



A GROWER-OWNED COOPERATIVE  
122 UPTOWN DRIVE, SUITE 300  
BAY CITY, MI 48708



GROW IN BAY COUNTY  
812 N. WATER ST.  
BAY CITY, MI 48708

## DESUGARIZATION PROJECT PRESS CONFERENCE

### ABOUT MICHIGAN SUGAR COMPANY

---

Michigan Sugar Company was founded in 1906 when six smaller sugar companies merged their operations. In 2002, Michigan Sugar Company became a grower-owned cooperative and in 2004, it merged with Monitor Sugar Company to form the company that exists today.

Michigan Sugar Company is headquartered in Bay City and has sugarbeet processing facilities in Bay City, Caro, Croswell and Sebawaing, Michigan. Its nearly 900 grower-owners plant and harvest about 160,000 acres of sugarbeets each year in 20 Michigan counties, as well as Ontario, Canada. Those beets are sliced at the factories and turned into about 1.3 billion pounds of sugar annually.

That sugar is sold to industrial, commercial and retail customers under the Pioneer and Big Chief brands.

Michigan Sugar Company has 930 year-round employees and an additional 1,100 seasonal workers. It is the No. 1 employer in Huron County, the No. 2 employer in Bay and Sanilac counties and the No. 3 employer in Tuscola County. The company's annual payroll is more than \$65 million and its annual local economic impact is about \$500 million.

Michigan Sugar Company is the third largest of nine sugarbeet processing companies in the United States and Michigan is one of 11 states where sugarbeets are grown in the country.



### ABOUT BAY FUTURE, INC.

---

Bay Future, Inc. has been leading economic development efforts throughout Bay County, Michigan, since 2004. Through that time, Bay Future has worked closely with many of our community's large industrial and commercial industries and employers helping to solve their barriers for growth, their need for expansion, or their desire to create quality jobs.

In 2004, elected Bay County and City of Bay City representatives, along with business and community leaders, recognized a need to focus on economic opportunities in Bay County. The community had not weathered the short recession of 2000 through 2002 well, and the industrial climate in the community had changed. In an effort to gain insight and recommendations on the most effective tactics to move the community forward, Dean Whittaker of Whittaker and Associates, along with Jay Garner of Garner Economics, LLC, (formerly Competitive Strategies Group, LLC) were hired to identify impediments to growth in Bay County; analyze existing assets related to economic, community, and workforce development; and make recommendations to take Bay County in to a viable economic future.

One-on-one interviews and town hall meetings were facilitated with business and community members that culminated in the Whittaker Report, a comprehensive economic analysis of Bay County.

The most definitive outcome from the study and report was the formulation of Bay Future, Inc. Charged with facilitating economic development strategies in Bay County, Bay Future is a partnership of public (government bodies) and private sector (business) organizations that have joined together to promote job growth and retention in the community.

Since 2004, Bay Future has supported numerous businesses in the creation and retention of more than 3,600 jobs and worked with businesses to facilitate more than \$1.5 billion in new capital investment. While time has passed, our core purpose has remained the same: to aid Bay County's economy and to assist businesses in creating quality jobs for our community residents.



OFFICES LOCATED IN MILL END LOFTS 812 N. Water Street, Bay City, MI. 48708 | 989.892.1400