

## Find out which players went when in the MSU football team's spring game draft

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SAM RUIZ/THE STATE NEWS

Then-freshman linebacker Greg Jones prepares to tackle Iowa running back Darnell Sims during the second quarter of an Oct. 27, 2007 game at Kinnick Stadium. Jones was the first pick of the spring game draft on Thursday.

# The State News

A SERIES: MSU'S BUDGET PRESSURES, PART 2 OF 3

## Sorting through energy-saving options



KATIE RAUSCH/THE STATE NEWS

Jill Zagman, a recycling aide, sorts printer cartridge boxes Wednesday morning at the MSU Recycling Center. The current center must send most sorted goods to other plants for further processing, but workers will be able to do more on site when the new plant opens. "It's a great opportunity for the community," said warehouse manager John Stancevich (not pictured). "It's an investment in the future."

"That wasn't too long ago that (energy and utilities) was a \$40 or \$45 million operation."

**Bob Ellerhorst,**  
director of utility services at Simon Power Plant

**By Justin Harris**  
THE STATE NEWS

**Editor's note:** This story is the second in a three-part series on MSU's budget pressures. For the third and final installment, read about how the budget squeeze is impacting academic programs in the Friday edition of The State News.

Although it represents only about 6 percent of MSU's \$1.1 billion budget, energy and utility consumption is one area university officials are targeting to cut costs for next year in the face of decreased state support, possible layoffs and an increase in tuition.

This year, energy and utility consumption cost the university

about \$64.4 million, up about 14 percent, or \$8.1 million, from 2007-08.

"As we look at the balance of increased tuition against university reductions, all general fund resources are looked at," said Kathy Lindahl, MSU's assistant vice president for finance and operations.

"The focus in the energy area is on making reductions in terms of energy use."

### Fuel prices

MSU's Simon Power Plant creates energy predominantly from coal, although it diversifies by burning some natural gas.

In addition, MSU buys some electricity to power certain areas, such as the south campus farms that do not receive power from the plant.

Because the major

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STUDENT GOV'T

## ASMSU elects chairpersons for 2009-10 school year

**By Chris Vannini**  
THE STATE NEWS

The 18th session of ASMSU's Academic Assembly elected its chairpersons Tuesday, filling leadership roles that will represent the student voice for the 2009-10 school year.

ASMSU is MSU's undergraduate student government. Civil engineering senior Kristy Currier was elected chairperson by an 8-3 vote over former chairperson Christopher Kulesza.

"I am super excited to be able to represent the students of Michigan State University and the assembly," Currier said.

Currier was a College of Engineering representative until March, when she was elected to a newly created parliamentary position.

Interdisciplinary studies in social science and international studies senior Mary Burleson was elected internal vice chairperson by a 10-1 vote over James Madison sophomore Dillon Lappe.

"It's a position that I've wanted for a long time, so I was pretty excited about it and I think I can do a lot to help the organization," Burleson said. She was a representative for the College of Social Science last session.

In the final election, Lappe was elected external vice chairperson by a 6-4-1 vote over Kulesza. One member gave a vote of no confidence.

"My job will be to do what Academic Assembly tells me to do," Lappe said. "They're the representatives of the students. What they pass and tell me to do, I do. I go and I make sure it happens."

Lappe was a representative for the North American Indigenous Student Organization.

All three chairpersons represent the assembly to administration on various committees.

"Part of the job of the chairperson is to take the bills the assembly does and take them to the Board of Trustees and to the administration, so I will represent what is coming from the students," Currier said.

The internal vice chairperson needs to have a knowledge

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**LICENSE TO LEAVE**  
**New Michigan driver's licenses that double as proof of citizenship are now available, page 3A**

**Weather**  
Sunny  
High 61° | Low 49°  
Three-day forecast, Page 2A

For audio of an interview with MSU's director of utility services at the Simon Power Plant, visit [stateneews.com](http://stateneews.com).

### TRANSPORTATION

## Road construction to begin with \$850M stimulus funds

**By Jacob Carpenter**  
THE STATE NEWS

Mason — Michigan is on track to meet federal government requirements for spending nearly \$850 million in federal stimulus funds for road construction, the state's transportation director said Wednesday, but East Lansing likely will get only a sliver of those funds for a single project.

About \$400 million worth of contracts are expected to be available for bidding by the end of June, with the rest of the construction funding to be allocated during the next two years, said Kirk Stuedle, director of the Michigan Department of Transportation, or MDOT.

The first Michigan road construction project that uses stimulus funding — \$1.3 million in repairs to about 10 miles of Interstate 75 near West Branch in Northern Michigan — is slated to begin Friday, more than two weeks after state government officials signed the contract.

"We need reinvestment in transportation," said Stuedle, who spoke Wednesday to local construction employees and high school students at a career day in Mason.

"I think we're showing that we can put people to work and we can put them to work fast."

East Lansing officials expect to receive about \$1 million in federal stimulus funding for road construction, said Todd

Sneathen, director of public works for East Lansing.

Two months ago, city officials applied for more than \$35 million in federal stimulus funding to repair nearly 50 roads, Sneathen said.

"We haven't gotten anything official at this point, but we'll probably end up with about \$1 million," Sneathen said.

The money likely would go to a single repair project: the restoration of Mount Hope Road between U.S. 127 and Farm Lane, Sneathen said. The project could begin by August.

Sneathen said Mount Hope Road was chosen because it would be a project that could start quickly.

"Mount Hope was easier to

prepare for early bidding than those other projects," he said. "It's a street that doesn't have a curve and gutter on it. When you have a curve and gutter, it takes a lot more engineering design."

Although Stuedle said Michigan appreciates the federal funding boost, he said more assistance is needed for the department's shrinking budget and the state's deteriorating roads.

"It's great, it's going to give us a boost, but it's still just a shot in the arm," Stuedle said of the federal funding. "What we have is a good arm, and the rest of the body is falling apart, and that's the message we continue to send."

The road repair projects are

expected to create about 109,000 construction jobs for laid-off workers and new employees.

Depending on the sector, 20 to 50 percent of construction workers in the state have been laid off since the economic downturn, said Brindley Byrd, executive director of the Capital Area Construction Council.

"(The new jobs) will work their way through the system in the next 12 to 18 months, but those companies will hire back that laid-off workforce first, then hire the new workers," Byrd said.

"I think the young people now have a sense there will be a job available soon."