windows at the rear of the building, a new exterior door and insulation. Renovations will be completed in the spring.



The new *Seal and Save* exhibit, created with a grant from the Home Depot Foundation, shows typical home air leaks. Students can seal the leaks with rope caulk.

The MASCO Corporation Foundation contributed a one-time \$15,000 grant in December through its REACH initiative, targeted at revitalizing and enhancing the community through arts, culture and housing. WARM will use it to help create more energy efficient and "green" housing in Detroit.

MASCO Foundation had previously provided energy efficient windows for WARM's façade improvement project.

STATE GRANT TO HELP BUILD DEMAND FOR ENERGY EFFICIENT HOMES

WARM has received a \$50,000 grant for 2006 from the State of Michigan to promote ENERGY STAR homes among potential home buyers, for-profit builders, nonprofit housing organizations, building consultants and lenders.

The program's goal is to develop both demand for energy efficient housing and the capacity to meet that demand. The program will be launched in March.

Urban Options and Northern Options, both of which received similar grants, are partnering with WARM to create a cost-effective program with a consistent message statewide. The program will be based on a successful model developed by the Wisconsin Energy Conservation Corporation.

WARM will conduct presentations and workshops specific to each audience, emphasizing the benefits of energy efficient homes to that audience. Consumers can receive information kits and ENERGY STAR homeowner manuals. Technical information about ENERGY STAR standards and marketing materials will be provided to builders and housing consultants.

More information about the ENERGY STAR program will be available at: www.warmtraining.org

WARM'S RESPONSE TO RISING ENERGY PRICES — Bob Chapman, Executive Director

The recent sharp rise in natural gas prices and the expected increases in electric rates will affect almost every individual, business and nonprofit organization in the state. The increases will hit poor people hardest, simply because they pay a much higher percent of their income for utilities.

Paying more than six percent of household income for utilities is considered a burden. A recent statewide analysis sponsored by The Heat and Warmth Fund (THAW) showed that many low income people pay between 20 and 40 percent of their income just to keep heat and lights on.

What is being done?

Part of the answer lies in helping people out of a crisis. Organizations like THAW and The Salvation Army will continue to provide financial assistance to people struggling with high bills, using privately raised funds and Federal and State aid, such as the Michigan Public Service Commission administered Low Income and Energy Efficiency Fund. But financial assistance will never be the whole answer. Reducing consumption can help prevent a future crisis.

WARM has a number of services that might help your clients, your business or your nonprofit organization.

Energy education. Detroit residents applying for fuel assistance through THAW and the Salvation Army can also participate in WARM's energy education workshops. Last year WARM worked with almost 3,000 people and distributed over \$75,000 worth of energy saving lights, storm window kits and other materials that helped bring bills down and increase comfort.

Weatherization workshops. Any Detroit resident can partici-

pate in WARM's home repair workshops, which include a very popular class on home weatherization. WARM will work with community organizations this winter to schedule stand-alone weatherization classes, so people can save money and be more comfortable.

Energy audits. These audits show organizations the changes they can make in their own building to save on energy bills. The audits are an invaluable tool when considering cost effective capital improvements.

Home energy ratings. WARM offers home energy rating as part of its work with nonprofit housing organizations and is now providing these public ratings to the general public for a fee.

Technical assistance. WARM has long worked with nonprofit housing groups. Increasingly the technical assistance it provides focuses on "greening" a housing design: making it more energy efficient, environmentally sound and healthier. As a Michigan Energy Demonstration Center, WARM now has more exhibits and information on sustainable, energy efficient building materials and practices than ever before.

From crisis to solutions, WARM will continue to work on both short term and long term solutions to sustainable healthy living. Short term, people and organizations need to learn immediate steps they can take to minimize the impact of higher utility prices on their budgets.

Long term solutions will require leadership. Michigan must have an overall state energy policy. The state is at a competitive disadvantage if it does not embrace principles of sustainable growth and development. WARM will continue to work for long term solutions while it goes about the business of helping individuals and organizations save energy today.

HOME REPAIR SERIES TEACHES WEATHERIZATION SKILLS Homeowners Reduce Energy Bills and Make Homes More Comfortable

For Detroit homeowners participating in WARM's Home Repair Workshops this winter, the first project many will tackle is weatherizing their houses. The practical, inexpensive methods they learn reduce their utility bills and keep their homes more comfortable all winter long.

WARM provides instructors, workshop tools and materials, and host organizations provide the site and market the event to members and local community. The workshops are free to the hosting group and its attendees.

The host organization can schedule just one workshop, a mini-series or a full home repair series. People who have the chance to attend a weatherization class now can start saving money on their energy bills right away and decide whether they are interested in attending a full home repair series later.

To schedule one or more workshops, contact Peter Klein by phone: (313) 894-1030 ext. 110 or e-mail: peterklein@warmtraining.org. Scheduled workshops are listed on the WARM website.

ENERGY SAVING TIP: FAMILY MEETINGS ARE KEY TO REDUCING ENERGY USE

The best way to ensure success in lowering energy bills is to make sure that everyone in the family understands why it is important and what needs to be done to save energy.

A family meeting gives everyone a chance to understand how much the family is spending on utilities, think about other ways other ways they would like to use that money and suggest ways to reduce energy use.

Use the meeting to get everyone invested in saving, make a written action plan, chart the bills monthly and keep the family informed of progress.

Keep the family updated with meetings where you show how your efforts have affected your energy use and reduced your utility bills.



4835 Michigan Avenue
Detroit, MI 48210

Phone: 313.894.1030

Fax: 313.894.1063

info@warmtraining.org

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BIONEERS CONFERENCE DVDs NOW AVAILABLE

If you missed the annual Bioneers Conference last fall, WARM can give you the opportunity to hear the varied and thought-provoking presentations from the plenary sessions. The Bioneers, "biological pioneers" from many disciplines, seek practical and visionary solutions for pressing environmental and social challenges.

The Great Lakes Bioneers hosted its first Detroit Conference in October, with local sessions and a satellite downlink of the plenary sessions from the conference in California.

WARM has DVDs of 14 internationally renowned speakers on topics that include global warming, the future of wilderness protection, greening the inner city, intelligence in nature and cultivating feminine leadership. They can be viewed at WARM or signed out for use offsite.

"We encourage organizations to use the DVDs as a starting point for discussions on sustainability," said Jacob Corvidae, WARM'S Green Programs Manager. (*For a complete topic listing, visit the WARM website.*)

www.warmtraining.org

Visit our website for our:

Calendar of classes and events

Green Launchpad with links to other websites

Metro Detroit Green Building Resource Directory

WARM Staff Directory