

MICHIGAN NEXTENERGY AUTHORITY

The Michigan NextEnergy Authority (MNEA) was created to promote the development of alternative energy technologies and to provide tax incentives for business activities and property related to the research, development and manufacturing of those technologies.

The MNEA is an eight-member board, comprised of the State Treasurer (chair), the directors of the State Departments of Energy, Labor and Economic Growth and the Budget Office, and four private-sector members appointed by the governor. The president of the Michigan Strategic Fund serves as an ex officio, or non-voting, member.

The MNEA is responsible for certifying taxpayers and property as eligible for tax credits against the Michigan Business Tax (MBT) and/or exemptions from the General Property Tax Act.

Taxpayers engaged in research, development or manufacturing of alternative energy technology and certified as eligible by the MNEA may claim a nonrefundable credit against their MBT liability. The MNEA must also certify the taxpayer's MBT liability that is attributable to qualified business activity for both the applicable tax year and the baseline tax year of 2001. The credit is available for tax years beginning no earlier than January 1, 2003. Taxpayers seeking certification for the MBT credit must apply on a yearly basis.

Personal property that is certified by the MNEA as Alternative Energy Personal Property (AEP) is exempt from the collection of personal property taxes. The exemption applies only to personal property that is new to Michigan. To be eligible for the exemption, the property must not have been previously taxed nor have been previously exempted from taxation under another law. The MNEA may certify any of the following as AEP:

- An alternative energy system.
- An alternative energy vehicle.

- The personal property of an alternative energy technology business.
- The personal property of a business that is not an alternative energy technology business, and is used solely for the purpose of researching, developing, or manufacturing an alternative energy technology.

The personal property tax exemption applies to taxes levied after December 31, 2002, and before January 1, 2013. An exemption, once certified, is effective through December 31, 2012, provided the taxpayer annually certifies to the Authority that there has been no change in the use, location or ownership of the exempted property. Any such changes will require review of the exemption by the Authority, and may result in loss of the exempt status on that property.

An Alternative Energy Zone (AEZ) has been created within Wayne State University's Research and Technology Park in Detroit to promote the research, development and manufacture of alternative energy technologies. Businesses engaged in one of those qualifying activities and located within the AEZ will enjoy the full range of Renaissance Zone tax benefits.

Alternative energy technology companies located in the AEZ may also be eligible for a refundable payroll credit on their MBT. The refundable payroll credit is administered by the Department of Treasury.

For more information, contact the Michigan Economic Development CorporationSM (MEDC) Customer Assistance Center at 517.373.9808.