



CLEAN ENERGY RESOURCE TEAMS

Southwest Clean Energy Resource Team

RENEWABLE ENERGY

AND

ENERGY CONSERVATION

RESOURCE GUIDE

This resource guidebook has been developed to enable the residents in Southwest Minnesota to access various renewable energy and energy conservation resources.

CERTs Partners:

Minnesota Department of Commerce, The Minnesota Project, University of Minnesota Regional Sustainable Development Partnerships, Rural Minnesota Energy Board, Metropolitan Counties Energy Task Force, Resource Conservation and Development Councils

Funded by:

U.S. Department of Energy and the Minnesota Department of Commerce, The Blandin Foundation and The Minnesota Project

It is the overall goal of the SW CERT to export more renewable energy (wind energy, biofuels, etc), than energy (renewable / non-renewable) imported and consumed.

Objective 1. Encourage energy reduction / conservation measures.

Implementation of energy use reduction measures will have an overall impact on of energy usage.

Objective 2. Increase use of bio-fuels. By increasing the use of bio-fuels in the region, the overall impact of imported fuels will be less.

Objective 3. Encourage the development of locally owned renewable energy projects.

This is a working document and will be updated periodically. As resources become known they will be added. If you know of additional resource or find errors, please contact:

Annette Bair at phydev@swrdc.org or 507.836.8547 ext 101

July 2005

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Local Resource People and Organizations in the SW Region

There are many local resource people in the Region, both Public and Private. The talents of our local resources vary with each organization, but all should be able to either provide direct assistance or refer you to the appropriate areas of assistance.

Southwest CERTs – The Southwest Clean Energy Resource Team is made up of citizens, business people, local elected people, utilities, state and local agencies and organizations who have an interest in renewable energy and energy conservation. The purpose of SW CERTs is to serve as a local resource that can facilitate communication, and links to information and resources that will foster energy conservation and renewable energy projects. By taking advantage of our commodities, we can enhance the economic and environmental atmosphere of the region.

www.cleanenergyresourceteams.org/

Contact Information: Annette Bair 507.836.8547 ext 101 phydev@swrdc.org

Regional Development Commissions. SW CERTs is within two RDC's the Southwest and Region 9. RDC's provide technical and resource assistance. <http://www.mrdo.org/>

Southwest Regional Development Commission. Development staff assists with economic development and business loan packaging as well as grant writing assistance. The SRDC also has a Revolving Loan fund that can provide gap financing to eligible businesses. www.swrdc.org

Contact Information: Nan Larson at 507-836-8547 ext. 108 nanlarson@swrdc.org.

Region 9 Development Commission. <http://www.rndc.org/>

Contact Information: Troy Bonkowske at 507.389.8886 troy@rndc.mankato.mn.us

AURI – A nonprofit corporation that works to improve the economy of rural Minnesota through new, value added uses for our farm commodities. AURI is a very diverse organization, offering assistance to Minnesota businesses and cooperatives. Their goal is to improve the long-term health of our state's economy through new uses for our commodities. AURI assistance includes: technical assistance to help with product development, research on fats and oils, biodiesel, on-farm manure digesters, as well as other Ag Based renewable energy areas.

Contact Information: Southwest Region - Marshall Office 507.537.7440

Max Norris, Director of Projects & Technology mnorris@auri.org and

Dennis Timmerman, Project Development Director dtimmerm@auri.org

SW Research and Outreach Center (SWROC). <http://swroc.coafes.umn.edu>

The Southwest Research and Outreach Center is a resource that builds quality of life through individuals working together providing research and education for agriculture, communities, and family. They are closely connected to the University of Minnesota Renewable Energy Research and Demonstration Center at Morris who has a community scale, research and demonstration center focusing on wind, biomass, biofuels, methane digestion, hydrogen generation and the use of fuel cells with two primary objectives: 1) provide a model for rural communities and agricultural producers to integrate renewable energy systems into their economies, and 2) establish systems research that provides information to stimulate the renewable energy industry.

<http://wcroc.coafes.umn.edu/Renewable/Empowering%20the%20Countryside.htm>

Resource Conservation and Development Council (RC&D). RC&D's can provide assistance by:

Identifying sources of funding, grant writing, Project Coordination, Coordinate mailings, Grant management and administration, organize and conduct tours, conduct information campaigns, and conduct research. There are two RC&D's in the Region: <http://www.mn.nrcs.usda.gov/partnerships/marcd/contact.htm>

The Three Rivers RC&D Amy Stratton amy.stratton@mn.usda.gov and

Coteau des Prairies RC&D Brian Christiansen brian.christiansen@mn.usda.gov

Small Business Development Center (SBDC) The Southwest Small Business Development Center (SBDC) enhances Minnesota's economic well being in the eighteen counties of Southwest Minnesota. By working with hundreds of small businesses each year, the Southwest Minnesota SBDC has a clear perspective on the challenges and issues that small business concerns must overcome in order to succeed in today's economy. The SBDC network provides a full range of services for small businesses that are emerging and growing throughout the region. These services include, but are not limited to the following: business plan development, feasibility analysis, market research, advertising/sales, financial analysis, loan packaging, and strategic planning. Whether the person already owns a business, or is still in the planning stages, the SBDC can help them face the challenges of running a successful small business in southwest Minnesota. The financial support of our funding partners allows the SBDC to provide counseling at no cost to the small business client. Contact Information: Liz Struve, 1-800-642-0684, ext 7386 Struve@southwestmsu.edu website: www.swsbdc.org

Prairieland Economic Development Corporation. A private, non-profit corporation that provide loans to small businesses. They seek to assist businesses with the following: Stimulate the growth and expansion of small business and industry; Promote the improvement of community services; Expand business ownership opportunities; Increase employment opportunities; Promote the development of general and community welfare; and Increase the local tax base. Contact Information: Phone: (507) 836-6656, Toll Free: (800) 507-9003, info@prairielanddc.com

Southwest Minnesota Foundation. Their mission is to be a catalyst, facilitating opportunities for economic, social, and cultural growth by promoting philanthropy, leadership, innovation, and collaboration for their 18 county service area. The Foundation has grants to supports and sustains long-term economic growth through partnerships that attract and retain businesses, provide technical assistance to businesses, and promote workforce attraction and retention; and a loan program for gap financing of projects. <http://www.swmnfoundation.org/>

Other resources include:

- ☞ financial instructions,
- ☞ renewable energy projects and developers
- ☞ Your utility provider(s)
- ☞ Chamber of Commerce

EDA (Economic Development Authority). The Purpose of Community and County EDA's is to provide assistance that will result in economic development by creating job opportunities, expanding the tax base, promoting in entrepreneurship or providing necessary services that will foster additional economic development. Services for each EDA vary depending on how they are legislatively authorized. Below is a list of City and County EDA contacts in the area. REB = Regional Economic Board, EDC = Economic Development Corporation, REDC = Regional Economic Development Corporation, RADC = Redwood Area Development Corporation

Brown County

Malcolm Tilberg	2 E Central St	Springfield, MN 56087	507.723.3500
Brian Tohal	1 N. Minnesota St.	New Ulm, MN 56073	507.233.4305
Rob Anderson-	200 Main St. E.,	Sleepy Eye, MN 56085	507.794.3731
James Schneider, City EDA	513 White St N	Comfrey, MN 56019	

