


Text Size: S M L

We are caring people who never get a second chance at a patient's end-of-life.
Call now 800.311.5365



CRAIN'S DETROIT BUSINESS

Detroit and Southeast Michigan's premier local business news and information Web site



- Home
- News
- This Week's Issue
- Lists
- Web Features
- People
- Columns/Blogs
- Detroit Events
- Multimedia
- Detroit Jobs

- Free E-Mail Signup
- Subscriber Service
- Mobile
- Contacts
- Advertise
- Classifieds

SITE SEARCH

ADVANCED SEARCH

SEARCH SPONSORED BY:



5:13 p.m., May. 5, 2009

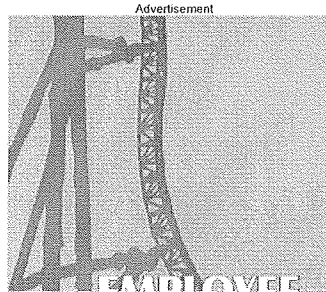
Recommend Comment Email Print

Conservation a theme at state's largest energy conference

By Dustin Walsh

Rated Not yet rated
Rate This ★★★★★

More than 800 people attended Michigan's largest energy conference, the **Energy Conference and Exhibition 2009** Tuesday held at **Rock Financial Showplace** in Novi.



The event, sponsored by the **Engineering Society of Detroit** and **DTE Energy Co.**, focused on Michigan's new energy legislation, Public Act 295 of 2008, signed into law on Oct. 6, 2008.

The new green economy was also a recurring theme of the keynote speech given by **Monica Martinez**, commissioner of the **Michigan Public Service Commission**.

"When we talk about change, the environment is at the heart of that conversation," she said.

She urged regional businesses to incorporate energy conservation because it harbors innovation.

"We either choose to let Michigan move forward in these areas or let some other state take it," she said. "Let's catch the energy and make it happen."

Four educational tracks were offered on such topics as energy efficiency implementation, LED technology, energy consumption management and new energy optimization programs.

Among the 75 exhibitors displaying products and services at the event were: **Siemens Building Technologies**, **Merlo Energy**, **Performance Engineering Group Inc.**, **General Motors Worldwide Facilities Group**, **Michigan CAT** and **Laminair Systems Inc.**

Jim Newman, owner and managing partner of **Newman Consulting Group L.L.C.**, moderated a panel on **Comerica Inc.**'s new LEED-certified bank center prototype and its sustainability council.

"Everyone is always bashing the auto industry about its CO2 emissions," he said, "But, existing buildings put out more CO2 than transportation."

Amy Pillivant, senior vice president and director of corporate real estate for **Comerica**, suggested that local businesses start a sustainability council to oversee all building and energy projects.

Comerica's sustainability council, she said, implemented heating and cooling standards for all of its branches, the use of LEED-certified building project managers and the use of environmentally friendly cleaners for use in its buildings.

Emmett Romine, manager of energy optimization for **DTE Energy**, outlined the proposed energy programs that **DTE Energy** and **Consumers Energy Co.** are planning to offer, pending approval by the **Michigan PSC**.

The programs are designed to implement energy optimization through energy efficient products and incentives.

Romine said the program is "aggressive" and scheduled to launch within weeks of **MPSC's** ruling — currently scheduled for **June 2**.

David Walz, director of corporate facilities for **Kelly Services Inc.**, said he attended the event to learn more about sustainability and how **Kelly** can improve its role in the green economy.

"We have a general appreciation of where the whole economy is going," he said. "There's an emphasis on green initiatives and we want to be a part of that."

Most Read

Accounting firm **Plante & Moran** lays off 80 employees

Granhelm cuts \$304 million from state's general fund budget

CRAIN'S BLOG: Buffalo Wild Wings' decision based on Quicken's

Dave Bing elected mayor of Detroit

Ford gets \$159 million state tax credit for plant conversions

Features



CRAIN'S CFO of the Year AWARDS

Thursday

June 11

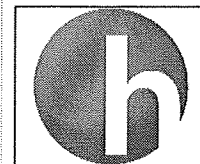
The Henry Ford
20900 Oakwood Blvd.
Dearborn
(Enter through the IMax Theater entrance)

5 - 8 p.m.

Registration: \$60 ea.

REGISTER HERE

or call 313.446.0300



This Week's Issue

Newsstand Locations

ADVERTISE WITH US

Advertising Center

FOLLOW CRAIN'S ON

Facebook

Twitter

RSS

Mobile

CONTACT CRAIN'S

Newsroom contacts

Get news in Crain's (PDF)

Editorial calendar (PDF)

Frequently asked questions

OTHER CRAIN'S SITES

Detroit Make it Here

Crain's Chicago Business

Crain's Cleveland Business

Crain's New York Business

Automotive News

Advertising Age

Crain Communications Inc.

Michigan Home Auctions



Find Any Auctions

Free Bidding Online and at a Live Auction.

Find your personal home or an investment property.

Start Your Search Now >>



5% Buyer Premium May Apply

Gary Bachman, **Cleary University** facilities director, said he attended to learn more about LED technology and how to apply it at the university.

"I am constantly asked to reduce energy consumption at the university's two campuses," he said. "So, we are looking at LED technology for use in our parking lots."

Richard Haller, ESD president and COO of the **Walbridge Group Inc.**, said the crowded ballroom was proof that energy matters to Michigan business.

"The issues talked about here are key to the new economy that's being placed here in Michigan," he said.

You may also like

Dave Bing elected mayor of Detroit

Business leaders have high hopes for Bing

Voters overwhelmingly approve measure to overhaul Detroit charter

Ambassador Bridge owners sue Detroit over fenced property

Store president, manager sentenced to prison for fraud

NY firm beats Detroit firm to represent Chrysler creditors in bankruptcy