



WARM Training Center

Promoting Sustainable Affordable Communities Since 1981

NEWSLETTER, WINTER 2010

Thousands Stay WARM



Sophia Robinson examines her reduced utility bill

Like many people in Southeast Michigan, winters for Sophia Robinson were hard. Her utility bills were high, and she knew there must be a better way to stay warm without spending so much money each month. That's when she heard about WARM

Training Center's Michigan Energy Smart (MES) workshops. Sophia participated in one of the workshops and implemented the energy-saving strategies she learned, like unplugging electronic equipment when not in use and installing window kits to reduce air leaks. After using these simple solutions Sophia saw a \$150 - \$250 reduction in her monthly utility bills! She is now a self-appointed WARM spokesperson, telling everyone she meets about the MES program.

Sophia is just one of WARM's many happy customers. Each year WARM's MES program educates thousands of Southeast Michigan homeowners about free and low-cost methods for reducing their household energy consumption - from switching to compact fluorescent lights to caulking leaks around windows. WARM has already served over 10,000 households this year. The program's success comes from strong partnerships with human service organizations that connect those most in need of energy efficiency education with the MES program. Partnerships include the Salvation Army, the City of Detroit Department of Human Services, and The Heat and Warmth Fund. The Michigan Public Service Commission generously provides WARM with the funding to make this program a success each year. The program is free for homeowners in Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, and Genesee counties.

To learn more about WARM's workshops and ways to get involved, visit WARM online at warmtraining.org.

Toys for Tots

Students in the Detroit Greenworks Solutions Weatherization Specialist Training Program donated their time to design and create wooden toys for children in Toys for Tots.



Detroit Greenworks Delivers on Jobs

"It more than trained me; when I got here, I knew what to do," explained Lorenzo Ramirez, Jr., a recent graduate of the Detroit Greenworks Solutions (DGS) Weatherization Specialist Training Program, when asked about the program's preparation for his new employment at Blanket Insulation. On the job, Lorenzo blows cellulose insulation into homes and does some carpentry work, skills he learned from the DGS training program.

DGS was created in collaborative effort by WARM, Henry Ford Community College and Southwest Housing Solutions to meet the demands of the green economy, provide quality jobs for Southeast Michigan residents, and help weatherize and insulate homes in the region.

DGS students like Lorenzo receive extensive hands-on training from expert instructors and have the opportunity to refine techniques they learn in the classroom on practice homes at WARM's training facility. The 10-week program provides each trainee with various certifications, including Asbestos Awareness, CPR, First Aid, and Lead-Aware Renovation, the ACT National Career Readiness Certificate, and a Construction Safety and Health course completion card from OSHA and MIOSHA. Graduates then participate in a job fair with employers in the weatherization field.

Graduating classes average a 70% placement rate with employers within 90 days of graduation. Average wages earned are \$14.00/hour, but can range from \$11.50-\$18.00/hour. When asked whether he would recommend DGS to others looking for employment, Lorenzo responded, "Yes I would. It's a really good program and they find you a job. I'm glad it was developed. I graduated Valedictorian and have continued my education. I'm learning about energy auditing now and then renewable energy."

To learn more visit detroitgreenworkssolutions.org.



DGS Training Facility

Transforming Michigan

Two of twelve neighborhoods have now been chosen for the new, innovative BetterBuildings for Michigan program: portions of Southwest Ferndale and Rosedale Park, Detroit. The BetterBuildings program will provide extensive energy improvements to all of the households in these neighborhoods that opt into the program. Jacob Corvidae, WARM's Green Programs Manager, is part of the statewide steering committee for BetterBuildings for Michigan and co-directs the

Southeast Michigan residential portion of the program.

BetterBuildings for Michigan uses a community approach to provide homes and businesses with energy improvements, incentives, and affordable loans. These improvements will keep dollars in Michigan communities, make buildings more comfortable and efficient, and create quality green jobs.

As a founding member of the Southeast Michigan Regional Energy Office (SEMREO), WARM was involved with the design of this statewide program last Fall. The collaboration of many partners brought forth a strong program proposal that unified the State, suburbs, and cities of Detroit and Grand Rapids - in and of itself a remarkable accomplishment!



Key members of the program include the Michigan Department of Energy, Labor & Economic Growth (DELEG), Michigan Saves, the City of Grand Rapids, the Detroit Economic Growth Corporation (DEGC), and the SEMREO. The \$30 million dollar program is funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act through the U.S. Department of Energy.

For more information, visit regionalenergyoffice.org.

Congratulations Focus: HOPE

Focus: HOPE recently received funding from the Department of Energy to create the first regional weatherization training center in Michigan. The center will provide a state of the art training facility, both to train new workers in weatherization and to upgrade the skills of current workers. WARM helped secure the funding for the facility. The partnership will also collaborate with Jackson Community College to create a new training program in Jackson, Michigan.

Community Energy Matters

Ten communities in Southeast Michigan recently won Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) funding from the State of Michigan Department of Energy, Labor, and Economic Growth (DELEG). These funds will help these communities implement over \$700,000 worth of energy upgrades and reduce their operating costs. Improvements include installing energy-efficient lighting and HVAC systems.

The ten communities that received funding are: Eastpointe, Grosse Pointe Shores, Grosse Pointe Woods, Hazel Park, Lathrup Village, Lincoln Park, Madison Heights, River Rouge, Roseville, and South Lyon. WARM also received a Technical Assistance grant from DELEG to help assist these communities through their improvement processes. WARM works with local governments through its joint partnership program with the Michigan Suburbs Alliance, called the Southeast Michigan Regional Energy Office (SEMREO). Documentation of these improvements will be made available for other communities to learn from and model.



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Signs of Progress in Detroit

On October 29th, over 200 activists, Detroit residents and business owners met to discuss City-based initiatives and share stories of progress at the Financial Institutions Community Development Fall Conference 2010. The event was a huge success and featured an inspiring presentation from Will Allen of Growing Power Inc., a Milwaukee-based nonprofit. To view Will Allen's presentation on urban agriculture or download materials from the conference, visit warmtraining.org/ficon.



Will Allen

WARM Is Turning 30

In 2011 WARM will celebrate its 30th Anniversary. We are very proud to have worked in Detroit with our incredible partners and supporters for the past three decades. Stay tuned in 2011 for more information about our 30th Anniversary celebration!

Bursting At The Seams!

Please give a "WARM" welcome to all of our new staff! Their hard work is helping WARM accomplish its mission to create sustainable, affordable communities in Southeast Michigan.



DTE Energy's Neighborhood Energy Savings Outreach (NESO) Staff, Including 22 WARM Energy Educators



WARM Staff at DGS Training Facility