

# BUILDING ECONOMIC BRIDGES

Consumers Energy is powering Michigan's future through Pure Michigan Business Connect



## A PROUD HISTORY

**C**ONSUMERS ENERGY has prospered and persevered with Michigan for nearly 130 years, enjoying boom times and enduring tough times. Our first job is to supply the affordable, reliable energy to power the state's innovation, production and progress. But we won't sustain economic prosperity unless Michigan and the communities we serve also share in it.

That's why Consumers Energy was one of the first companies to sign on to Pure Michigan Business Connect, a public-private initiative developed by the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) that introduces Michigan companies to opportunities that help them grow and expand.

## A GROWING COMMITMENT

Through the Pure Michigan Business Connect initiative, Consumers Energy set a target to increase spending with Michigan businesses by \$1 billion by 2015. Earlier this year, we achieved that target. Now, we are committing to spend \$1 billion annually for the next five years, for a total of \$5 billion in spending.

To date, our increased spending in our home state has created 5,000 jobs by Michigan-based suppliers and vendors, and we estimate this new pledge will create thousands more.

## A REAL IMPACT

As of May 2015, Consumers Energy had awarded contracts to more than 400 Michigan businesses through the Pure Michigan Business Connect initiative, creating approximately 5,000 jobs. Those contracts translate to real dollars, creating real jobs and real paychecks here in Michigan. And many of those dollars are funding projects that create local tax revenue, and help to improve safety, reliability, customer service and the environment. Keeping as much of our investment as possible in the state helps reinvigorate the economy.



**Consumers Energy**  
Count on Us

## FORGING A BRIGHT ECONOMIC FUTURE

In 2013, Consumers Energy began a relationship with Shelving, Inc. when our employees met representatives from the company at a Pure Michigan Business Connect event in Lansing. Since then, Consumers Energy has purchased \$225,000 of racking from Shelving, Inc.

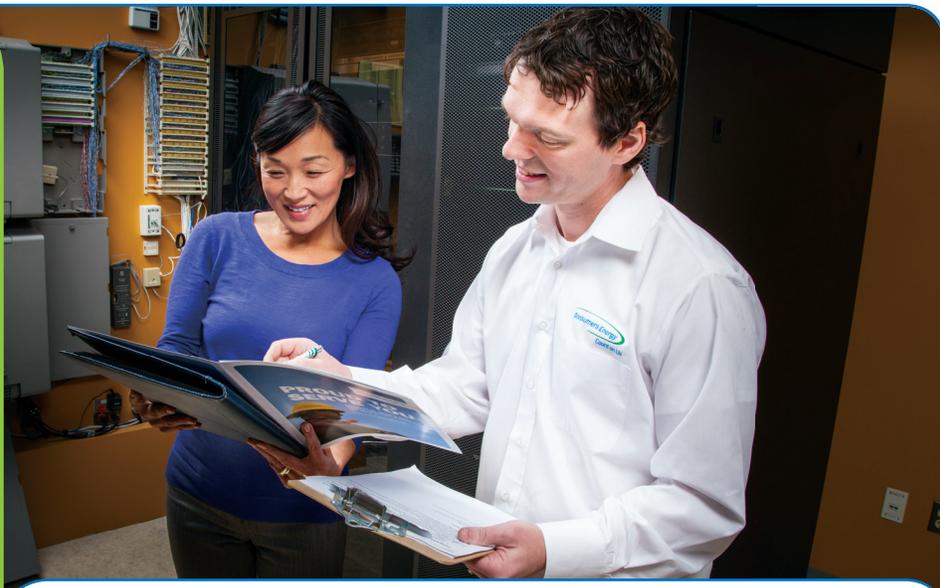
In turn, Shelving, Inc. purchases racking from Unirak – a Taylor, Michigan-based company – and both businesses purchase natural gas from Consumers Energy. You can see, when we spend with Michigan businesses the perfect circle is formed, and money quickly spreads throughout the state.

Shelving, Inc. is a 55-year-old family-owned distribution company based in Auburn Hills, Michigan and a registered member of the Small Business Association of Michigan.

We also met representatives from Aaron's Fabrication – also a Consumers Energy customer – at a Pure Michigan Business Supplier Summit. Aaron's Fabrication is a woman-owned and Michigan-based business located in Chesterfield. We currently have a contract with Aaron's worth \$1.1 million for the production of gas meter brackets over two years.

These contracts, and hundreds like them, were made possible through work with the MEDC, which has been a strong and important partner to our company.

The MEDC helped us to connect with and invest in more than 400 Michigan-based suppliers, and create more than 5,000 jobs.



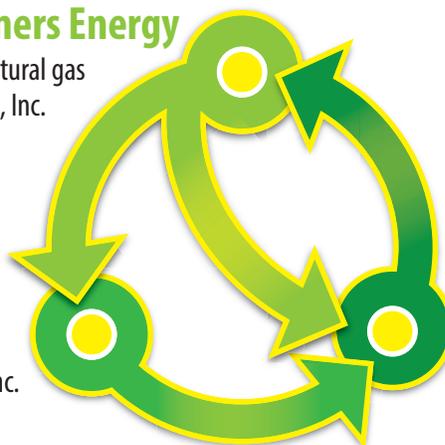
### Consumers Energy

supplies natural gas to Shelving, Inc.

### PAY IT FORWARD

### Unirak

produces racks for Shelving, Inc.



### Shelving, Inc.

supplies racking equipment to Consumers Energy

## A PERFECT CIRCLE

The contract between Consumers Energy and Shelving, Inc. keeps investment flowing through Michigan. Shelving, Inc. buys its racks from Unirak, also a Michigan-based company. Both businesses purchase natural gas from Consumers Energy.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

**Companies** interested in learning more can visit the Michigan Economic Development Corporation's website at [www.michiganadvantage.org/business-connect](http://www.michiganadvantage.org/business-connect) or Consumers Energy at [www.ConsumersEnergy.com/puremichigan](http://www.ConsumersEnergy.com/puremichigan).

**Media** members seeking more details about Consumers Energy's role in the initiative should contact Dan Bishop at (517) 788-2395 or [Daniel.Bishop@cmsenergy.com](mailto:Daniel.Bishop@cmsenergy.com).