



Helping Minnesota communities determine their energy future

The Clean Energy Resource Teams (CERTs) connect you and your community with resources to identify and implement energy efficiency and renewable energy projects.



Metro CERT 2012–2013 Seed Grants

Metro CERT awarded \$10,000 worth of seed grants, catalyzing energy efficiency and renewable energy projects across the region.

Funding is provided by the Minnesota Department of Commerce, Division of Energy Resources. Thanks to everyone who submitted a proposal. Learn more and see past projects at <http://projects.mncerts.org>.

City of North Saint Paul – Energy Ed

North Saint Paul, MN – The City of North Saint Paul, which has been in existence for 125 years, strives to be “an extraordinary small town in the Cities.” Its mission is to promote and protect a quality of life that is uniquely its own, distinguished by friendliness, courageous leadership, prudent stewardship, and active citizen participation. Energy Ed seeks to engage residents in the city’s initiatives on energy efficiency and renewable energy by offering community workshops. The project also includes creating an energy-saving contest among residents. City staff hope to educate residents about available rebates through the city’s municipal utility, as well as help them reduce overall energy consumption. (Energy Efficiency: Low-Cost/No-Cost Upgrades, Behavior Change, Building Envelope, Lighting Upgrades; Renewable Energy: Solar Thermal, Solar Electric, Wind; \$1,000)



Latino Economic Development Center – Latino Business Energy Workshops

Minneapolis, MN – The Latino Economic Development Center (LEDC) is a statewide membership-based non-profit organization with a mission to transform their communities by creating economic opportunities for Latinos. Their Green Initiative supports businesses to adopt sustainable practices and become community leaders of environmental education and engagement. As part of the Green Initiative, LEDC seeks to bring together Latino businesses for a series of culturally-adapted workshops about commercial energy efficiency and clean energy practices. The owners, managers, and employees of these businesses will be introduced to many energy topics, including a description of the local commercial energy system, common energy efficiency and clean energy opportunities, and services and rebates designed to help businesses implement energy upgrades. The businesses will be given the opportunity to network with each other and provide feedback on how they can best be supported in their transitions toward clean energy. LEDC hopes to spark a community conversation about clean energy and help Latino entrepreneurs become role models for sustainability. (Energy Efficiency: Low-Cost/No-Cost Upgrades, Behavior Change, Building Envelope, Lighting Upgrades; Renewable Energy: Solar Thermal, Solar Electric; \$2,000)

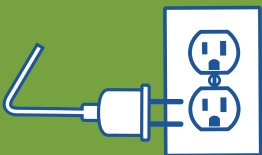
Minnesota Renewable Energy Society – Community Solar Background Study

Minneapolis, MN – The Minnesota Renewable Energy Society (MRES) is a member-run non-profit organization founded in 1978 to promote the use of renewable energies in Minnesota through education and through the demonstration of practical applications. The MRES Community Solar Background Study is a first step toward increasing the accessibility and affordability of solar energy by establishing groundwork for a Community Solar Program pilot project. MRES’s goal is to make investing in clean energy accessible regardless of income, home rental/ownership status or site viability. This Background Study will build on existing research and case studies from community solar initiatives around the country. The work completed under this grant will enable MRES to pursue next-step project implementation funding for a Community Solar Program model that has been vetted by experts and community stakeholders for feasibility in Minnesota’s regulatory, legal, and social context. (Renewable Energy: Solar Electric; \$2,000)

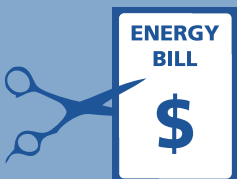
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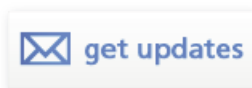
Saint Paul Public Schools – Solar Photovoltaic Upgrades and Education Plan at Battle Creek Environmental Magnet Elementary

Saint Paul, MN – The second largest school district in Minnesota, Saint Paul Public Schools understands that energy efficiency and clean energy measures at their facilities have tremendous potential to both educate and serve. St. Paul Public Schools (SPPS) seeks to cover the labor costs associated with upgrading an existing solar photovoltaic (PV) array at Battle Creek Environmental Magnet Elementary School. After a feasibility study of repairing the existing array, which has been inactive since 1995, it was determined that the array is certainly worth rehabilitating. SPPS aims to use this array and its resulting energy data for sustainability education for students and the community. Battle Creek Elementary is SPPS’s model school for sustainability practices, and it hopes to integrate the social and environmental benefits of Battle Creek’s solar electricity generation into considerations of design standards throughout SPPS’s 7.2 million square feet of facilities. (Energy Efficiency: Behavior Change; Renewable Energy: Solar Electric; \$2,000)

Affordable Energy Solutions, Inc. – Small Business HVAC System Performance Testing

Buffalo, MN – Affordable Energy Solutions, Inc. (AES) has been performing energy efficiency inspections since 1987 with the goal of capturing energy efficiency, the most accessible and cost effective energy source. AES knows that heating and cooling systems are a critical component of a building’s overall efficiency. Often, however, they are not operating at an optimal level, which can be frustrating for property owners who have installed systems but are not seeing the energy savings they expected. Often with minor and low costs, the performance of the system efficiency can be improved thus making HVAC retrofitting a very cost effective energy efficiency recommendation. This project will perform diagnostic testing on a sampling of forced air systems in small commercial buildings in the city of Buffalo to determine the overall system efficiency. Based on these results, a report will be compiled to determine how systems in Buffalo, and presumably greater Minnesota, are actually operating. This information will be used to make decisions about retrofits in the systems to increase the system efficiency. (Energy Efficiency: HVAC Efficiency Improvements; \$1,000)

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