



## 4-H Renewable Energy Camp

June 24-28, 2014

### Audience

This program is for youth ages 13 to 19. This is the fifth year of this program. 55 youth applied for 45 openings, 42 attended. Enrollment: 22 females and 20 males representing 12 counties. Ethnicity: 3 Asian, 2 Multiracial, 11 Caucasian/white, 21 Black/African American, 1 Hispanic, and 1 native Hawaiian. Youth were accepted based on regional representation of the state and application question responses.

### Funding

Sponsorship was provided from the Michigan Corn Growers Association (\$3,000) and the Michigan Soybean Promotion Committee (\$1,500). There was also a \$190 participant fee for 4-H members and a \$200 fee for non-4-H members plus in-kind support provided by MSU Extension.

### Objectives

This residential conference is designed to:

- Educate youth on current issues and technologies impacting energy and the environment within Michigan's agriculture sector.
- Develop problem solving and critical thinking skills through team work and hands-on-learning.
- Expose youth to degrees and jobs in these new and exciting fields.
- Develop and expand career and personal interests.
- Foster participants' ability to meet new people and make new friends from different places and backgrounds.
- Develop social and academic skills needed for a successful transition to college and life as an adult.

### Description

Participants had 35 contact hours with 14 MSU faculty and educators along with 12 industry leaders.

The students spent 5 days exploring ideas, research and hands-on opportunities in the field of energy as it relates to natural resources and agriculture. They worked with leading researchers at MSU who are developing the latest innovations in biofuel

production and technology that offer alternatives to fossil-based fuels. The teens also visited companies that are taking the latest discoveries of science and turning them into real products that impact our local communities and the world. They toured and did hands-on activities at MSU Recycling Center, Carbon Green Bioenergy, Kellogg Biological Station, and a substation specialized in the transfer of wind energy. Youth also conducted experiments, made their own biofuel and designed, tested and raced solar power cars.

Participants were also granted access to many of the resources that MSU campus has to offer, including many lab tours and faculty presentations. They stayed in an MSU residence hall.

### Impacts

- 100% of the participants who responded to the evaluation reported that after completing this camp they are more knowledgeable about Bioenergy
- 70% of participants also indicated that they are more likely to pursue a degree or career in a Bioenergy related field following the completion of this camp.
- 83% indicated an anticipated change in personal energy use.
- 90% plan to apply the knowledge gained through the program.
- 82% plan to teach what they have learned to others.

### Additional Significant Information

This is one of the only youth camps in the county that focuses on exposing youth to opportunities and careers in bioenergy. Detroit Area Pre-College Engineering Program (DAPCEP) included this outstanding program among their educational offerings for DAPCEP youth.

### Contact Information

Jacob DeDecker, PhD.  
Program Leader, 4-H Youth Development  
MSU Extension Children and Youth Institute  
Phone: 517-432-7604  
Email: dedecke4@msu.edu