Cottonwood County

City EDA	1021 2nd Ave Suite 2	Bingham Lake, MN 56118	507. 831.2423
John Hubley, City EDA	PO Box 25 Jeffers, MN 56145	507. 628.4901	
City EDA ,	930 3rd Ave	Mt. Lake, MN 56159	507. 427.2999
Ron Torkelson, City EDA	Box 206	Storden, MN 56174	507. 445.3298
Harold Schmidt, City EDA	705 Birch Ave, PO Box 365	Westbrook, MN 56183	
Jim King, City EDA	444 9th St, PO Box 38	Windom, MN 56101	507. 831.6125
Kelly Thongvivong, Co EDA	900 3rd Ave	Windom, MN 56101	507. 831.5669 cottonwood.commissioners@co.cottonwood.mn.us

Jackson County

Kent Bargfrede, City EDA	59366 720th St	Alpha, MN 56111	507. 847.5683
Milton McKeown, City EDA	911 5th Ave, PO Box 201	Heron Lake, MN 56137	507. 793.2334
Kelly Rasche, City EDA	301 Main St, PO Box 900	Lakefield, MN 56150	507. 662.5457
Ben Pribyl, County EDA	405 4th St, PO Box 226	Jackson, MN 56143	507. 847.2763

clerk@lakefieldmn.com
ben.pribyl@co.jackson.mn.us

Lincoln County

Kristi Luger, Tyler REB	230 N Tyler St	Tyler, MN 56178	507. 247.5556	tylermn@hcpd.com
Glen Petersen, City EDA	230 N Tyler St	Tyler, MN 56178	507. 247.5556	
Rolland Digre, City EDA	PO Box 138	Hendricks, MN 56136	507. 275.3152	
Emmett Thomsen, City EDA	PO Box 54	Ivanhoe, MN 56142	507. 694.1738	cityivan@frontiernet.net
Tony Schwing, City EDA	PO Box 364	Lake Benton, MN 56149		
Vince Robinson, Lincoln Co EDC	PO Box 48	Ivanhoe, MN 56142	507. 694.1552	lcedc@frontiernet.net

Lyon County

Dave Kaup, City EDA	PO Box 174	Balaton, MN 56115	507. 734.2100	
Greg I saackson, City EDA,	86 W Main	Cottonwood, MN 56229	507. 423.6488	cotmngi@mvtvwireless.com
Jerry Schaefer, City EDA	PO Box 3	Ghent, MN 56239		schaeef@starpoinet.net
Don Froemming, City EDA	105 N River St	Lynd, MN 56157		
Cal Barnett, City EDA	344 W Main	Marshall, MN 56258	507. 537.6771	
Rebecca Day, City EDA		Minneota, MN 56264	507. 872.6748	
Joel VanDamme, City EDA	PO Box 44	Russell, MN 56169		
Mel Breyfogle, City EDA	PO Box 337	Taunton, MN 56291	507. 872.6543	
Robert Gervais, City EDA	336 Morgan St	Tracy, MN 56175	507. 629.5528	
Chris Harris, Lyon Co EDC	607 West Main St	Marshall, MN 56258	507. 537.7016	lcedc@iw.net

Martin County

Mike Humpal	100 Downtown Plaza,	Fairmont , MN 56031	507. 238. 9461
Kathy Bailey	21 E. 1 st St.,	Sherburn, MN 56171	507. 764. 4491
Monte Rohman	101 E. Ciro St.	Truman, MN 56088	507. 776. 7951
Jerry Westphal	102 S. Dugan	Welcome, MN 56181	507. 728. 8740

Murray County

Cathy Magnus, City EDA,	2424 26th St	Slayton, MN 56172	507. 836.8534	
Alvin Vis, City EDA	241 4th St, PO Box 37	Chandler, MN 56122	507. 677.2222	
Robert Gervais, City EDA	820 1st St	Currie, MN 56123	507. 763.1526	
Darwin Kruse, City EDA	606 N Lafayette Ave, PO Box 196	Fulda, MN 56131	507. 425.2575	
Lee York, City EDA	775 St Hwy 30	Lake Wilson, MN 56151		
Heidi Winter, County EDA,	PO Box 57, 2500 28 th	Slayton, MN 56172	507. 836.6148	hwinter@co.murray.mn.us

Nobles County

Kevin Norskog, City EDA	PO Box 327	Adrian, MN 56110	507. 483.2971	
Glenn Thuringer, Wtg REDC,	1121 3rd Ave	Worthington, MN 56187	507. 372.5515	
Bradley Chapulis, City EDA	303 9th St, PO Box 279	Worthington, MN 56187	507. 372.8640	

Pipestone County

Shelley Fey	PO Box 145	Edgerton, MN 56128	507. 442.7891	shelley.city@iw.net
Sue Buffington, City EDA	350 Sioux St	Holland, MN 56139		
David Smith, City EDA	511 4th St W, PO Box 105	Jasper, MN 56144	507. 348.3051	david@jasperstatebank.com
Jeff Jones, City EDA	119 2nd Ave, SW	Pipestone, MN 56164	507. 825.3324	jrjones@cityofpipestone.com
County EDA	119 2nd Ave SW STE 5	Pipestone, MN 56164	507. 825.6955	

Redwood County

Lori Ryer, City EDA	PO Box 159	Belview, MN 56214	507. 938.4335	belview@redred.com
Steve Krinke, City EDA	1006 S Elm St	Lamberton, MN 56152	507. 752.7965	
Bruce Thooft, City EDA	200 Euclid Ave	Milroy, MN 56263		
Dave Mueller, City EDA		Sanborn, MN 56083		
Gordon Alexander	PO Box 271	Vesta, MN 56292		
Mary K Smith, City EDA	PO Box 60	Wabasso, MN 56293	507. 342.5519	
Marlys VanderWerf, City EDA,	PO Box 547	Walnut Grove, MN 56180	507. 859.2134	wgeda@rrcnet.org
Douglas Daub, City EDA	F & M State Bank	Morgan, MN 56266		
Shirley Dove, City EDA	PO Box 127	Morton, MN 56270	507. 697.6912	
EDA	333 S Washington St, PO Box10	Redwood Falls, MN 56283	507. 637.5755	info@ci.redwood-falls.mn.us
Julie Rath, RADC	200 S Mill St, PO Box 481	Redwood Falls, MN 56283	507. 637.4003	

Rock County

Dana Dahlquist, City EDA	505 E 4th St	Hills, MN 56138		
Connie Wiertzema	PO Box 172	Hills, MN 56138	507. 962.3290	ctyhills@hillstel.net
Jill Wolf, City EDA,	PO Box 659, 203 E Main	Luverne, MN 56156 -	507. 449.5033	
David Smith, Luverne Chamber	211 E Main St	Luverne, MN 56156	507. 283.4061	luvernechamber@iw.net

