



ABOUT THE CONSORTIUM

The Michigan Green Consortium (MGC) is organized exclusively for charitable, scientific and educational purposes, more specifically, to foster the general knowledge of sustainable practices and to promote the application of sound environmental stewardship through educational workshops, seminars, monthly networking events designed to raise awareness of green products, services and practices, and community-wide events that lessen the burden of government. MGC members share green values; conserving natural resources, eliminating dependence on fossil fuels, and reducing waste stream. Michigan Green Consortium is a 501c3 public charity.

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This net metering program encourages customers to produce electricity through solar, wind and water while remaining connected to the utility for when those sources are unavailable. That's in case the winds don't blow strongly enough or if the sun is blocked by clouds, Assendelft said.

"Let's say you own a farm and want to install a windmill or solar panels," Assendelft said. "You're still hooked up to an electric grid, so if you can't use alternate energy, you can still have electricity."

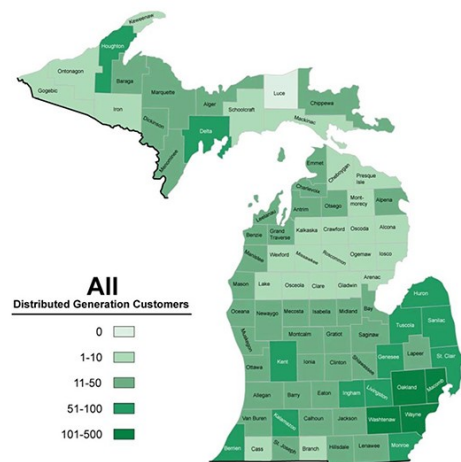
The amount generated in Michigan in 2017 by personal wind turbines, solar panels and hydroelectric systems is enough to meet the energy needs of 2,000 to 3,000 homes at once, said

ENERGY ALTERNATIVES ON THE RISE – SLOWLY.

Michigan residents pay less for electricity from the grid when they produce some energy themselves from solar, wind and other alternative sources, according to a recent report. But their efforts still don't make up much of the state's energy needs.

The energy from alternative sources produced in Michigan by energy users increased from 21,888 kilowatts in 2016 to 29,571 kilowatts in 2017, according to the report by the Public Services Commission. That's a 35 percent increase, but it makes up only 0.032 percent of Michigan's retail electricity sales. Residents can receive a credit whenever they produce their own electricity, said Nick Assendelft, a public information officer for the Michigan Public Services Commission, based in Lansing.

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Map of customers who reduced electric bills by generating some of their own energy from wind, solar or water sources. Michigan Public Services Commission. Distributed Generation Program Report, October 2018.



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Jared Johnson, professor of physics at Grand Rapids Community College. There is still room for the program to grow, Assendelft said. However, the Public Services Commission doesn't estimate how many more customers will participate.

Brian Wheeler, senior public information director for Consumers Energy, said interest in clean energy will lead more customers to generate their own electricity. The net metering program had 3,277 customers in 2017. Most customers use either solar or wind energy, according to the report. A small percentage of customers use hydroelectric sources of energy.

Overall, 93 percent of the people producing their own electricity have installed solar panels and the remaining seven percent have installed wind turbines or hydroelectric projects, according to the report from the Public Services Commission. These numbers do not include wind farms owned by utility companies, Assendelft said.

Southeast Michigan produces the most renewable energy. One noticeable trend is the heavy use of renewable energy along shoreline counties in the Lower Peninsula.

Solar energy sees the most use in Oakland and surrounding counties. Kent County has the most solar use in the west and Delta County has the most solar use in the Upper Peninsula. Alpena County uses the most wind energy.

DTE Electric and Consumers Energy sell the most alternative energy equipment to individual producers. DTE has 1,705 customers and Consumers Energy has 939 customers, according to the Public Services Commission.

By Jeremy Wahr
Capital News Service | NOV 5, 2018

FEATURED BUSINESS



Winter is upon us. Cherryland Humane Society reminds us to please be aware of stray animals.

CHS accepts stray dogs from Grand Traverse and Leelanau Counties. We are not able to pick up stray animals. CHS has animal control contracts with these counties and will accept stray dogs from those areas.

If you find a stray animal outside of Grand Traverse or Leelanau County, please contact the shelter in that county. Taking the stray to the shelter located in the area it was found, will increase the animal's chance of being reunited with its family.

CHS is the holding facility for stray dogs found in Grand Traverse and Leelanau Counties. Members of the public who have found a stray animal should contact their local Animal Control Department but can also attempt to locate a possible owner (via ID tags, getting them scanned for a microchip at a vet, physically looking for their owner, etc.)

If no owner has been located, please bring the stray dog to CHS during the hours of 11 am -5 pm on Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, 11 am-6 pm on Wednesdays, and 11 am-4 pm on Saturdays. If you find a stray dog outside of these hours, please contact Animal Control or Central Dispatch. **Do not tie an animal outside the building or abandon puppies or kittens in boxes**

