



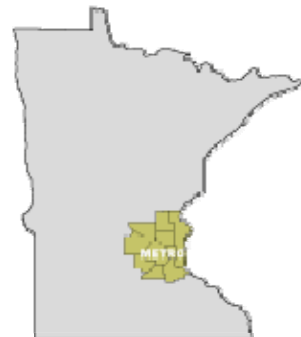
Press Release

September 8th, 2009

Seed Grants Available for Community Energy Efficiency, Renewable Energy Projects

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SEPTEMBER 8, MINNEAPOLIS, MN—The Minnesota Clean Energy Resource Teams (CERTs) seek to provide limited financial assistance for energy efficiency and/or renewable energy projects requiring technical assistance.

Project funding can support technical assistance services (labor costs only, such as for a consultant, design professional, installer or student labor) for projects across the state in all seven Minnesota CERT regions: Central, Metro, Northeast, Northwest, Southeast, Southwest and West Central.

This is the first time that there has been funding available through CERTs in the Metro Region. For the past year the Metro CERT has connected communities with resources to plan and implement local energy projects through workshops, organizing support, case studies, and project planning.

“We are really excited to offer seed funding to help get some projects off the ground in the Metro Region. The primary objectives of these grants are to encourage implementation of community-based clean energy projects and to provide a forum for education about energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies and their economic, ecological and community benefits,” says Diana McKeown, Metro CERT Coordinator.

Each region has a \$40,000 pool of funding. Generally teams have funded projects in the \$5,000 range, however should a larger project best help a team achieve its goals, that team may consider funding at a level up to \$10,000. Each Regional Team's Steering Committee will make its own selections and the funding level will vary by region. Projects approved for funding must be completed by December 30th, 2010.

Funding for these projects is provided through the Minnesota Department of Commerce, Office of Energy Security. Proposals must be submitted no later than November 2, 2009 at 4:30pm.

To learn more, visit www.cleanenergyresourceteams.org/community-projects/request-for-proposals.

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Helping Minnesota communities determine their clean energy future

The Clean Energy Resource Teams (CERTs) are a joint program of the University of Minnesota's Regional Sustainable Development Partnerships, the Southwest Regional Development Commission, Green Institute, The Minnesota Project, and the Minnesota Office of Energy Security, Department of Commerce. CERTs works to connect people with the technical resources needed to identify and implement community-scale energy efficiency and renewable energy projects.