Watonwan County

Betsy Carsten	124 Armstrong Blvd.	St. James MN, 56081;	507. 375. 3241	
Darrin Haslip		Madelia, MN	507. 642. 3816	darih@madtelco.net
Leslie Heffele-	P.O. Box F	Butterfield, MN 56120	507. 956. 2501	
James Schneider,	513 White St,	Comfrey, MN 56019		

FEDERAL RESOURCES

U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) To advance the national, economic and energy security of the United States; to promote scientific and technological innovation in support of that mission; and to ensure the environmental cleanup of the national nuclear weapons complex. Information includes: Energy Sources, Energy Efficiency, Science and Technology. www.doe.gov

Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (An office of the US DOE) To strengthen America's energy security, environmental quality, and economic vitality in public-private partnerships that: Enhance energy efficiency and productivity; Bring clean, reliable and affordable energy technologies to the marketplace; and Make a difference in the everyday lives of Americans by enhancing their energy choices and their quality of life.

www.eere.energy.gov

http://www.eere.energy.gov/office_eere/solicitations.html

<http://www.eere.energy.gov/regions/midwest/>

National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) - A National Laboratory of the US

DOE. Research & Technology Development, Learning About Renewables & Energy Efficiency www.nrel.gov

United State Environmental Protection Agency. EPA's Clean Energy Programs are designed to help consumers improve their knowledge about Clean Energy options by providing objective information, creating networks between public and private sector and providing technical assistance. EPA also offers recognition to leading organizations that adopt Clean Energy practices. www.epa.gov/cleanenergy

USDA Rural Development. To enhance the ability of rural communities to develop, grow, and improve their quality of life by targeting financial and technical resources in areas of greatest need through activities of Dept. of Agriculture Rural Development greatest potential. Information includes Renewable Energy Systems & Energy Efficiency Improvement <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/mn>

Minnesota USDA contact information

Lisa Noty lisa.noty@mn.usda.gov

1408 21st Ave NW, Suite #3

Austin, MN 55912

PH: 507.437.8247 ext 150

FX: 507.433.7108

See the Farm Bill with updated information at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rbs/farmbill/index.html> (the sample application is posted under Tools and Resources). Both Grants and Loans are described in part 4280 on this link http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/regs/regs_toc.html

Also see pages 27 - 28 for additional USDA resources.

STATE RESOURCES

Minnesota Department of Commerce. <http://www.state.mn.us> The Energy Information link is located in the upper left side of the webpage. **Energy Info Topics** on the Department of Commerce website:

Home Energy Guides 19 easy to use pamphlets with tips, suggestions and instructions about a variety of energy related issues around your home. Guides are from 8-12 pages long.

Energy Tips A collection of our TIP OF THE MONTH for smart energy savings and conservation.

E85 Clean fuels help both the economy and the environment. In the case of the ethanol fuel blend E-85 (85 percent ethanol), the low-emission fuel can be produced domestically which benefits our state's economy, too.

Bioenergy Reports, information and links related to bioenergy including biogas.

Solar Minnesota has more annual solar energy potential than Houston, Texas and nearly as much as Miami, Florida. Find out more.

Wind Information about using wind as an energy source, special promotions, maps and links to other resources.

Energy Incentives and Grants A review of various tax incentives, grants and loans for energy initiatives.

Rebuild Minnesota REBUILD MINNESOTA is part of the U.S. Department of Energy's Rebuild America Program, creating partnerships to conserve energy in the buildings where we live, learn and work. Find out what's happening in Minnesota.

Energy Star

Additional Publications

Ice Dams

Gasoline Pricing Info

Kids Only! A guide to on-line games, activities, tools and information related to energy and energy production for kids of any age. Geared, however, to elementary ages and some high school.

Fixit Columns A compilation of letters to the Star Tribune Fixit column, with answers provided by the Minnesota Department of Commerce.

Natural Gas Prices Information and consumer resources for dealing with higher natural gas prices this winter.

Energy Highlights

Fuel Cells General information and resources about fuel cell technology

Energy Information Center

1-800-657-3710 (MN only).

651-296-5175 651-297-7891 FAX

energy.info@state.mn.us

Contact e-mail and phone for a direct contact to the Energy Information Center which specializes in consumer and contractor energy issues. Also information about renewable energy sources.

MN Office of Environmental Assistance (OEA) <http://www.moea.state.mn.us/>

MN Department of Agriculture <http://www.mda.state.mn.us/>

MN Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/>

Financial Incentives

Agricultural Improvement Loan Program

Incentive Type	State Loan Program
Eligible Renewable	Wind, Biomass, Anaerobic Digestion
Applicable Sectors	Agricultural
Amount	RFA provides up to 45% of loan
Maximum Amount	RFA provides up to \$200,000 of loan principal
Terms	Maximum term of 10 years
Website	http://www.mda.state.mn.us/AgFinance/improvement.html
Authority & Enacted	Minn. Stat. Å§ 41B.043 Jan 1, 1995
<p>Summary: Low-interest loan program, administered by the Dept of Agriculture through the Rural Finance Authority (RFA., provides loans to farmers for improvements or additions to permanent facilities. In 1995 wind energy conversion equipment with an output capacity of 1 MW or less was added to the definition of agricultural improvements. It is a "participation loan," meaning the loans are made by individual financial institutions working with the RFA. The RFA has a Master Participation Agreement with over 400 financial institutions throughout the state; this agreement governs the responsibilities of the various parties in such participation loans. RFA participation is limited to 45% of the principal amount of the loan or \$200,000, whichever is less. The borrower must be a Minnesota resident, a Minnesota domestic family-farm corporation or a family-farm partnership. The borrower (or one of the borrowers. must be the principal operator of the farm. The borrower may not have a total net worth exceeding \$350,000 (indexed for inflation..</p>	
<p>Contact: Gary Blahosky Gary.Blahosky@state.mn.us Phone: 651. 296.4985 Fax: 612. 296.9388 MN Department of Agriculture - Rural Finance Authority 90 West Plato Boulevard - St. Paul, MN 55107-2094</p>	

Energy Investment Loan Program

Incentive Type	State Loan Program
Eligible Technology	Geothermal Heat Pumps, Custom/Others pending approval
Eligible renewable	Solar Water Heat, Solar Space Heat, Solar Thermal Process Heat, Wind, Biomass, Solar Pool Heating
Applicable Sectors	Schools, Local Government, Hospitals
Amount	Buys down up to 50% of the loan principal to 0% interest for any specific measure with a simple payback of 10 yrs or less
Maximum Amount	50% of total project cost, up to \$500,000 (maximum total project cost of \$1,000,000.
Terms	Up to first five years of loan
Website	http://www.revisor.leg.state.mn.us/arule/7606/
Authority & Enacted	Minn. Stat. Å§ 216C.09 1983
<p>Summary: Mn's Energy Investment Loan Program will buy down up to 50% of the loan principal to 0% interest for any specific renewable energy, energy efficiency or energy conservation "capital improvement" measure with a simple payback of 10 years or less in an existing building. MN cities, counties, townships, hospitals & K-12 schools are eligible. Each specific project must pass a 10-yr simple payback threshold based on total costs and energy savings, energy payments and/or incentives from other sources. (Project averaging of multiple measures with more and less than a 10-year simple payback is not allowed.. There are no specific improvements designated for energy efficiency, as long as a measurable amount of energy is conserved as a result of the project.</p> <p>A loan application must include a technical analysis for each proposed energy-saving capital improvement. While projects involving energy efficiency and energy-conservation measures -- lighting retrofits being the most common -- are most commonly supported, renewable-energy projects are eligible and have been funded (including one 225-kW wind turbine and approximately nine wood-fired boilers..</p> <p>Renewable-energy projects most likely to receive support through this program include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ? Wind energy in excellent wind resource areas; ? Ground-source heat pumps for buildings heated by electricity, and/or natural gas users with large year-round heating and cooling loads; ? Solar-thermal air preheating systems; ? Solar hot-water systems offsetting electric space, hot water or pool heating; and/or ? Projects receiving grants or incentives from other sources that reduce the simple payback to less than 10 yrs. 	

