



# Grand Rapids Press

LEGAL AFFIDAVIT

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Total

\$212.28

State of Michigan,) ss

County of Kent and County of Ottawa)

Nancy Block being duly sworn, deposes that he/she is principal clerk of MLive Media Group; that Grand Rapids Press is a public newspaper published in the city of Grand Rapids, with general circulation in Kent and Ottawa county, and this notice is an accurate and true copy of this notice as printed in said newspaper, was printed and published in the regular edition and issue of said newspaper on the following date(s):

Grand Rapids Press 12/01/2022

Principal Clerk of the Publisher

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 1st day of December 2022

Notary Public

TEASHA R. PAYNE  
NOTARY PUBLIC, STATE OF MI  
COUNTY OF MECOSTA  
COMMISSION EXP FEB 24 2026  
ACTING IN COUNTY OF Kent

Department of Treasury  
Bureau of Tax and Economic  
Policy Administrative Rules  
for Sales and Use Tax Rules  
Rule Set 2022-9 TY

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING  
Monday, December 12, 2022  
09:00 AM

Michigan Department of  
Treasury, Austin Building,  
State Treasurer's Board  
Room 430 W. Allegan St.,  
Lansing, MI 48922

The Department of Treasury will hold a public hearing to receive public comments on proposed changes to the Sales and Use Tax Rules rule set.

The purpose of the rules is to update and modernize the sales and use tax rules to make them consistent with current law.

By the authority conferred on the Department of Treasury by MCL 205.59(2) and MCL 205.100(2)

The proposed rules will take effect immediately after filing with the Secretary of State. The proposed rules are published on the State of Michigan's website at [www.michigan.gov/ARD](http://www.michigan.gov/ARD) and in the 12/1/2022 issue of the Michigan Register. Copies of these proposed rules may also be obtained by mail or electronic mail at the following email address: [TreasPolicyDirOfc@michigan.gov](mailto:TreasPolicyDirOfc@michigan.gov).

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Michigan Department of  
Treasury, Bureau of Tax  
Policy, PO Box 30828,  
Lansing, MI 48909  
[TreasPolicyDirOfc@michigan.gov](mailto:TreasPolicyDirOfc@michigan.gov)

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Disabilities Act. If the hearing is held at a physical location, the building will be accessible with handicap parking available. Anyone needing assistance to take part in the hearing due to disability may call 517-335-7477 to make arrangements.

# The Mining Journal

Upper Michigan's Largest Daily Newspaper

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## AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

STATE OF MICHIGAN

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

For the County of: **MARQUETTE**

In the matter of: Notice of Public Hearing  
Department of Treasury  
Bureau of Tax and Economic Policy  
December 12, 2022

Size: 2 x 5

State of **MICHIGAN**, County of Marquette ss.

### **ANN TROUTMAN**

being duly sworn, says that she is

### **PUBLISHER**

of **THE MINING JOURNAL**

a newspaper published and circulated in said county and otherwise qualified according to Supreme Court Rule; that annexed hereto is a printed copy of a notice which was published in said newspaper on the following date, or dates, to-wit

December 1, 2022



**ANN TROUTMAN**

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 1st day of December, 2022



**HOLLY GASMAN**

Notary Public for MARQUETTE County, Michigan

Acting in the County of Marquette

My commission expires: May 25, 2025

# Region

## Smart improvement: Plug into energy-efficient grants locally

**By Houghton Daily Mining Gazette staff**  
HOUGHTON — Area residents will be able to make their homes more energy efficient through a new series of federal grants.

Western Upper Peninsula Planning & Development Region received \$500,000 through a grant from the Michigan State Housing Development Authority for energy-efficient home repairs and programs. The funds are coming through the Michigan Housing Opportunities Promoting Energy Efficiency Program (MI-HOPE), which uses funds from the American Rescue Plan Act.

Lisa McKenzie, planner with WUPPDR, said WUPPDR regularly gets calls on repairs to assist residents throughout the six-county area.

“A large percentage of our homes are really old,” she said. “Then with the coronavirus and the resulting economic hardship, people have found it more difficult to repair their homes.”

