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Community Connections

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Tree Planting Grants and Month-Long Celebration Help Communities Go Green

The DTE Energy Foundation recently awarded more than $55,000 in tree planting grants to 32 communities. The grant was part of a statewide effort by the DTE Energy Foundation to plant more than 500 trees in Michigan communities this year.

The grants were also part of DTE Energy's month-long "Green Days" initiative which supported Earth Day and Arbor Day activities in communities around the state. Scores of DTE Energy volunteers - known as the "DTE Energy Care Corps Green Team" - also joined in the effort.

Highlights of DTE Energy's outreach efforts in April included an Arbor Day event at Detroit's Matilija Gently Park, where company volunteers planted trees with The Greening of Detroit and joined in the celebration of a tree-mile expansion of the Corner Creek Greenway.

The company, along with DTE Energy Care Corps members, also took part in a number of events across the state. The company co-sponsored the "Embracing Our Earth Fair" at Bad Axe High School. The DTE Energy Foundation co-sponsored the Monroe County Earth Day Expo in downtown Monroe. The company's dive team used its research vessel to assist with a Detroit River shoreline cleanup effort starting from Trenton Rotary Park. Other company volunteers pitched in, using their own boats or cleaning up on shore. In addition, the DTE Energy Care Corps Green Team members participated in the Grosse Ile Earth Day Celebration organized by the Grosse Ile Nature and Land Conservancy.

We are Committed to Maintaining Your Electric Service - Rain or Shine

At DTE Energy, we're committed to providing you with reliable service. To support that commitment, we work year-round to maintain, repair and improve our electrical systems. Our goal is to minimize outages and ensure reliable electric service.

This work includes:

- Trimming trees to avoid interference with power lines and other electrical equipment.
- Inspecting power lines and other electrical equipment, such as transformers, fuses and regulators, and replacing or repairing equipment as needed.
- Inspecting utility poles and replacing them as necessary, and
- Adding electrical circuits and substations in rapidly growing areas.

However, despite our best efforts, summer storms and other severe weather can cause outages. When outages do occur, we work to restore power as quickly as possible.

In a major storm, our top priority is restoring power to hospitals, police and fire stations, communication facilities (radio and television stations), and sanitation pumping facilities. We then focus on restoring power to the remaining households and businesses, starting with electrical circuits where the largest numbers of customers are without power.

For more information on preparing for summer storms and DTE Energy's restoration priorities, visit the Outage Center on our Web site.

Pilot Solar Energy Program Powering Monroe County Community College

Officials recently cut the ceremonial ribbon marking the completion of the Detroit Edison solar installation on the Main Campus of Monroe County Community College (MCCC). The 504-kilowatt, $3-million photovoltaic system on the extreme eastern side of the campus covers three acres and connects directly to the Detroit Edison grid.

The installation is part of Detroit Edison's pilot SolarCurrents program that calls for photovoltaic systems to be installed at DTE Energy facilities or on customer property or rooftops over the next four years to generate 15 megawatts of electricity throughout Southeast Michigan.
MCC is the first educational institution to participate in the program. Its installation is one of the largest in Michigan and Detroit Edison's largest SolarCents array on a college campus.

The solar project is part of DTE Energy's ongoing support of the college. DTE Energy recently received the "College Supporter of the Year" award from MCC.

**DTE Energy Foundation On Deck for Think Detroit-PAL**

More than 1,500 girls and boys from all corners of the city will get to "Play Ball" this season thanks to a $150,000 grant from the DTE Energy Foundation to Think Detroit-PAL. The grant will help fund the organization's Detroit Youth Baseball and Softball League.

"The foundation is happy to work with PAL's new chief executive officer, Michael Potter, who has brought new energy to the program," said Fred Shell, vice president of Corporate and Government Affairs for DTE Energy and president of the DTE Energy Foundation. "Think Detroit-PAL has already positively impacted thousands of lives. The foundation is proud to partner with the organization to enhance the lives of even more young people this summer."

The season begins June 1.

**River Rouge and Monroe Power Plants Recognized for Safety Performance**

DTE Energy's River Rouge Power Plant received the "QET Platinum Award" from the Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Administration (MOSH), for an outstanding safety and health record. On Jan. 27, 2010, the facility received the Michigan Voluntary Protection Program (MVPPT) Rising Star Award for workplace safety and health excellence. The MIOSH program is part of the Michigan Department of Energy, Labor & Economic Growth (DELEG).

The River Rouge Power Plant has gone more than six years without a lost-time accident and is the first power plant in Michigan to achieve Platinum Award status.

DTE Energy's Monroe Power Plant recently received the National Safety Councils Occupational Excellence Achievement Award for 2010. In earning the award, the plant achieved a lost-time injury and illness rate that was less than 50 percent of the national rate for similar facilities.

The award is a component of the National Safety Council's Occupational Awards Program, created to recognize outstanding safety achievements among council members.