

Partners in Planting: Alger CD, Consumers Energy, Michigan International Speedway and Superior Watershed Partnership and Alger Schools

Thanks to the generosity of corporate and non-profit partners, Alger Conservation District was able to help Superior Central and Burt Township students plant a total of nearly 2,000 trees in their school forests and public ski trails. Consumers Energy and Michigan International Speedway provided 650 white pines to the two Alger schools, part of the 50,000 trees they donated to be planted across the state in their On Track to a Greener Michigan program. Superior Watershed partnership supplied funding for additional native plants and perennials for a 5-acre wildlife restoration in Superior Central's cross-country ski trail system.

With guidance from Alger CD staff, over 75 students and 12 summer interns from Northern Michigan University planted white pines and other species on May 20th, and on June 3rd returned to place tree shelters around the young trees to protect them from herbivores. A dozen Burt Township students, armed with shovels and planting bars, planted 150 white pines in their school forest in Grand Marais on May 28th.

"It's great to know that these students are looking to the future of our forests by planting trees," said Alger Conservation District Executive Director Teri Grout. "Years from now they can look at the mature white pines in their school forest and know that they gave those magnificent giants their start. We very much appreciate the students' efforts, and the generosity of Michigan International Speedway, Consumers Energy and our other partners in providing this opportunity."

"MIS takes great pride in knowing that our green initiatives have made a significant, positive impact to the environment and sport of auto racing, and we continue to do different things to move forward with those initiatives," said MIS President Roger Curtis. "It's the right thing to do to protect our environment. Our brand at MIS is very much an environmentally friendly one."

Michigan International Speedway last year became the largest participant in Consumers Energy's Green Generation, matching 100 percent of its electricity use with renewable energy. Close to 20,000 homes and businesses in Michigan participate in Green Generation, contributing each month to purchase power from renewable sources, all made in Michigan.

Consumers Energy has adopted sustainability as a company-wide goal, meaning its employees operate with a fundamental commitment to leave their company and state better than they found them. They strive to fulfill the needs and wants of our generation without compromising the ability of future generations to do the same.

About Michigan International Speedway: Nestled in the lush Irish Hills of Southeastern Michigan, Michigan International Speedway is the Great Escape, a venerable NASCAR national park where fans can get away and enjoy the very best in racing and camaraderie. It's the love of racing and the thrill of a great time for race fans and drivers alike.

About Consumers Energy: Consumers Energy is Michigan's largest utility, providing natural gas and electricity to 6.6 million of the state's 10 million residents in all 68 Lower Peninsula counties.

About Michigan Conservation Districts: Michigan Conservation Districts are the local special purpose units of government which provide natural resource management services that help our citizens conserve their land and our environment for a cleaner, healthier, economically stronger Michigan.