




CERTs 2010 West Central Seed Grant Recipients

helping Minnesota communities determine their energy future

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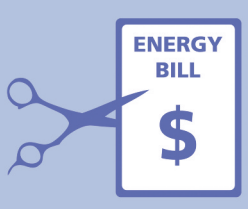


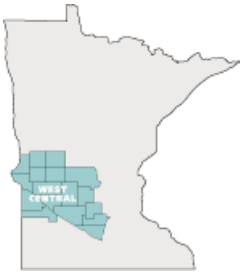
As we kick off 2010, we are excited to announce the projects awarded CERTs seed grants in each of the seven Minnesota CERTs regions.

These catalyzing grants of up to $11,000 will help projects garner further funding and bring communities together in identifying and implementing energy efficiency and renewable energy projects. CERTs received 122 proposals requesting a total of $829,224; of these, 55 proposals were funded for a total granting amount of $280,000.

Read on for all of the details about funded projects in the West Central Region. Counties in this region include Big Stone, Chippewa, Douglas, Grant, Kandiyohi, La Qui Parle, McLeod, Meeker, Nicollet, Pope, Renville, Sibley, Stearns, Stevens, Swift, Traverse, Yellow Medicine.

CERTs connect you and your community members with resources to identify and implement energy efficiency and renewable energy projects. Learn more at www.CleanEnergyResourceTeams.org.

WEST CENTRAL REGION



Damstrom Farm: Wind Energy Project
Alexandria, MN – Craig Damstrom is building a 3 MW community wind project outside of Alexandria, MN. Energy generated will power the Damstrom Farm's irrigation needs and will supply energy for use by the local community. After turbine installation, all wells and irrigators will be run by green power, with excess energy sold to the utility to power other local farmers irrigation needs, homes and businesses. The project will increase local knowledge of the benefits of wind energy, create jobs for local contractors working on the project, and offer green energy to co-op area customers. (Clean Energy: Wind, Education: Community & Research; $3,750)

Prairie Woods Environmental Learning Center: Expanding Solar Heating Capacity and Educational Opportunity
Spicer, MN – This project will add 12 solar hot water panels to their maintenance building and implement a system to pre-heat veggie oil for a biodiesel processor. The biodiesel will fuel program vehicles and equipment and may also provide supplemental heating for the shop. This project will enable Prairie Woods to heat their buildings using virtually no fossil fuels through a combination of solar air, solar hot water and biomass. This project will provide renewable energy learning opportunities for visitors and students from throughout west central and southwestern Minnesota. (Clean Energy: Solar Thermal, Energy Efficiency: Building Efficiency & Education: Community; $5,000)

Greater Milan Initiative: Community Energy Education and Efficiency Project
Milan, MN – The project will hold workshops to educate Milan area residents on ways to reduce energy use and costs, and document energy savings in order to build momentum for further energy saving programs in the future. The workshop series will focus on energy efficiency and conservation and will educate 20 – 30 residents. Practical assistance will be provided to workshop participants to implement low- and no-cost energy efficiency upgrades. Results and workshop materials will be shared at community events to further outreach and education. (Energy Efficiency: Low-cost/No-cost & Education: Community; $5,000)

Clean Up the River Environment (CURE): Montevideo Sustainable Housing Training and Demonstration Project
Montevideo, MN – Montevideo's Clean Up the River Environment (CURE) and Habitat for Humanity are working with other community organizations to build a cost-effective house that is 40 percent more energy efficient than conventional homes. The home may also have a solar hot water heater that will provide 63 percent of the hot water needs. This project will hold at least three public meetings to educate contractors, students and the general public about solar energy design and construction. (Clean Energy: Wind, Solar Thermal, Energy Efficiency: Low-cost/No-cost & Education: Community; $10,000)

Adult Training & Habilitation Center: Recycle Your Holidays™
Statewide in MN – Recycle Your Holidays™ is a holiday light recycling program. By providing bins to businesses and community centers across the state, the program plans to recycle 50,000 pounds of old holiday light strands. Though media outreach and promotion at events, they will educate the public on the importance of recycling their old inefficient holiday lights and the benefits of using LED holiday lights. The project will also provide employment opportunities to individuals with disabilities and related conditions. (Energy Efficiency: Lighting & Education: Community; $2,500)

St. Cloud Joint Planning District: Sustainability Framework Plan
St. Cloud, MN and Surrounding Area – St. Cloud Joint Planning District Board will create a regional Sustainability Framework Plan. The plan will outline best practices for 17 different key sustainability focus areas. The plan aims to yield reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, economic savings for greener practices, clean energy projects, and adoption of green ordinances. The plan will be made by and for local communities, professionals, public and private sector and the sustainability committee to guide future generations toward sustainability. (Research: Planning; $5,000)

Youth Energy Summit: Little Theater Solar Thermal Panels
New London, MN – The New London Little Theater is building and installing solar thermal panels for supplemental heat, using 10 mm clear vinyl for direct solar. The vinyl is a readily available, lightweight, inexpensive, and highly insulating material. The panels will cover an area 28 feet long and 8 feet tall and are expected to cut the theater's heating needs by 50 percent. The theater will be working with Youth Energy Summit (YES) to conduct a "How to build your own Solar Thermal panels" workshop and provide resources to community members interested in building their own panels. (Clean Energy: Solar Thermal & Education: Community; $5,000)

University of Minnesota-Morris: Regional Fitness Center Pool Solar Thermal Project
Morris, MN – The University of Minnesota Morris is installing a solar thermal system on the roof of the Regional Fitness Center in Morris, Minnesota. The solar thermal system will be used to partially heat the indoor community swimming pool and projects to save 29,899 lbs of CO2 emissions per year. The project will educate fitness center members about the solar thermal system by installing an informational kiosk other launching other outreach campaigns. (Clean Energy: Solar Thermal & Education: Community; $3,750)