



Blight TO Bright

Consumers Energy earned one of the nation's top brownfield redevelopment awards for its new corporate headquarters in downtown Jackson, Mich., on a former contaminated industrial site.

CONSUMERS ENERGY received a Phoenix Award and a People's Choice Award in October 2003 for achievement of excellence in brownfield redevelopment.

The Phoenix Award recognizes efforts by Michigan Gov. Jennifer Granholm and the Michigan Economic Development Corporation to revitalize abandoned or blighted areas.

"Every obsolete city property rescued from disuse, like this former industrial site, advances us toward our goal of fixing what we have instead of building new," Granholm said. The company's "ability to transform this blighted area into something productive and physically attractive is a benefit to the Jackson community and the state of Michigan."

A Phoenix Award winner is selected from each of the EPA's

10 regions and one project from outside the United States.

The People's Choice Award was selected by attendees at the National Brownfield Conference in Portland, Ore. The headquarters project captured the top honor in Region 5, which includes Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, Wisconsin and 35 federally recognized Indian Tribes.

The project also provided a template for other Michigan communities looking to build a successful public-private partnership.

Brownfield Cleanup

■ Over 300,000 cubic yards of soil contaminated from historic industrial and commercial use were identified on the site. Creative placement of building elements, use of exposure barriers and creative reuse of the soil reduced off-site disposal to about 50,000 cubic yards of material.

Green Building

■ Although the building is not literally green, steps were taken during design and construction to ensure our building used techniques and materials that help protect the environment and preserve our resources.

To accomplish this, we used items that demonstrate energy efficiency, resource conservation and improved personal safety, air quality and comfort.

Natural light pours into the new headquarters, providing spectacular views. Adding tinted windows also meant we didn't have to use blinds or shades, which help conserve the resources to manufacture, clean and replace these items.

The building also features green-tipped fluorescent light bulbs that do not have to be disposed as a hazardous waste. Timers, motion sensors and zone lighting in the open-office plan also help extend bulb life and conserve electricity.



Arcadia LAND EXCHANGE

Agreement between
the company and the
Grand Traverse
Regional Land
Conservancy creates
the largest farmland
protection project
in the Midwest.

AN UNSPOILED stretch of northwest Michigan shoreline will delight future generations, thanks to a group effort that will protect this irreplaceable natural resource.

The Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy, with support from leading Michigan foundations and individual donors, took ownership from the company of more than 6,000 scenic acres between Frankfort and Arcadia. The transaction created the largest farmland protection project in the Midwest.

The organization's executive director, Glen Chown, described it as a great deal for the people of Michigan. The company acquired

the land in packets over the past 30 years, originally intending to build a pumped storage generating facility similar to the one it operates at Ludington.

Throughout its ownership, we leased the suitable farmland to local farmers and carefully managed the unique character of the woodlands, dunes and shoreline.

"This project represents some of the best qualities of Michigan — more than three miles of pristine shoreline, majestic sand dunes and thousands of acres of irreplaceable farmland and forests," Michigan Gov. Jennifer Granholm said. "I commend this partnership between the Regional Conservancy, the private sector, the foundation community, and

governmental entities to protect a rare undeveloped stretch of coastline and preserve a way of life that is unique to our state."

Company chairman Ken Whipple said the Arcadia sale would continue the company's tradition of environmental stewardship.

"Our company has been part of Michigan for more than a century, and as one of the state's largest landowners, we have a long-standing commitment to protect and enhance the environment. We have nearly 9,000 employees who live here with their families, and we all cherish the quality of life that we enjoy in Michigan.

"We're all pleased that this wonderful part of Michigan will be preserved and protected by the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy."