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## EMEAC Staff

Elizabeth Harris, Executive Director  
Rachel Katonak, Assistant Director

## EMEAC Welcomes New Staff

Rachel Katonak joined the EMEAC staff in September, 2004. She has a BA and a BS from Michigan State University in International Relations and Resource Development. Before joining EMEAC, Rachel worked for Clean Water Action and a microbiologist at Michigan State University researching water conservation and water quality. Outside of work, she enjoys cultural activities and traveling.



**EMEAC**

East Michigan  
Environmental Action Council

21220 West Fourteen Mile Road • Bloomfield Hills • Michigan 48301-4000  
Telephone: 248-258-5188 Website: [www.emeac.org](http://www.emeac.org)



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## 2004 Annual Report of the East Michigan Environmental Action Council

*EMEAC's mission is to protect and restore land, air, water and diversity of life through informed personal and public action.*

# EMEAC

## Contents

In the following pages, you will find a summary of our accomplishments for the past year. If you wish more detailed information, we invite you to visit EMEAC's website at [www.emeac.org](http://www.emeac.org).

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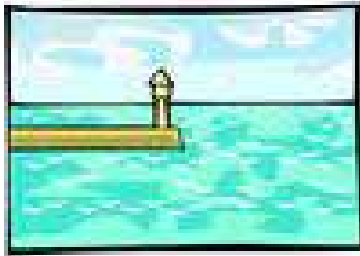
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## EMEAC To Legislators: Stand Up For Michigan's Water!

Americans opt for strong environmental protection in surveys but we have not elected pro-environment majorities in Congress or state legislatures. As a result, President Bush and his supporters in Congress yanked support for environmental programs such as those for water quality, wetlands and mercury reduction. In Michigan the Legislature slashed the MDEQ budget.

EMEAC and other organizations stepped up their outreach to voters prior to the recent election. In July, EMEAC established the "Oakland Eco-Citizen Team", a network of citizens who build public support for water quality programs then communicate that support to legislators directly through letters and indirectly through the media.

The Eco-Citizen Team's priority campaign is called "Stand Up For Michigan's Water", and is a collaborative effort with other Michigan environmental groups. The campaign seeks policies and funding to protect drinking water quality, to stop pollution from fouling swimming beaches, and to reduce mercury emissions. Between July and the November election, EMEAC and its Eco-Citizen Team collected over 700 Michigan residents' signatures to letters to legislators and wrote over 30 letters to newspaper editors demanding that politicians protect water quality.



## Environmental Groups Win Legislative Battle: Polluters Must Pay Fees

Over thirty years ago, Congress provided in the Clean Water Act that the nation's waters are to be fishable and swimmable. There has been progress but polluters are still permitted to discharge into waterways. The Clean Water Act authorizes states to issue discharge permits.

The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality issues the permits but recent budget cuts have undermined the MDEQ's ability to implement the program. EMEAC and its Michigan Environmental Council partners have worked for many years to persuade the Legislature to provide a source of funding for the program by imposing a fee on polluters.

On Earth Day 2004, Governor Granholm signed legislation authorizing a fee and enabling Michigan to catch up with all the other Great Lakes states in imposing a fee. The fee legislation is not equal to the bill environmental groups supported because it charges a flat rate and therefore supports only one third the cost of the Michigan program. Environmental groups urged pegging the fee to the amount and toxicity of the pollutant to encourage less pollution and increase efficiency. Instead, taxpayers will continue to foot a large portion of the program. The fee legislation is a victory for the environmental community but more stringent legislation is needed.

## 2003-2004 Financial Report

Statement of Activities for Year Ending March 31, 2004 with Comparative Totals for 2003

Revenue	2004	2003
Dues and Donations		
EMEAC	\$12,681	\$16,896
SMSBF <sup>1</sup>	\$38,050	\$20,540
Endowment Income	\$5,925	\$9,240
Grants	\$53,212	\$49,456
Annual Conference	\$20,715	
Other unrestricted income	\$1,396	
Net realized gain (loss) on in endowment investments	-\$3,616	-\$44,772
Unrealized gain (loss) on endowment investment	\$93,149	-\$12,562
Total Revenue	\$221,512	\$38,798
<b>Expenses</b>		
Program Services		
EMEAC	\$86,962	\$86,924
SMSBF	\$45,097	\$33,871
Management	\$9,004	\$5,385
Development	\$2,998	\$3,066
Total	\$144,061	\$129,246

Statement of Fincial Position for Year Ending March 31, 2004 with Comparative Totals for 2003

Assets	2004	2003
Cash		
EMEAC	\$13,890	\$8,257
SMSBF	\$18,894	\$22,944
Endowment Investments	\$479,353	\$414,007
Accounts receiveable	\$10,250	\$1,250
Prepaid Insurance	\$615	\$439
Fixed assets	\$2,204	\$1,816
Total assets	\$525,206	\$448,713
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Accounts payable	\$5,449	\$5,145
Payroll expenses	\$3,228	\$4,489
Total liabilities	\$8,677	\$9,634
Net Assets	\$516,529	\$439,078
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$525,206	\$448,712

1. EMEAC hosted the Southeast Michigan Sustainable Business Forum through March 31, 2004.

A complete set of financial statemetns is available upon request.

## Donors, Continued

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Michele Strojek  
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Sanford Waxer  
J. Stanley Weaver



EMEAC maintains careful records of donations. However, there may be errors in this listing. If your name has been misspelled, incorrectly listed or omitted, please accept our apology and inform us so that we may correct our records.

## EMEAC Supports Sustainable Business Practices

In 2002, EMEAC and Southeast Michigan business leaders made a commitment to change business practices: they adopted what is called the “Triple Bottom Line” and established a new organization to embody their commitment. The participants named the new organization the “Southeast Michigan Sustainable Business Forum” (SMSBF). The Triple Bottom Line means that business leaders will measure their success not only by profits made, but also by whether they have contributed to a healthy environment and fair working conditions.

In February, 2004, the SMSBF sponsored a state-wide sustainable business conference with nationally-known speakers and over 300 attendees. As a learning organization for its members, SMSBF hosts monthly technical presentations on issues including green building design, renewable energy and corporate social responsibility.

The SMSBF, which began in 2002 as a project of EMEAC, achieved its own status as a non-profit organization in 2004. EMEAC serves on its Executive Committee.



Moving Toward Sustainability  
**MEMBER**

## Clean Air for Kids Campaign Helps School Districts Cut Bus Pollution

Diesel exhaust from school buses poses a significant health risk to children. Diesel exhaust contains tiny particles that penetrate deep into the lungs. According to EPA, these particles can contribute to asthma, other respiratory diseases and increased risk of cancer. Children are at greater risk from exposure to diesel exhaust than adults because children breathe faster and have less developed lungs and immune systems. An idling bus increases in-cabin pollution



EMEAC leads a campaign in southeast Michigan and is a partner in a national coalition to reduce particulate emissions from diesel-powered school buses. As a first step, EMEAC helped several school districts adopt and implement anti-idling policies. A network of parents monitors buses and reports results to ensure compliance with anti-idling requirements.

To encourage school districts toward clean bus fleets, EMEAC sponsored workshops at which national experts explained how to retrofit buses with new pollution control equipment and obtain federal grants to help defray equipment costs. When school districts said they need effective equipment at lower cost, EMEAC participated in testing buses and equipment to identify the most effective low-cost solutions. The campaign continues with the ongoing objectives of adding districts to the list of those with effective anti-idling

policies, obtaining and providing new information to school districts, and helping school districts retrofit buses with pollution control equipment.

## Green Commuting Project Supports Bicycle Transit

EMEAC completed an exploration of bike commuting as an alternative to automobile transit. A primary objective of the project was to discover obstacles that prevent greater use of bicycles for commuting to work or shops and to seek solutions. The project was funded by the State of Michigan Energy Office.

Project participants said that the primary obstacle to increased bicycle transportation is safety. They identified bike lanes on major roads as one way to reduce the risk of bicycling. Respondents also said that infrastructure for the convenience of bike travel is needed, such as bike racks near city businesses.

EMEAC concluded the project by hosting a public forum. League of Michigan Bicyclists Director Lucinda

Means presented information about the potential for increased bike commuting and recreation in Michigan.



## EMEAC Organizes Southeast Michigan Residents to Oppose Arctic Drilling

Over the last three years, Congress received hundreds of thousands of emails, faxes and phone calls from activists opposed to drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. EMEAC produced many of the calls and emails that came from southeast Michigan. The outpouring of public opposition to drilling in the Arctic Refuge helped thwart attempts by the Bush administration and its allies in Congress to open it.

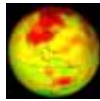
The U.S. would gain little by allowing heavy industry into the refuge. The U.S. Geological Service has reported that the amount that could be extracted and sold profitably is roughly 3.2 billion barrels, or only a six-month U.S. supply. Moreover, it would take 10 years for that oil to reach the pump. At its peak, the refuge would produce less than 2 percent of the oil Americans are expected to use in one year.

This small amount of oil would come at an enormous, and irreversible, cost. The refuge is among the world's last truly pristine wild places and one of the largest sanctuaries for Arctic animals. EMEAC will continue to organize southeast Michigan support to protect the Arctic Refuge.



## EMEAC Works Regionally and Nationally to Curb Global Climate Change

Global climate change results when carbon dioxide and other emissions from power plants, industry and automobiles combine with sunlight to form a greenhouse effect that traps the sun rays in the earth's atmosphere. Scientists predict that global warming pollution will cause heat waves, increased air pollution, additional droughts and



wildfires, heavier rains and flooding, rising sea levels, melting tundra and widespread loss of wildlife habitat.

