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July 21, 2010

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DETROIT EDISON TO BUILD SOLAR INSTALLATION AT MCCC

First Educational Institution to Participate in SolarCurrents Program

MONROE and DETROIT, Mich. – Detroit Edison and Monroe County Community College today announced the signing of a 20-year agreement that will provide the utility's customers with renewable energy generated from the sun.

A 500-kilowatt, \$3 million photovoltaic system will be installed on the east side of campus and should be operational in the spring after design and construction is completed.

The installation is part of Detroit Edison's pilot *SolarCurrents* program that calls for photovoltaic systems to be installed on customer property or rooftops over the next five years to generate 15 megawatts of electricity throughout Southeast Michigan.

MCCC is the first educational institution to participate in the program.

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Last week, Detroit Edison, which is a subsidiary of DTE Energy, announced that it is planning to build a 200-kilowatt, \$1 million solar installation on the roof of a Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan parking structure in downtown Detroit.

“We’re pleased that Monroe County Community College will be among the first organizations to participate in *SolarCurrents*, which is one of the largest distributed solar programs in the country,” said Trevor Lauer, DTE Energy vice president, Marketing & Renewables. “We expect the program to encourage the development of new green energy projects by providing financial incentives to non-residential customers interested in solar energy systems.”

Detroit Edison plans to invest more than \$100 million in the program, which requires customers to participate for 20 years. The solar energy systems will be owned, installed, operated and maintained by the utility. In return, customers will get an annual payment or credit on their energy bill based on the system size, as well as a one-time, upfront construction payment to cover any inconvenience during installation.

The *SolarCurrents* system will also be used as a demonstration for alternative energy education and instruction at the college, providing an opportunity for students to observe a working photovoltaic system that will generate an equivalent amount of power that would be consumed by about 100 homes in a year.

“It’s all about jobs – green jobs,” said MCCC President Dr. David E. Nixon. “This multi-million dollar investment by DTE Energy empowers MCCC to come up with training opportunities related to solar power applications.

“All those solar panels on campus will provide hands on learning opportunities and inspire new curriculum design in solar studies.”

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The installation of the system builds on an already-established partnership between DTE Energy and the college to increase the availability of renewable energy training opportunities in the region.

In May, the DTE Energy Foundation announced a \$45,000 grant and additional in-kind donation of solar equipment to MCCC in support of curriculum development to establish an academic program that would encompass solar, wind, hybrid and hybrid/electric technologies.

The company, which is upgrading to new equipment for the *SolarCurrents* program, donated existing infrastructure that is still viable for instruction, including 26 working solar panels, various inverter controllers and disconnect switches, and racking and framing hardware.

Detroit Edison continues to offer incentives to residential customers who install their own photovoltaic systems. For more information on both programs, visit dteenergy.com/solar.

Detroit Edison expects to invest nearly \$2 billion in the coming years to add more than 1,200 MW of renewable energy to meet the state's renewable energy goals. In addition to the solar installations, the company plans to acquire or build wind farms and other green energy facilities for half of that capacity, and contract with third party vendors for the rest.

About Detroit Edison

Detroit Edison is an investor-owned electric utility serving 2.1 million customers in Southeastern Michigan and a subsidiary of DTE Energy (NYSE:DTE), a Detroit-based diversified energy company involved in the development and management of energy-related businesses and services nationwide. Information about DTE Energy is available at www.dteenergy.com.

About Monroe County Community College

Founded in 1964, Monroe County Community College is a public, two-year institution supported by tax monies from Monroe County, educational funds from the State of Michigan and student tuition.

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The college's mission is to provide a variety of higher educational opportunities to enrich the lives of the residents of Monroe County. The Main Campus is located on South Raisinville Road in central Monroe County with easy access to Toledo and Detroit. The Whitman Center is located in Temperance, near the Ohio-Michigan Border. Information about MCCC is available at www.monroeccc.edu.

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