The program is designed as an \$8 million revolving loan fund with no set expiration date. If the \$8 million fund is fully utilized, additional projects must wait for loan commitments to expire before additional funds are made available. Program funding was available as of February 2005.

Contact: Jeremy deFiebre jeremy.defiebre@state.mn.us
Phone: 651. 296-5175 **Fax:** 651. 297-7891
 MN Dept of Commerce, Energy Division - 85 7th Place East, Suite 600 - St. Paul, MN 55101

Renewable Development Fund Grants

Incentive Type	Utility Grant Program
Eligible Renewable	Photovoltaics, Wind, Biomass, Hydroelectric, Cogeneration, Renewable Fuels, Fuel Cells (Renewable Fuels.
Applicable Sectors	Commercial, Industrial, Residential, Nonprofit, Schools, Local Government, Utility, State Government, Tribal Government, Fed. Government, Agricultural, Institutional
Amount	Varies
Maximum Amount	Varies
Website	http://www.xcelenergy.com/XLWEB/CDA/0,2914,1-1-1_4359_8118_8745-7235-5_406_664-0,00.html
Authority 1, enacted	MN Session Laws 2003, 1st Special Session, Chapter 11 (H.F. 9 of 2003) . Enacted: 2001; May 2003, effective: 1994; amended 2003
<p>Summary : In December 2003, Xcel Energy issued a request for proposals (RFP) to fund a second round of renewable-energy projects through the Renewable Development Fund (RDF) program. In August 2004, Xcel selected 25 proposed projects -- featuring hydroelectric, biomass, wind, solar and biofuel technologies -- to receive \$22 million in funding, pending final approval by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission. More than 200 renewable energy project proposals were proposed in 2004, three times the number submitted in the program's first funding cycle in 2001. Xcel's 2004 grants totaled \$9,935,901 for projects involving energy production and \$12,804,466 for research and development. Xcel created the RDF in May 1999 as an outcome of 1994 Minnesota legislation concerning spent fuel storage at Xcel's Prairie Island Nuclear Plant. The first round of grants from the Xcel Energy RDF program, completed in 2001, supported 17 projects with more than \$15.5 million in funding.</p>	
<p>Michelle Swanson E-Mail: michelle.m.swanson@xcelenergy.com Web site: http://www.xcelenergy.com Phone: 800. 895-4999 Fax: 612. 330.7601 Xcel Energy 414 Nicollet Mall Minneapolis, MN 55401-1993</p>	

Minnesota Power - Solar-Electric (PV) Rebate Program

Incentive Type	Utility Rebate Program
Eligible Renewable	Photovoltaics
Applicable Sectors	Commercial, Industrial, Residential
Rebate	\$2,000/kilowatt
Terms	Maximum award of \$4,000; may be combined with state PV rebate
Website	http://www.nmnrenewables.org/incentives/index.shtml
Effective date	May 1, 2004
<p>Summary: Minnesota Power offers a rebate of \$2,000 per kilowatt for grid-connected solar-electric (PV) systems, with a maximum award of \$4,000 per customer. This program, available to the utility's residential, commercial and industrial customers, began in February 2004 and is subject to availability of funding. Minnesota Power's rebate for PV systems may be combined with the state's solar-electric rebate, which also offers \$2,000 per kilowatt. The following conditions apply to Minnesota Power's Solar-Electric Rebate Program: Systems must be installed on or before December 31, 2005, and must meet the installation completion timeline established by the Minnesota Department of Commerce's Solar-Electric (PV) Rebate Program.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ? Applicants must apply for and receive rebate confirmation through the Minnesota Department of Commerce's Solar-Electric Rebate Program. ? Minnesota Power's solar-electric rebate funds will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. Contact Minnesota Power to determine availability of funds. ? The minimum system capacity is 1 kW; the maximum capacity is 2 kW. ? Systems must be installed by a trained installer. Contact Minnesota Power for a listing of trained installers. ? Minnesota Power reserves the right to limit the number of rebates per installer per year. ? Representatives from Minnesota Power must be allowed on-site to verify the characteristics of the site, inspect the installation and collect data on the electricity produced by the system. Participants must also agree to provide Minnesota Power with digital images of the installation for use on its website and in printed 	

materials.

- ? Installation details, requirements and eligible equipment are consistent with the Minnesota Department of Commerce's Solar-Electric Rebate Program.

The [Minnesota Department of Commerce's Solar-Electric \(PV. Rebate Program\)](#), funded by Xcel Energy, will buy down the up-front costs of grid-connected solar-electric systems by \$2,000 per kW, with a maximum award of \$8,000 per system. This program was available only to electric customers of Xcel Energy until January 1, 2004, at which point all grid-connected electricity customers in Minnesota became eligible. Rebates for the Minnesota Department of Commerce's Solar-Electric Rebate Program will be issued until funds expire.

Dean Talbott DTALBOTT@mnpower.com <http://www.mnpower.com>
Phone: 218. 722-5642 Ext.2843 **Fax:** 218. 720-2795
 Minnesota Power, 30 West Superior Street, Duluth, MN 55802

