



Meeting Our Future

The demand for electricity continues to grow as the Cobb plant moves past 50 years of serving Michigan's families and businesses.

Today's high-tech world demands more and more electricity to power new industries, advanced computer networks and other technological wonders.

Consumers Energy is exploring a variety of options, including building new generating units, to meet its customers' growing demand for electricity.

Our goal is to provide the electricity you need not only today, but for years to come.



Consumers Energy

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B.C. Cobb Plant

Touching Your Life

The B.C. Cobb plant touches your life every time you flip on a light switch, use a computer, watch television or do anything that requires the use of electricity.

The electricity that you depend upon comes from the Cobb plant and the other Consumers Energy power plants. These power plants and the men and women who run them provide the electricity you need throughout your normal day, plus nights, weekends and holidays.

Electricity can't be stored, so it has to be generated the instant that you and Consumer Energy's 1.8 million other customers need it for your homes, schools and businesses.

It's not easy to provide that much electricity around the clock, yet the Cobb plant and its 130 employees meet that challenge every day. And they do it in a big way: The Cobb plant can generate up to 500 megawatts, enough to power a city of nearly 300,000 people.

Powering Your Life

The Cobb plant has two 160-megawatt, coal-fired units and three 60-megawatt, natural gas-fired units. To produce electricity, water is pumped through miles of steel tubes in a boiler. The burning coal or gas inside the boiler turns the water to steam with a temperature of more than 1,000 degrees Fahrenheit and a pressure of more than 2,000 pounds per square inch.

That high-pressure steam is routed to the turbine for each unit. That steam turns the turbine blades and the shaft attached to the unit's generator. The generators turn at a constant 3,600 revolutions per minute, creating the electricity that goes through the electric transmission and distribution system to serve you and other customers.

Preserving Our Environment

Environmental stewardship is a basic responsibility for the employees of the Cobb plant. Each day they do their part to preserve and enhance the environment.

The Cobb plant is located at the mouth of the Muskegon River and the site includes 300 acres of fields, ponds and woods. The site is certified by the Wildlife Habitat Council; a key feature is the site's transmission right of way, which hosts a wide variety of aquatic and terrestrial habitat and is next to the Muskegon State Game Area.

Community partners in the site's environmental stewardship programs include the Muskegon County Nature Club, Muskegon County Duck Hunters Association, soil conservation district and the city of Muskegon Leisure Services department. The partnerships help balance public use with preservation and conservation activities that benefit local wildlife.

Working with members of the site's environmental enhancement team and Michigan Department of Natural Resources, volunteers have installed nest boxes for bluebirds and wood ducks and helped manage the rare peregrine falcons nesting at the site.

Many of the trace amounts of chemicals found naturally in soil and plants also are found in coal and are released during combustion. These emissions are regulated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Michigan Department of Environmental Quality.

Consumers Energy has spent more than \$1 billion at its four coal-fired power plant sites, including significant investments at the Cobb plant, to reduce emissions.

Those investments have resulted in substantial reductions in the emissions of sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, mercury and other compounds since 1990. Through participation in the state of Michigan's Pollution Prevention Partnership and Clean Corporate Citizen programs, the Cobb plant meets the latest standards for regulatory compliance and environmental stewardship.

Below: The control room monitors the plant around the clock to ensure families and businesses get the electricity they need.



Left: A rare peregrine falcon thrives at a nesting box at the site.

Below: Conveyors move coal from a freighter to the complex, where it is stored until needed.