The funds are available for owner-occupied single-family homes in Baraga, Houghton, Keweenaw and Iron counties. The other two counties in WUPPDR’s coverage area, Gogebic and Ontonagon, received another \$300,000 through Gogebic-Ontonagon Community Action Agency.

“I think that’s exceptional,” McKenzie said. “It says the need is there, MSHDA recognizes that, and has really awarded the Western U.P. a nice amount of funding for this.”

Grants of up to \$25,000 are available to owner-occupied single family homes; duplexes also qualify as long as the owner lives in a unit. They can assist with roof repair or replacement, windows, insulation, heating systems and water heaters.

WUPPDR starts with a whole-house energy audit, checking for lead-based insulation and other issues. Even if an issue won’t be covered through MI-HOPE, learning about it gives the homeowner an idea about what areas to address, McKenzie said.

“I think it’s a drop in the bucket as far as the issue we have out there, but it’s a start, and we’re really excited about the program,” she said.

Projects are anticipated to be completed by Sept. 30, 2026. All funds will need to be allocated by 2024, though McKenzie anticipates it won’t take that long.

The hope is to have a first lottery round for ap-

plications by Christmas. Up to \$28.5 million is being disbursed statewide, including up to \$10 million in the first funding round. WUPPDR will also apply for the second round of funding, which will be announced in spring 2023.

“We really want to be able to get additional funds, so we want people to apply as soon as possible,” McKenzie said.

People can apply online or see more details about eligibility at [michigan.gov/mshda/neighborhoods/mi-housing-opportunities-promoting-energy-efficiency-program-mi-hope](http://michigan.gov/mshda/neighborhoods/mi-housing-opportunities-promoting-energy-efficiency-program-mi-hope) or [wupldr.org/housing](http://wupldr.org/housing).

The application process isn’t difficult, but people will need to upload several documents, McKenzie said. Those include utility bills for electric and gas, and also their wage statement from their employer. They will also need a document to show they own their own property, and a tax assessment or tax bill, which documents that their taxes are paid and up to date.

Applicants should also upload a copy of their photo ID.

Because the grants come through ARPA, people will also be asked how they were affected by COVID.

“MSHDA believes, as we do, that everyone has been affected by COVID, with the increase in utility bills and housing costs, and that is a hardship,” McKenzie said. “That’s why these funds are available.”

Applications are open to people with income up to 300% of the poverty guidelines. That provides funding for a category of households that generally do not receive assistance of this kind, McKenzie said.

“This reaches more middle-income people that are just having a hard time making some of these repairs while maintaining their home and paying their normal housing expenses,” she said. “We’re hoping these energy efficiency improvements will allow them to stay more independent and lower their energy costs and have more funding for other things they need.”

People who need additional help with the application can email McKenzie at [info@wupldr.org](mailto:info@wupldr.org) or [lmckenzie@wupldr.org](mailto:lmckenzie@wupldr.org). They can also call WUPPDR at 906-482-7205 and set up an appointment.

Local contractors interested in helping with the energy efficiency work should also call or email WUPPDR, McKenzie said.



**Steve Walton of the Hancock Planning Commission discusses a draft ordinance for solar and wind energy systems during the commission’s meeting Monday. (Houghton Daily Mining Gazette photo)**

# Sparkling new ideas

## Public hearing for wind, solar ordinance set in Hancock

**By Houghton Daily Mining Gazette staff**

HANCOCK — Hancock’s draft ordinance for solar and wind energy installations will get a public hearing in January.

The Planning Commission voted to schedule the hearing after a discussion on the new ordinance Monday night.

The ordinance is modeled on one used in Montrose, Michigan. It would allow for accessory solar or wind energy systems — small units primarily providing power to be used on-site — in all districts.

Industrial use, where the generated power would be sold to a utility or other customers, would only be allowed in the I-1 industrial district for solar, and not allowed at all for wind.

Projects would require a complete site plan and other necessary documents and drawings. They would also need approval for a solar and wind zoning permit application.