Renewable Energy Production Incentive

Incentive Type	Production Incentive
Eligible Renewable	Biomass, Hydroelectric, Anaerobic Digestion
Applicable Sectors	Commercial, Residential, Nonprofit, Tribal Councils
Amount	1.5¢/kWh
Maximum Amount	none
Terms	10-year payment period
Website	http://www.state.mn.us/cgi-bin/portal/mn/jsp/content.do?id=-536881350&subchannel=-536881511&sc2=null&sc3=null&contentid=536885915&contenttype=EDI TORI AL&programid=536885394&agency=Commerce
Authority & Enacted	Minn. Stat. Å§ 216C.41 , July 1, 1997
Effective date	7/1/99 (hydro); 1/1/97 (wind); 7/1/01 (digesters).
Expiration dates	12/31/2005 (hydro); 1/1/2017 (wind); 12/31/2017 (digesters)
<p>Summary : Minnesota offers a payment of 1.5¢/kWh for electricity generated by hydro facilities and on-farm anaerobic manure methane digesters. This incentive is available to hydro facilities located at the site of a dam, if the dam was in existence as of March 31, 1994, and begins generating electricity after July 1, 1994, or generates electricity after substantial refurbishing of a facility that begins after July 1, 2001. Qualifying projects receive payments for 10 years. Minnesota also issues a payment of 1.5¢/kWh for electricity generated by new wind-energy projects less than 2 MW in capacity for up to 200 MW of program capacity. In November 2003, the Minnesota Department of Commerce (DOC) announced that planned capacity for new wind energy systems had reached the goal of 200 MW, and the DOC established a waiting list for additional projects. As of May 2005, 155 MW were operating and receiving incentive payments. Based on April 2005 legislation, the remaining 45 MW in the program queue and 46 MW on the waiting list all became eligible for an incentive payment of 1¢/kWh incentive payment. The program was closed to new applicants on January 1, 2005. This program, supported in part by Minnesota's Renewable Development Fund, is unique because it offers payments for actual energy output. The advantage of a production incentive program is that production payments and credits place a premium on project output as opposed to rated capacity, which may or may not be fully utilized once installed. This is one of the few state-level, performance-based renewable-energy incentives offered in the United States. Minnesota's production credit roughly mirrors a federal corporate production tax credit allowing a 1.9¢/kWh tax credit for electricity produced from wind, solar, geothermal and closed-loop biomass.</p>	
Energy Information Center	energy.info@state.mn.us www.commerce.state.mn.us
Phone: 651. 296-5175	Fax: 651. 297-7891
Minnesota Department of Commerce, Energy Division 85 7th Place East, Suite 600, St. Paul, MN 55101-3165	

Solar-Electric (PV) Rebate Program

Incentive Type	State Rebate Program
Eligible Renewable	Photovoltaics
Applicable Sectors	Commercial, Residential, Nonprofit, Schools, Local Government, Tribal Government, All other grid-connected electric customers in MN
Amount	\$2,000/kW (combined DC rating).
Maximum Amount	\$20,000/system
Eligible System Size	0.5 kW - 10 kW (contact program manager regarding larger systems).
Equipment Requirements:	Systems must be new, UL-listed, in compliance with all applicable performance and safety standards, and must carry a minimum 2-year warranty on all equipment with the option to extend to 5 years; PV panels must carry a 20-year warranty.

Installation Requirements:	Installation must comply with all federal, state and local codes; must be grid-connected, and may be owner-installed. Installations must comply with detailed siting criteria specified in program guidelines.	
Program Budget:	\$1 million	
Ownership of Renewable	Energy Credits: Undetermined	
Website	http://www.state.mn.us/mn/externalDocs/Solar_Electric_Rebate_Program_110802025911_RebateInstructions.pdf	
Effective date	2002	
<p>Summary : The MN Dept of Commerce administers a solar-electric (PV. rebate program, funded by Xcel Energy, to buy down the up-front costs of grid-connected solar-electric (PV. systems by \$2,000 per kW, with a maximum award of \$20,000 per system. However, larger systems are eligible on a case-by-case basis. This program was available only to electric customers of Xcel Energy until January 1, 2004. Since January 2004, all grid-connected electric customers in Minnesota have been eligible. Rebates will be issued until funds expire.</p> <p>Participants must submit an application form to reserve a rebate before performing any installation work. After receiving confirmation from the Minnesota Department of Commerce, participants have nine months to install proposed systems and obtain approval by electric-utility officials (required. and local code officials (if necessary.. See the program web site to view installation requirements and to access the program application form. In September 2004, the Minnesota Department of Commerce issued a two-page publication, <i>Electricity from the Sun - A Minnesota Solar Energy Primer</i>, for consumers interested in the state's solar rebate program.</p> <p>http://www.state.mn.us/mn/externalDocs/Commerce/Minnesota_Solar_Primer_092104053212_Solar%20Primer.pdf</p> <p>From July 2002 through June 2005, 75 applicants had been allocated \$397,438 in rebate funding, according to the Department of Commerce. These awards have resulted in 199 kW of new grid-connected solar electricity in Minnesota, more than doubling the state's total solar-electric capacity prior to the implementation of the rebate program. (Installed solar capacity in Minnesota prior to the rebate program was 154 kW..</p>		
<p>Energy Information Center E-Mail: energy.info@state.mn.us Web site: www.commerce.state.mn.us Minnesota Department of Commerce, Energy Division 85 7th Place East, Suite 600, St. Paul, MN 55101-3165 Phone: 651. 296-5175 Fax: 651. 297-7891</p>		

Solar-Electric (PV) Sales Tax Exemption

Incentive Type	Sales Tax Exemption	
Eligible Renewable	Photovoltaics	
Applicable Sectors	Commercial, Residential, General Public/Consumer	
Website:	http://www.state.mn.us/cgi-bin/portal/mn/jsp/content.do?contentid=536885915&contenttype=EDITORIAL&agency=Commerce	
Authority 1:	Minn. Stat. AS 297A.67 (29c)	
Dates:	Enacted: 8/1/01, Effective: 8/1/01 , Expires 7/31/05	
<p>Summary: In Minnesota, certain energy-efficient products (including PV systems. are exempt from the state sales tax. This exemption includes residential lighting fixtures and compact fluorescent bulbs that carry the Energy Star label, electric heat-pump hot-water heaters with an energy factor of at least 1.9, natural-gas hot-water heaters with an energy factor of at least 0.62, and photovoltaic devices and natural gas furnaces with a fuel efficiency rating of at least 0.92. Under the legislation, "photovoltaic device" means a solid-state electrical device, such as a solar module, that converts light directly into direct current electricity. A "solar module" is a photovoltaic device that produces a specified power output under defined test conditions, usually composed of groups of solar cells connected in series, in parallel or in series-parallel combinations.</p> <p>The exemption is effective for sales and purchases made after July 31, 2001, and before August 1, 2005.</p>		
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Value-Added Stock Loan Participation Program

Incentive Type	State Loan Program
Eligible Renewables:	Wind, Biomass, Anaerobic Digestion
Applicable Sectors:	Agricultural
Amount:	RFA provides up to 45% of loan
Maximum Amount:	RFA provides up to \$40,000 of loan principal
Terms:	Maximum term of eight years

Website:	http://www.mda.state.mn.us/AgFinance/stockloan.html		
Authority 1:	Minn. Stat. Å§ 41B.046		
Date Enacted:	1/1/94		
<p>Summary: This low-interest loan program, created in 1994, is designed to help farmers buy into wind energy and anaerobic-digestion cooperatives. Under current rules, the maximum size of an individual project supported by a wind-energy cooperative is 1 MW. Like Minnesota's Agricultural Improvement Loan Program, this is a "participation loan" program, whereby loans are made by individual financial institutions working with the Rural Finance Authority (RFA). The RFA purchases up to 45% of the loan. The interest rate on the RFA portion is 4.0%, while the rate on the remaining portion is negotiated between the borrower and the lender. This program is funded through a revolving account. To qualify, an applicant must have a total net worth of less than \$350,000 (indexed for inflation, including the assets and liabilities of their spouse and dependents).</p>			
Gary Blahosky	E-Mail: Gary.Blahosky@state.mn.us	Phone: 651. 296-4985	Fax: 612. 296-9388
Minnesota Department of Agriculture		Rural Finance Authority	
90 West Plato Boulevard		St. Paul, MN 55107-2094	

