

Summary: Northwest CERT
RREAL Solar Thermal Installation/ East Grand Forks
Water & Light Tour
East Grand Forks, MN
Monday, October 20th, 2008
1:00-3:30pm

Attendees: Chris Waltz, Paul Aakre, Corey Thompson, Dalene Monsebroten, Bonni Abel, Scott Gravseth, Missy Thompson, Mark McLaughlin, Jason Carlson, Dan Boyce, Darryl Tvetbakk, Joel Haskard

1:00 pm RREAL installation tour with Jason Edens and RREAL staff. The team met at the house of Norbert Vanyo in East Grand Forks and talked about RREAL's Energy Assistance Program (to read an article and see a video of the installation by local TV station WDAZ8, please visit <http://www.wdaz.com/news/index.cfm?id=858>. Jason Edens estimated that the installation of the two 4X8 panels-- in partnership with the Tri-County Opportunity Council-- will offset at least 25% of the winter heating load of the home. He also reminded the tour that solar thermal is a very old technology, with the first installation in 1891. 50% of homes in Florida had solar thermal units before WWII; that number is only 6% in Florida now. RREAL has done 35 installations and hope to do 100 next year. "It is a band aid on a wound that needs a tourniquet," Jason says. To learn more about energy fuel poverty and RREAL, please visit <http://www.cleanenergyresourceteams.org/get-answers/13/10/2008/rural-renewable-energy-alliance-ottertail-wadena-community-action-team-combat>.

2:20 pm The group than drove to the East Grand Forks Water & Light Service Center Building. Dan Boyce, General Manager of East Grand Forks Water and Light Department, welcomed the group. Corey Thompson gave a power point about the automated meter reading and load management ("smart metering") that East Grand Forks Water & Light utilizes; the power point can be viewed [HERE](#). EGFW&L has had a load management program in place for over 20 years, which allow them to shut down interruptible loads during demand peaks.

Jason Carlson, Tri-Valley Opportunity Council <http://www.tvoc.org/housing.htm> gave an overview of their weatherization work. Using state, federal, utility and tribal dollars, they are able to weatherize about 100 homes a year in west Marshall, west Polk and Norman counties. Jason spoke about the increased interest and constant need for more weatherization to be done in homes of all income levels.

3:30 pm Adjourn