

Michigan Energy Options

A Venerable Nonprofit Making Innovative Change Today

Michigan Energy Options (MEO) is a nonprofit that embodies and practices the positive principles of sustainability.

Our 34-year-old organization has foundational stability; we are growing in ways that are smart and essential to our cause; we are an economic catalyst in this state through the work we deliver and the jobs we create; and, importantly, our progressive energy and sustainability programs benefit people and the planet.

Stability

Our mission to guide communities to be more energy efficient and sustainable has remained the same across the decades. Our way to accomplish our mission has not: today, we are more business-friendly, more collaborative with public- and private-sector partners, operate in larger ways—regionally and statewide, and we are developing more innovative solutions based on our intellectual capital and years of experience.

- Programs funded by state, federal, corporations, and donors.
- Founded in 1978, and recognized by the State of Michigan as the first Energy Demonstration Center.
- A credit score of 100, in continuous operation, robust oversight by board of directors.

Smart Growth

Our team of professionals has diverse skills that position us as strong thinkers and doers. PhD, MBA, MPA professionals coupled with architects and builders, and LEED and BPI accredited specialists, ground our mission in the real world. The real world, however, keeps changing so MEO has committed itself to creating a culture that is restless. We are relentless in seeking solutions that work: impactful, cost-effective, and doable.

Our staff has doubled to 20 in the last two years, we have offices in three locations in the state and are planning a fourth, we are engaging national and regional partners to infuse our work, and we have diversified our funding, tacking away from state support and towards federal, contractual, corporate, individual, and foundations.

- Increase in revenue and staffing by 200% and 400%, respectively, in last three years.
- Managed \$10 million of funding across 40 programs in last three years.
- Fiscally responsible: Our overhead is 10% and independent audits have been affirming.
- We are the only energy nonprofit in the Upper Peninsula.

Economic Catalyst

MEO has brought federal funding into the state, such as a recent HUD Sustainable Communities grant. We have executed a number of statewide market transformation programs to provide emerging energy efficiency and renewable technologies traction. We have also served as an “energy career starter kit” for many recent college graduates by providing good jobs. During Michigan’s prolonged recession, MEO has been a counterpoint to out-migration and has provided work for a retrained workforce.

- HUD Sustainable Communities grant for Mid-Michigan, leveraged to \$8 million.
- MEO employs Michigan residents, adding 10 recent graduates from state universities in the last two years.
- Our programs have employed subcontractors from Michigan companies, providing them an estimated \$3 million in revenues.
- Our programs have saved \$5 million in energy costs for Michigan residents and businesses

Some of our network and supporters...

Mid-Michigan Environmental Action Council, BetterBuildings for Michigan, Michigan Saves, Michigan Environmental Council, WARM Training Center, SEEDS, the Superior Watershed Partnership and Land Trust, Michigan Recycling Coalition, Seeds of Promise, Community Action Agencies, Michigan Public Service Commission, Michigan Energy Office: Michigan Economic Development Corporation, Michigan State University, National Science Foundation, National Park Service, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, Marquette Area Public Schools, Northern Michigan University, Northern Initiatives, the Upper Peninsula Children’s Museum, Lansing Public Schools, the City of Lansing, DeWitt Township, Bath Township, Lansing Board of Water and Light, Michigan Electrical Co-operatives Association, Ingham County, Citizens Bank, The Christman Company, Building Performance Institute, Niagara Conservation, Wisconsin Energy Conservation Corporation, Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Department of Energy . . .

Quality of Life

A warming planet, extreme weather events, degrading ecosystems—these can seem far away from the work of a nonprofit advancing energy efficiency and sustainable practices in homes, businesses, public institutions, and communities. In fact, these global issues are inexorably linked to the local. Buildings produce the most greenhouse gases of any sector, including transportation.

MEO's work includes not only technical solutions in our built environment, but also educational awareness within those populations we serve. Education based on good science and practice has been a hallmark of ours and continues to be one of our most effective tools to creating long-standing, systemic change. We can prove to people that they can take actions to reduce their energy and resource consumption while also saving themselves money.

We help individuals see themselves as part of the solution—which is ultimately the key to lasting societal change.

- MEO's educational workshops and seminars on energy and sustainability have reached tens of thousands of people.
- Our programs have helped more than one million Michigan residents reduce energy consumption and save money to use elsewhere.
- The last four years of our work has reduced the need for 80 million kWh of power, and has removed the CO₂ equivalent of taking 8,000 cars off the road each year.*



Efficiency. Renewables. Sustainability.

For more than 30 years, Michigan Energy Options (formerly Urban and Northern Options) has helped more than a million people in Michigan conserve energy, save money, adopt renewable energy, reduce greenhouse gases and lead more sustainable lives. Our nonprofit is a team with diverse expertise: PhD, MBA, MPA, LEED accredited, HERS and BPI trained, licensed contractors, seasoned environmental and energy experts, project and financial managers—all practitioners for a greener Michigan.

Business Development Team

Contact any of us if you would like to learn more about what Michigan Energy Options can do for your businesses and communities

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* Verified savings based on the Michigan Energy Measures Database.