Wind and Solar-Electric (PV) Systems Exemption

Incentive Type:	Property Tax Exemption
Eligible Renewables:	Photovoltaics, Wind
Applicable Sectors:	Commercial, Residential
Max. Limit:	None
Terms:	See summary
Authority 1:	Minn. Stat. Å§ 272.02
Effective Date:	1/1/92
Authority 2:	Minn. Stat. Å§ 272.028
<p>Summary: Minnesota excludes from (real estate. property taxation the value added by solar-electric (PV. systems. However, the land on which a PV or wind system is located is taxable. In addition, all real and personal property of wind-energy systems is exempt from the state's property tax.</p> <p>In lieu of a property tax on large wind-energy systems, a production tax was implemented in 2002. Wind systems greater than 12 MW are taxed at a rate of 0.12 cents/kWh; systems between 2 MW and 12 MW are taxed at a rate of 0.036 cents/kWh; and systems between 250 kW and 2 MW are taxed at a rate of 0.012 cents/kWh. Wind systems under 250 kW are exempt from the production tax. However, a provision in a separate statute (Minn. Stat. Å§ 272.028. allows a mutually agreeable alternative to be negotiated between the local government authority and the wind facility owner for the purpose of maintaining "public infrastructure and services." For example, a lower tax might be negotiated by a local government in order to attract wind development.</p>	
<p>Energy Information Center Minnesota Department of Commerce, Energy Division 85 7th Place East, Suite 600 St. Paul, MN 55101-3165 Phone: 651. 296-5175 Fax: 651. 297-7891 E-Mail: > energy.info@state.mn.us Web site: http://www.commerce.state.mn.us</p>	

Wind Sales Tax Exemption

Incentive Type:	Sales Tax Exemption
Eligible Renewables:	Wind
Applicable Sectors:	Commercial, Residential, General Public/Consumer
Website:	http://www.state.mn.us/cgi-bin/portal/mn/jsp/content.do?subchannel=536881511&programid=536885394&id=-536881350&agency=Commerce&sp2=y
Authority 1:	Minn. Stat. Å§ 297A.68
Date Enacted:	7/1/98
<p>Summary: Wind energy conversion systems used as an electric power source are exempt from Minnesota's sales tax. Materials used to manufacture, install, construct, repair or replace wind systems are also exempt from sales tax. A "wind energy conversion system" (WECS. is defined as any device, such as a wind charger, wind mill or wind turbine, that converts wind energy to a form of usable energy.</p>	
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Rules, Regulations & Policies

Fuel Mix and Emissions Disclosure *Last DSIRE Review: 08/26/2004*

Incentive Type:	Generation Disclosure	
Applicable Sectors:	Utility	
Fuel Mix:	Yes	
Emissions:	Yes	
Std Format:	Yes	
Website:	http://www.pca.state.mn.us/programs/electricity.html	
Authority 1:	Order Clarifying Disclosure Requirements and Setting Procedural Schedule (Docket No. E,G-999/CI -00-1343.	
Dates:	Enacted 10/2/01, Effective 9/3/02	
<p>Summary: In September 2002, the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission issued an order requiring the state's regulated utilities to disclose information on fuel mix and emissions to customers twice annually. Utilities must list a phone number and web address on bills so that consumers can access disclosure information. Utilities also must provide a standard brochure as a bill insert twice annually. The brochure includes a pie chart depicting the mix of fuel sources, a bar chart of air pollutant emissions, a chart of costs associated with different generating sources, and a discussion of energy efficiency measures.</p>		
Janet Gonzalez	Phone: 651. 296-1336	E-Mail: janet.gonzalez@state.mn.us
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission	121 E. 7th Place, 3rd Floor	Web site: http://www.puc.state.mn.us/ St. Paul, MN 55101

Interconnection Standards

Incentive Type:	Interconnection	
Eligible Renewables:	Solar Thermal Electric, Photovoltaics, Landfill Gas, Wind, Biomass, Hydroelectric, Geothermal Electric, Fuel Cells, Municipal Solid Waste, Cogeneration, Microturbines, Other Distributed Generation Technologies	
Applicable Sectors:	Commercial, Industrial, Residential, Nonprofit, Schools, Local Government, State Government, Fed. Government	
Specific to Net-Metered Systems? Yes		
Limit on System Size/Overall Enrollment:	No (net-metered systems limited to 40 kW.	
Std. Interconnection Agreement? Yes		
Additional Insurance Requirements?	\$300,000 for systems under 40 kW	
External Disconnect Required? Yes		
Rules for Non-Net-Metered DG? Yes		
Website:	http://www.puc.state.mn.us/docs/orders/04-0131.pdf	
Authority 1:	Minn. Stat. Å§ 216B.1611	
Authority 2:	MN PUC Order 02-0097	
<p>Summary: Mn's net metering laws were established in 1983 and apply to all investor-owned utilities, municipalities and rural cooperatives. Qualifying facilities of 40 kW or less are eligible; there is no limit to statewide capacity allowed under net metering. However, uniform interconnection regulations were not implemented when net metering was established.</p> <p>As directed by MN Statute Å§ 216B.1611, the MN Public Utilities Commission (PUC) has issued an order establishing generic standards for utility tariffs for interconnection and operation of distributed generation facilities. The order, issued September 28, 2004, allowed electric utilities 90 days to file conforming tariffs with the PUC. The interconnection-standards law applies to all utilities in the state, including municipals and co-ops. These utilities must report annually on the number of systems interconnected. The PUC has developed streamlined uniform interconnection applications and a process that addresses safety, economics and reliability issues.</p> <p>In devising the state's interconnection standards, the PUC gathered input from all stakeholders through a technical working group, a rates working group and a public comment process. The PUC adopted the positions of the working groups with a few minor exceptions.</p>		
Stuart Mitchell	E-Mail: stuart.mitchell@state.mn.us	Phone: 651. 296-8662 Fax: 651. 297-7073
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission	121 E. 7th Place, 3rd Floor - St. Paul, MN 55101-2147	

Mandatory Utility Green Power Option

Incentive Type:	Mandatory Utility Green Power Option
Eligible Renewables:	Photovoltaics, Landfill Gas, Wind, Biomass, Hydroelectric, Geothermal Electric, Fuel Cells (Renewable Fuels., Microturbines)
Applicable Sectors:	Utility
Website:	http://www.revisor.leg.state.mn.us/stats/216B/169.html
Authority 1:	Minn. Stat. Â§ 216B.169
Date Enacted:	2001
Effective Date:	10/01
<p>Summary: Electric utilities in Minnesota must offer customers the option to purchase green power, defined as power generated from renewable resources or "high-efficiency, low-emission distributed generation, such as fuel cells or microturbines fueled by a renewable fuel." The legislation that created this policy, SB 772 of 2001, also set a non-binding goal for utilities to obtain at least 10% of the energy supplied to retail customers from renewable sources by 2015.</p> <p>Rates charged for green power must be based on the difference between the cost of the renewable energy and the same amount of non-renewable energy. The Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC) must approve rates developed by investor-owned utilities (IOUs). The Minnesota Department of Commerce is responsible for certifying generating sources, and tracking and verifying all green-power programs.</p>	
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	Fax: 651. 297-7891 Web site: http://www.commerce.state.mn.us

