

## **Presenter's Biographies**

**Susan Barnes** developed an interest in renewable energy technology long before she joined Blackberry Systems, Inc. of Kalamazoo, MI where she spent over ten years in sales management for solar air systems and other energy efficient products. In 1991, she became administrative assistant to the dean of Jordan Energy Institute while earning her BS degree in Applied Environmental Technology. She also received a BBA in Business Administration from GVSU in 1981. In 1997, she helped bring the Great Lakes Renewable Energy Association to the Lansing area and eventually to its current home in Dimondale. Besides her position on the Board of Directors, she was Fair Coordinator of the 1999 and 2000 GLREA energy fairs, and has served as the organization Treasurer. Susan is currently handling the fiduciary responsibilities for the organization and for all its programs and events. She lives with her husband, Jim Beaver in a passive solar home with both a 1 kW solar electric system and a dual-mode solar water & air heating system.

**Tom Huber** has been employed as a counselor and adjunct instructor at Southwestern Michigan College since 1990, and has taught courses on renewable energy, organic agriculture and natural building methods. He served as the project advisor for a state funded Energy Education project in 2002-03, and coordinates the Southwest Michigan Solar Home Tour. He and his family live in a passive solar home on a small, organic farm in Van Buren County.

**John Sarver** has been working in the State Energy Office since 1976. The Energy Office, Michigan Department of Consumer & Industry Services, administers federal grants from the U.S. Department of Energy and promotes energy efficiency and renewable energy resources. John is responsible for residential, commercial, industrial, solar, and wind programs. His program area includes solar energy demonstrations, the Zero Energy Home Design Competition, Five Star Home grants for builders, and promotion of Energy Star homes and products. John has a Masters in Public Policy from the University of Michigan.

**Christina Snyder** is an architect and principal of Sustainable Spaces, where she specializes in appropriate architecture, such as passive solar design, natural building materials and systems, and cohousing. She was adjunct professor (at Lawrence Tech. U.) to the first and second place winning student teams in the first Michigan Zero Energy Home Competition. In partnership with Upland Hills Ecological Awareness Center and a state grant, she has been sharing her Zero Energy Home presentation throughout the state. She is also an officer in Sustainable Systems, Inc., working with her husband, Chris Coon, to integrate renewable energy systems into existing and new construction projects. Together they have coordinated the Washtenaw Co. branch of the National Tour of Solar Homes, and are consulting on (and hoping to be future residents of) Manitou Arbor Ecovillage in Kalamazoo.

**Tom Stanton** is employed as the Technical Assistant in the Competitive Energy Division at the Michigan Public Service Commission, where his duties revolve around the electric and natural gas utility industries changing into a more competitive industry structure. Mr. Stanton has worked in the fields of electric utility regulation, energy efficiency, renewable energy, and resource management & recycling for the Michigan Public Service Commission (and before that the Michigan Energy Administration) for the past 26 years. In addition, Tom is a board member (since 1992) and current president (since 2001) of East Lansing's Urban Options Energy & Environmental Demonstration House, and a member of several state and national environmental groups, the Great Lakes and Midwest Renewable Energy Associations, the Pattern Language Association, and the World Future Society. Tom has earned a B.A. in Communications and M.A. in Journalism, both from Michigan State University, and is presently completing his Doctorate in Public Administration at Western Michigan University.

**Rich Vander Veen** is President and CEO of Mackinaw Power and Bay Windpower. He manages a team of professionals who develop, finance, and address legal and regulatory issues involving renewable energy markets in the Great Lakes. Although he is most known for the Mackinaw City Wind Power Project, Rich has over 20 years of experience in developing West Michigan businesses and addressing financial, environmental, and energy matters. He was appointed by the Speaker of the Michigan House of Representatives to Chair the Michigan Small Business Clean Air Panel which drafted Emissions Trading Rules for the state.

**John Wakeman** is a licensed and insured Michigan builder and General Manager/Owner of S.U.R. Energy Systems, LC, which provides integration, design, sales, and installation of renewable energy systems. S.U.R Energy provides products and services to both commercial and residential customers in the areas of wind and solar electric, solar thermal and green building. More information can be found at [www.sur.biz](http://www.sur.biz) John is also serving as the Vice President on the Board of the Great Lakes Renewable Energy Association.