



Press Release

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## Seed Grants Available for Community Energy Efficiency, Renewable Energy Projects

**Contact:**

Melissa Pawlisch  
Clean Energy Resource Teams  
University of Minnesota, Regional Sustainable Development Partnerships  
612-624-2293  
[pawl0048@umn.edu](mailto:pawl0048@umn.edu)  
[www.cleanenergyresourceteams.org](http://www.cleanenergyresourceteams.org)



**SEPTEMBER 8, SAINT PAUL, 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.

In past funding cycles in the Southeast Region, CERTs has helped fund solar projects at high schools in Rochester, Winona and Northfield, biomass studies with both the Eagle Bluff Environmental Learning Center and the Winona Soil & Water Conservation District, and the RE-Fest energy fair in Austin.

“CERTs offers seed grants with two primary objectives in mind: to encourage implementation of community-based clean energy projects across the state, and to provide an educational forum for energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies and their economic, community and ecological benefits,” says Lissa Pawlisch, CERTs Statewide 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 30<sup>th</sup>, 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<sup>nd</sup>, 2009 at 4:30pm.

To learn more, visit [www.cleanenergyresourceteams.org/community-projects/request-for-proposals](http://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.