Net Metering

Incentive Type:	Net Metering Rules
Eligible Renewables:	Photovoltaics, Wind, Biomass, Hydroelectric, Municipal Solid Waste, Cogeneration
Applicable Sectors:	Commercial, Industrial, Residential
Limit on System Size:	40 kW
Limit on Overall Enrollment:	None
Treatment of Net Excess:	Purchased at average retail utility energy rate
Utilities Involved:	All utilities
Authority 1 & 2:	Minn. Stat. Â§ 216B.164(3) Minnesota Rule 7835.3300
Dates:	Enacted 1/1/83, Expiration: None,
<p>Summary: Minnesota's statute-based net metering law was established in 1983 and applies to all investor-owned utilities, municipalities & rural cooperatives. Qualifying facilities of 40 kW or less are eligible. There is no limit on statewide capacity.</p> <p>Utilities must purchase net excess generation at the average retail rate. The average retail rate is the total annual class revenue from sales of electricity minus the annual revenue resulting from fixed charges, divided by the annual class kWh sales. The purchase of net excess generation at retail rates distinguishes Minnesota's net metering legislation from similar programs in most other states. Only Wisconsin also provides for the purchase of net excess generation at retail rates</p>	
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	Fax: 651. 297-7891 Web site: http://www.commerce.state.mn.us

New Building Construction Requirements

Incentive Type:	State Construction Policy
Eligible Renewables:	Passive Solar Space Heat, Solar Water Heat, Solar Space Heat
Applicable Sectors:	Construction, State Government
Sectors:	All new and renovated state buildings
Authority 1:	Minn. Stat. Å§ 16B.32
Expiration Date:	None
<p>Summary: The Minnesota Department of Administration, which oversees all of the state's new government building projects, is required to use designs that incorporate active and passive solar energy and other alternative energy sources, where feasible, in new buildings and buildings undergoing renovations of 50% or more. Minnesota law also requires energy-efficiency standards in selected state buildings.</p> <p>An interdisciplinary team of local and national experts has developed sustainable-building guidelines for the Minnesota Department of Administration and the Minnesota Department of Commerce that will be applied to all new state buildings. Version 1.1 of The State of Minnesota Sustainable Building Guidelines will be tested during 2004-2005, and subsequent revisions will be published on at least an annual basis. http://www.csbr.umn.edu/B3/intro.html For more information on these guidelines, contact Bruce Nelson of the Minnesota Department of Commerce at (651. 297-2313)</p>	
<p>Energy Information Center Minnesota Department of Commerce, Energy Division 85 7th Place East, Suite 600 St. Paul, MN 55101-3165 Phone: 651. 296-5175 Fax: 651. 297-7891 E-Mail: > energy.info@state.mn.us Web site: http://www.commerce.state.mn.us</p>	

Non-Mandated Renewable Energy Objective

Incentive Type:	Renewables Portfolio Standard
Eligible Renewables:	Solar Thermal Electric, Photovoltaics, Wind, Biomass, Hydroelectric, Municipal Solid Waste, Hydrogen
Applicable Sectors:	Utility
Standard:	1% in 2005, increasing by 1% per year to reach at least 10% in 2015
Technology Minimum:	At least 0.5% biomass by 2005 and 1% biomass by 2010
Authority 1:	Minn. Stat. Å§ 216B.1691
Date Enacted:	2003
Effective Date:	2003
Expiration Date:	12/31/15
<p>Summary: Enacted in 2001 and amended in 2003, this Minnesota law requires electric utilities other than Xcel Energy* to make a good faith effort to generate or procure a percentage of the electricity that they generate from eligible renewable energy technologies: solar, wind, hydroelectric (less than 60 megawatts., hydrogen, and biomass -- including municipal solid waste -- that was not mandated by state law or commission order. After January 1, 2010, hydrogen must be generated from the renewable resources above to be eligible.</p> <p>Beginning in 2005, at least 1% of the electric energy provided to retail customers should be generated by eligible energy technologies. This amount will be increased by 1% each year until 2015, at which time 10% of electricity should be generated by eligible renewables. At least 0.5% of Minnesota's commercial electricity should be generated by biomass energy technologies by 2010, and 1% by biomass by 2015.</p> <p>The 2003 revisions directed the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC) to provide a weighted scale of how energy produced by various technologies will count toward a utility's objective and authorizes the agency to establish a credit-trading program to facilitate compliance. All utilities are required to develop formal plans detailing how they will meet the 10% renewables objective. The Minnesota PUC has determined that electricity generated under green-power programs does not count toward the objective. However, existing renewables could count toward the objective, depending on the PUC's weighted scale.</p> <p>* Under a separate statute, Xcel is currently required to build or contract for 125 MW of biomass electricity, and must build or contract for 1,125 MW of wind by 2011.</p>	
<p>Energy Information Center E-Mail: energy.info@state.mn.us Web site: www.commerce.state.mn.us Minnesota Department of Commerce , Energy Division 85 7th Place East, Suite 600 St. Paul, MN 55101-3165 Phone: (651. 296-5175 Fax: (651. 297-7891</p>	

Solar and Wind Easements

Incentive Type:	Solar and Wind Access Law
Eligible Renewables:	Passive Solar Space Heat, Solar Water Heat, Solar Space Heat, Solar Thermal Electric, Solar Thermal Process Heat, Photovoltaics, Wind
Applicable Sectors:	Commercial, Industrial, Residential, Nonprofit, Schools, Local Government, State Government, Fed. Government
Easement:	Yes
Covenant:	No
Zoning:	Yes
Website:	http://www.revisor.leg.state.mn.us/stats/500/30.html
Authority 1:	Minn. Stat. Â§ 500.30
Dates:	Enacted 1/1/78, Expiration: None
<p>Summary: Minnesota law provides for the creation of solar and wind easements for solar and wind energy devices. As in many other states, these easements are voluntary contracts. However, Minnesota is one of four states that specifically provides for wind easements. For tax purposes, an easement imposed on a property may decrease the property value, but an easement which benefits a property may not add value to that property. Minnesota law also allows local zoning boards to restrict development for the purpose of protecting access to sunlight. In addition, subdivisions may create variances in zoning rules in situations where undue hardships -- such as lack of access to sunlight for solar-energy devices -- impinge on a particular property.</p>	
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Solar Equipment Certification

Incentive Type:	Equipment Certification
Eligible Renewables:	Solar Water Heat, Solar Space Heat
Applicable Sectors:	Commercial, Residential, Construction, Installer/Contractor
Website:	http://www.revisor.leg.state.mn.us/arule/1325/1100.html
Authority 1:	Minn. Stat. Â§ 216C.25
Authority 2:	Minnesota Rules 1325.1100
<p>Summary: Minnesota law requires that all active-solar space and water heating systems installed on residential and commercial buildings meet Solar Rating and Certification Corporation (SRCC) standards. Specifically, the rule references SRCC's "Operating Guidelines" pertaining to collector certification and system certification: OG-100 and OG-300, respectively. Local building officials may issue permits for the installation of solar water and space heating systems once these systems have been issued certification by the SRCC</p>	
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Xcel Energy Renewable Development Fund

