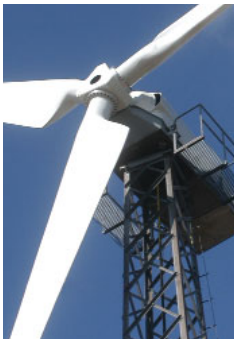




CLEAN ENERGY RESOURCE TEAMS



CERTs: Minnesotans Building a Clean Energy Future

The Clean Energy Resource Teams (CERTs) project, launched in 2003, is connecting people with the technical resources needed to identify and implement community-scale energy efficiency and clean energy projects.

CITIZENS FROM AROUND THE STATE have developed a bold vision for Minnesota's energy future. Through greater energy efficiency and energy produced by clean 21st Century technologies including wind, biomass, biofuels and solar power, Minnesotans' vision is becoming a reality now, one project at a time. The Clean Energy Resource Teams (CERTs) project, launched in 2003, is connecting people with the technical resources needed to identify and implement community-scale energy efficiency and clean energy projects.

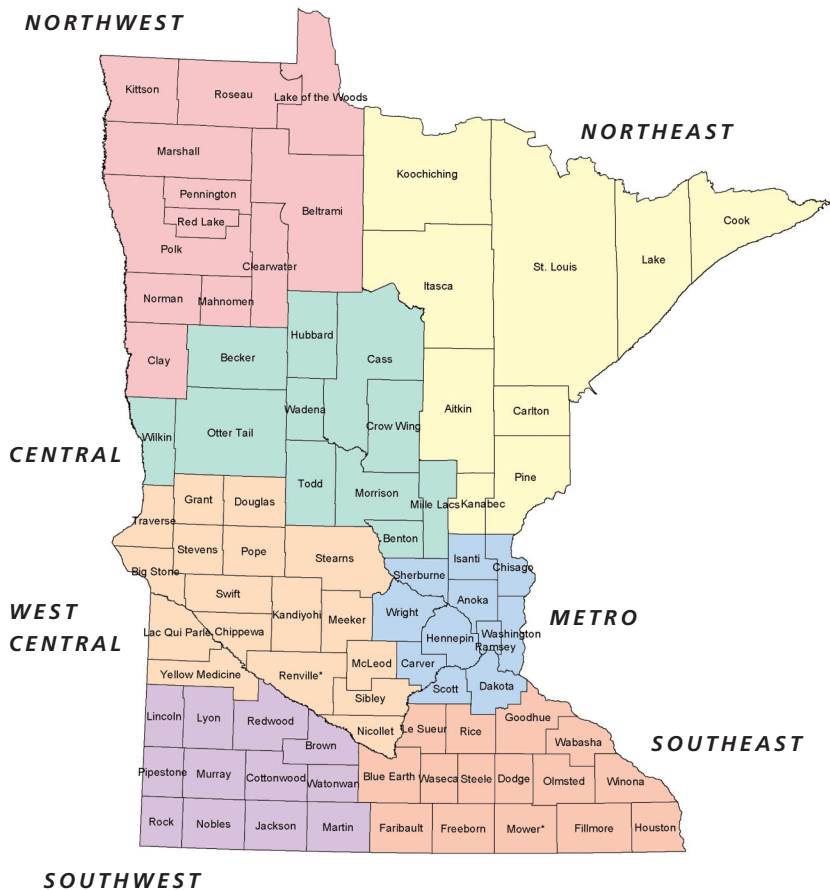
You can be a part of making it happen. The Clean Energy Resource Teams are diverse – individuals, small business owners, farmers, members of environmental groups, local utility representatives, local, state and federal government staff and elected leaders, academics, educators – and all share common goals and values. They want strong communities, local jobs, and secure, clean, reliable energy.

The CERTs approach is one of pragmatism and cooperation. It's a model for how tangible economic, social and environmental benefits can be achieved by reaching across traditional interest groups and taking a true, community-based approach.

CERTS SUCCESSES

Since its inception in 2003, CERTs have spawned networks, provided education and helped catalyze projects. Here are some of the milestones met by CERTs:

- Regional Strategic Clean Energy Plans in each of the six CERTs regions.
- Over 600 individuals participating in CERTs meetings and educational forums and volunteering thousands of hours to the CERTs project.
- Fifteen new clean energy projects were catalyzed with mini-grants of \$1,000 or less, leveraging additional community funding and helping to create tomorrow's energy system in communities today.
- The CERTs web site provides project information for 16,000 new visitors a year: www.cleanenergyresourceteams.org.
- CERTs won the Minnesota Environmental Initiative's Partnership of the Year award for mobilizing a diverse collection of stakeholders and taking effective action.



*These counties are included in multiple regions. Renville County is also in the SW region. Mower County is also in the SW region.

Primary funding for this project is provided by the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund as recommended by the Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCMR) and the Blandin Foundation.

ACTION IN EACH MINNESOTA REGION

All of the regional teams have learned that energy efficiency is the first step towards economic development and energy independence. Along with efficiency, teams are pursuing a variety of other projects:

Central Supporting solar thermal heating in low-income housing and industrial-sized corn burning stoves.

Northeast Installing and promoting energy efficiency, solar and wind projects at K-12 schools.

Northwest Researching and helping to commercialize on-farm biodiesel production and mobile biomass gasifiers.

Southeast Coordinating community outreach and education and spearheading distributed generation opportunities.

Southwest Developing a rural/metro wind development collaboration and promoting biofuels within county government agencies.

West Central Researching community-scale anaerobic digesters and facilitating tours that highlight geothermal energy, energy efficiency, and community wind production.

YOU CAN GET INVOLVED

CERTs members all over the state share the goal of creating opportunities for local ownership and energy independence. We always welcome new participants who are interested in putting clean energy and energy efficiency to work for the benefit of local communities throughout Minnesota.

Visit www.cleanenergyresourceteams.org to find out how to join the team closest to you.

WHO IS BEHIND THIS EFFORT

CERTs Partners include:

- Minnesota Department of Commerce
- The Minnesota Project
- University of Minnesota Regional Sustainable Development Partnerships
- Rural Minnesota Energy Board
- Minnesota Resource Conservation and Development Councils
- Citizens and stakeholders all over the state

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For information about the Southwest CERT:

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