

ENERGY TIPS:

Clean Energy Projects You can do NOW

CERT members find myriad ways big and small to make a difference in their communities. Some example projects might include:

In Your Home & Car...

- Use compact florescent lightbulbs (CFLs)! A compact fluorescent typically uses 75 percent less electricity, lasts 10 times longer, produces 450 pounds fewer greenhouse gases from power plants and saves consumers \$30 over the life of each bulb.
- Get a set-back thermostat and use it.
- Safely clean off the coils on your refrigerator.
- Fight Global Warming by reducing your carbon footprint at the Minnesota Energy Challenge <http://www.mnenergychallenge.org/>
- Learn how your house uses energy and save on your bills with Home Smart monthly e-mail reminder tips. <http://www.home-smart.org/>
- Learn about products and behaviors that promote energy efficiency at the ENERGY STAR website at <http://www.energystar.gov/>
- Purchase green power with your local utility. Find out more here (use the “green power locator”) <http://www.epa.gov/greenpower/index.htm> and here <http://www.moea.state.mn.us/energy/greenpower.cfm>
- Adopt a local home and conduct a home energy audit and upgrades http://www.home-smart.org/stream_document.aspx?rRID=2342&pRID=2340.
- Find out if solar power might be right for your home by reading Innovative Power System’s “Top 12 Solar Frequently Asked Questions” at http://www.ips-solar.com/top_12_questions.htm.
- Find out if a wind project might make sense for your farm or rural home at Minnesota-based windustry at <http://www.windustry.org/>.
- Learn about renewable energy opportunities and sustainable agriculture on the farm at <http://attra.ncat.org/energy.php>.
- Drive efficiently! Avoid ‘Jack Rabbit’ starts, properly inflate your tires, and have your car serviced regularly.
- Find out if your vehicle uses E-85 <http://www.cleanairchoice.org/outdoor/FlexibleFuelVehicles.asp>, and where E-85 pumps are located at <http://www.cleanairchoice.org/outdoor/E85InCounty.asp?State=MN>.
- Call your local utility about their rebates and incentives.

At Your School...

- Contact your local school about starting a renewable energy project. Look at the checklist below on how to get started. <http://www.cleanenergyresourceteams.org/pdf/Energy%20Task%20List.pdf>
- Check out case studies of energy efficiency and renewable energy projects in other schools, find one you like, call or e-mailed their listed contacts for more information, and get started! (The “school” section is towards the bottom of the linked page) <http://www.cleanenergyresourceteams.org/casestudies.html>
- Help reduce pollution emitted from your children’s schools buses at Project Green Fleet <http://www.projectgreenfleet.org/>.

- Bulk purchase compact florescent lightbulbs (CFLs) and sell them as a fund raiser.
- Check out a wealth of energy lesson plans, curriculum and educational materials at the U.S. Department of Energy's Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy (EERE) site: http://www1.eere.energy.gov/education/lesson_plans.html.
- Sponsor a clean energy award at the local/regional Science Fair.
- Call your local utility about their rebates and incentives.

In Your Church...

- Learn more about projects coordinated by Minnesota's own Congregations Caring for Creation <http://www.c3mn.net/>. Also the Interfaith Coalition on Energy has some good information at <http://www.interfaithenergy.com/>.
- Have a movie night showing "An Inconvenient Truth" or the locally produced and filmed *NEW ENERGY: A Fresh Look at how the Midwest is Creating a Green Energy Economy*. For more information about this ½ film, contact David Tidball at Windustry, 612-870-3463, david@windustry.org. For more on showing movies, visit http://www.ccc.nonprofitoffice.com/index.asp?Type=B_BASIC&SEC={8C362305-AC07-4D48-9405-8B0EED668E09}.
- Consider energy efficiency and renewable energy projects. For ideas, visit Congregations Caring For Creation site http://www.ccc.nonprofitoffice.com/index.asp?Type=B_BASIC&SEC={423AAC85-CD17-4B71-84B0-3E9A4633DAA6}.
- Bulk purchase compact florescent lightbulbs (CFLs) and sell them as a fund raiser for the church. Help people understand that their choice of light bulb is a moral decision.

- Bring Will Steger to your church to speak about global warming <http://www.globalwarming101.com/>.
- Call your local utility about their rebates and incentives.

In Your Business...

- Contact the Center for Energy & the Environment (CEE) to see what services they may be able to provide your business <http://www.mncee.org/>.
- Contact the University of Minnesota's Minnesota Technical Assistance Program (MnTAP) to see what services they may be able to provide your business at <http://www.mntap.umn.edu/index.htm>.
- Consider LED lights for your Holiday displays.
- Call your local utility about their rebates and incentives.

In Your Community...

- Learn energy saving tips at <http://www.energysavers.gov/>
- Assist local builders and architects build energy efficient commercial and residential buildings. <http://www.cleanenergyresourceteams.org/pdf/15%20Questions2.pdf>
- Work with your city to upgrade their stop lights and street lighting. <http://www.cleanenergyresourceteams.org/southeast/CS-Winona%20Energy%20Efficiency.pdf>
- Get your local courthouse certified in the National Association of Counties (NACo) ENERGY STAR Courthouse Campaign http://www.naseo.org/tforces/energystar/resources/NACo_ENERGY_STAR_Courthouse_Campaign.pdf.
- Help your home, school, business or church save money by upgrading their lighting <http://www.energystar.gov/>.
- Work with your county, school or electric coop to apply for Clean Renewable Energy Bonds (CREBs)

- <http://www.elpc.org/energy/farm/crebs.php>.
- If your community doesn't have one, learn how to get an E-85 pump in your town at <http://www.cleanairchoice.org/outdoor/PDF/E85App.pdf>.
- Learn about Minnesota's B3 program, that allows you to compare your building's energy performance with other similar buildings and helps you reduce your energy usage <http://www.mnbenchmarking.com/Default.aspx>. To find out how you can enter your building into the B3 system, view the previous site or view this link <http://www.cleanenergyresourceteams.org/pdf/B3%20Benchmarking%20How-to.pdf>.
- Look at the Database of State Incentives for Renewables & Efficiency at <http://www.dsireusa.org/>.
- Find a state-wide listing of solar & wind dealers at
- http://www.state.mn.us/mn/externalDocs/Commerce/Hiring_a_Renewable_Energy_Dealer_121302010223_How2_Hire.pdf.
- Call your local utility about their rebates and incentives.

And if all else fails, give Lissa & Joel a call. We'd love to hear about your ideas and projects!

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