




CERTs 2010 Southeast 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 Southeast Region. Counties in this region include Blue Earth, Dodge, Faribault, Fillmore, Freeborn, Goodhue, Houston, Le Sueur, Mower, Olmsted, Rice, Steele, Wabasha, Waseca, Winona.

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.

SOUTHEAST REGION

Trulson Dental Clinic with HG Wind Power, Inc.: 10 KW Roof-Mounted Wind Turbine

Stewartville, MN – The Trulson Dental Clinic will install a virtually silent, vibration-free wind turbine to generate clean energy for the building. This pilot project is the first of its kind in Stewartville, with the hopes that the magnetically-levitated, vertical-axis wind turbine will serve as a model to test the efficacy of capturing wind energy from a rooftop installation. (Clean Energy: Wind; $5,000)

Northfield School of Art and Technology (ARTech): Greenhouse Project

Northfield, MN – The Northfield School of Art and Technology will construct an environmentally-friendly greenhouse. The project will be student-led in conjunction with an adult mentor. The greenhouse will be used for life science and sustainable food production seminars, and will also provide a space for students to do individual projects involving plants. Finally, the greenhouse will be used for growing organic produce, which will be sold to the local food co-op. (Education: School & Research; $5,000)

Winona County Clean Energy: Clean Energy Methane Collection Project

Winona, MN – The Clean Energy Methane Collection Project will collect approximately 50 percent of the methane that is emitted by the Winona County Landfill and use it to heat a green aquaculture, hydroponic and greenhouse facility. Students from local universities and high schools will assist in the design, development, and construction of the facility. Curriculum will also be available based on mechanical and engineering components of the project, as well as plant and animal biological sciences. An entrepreneurial curriculum will also be offered to students and the local immigrant population. (Clean Energy: Biogas Digesters & Education: Community; $5,000)

Three Rivers Community Action, Inc.: Home Matters – Energy Efficient Rehabilitation of Foreclosed Homes

Northfield, MN – Home Matters will purchase five foreclosed homes in downtown Northfield MN, rehabilitate them with green and healthy improvements, sell them to low income families, and provide community education throughout the process. The project will address health and safety issues such as moisture and lead-based paint, as well as outdated HVAC systems, inadequate windows, inefficient appliances, and insufficient insulation. In one of the houses they – *continued on next page*

will install a solar hot water heater. Each of these houses will serve as a real-world application of energy efficiency to educate Northfield citizens about green technology and building practices. (Clean Energy: Solar Thermal, Energy Efficiency: Low-cost/No-cost and Lighting, Education: Community; $5,000)

Perpetual Harvest: Solar Thermal Hot Water for Dairy Pipeline Sanitization
Goodhue, MN – Perpetual Harvest will install a solar thermal hot water system for dairy pipeline washing and sanitizing. The benefits of this project will be communicated to other farmers through the creation of a web presence and a cooperative. The three-part plan walks participants through low-cost and no-cost efficiency education for tangible results (solar hot water can save farmers up to 41 percent), and it helps farmers incorporate technologies such as wind, biomass, and solar PV. Finally, by pooling the energy savings and utilizing state and federal incentives, the cooperative will be able to implement higher-cost grid-tied renewable energy solutions. (Clean Energy: Wind, Solar Thermal & Solar PV, Biomass; $5,000)

Winona Soil & Water Conservation District: Prairie Sustainable Biofuel Project II
Winona, MN – The Winona Soil & Water Conservation District will work with Pork & Plants and Winona State University to develop a model for how perennial grasses and forbs can be pelletized and produced at a farm-scale level on marginal land, and used as an alternative source of renewable fuel. The project will include the planting, managing, harvesting, and pelletizing of biomass produced at Pork & Plants farm with the aim of demonstrating the offset of the current energy demand at the farm. (Clean Energy: Biofuels; $5,000)

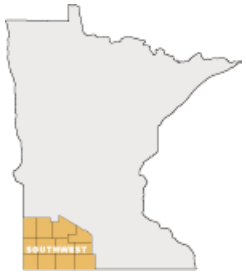
Region Nine Development Commission: Renewable Energy Inventories
Mankato, MN – Region Nine Development Commission will inventory renewable energy resources in three of nine chosen Minnesota counties, compile completed renewable energy data and/or conduct a gap analysis of renewable energy data. This project aims to increase understanding of existing energy resources which is critical in to determine best use of local energy resources while being environmentally conscious. (Research; $3,000)

Olmsted County: Think Green Sustainability Fair
Rochester, MN – The Olmsted County Environmental Services in Rochester will hold a Think Green Sustainability Fair to motivate participants to take individual actions at home, at work, and on their farms that will contribute to the reduction of carbon emissions and other positive environmental impacts. The Think Green Sustainability Fair will provide public education and outreach that supports the development of renewable energy, water and energy conservation, expansion of green purchasing, support for local and/or organic food, and waste reduction at home and at work. (Education: Community; $2,000)

Habitat for Humanity of MN: We Built It Green Homeowner Education Curriculum
Statewide in MN – Habitat for Humanity of Minnesota will develop and administer a homeowner orientation curriculum for high-efficiency homes; the orientation will be targeted to low-income first-time homebuyers but can be easily replicated for existing homeowners. The curriculum incorporates energy conservation behaviors, elements of home maintenance, and environmentally-healthy activities at the home, community, municipal, and state levels. (Education: Community; $5,000)


NORTHEAST


NORTHWEST


SOUTHWEST


WEST
CENTRAL