Wind systems in residential areas would be bladeless or vertical axis turbines. In the industrial district, blades must have clearance of at least 20 feet above the ground and any outdoor surfaces such as balconies or roof gardens that may be used by people.

Except in industrial districts, only one turbine would be allowed per property.

Ground-mounted solar panels would have to be in the rear or side yards. On rooftops, they would be set back from the roof’s edge at least a distance equal to its height. All of the system must be no higher than 10

inches above the rooftop.

Industrial-scale solar systems are also required to have a decommissioning plan in place when they are built.

Planning Commission member Steve Walton, who prepared the ordinance along with Susan Burack, said he had gotten correspondence asking for clarification on the maximum decibel level, which is not specified, and vibrational level, which is required to not be “humanly perceptible” beyond the property line.

Other municipalities have imposed limits ranging from 35 to 50 decibels, Walton said. After discussion about turbines becoming louder during high-wind events, Planning Commission Chair Kurt Rickard suggested a standard limiting the system’s noise in relation to the ambient level — also likely higher during a storm.

Walton also mentioned a letter from attorney Kevin Mackey, who had drafted Adams Township’s recently adopted wind ordinance, created after the announcement of Circle Power’s Scotia Wind project. Mackey had told him commercial power companies do not need to abide by National Fire Protection Agency rules, including one having to do with lithium ion battery fires.

Resident Stephen Roblee questioned the need to add language regarding batteries. He said while lithium batteries may overheat, they are unlikely to explode.

“Some people just don’t want any alternative power,” he said. “We need alternative power, so we shouldn’t put in extra things that would discourage the development and use of it. You’ve got to do it. Sooner or later it’s going to have to happen, and it should be done with some forethought understanding the principles.”

Walton said he would consult with the city fire chief to determine whether the NFPA rule should be included. He said many of the people who have weighed in have cited problems with alternative power, but not been able to provide details.

“I’ve often wanted to say to people, ‘Are you trying to get this through with caution, or do you want to stop it,’” he said.

Roblee said he thought most solar power installations in the area would not come in the form of large solar farms. Instead, most would come from stand-alone systems, which are net metering, due to the restrictions in Michigan.

“That’s the stuff that is really realistic for this area,” he said.

“You could buy a solar panel nowadays for \$100 ... you could buy the same solar panel 10 years ago for \$800,” he said.

Danielle Ahrens, who said she and her husband are planning to install rooftop solar panels, said the 10-inch restriction might not be feasible for flat roofs,

such as Hancock Central High School or UP Health - Portage. She also suggested minimizing the use of qualitative requirements, such as a design requirement that the systems “shall, to the extent reasonably possible, use materials, colors, textures, screening and landscaping that will blend the facility into the natural setting and environment.”

“From my research, that’s something that can be somewhat weaponized a bit, if someone has a vendetta against energy,” she said.

Juxta Sprague said the ordinance would prohibit the energy upgrades he and his spouse had planned, including a ground array in front of their house and wind turbines on the roof. He said the draft gave the impression the city considers the systems “an ontological eyesore, which must be hidden at all costs.”

“We can have solar awnings on the front of our businesses, compact turbines on the tops of our homes, a solar park that mixes plants and panels to make a thriving green space for our citizens,” he said. “This is the kind of community we need to adapt to the future of our climate and I want to be able to live in it and embrace people with it.”

A copy of the draft ordinance is available at [cityof-hancock.com/news/1042.pdf](http://cityof-hancock.com/news/1042.pdf).

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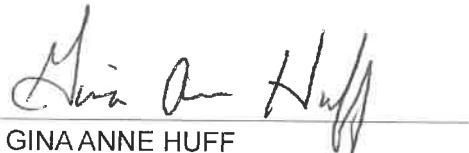
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Published on : Thursday, December 1, 2022

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Sworn to and Subscribed to me,

  
GINA ANNE HUFF

Notary Public State of Michigan  
County of Livingston  
My commission expires March 9, 2023

A Notary Public:  
Acting in the County of Livingston

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Bureau of Tax and Economic Policy  
Administrative Rules for Sales and Use Tax  
Rules Rule Set 2022-9 TY  
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