EMEAC's Climate Change Project focuses at both the regional and national level. We work to curb urban sprawl and encourage fuel efficient vehicles to help reduce southeast Michigan's transportation-related greenhouse gas production.

At the national level, EMEAC participates in a coalition to achieve enactment of the Climate Stewardship Act of 2003. The bill would cap the overall greenhouse gas emissions from the electricity generation, transportation, industrial, and commercial economic sectors, and create a market for individual companies to trade pollution credits. Although the bill did not pass during the recent session, it received good support and represented the first time the Senate had addressed the threat of global warming since 1998. Senators McCain and Lieberman, the bill's originators, are pushing to bring the Act forward in the Senate once again. The House recently introduced mirroring legislation.

## SUSTAINERS, Continued

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Jeanine Palms

## EMEAC Presents Film *Barn Red* and Encourages Farmland Preservation

Over 270 people attended EMEAC's May 13th, 2004 showing of the film *Barn Red* at the Emagine Cinema in Novi. *Barn Red* tells the story of a farmer who is hounded to sell his family farm to real estate developers. The farmer, played by Ernest Borgnine, resists the temptation of selling his land, opting instead to deed it to a land conservancy.



EMEAC showed the film to publicize how Michigan prime farmland is being lost to sprawl. In the period from 1992 to 1997, 24,300 acres per year of prime farmland were converted to non-agricultural uses. This trend occurred primarily in counties under development pressure from neighboring urban areas.

To counteract the trend, Michigan established the Purchase of Development Rights (PDRs) program. Under the program, the State purchases the development right and an agricultural easement is placed on the property inhibiting any future non-agricultural development. PDR programs, coupled with land trusts and conservancies and funding from the State of Michigan and the United States Department of Agriculture, provide tools to help protect Michigan's farmland.

EMEAC's farmland protection work, which has included assistance to local governments interested in establish PDR programs, support for urban agriculture and locally-grown produce, publications and the showing of the film *Barn Red*, have been funded by the Americana Foundation of Novi.

## Statewide Wetlands Conference Supports Wetlands Protection

EMEAC was a primary member of the coalition that achieved enactment of Michigan's first wetland protection law in 1979, organizing southeast Michigan support for the law and writing the section that authorizes local government wetland protection programs. This year, EMEAC, Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council and other non profit groups assisted the Michigan Department of Environment in organizing a state-wide conference to celebrate and build support for the state's 25 year-old wetland protection program.

Urban sprawl has placed development pressure on the last remaining undeveloped land parcels, often wet areas avoided by developers when upland sites were still available. As developers fill these wetland areas, the water purification and flood minimization functions that these areas perform are lost, resulting in increased water pollution and flooding. Lost too is the last remaining habitat for wildlife.

At the conference, EMEAC presented the history and accomplishments of Oakland Township's wetland protection program and we continue to assist local governments in developing wetland protection programs.



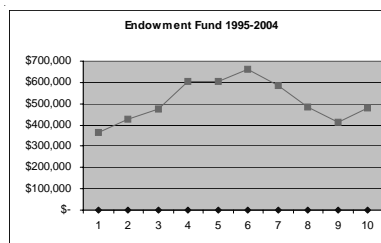
## Endowment Fund

In the 1980's, Nathan (Barry) Driggers encouraged EMEAC to establish an endowment fund. Barry was the president of the Harder Foundation of Detroit.

To help EMEAC build its endowment fund, the Harder Foundation offered to match, dollar for dollar, all money EMEAC deposited in the fund between 1985 and 1989. EMEAC undertook a fundraising campaign to which its members responded generously. With matching foundation dollars, the endowment fund reached \$221,523 by June of 1989.

A committee of the EMEAC Board, chaired by Saida Malarney, managed the endowment fund from 1989 until 1993. The fund value grew during that period to over \$300,000. Beginning in 1993, EMEAC has retained the professional investment services of UBS Financial Services.

During the 2003-2004 fiscal year, the fund appreciated in value as compared with the prior fiscal year. As of March 31, 2004, the market value of EMEAC's endowment fund was \$479,353.



## Earth Share of Michigan

EMEAC relies primarily upon two sources of funding - donations and foundation grants. In 1987, EMEAC and other Michigan-based environmental and conservation organizations joined together to raise money from a third source - workplace giving programs. They established a new organization, the Environmental Fund for Michigan (EFM).



### Earth Share OF MICHIGAN

During 2001, EFM joined the national workplace giving organization called Earth Share and changed its name to Earth Share of Michigan (ESMI). Now Michigan employees can give to state and national environmental and conservation organizations through a single workplace giving campaign.

ESMI conducts annual giving campaigns in approximately 350 workplaces throughout Michigan. During the 2003 campaign season, ESMI raised \$266,627 for its member organizations.

EMEAC serves on ESMI's Executive Committee and Financial Committee.

## Thanks To Contributors

### \$5,000+

*Lifetime gifts of \$5,000 or more*

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