



## DTE receives award from Saginaw Future



In March, members of DTE's renewable energy business unit were honored to receive the Economic Excellence Award at the Saginaw Future 30th Annual Awards Luncheon. DTE was given this award for the positive impact the Meridian Wind project has had on the local economy.

Saginaw Future is a nonprofit economic development organization that encourages investments in Saginaw, Michigan. Since 1992, the organization has generated investment of more than \$7 billion in Saginaw County.

"Saginaw Future is an impressive organization, and we're proud to be able to work with them in such an impactful way," said Matt Wagner, manager, Renewable Energy Development. "Their team has played a major role in the development of Meridian Wind, working collaboratively to

ensure all were aligned regarding the potential a project like this brings to a community."

Communities who host wind parks see significant, substantial benefits in the form of local tax revenue. Over the life of the project, Meridian Wind will bring millions of dollars of tax revenue to both Saginaw and Midland counties, which can provide funding for vital community services. Wind projects also support hundreds of local jobs during construction. Meridian has had more than 200 local contractors on site every day.

Additionally, DTE's renewable energy employees are active volunteers and support numerous organizations in the communities that host our wind energy projects. Since DTE began working in the Meridian project footprint, we have supported more than 60 local organizations, including Future Farmers of America, CAN Council, FIRST Robotics, Girl Scouts and many more.

"We appreciate how local leaders, farmers, and residents of Jonesfield Township and surrounding communities have opened their farms and neighborhoods to us," said Matt. "We're thrilled to be part of the Saginaw County community and look forward to a future of strengthening the local economy together."

### From Jason Hannath

At last, spring is arriving in Michigan! That means it's time for Merrill High School seniors to get their Community Scholarship Fund applications submitted before May 1. The scholarship is a fantastic opportunity for students that we here at the DTE Merrill office are honored to play a part in. Many thanks to all the local businesses

and the community at large who have supported this fund over the years.

This time of year also brings many amazing community events. DTE is proud to support the organizations that have made a commitment to serving our local region, and we encourage everyone to check out the wonderful events they've put together this year.

### Merrill Farm Fest is back!

Be sure to save the dates of August 5 - 7 for the 2022 Merrill Farm Fest! Events will include Merrill Lion's Club Pancake Breakfast and Eyesight Screening, DTE Kids Zone, parade, car show, slow pitch softball, 3 on 3 basketball, cornhole tournament, bike show, Saginaw Valley 2 Cylinder Club Tractor Pull, beverage tent, village garage sales and more!



**May 5 - 7** Merrill Lions Club White Cane Weekend

**May 5** Kentucky Derby Party for Hospital Hospitality House of Saginaw

**May 14** Grit your Grief Walk for the Children's Grief Center of the Great Lakes Bay Region

**May 19** Advocates for Change Luncheon for Underground Railroad

**May 26** Boy Scouts of America Leadership Breakfast

## Matt Wagner talks wind energy with Barton Malow

Last month, Matt Wagner, manager of Renewable Energy Development, met with the Barton Malow team to talk all things wind energy.

In this podcast episode of Said Differently – titled “Winds of Change” – you’ll learn how Barton Malow works with companies like

DTE to build large-scale renewable energy projects; what goes into developing a project like Meridian Wind; and the positive impact renewable energy projects have on the surrounding communities.

You can listen to the podcast at [bartonmalow.com/podcast](http://bartonmalow.com/podcast).



## Breckenridge FFA competitors win big

Breckenridge Future Farmers of America (FFA) had outstanding accomplishments at the Michigan FFA State Convention! Local competitors included Miranda Bloomquist in Creed Speaking and Shayla Jolliff in Job Interview.

Miranda Bloomquist placed 4th in the state for her Creed delivery and earned Gold; Shayla Jolliff placed 5th in the Job Interview Contest and earned Gold. Three seniors also received their State FFA Degrees - Dillon Goward, Cramer Laurenz, and Kara Whiting.

Way to go, Huskies! Keep up the hard work!

## Student shout-outs

Congratulations to Hemlock’s Gray Matter Robotics Team on their Midland District Championship win via undefeated play throughout the competition. Gray Matter also received the Chairman’s Award! Cheers to all the students and staff that have worked so hard this year - your recognition is well deserved!



The Merrill High School Band had quite the performance at the MSBOA Festival! Congratulations on your well-deserved Division 2 “Excellent” rating!



## Barton Malow Construction Corner

With the project near completion, there will be small amounts of traffic driving to the turbines for in-tower work throughout the spring. We advise for the safety of the public to watch work activities from a distance as DTE begins to commission the wind turbines.

Restoration and decompaction crews will start back up in mid-April once weather and frost laws are lifted. The final stone

cap will be placed on the access roads following restoration crews. Drain tile reroutes around the turbines will continue as frost levels subside enough to locate tile. Transmission line access road removal will also start back up again in Saginaw County.