Incentive Type:	Public Benefits Fund
Eligible Renewables:	Solar Thermal Electric, Photovoltaics, Wind, Biomass, Hydroelectric, Fuel Cells
Applicable Sectors:	General Public/Consumer
Types:	Renewables
Total Fund:	\$16 million per year
Website:	http://www.xcelenergy.com/XLWEB/CDA/0,2914,1-1-1_4359_3725-801-0_0_0-0,00.html
Authority 1:	MN Session Laws 2003, 1st Special Session, Chapter 11 (H.F. 9 of 2003)
Dates:	Enacted 1994; amended 2003; Effective 2001; May 2003, Expiration: None
<p>Summary: Xcel Energy created the Renewable Development Fund (RDF) in May 1999 as an outcome of 1994 MN legislation concerning spent fuel storage at the Prairie Island nuclear power plant. The RDF is administered by the Renewable Development Board, which consists of two representatives from Xcel Energy, two representatives from MN's environmental community and one representative from the Native American community. Funds in the account may only be used for the development of renewable energy sources. Preference must be given to development of</p>	

renewable-energy projects located in Minnesota.

In May 2003, MN enacted legislation to extend nuclear waste storage at Xcel Energy's Prairie Island plant, and to increase the amount Xcel must pay toward the development of renewable-energy sources. As a result, Xcel now must pay \$16 million into the RDF annually, for as long as the Prairie Island plant is in operation. (Prior to this legislation, Xcel was required to contribute \$8.5 million each year.. The 2003 legislation mandates that up to \$6 million annually must be allocated to fund renewable-energy production incentives. Of this annual amount, \$4,500,000 will fund production incentives for wind energy, and approximately \$1,500,000 will fund production incentives for eligible on-farm biogas recovery facilities.

In 2001 the Xcel Energy RDF prgm selected a total of 19 research projects, during two phases, to receive nearly \$16 million in funding. Funding was awarded for various projects in three categories: commercial technology, experimental technology, and research and development. See the program web site above for project details.

The second RDF funding cycle began in fall of 2003, when Xcel Energy released a new request for proposals (RFP.. In August 2004, 25 proposed renewable-energy projects featuring hydroelectric, biomass, wind, solar and biofuel technologies were selected by the Renewable Development Board to receive more than \$22 million in funding. This sum included \$9,935,901 for energy-production projects and \$12,804,466 for research and development. All selected projects are subject to final approval by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission.

Renewable technology types eligible for funding typically include wind, biomass, solar, hydro and fuel cells. Funding is generally split between new development projects that result in the production of renewable energy, and research and development to lead these technologies toward full commercialization

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Xcel Energy Renewable Development Fund 414 Nicollet Mall Minneapolis, MN 55401-1993

1.888.547.9603 michelle.m.swanson@xcelenergy.com

More information about the RDF

Programs

[2001 RFP - Category B \(Experimental Technology, and Category C \(Research and Development.](#)

http://www.cleanenergystates.org/Funds/program.php?prog_id=19

· [Open-Ended RFP in 2001 - Commercial Technology](#)

http://www.cleanenergystates.org/Funds/program.php?prog_id=20

Eligible Technologies

- ☞ Solar PV : Solar projects intending to request funds under existing Department of Commerce programs will not be eligible to receive additional monies from the RDF.
- ☞ Solar thermal
- ☞ Wind : Less than 2 MW
- ☞ Biomass : Less than 12 MW
- ☞ Hydro : Less than 12 MW
- ☞ Ocean
- ☞ Geothermal
- ☞ Fuel cells

Geographic Criteria: Projects must be in the same state as the fund.

- ☞ Projects must benefit state ratepayers.
- ☞ Other: preference is given to R&D projects in Minnesota, be capable of delivering energy to Xcel Energy's upper mid-west system

Funding Tools

Grants	Near-equity investments
Recoverable grants	Equity investments
Production incentives	Guarantees
Loans	Rebates or Buydown

Authorizing Statute

[Minnesota Statutes 116C.779 - Funding for Renewable Development](#)

[216B.2422 - Definitions of Renewable Energy](#)

[Prairie Island Bill - H.F. 9 2003 Special Session, Second Engrssment](#)

Xcel Energy Wind and Biomass Generation Mandate

Incentive Type:	Renewables Set Aside
Eligible Renewables:	Wind, Biomass
Applicable Sectors:	Utility
Terms:	1,125 MW wind by 12/31/10; approximately 125 MW biomass
Authority 1:	Minn. Stat. Å§ 216B.2423
Date Enacted:	7/1/97
Effective Date:	7/1/97
Expiration Date:	12/31/10
<p>Summary: Minnesota legislation enacted in 1994 requires Xcel Energy to build or contract for 425 MW of wind power by December 31, 2003. In 2001, the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission ordered Xcel to build or contract for an additional 400 MW of wind by December 31, 2006. In May 2003, Minnesota enacted new legislation (HF 9 of 2003) requiring Xcel to build or contract an additional 300 MW of wind by December 31, 2010, raising the total amount of mandated wind power to 1,125 MW. At least 100 MW of the most recent increase must come from small wind resources (2 MW or less..</p> <p>In addition, Xcel was required to build or contract for 125 MW of electricity generated from biomass resources by December 31, 2002. Although HF 9 of 2003 reduced the amount of biomass energy that Xcel must purchase from 125 MW to 110 MW, this law also required Xcel to enter into a power purchase agreement by January 1, 2004, for 10-20 MW of biomass energy from a specific project.</p>	
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E-Mail: energy.info@state.mn.us	Web site: http://www.commerce.state.mn.us

GENERAL RESOURCES:

ACORE	
<p>The American Council On Renewable Energy, a 501(c).3., non-profit organization in Washington, D.C. is focused on accelerating the adoption of renewable energy technologies into the mainstream of American society through work in convening, information publishing and communications.</p> <p>With a focus on trade, finance and policy, ACORE promotes all renewable energy options for the production of electricity, hydrogen, fuels and end-use energy, and biofuels.</p>	
Website	www.acore.org

Agricultural Utilization Research Institute (AURI)	
<p>To enhance Minnesota's economy through the development of new uses and new markets for the state's agricultural products, which helps add value to Minnesota agriculture. Regional offices: Marshall, Crookston & Waseca</p> <p>Information: AURI links include: USDA, MN Dept. of Ag., MN Corn Growers Assn., MN Farmer's Union, Farm Bureau, MN Soybean Growers, MN Biodiesel Board.</p>	
Website	www.auri.org
Contact Information for the SW Region Office - Marshall, MN	<p>Max Norris, Director of Projects & Technology mnorris@auri.org 507.537.7440</p> <p>Dennis Timmerman, Project Development Director dtimmerm@auri.org 507.537.7440</p>

Alternative Fuels Data Center station locator	http://www.eere.energy.gov/afdc/infrastructure/locator.html
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American Coalition for Ethanol (ACE)	
<p>ACE unites agricultural producers, commodity and farm organizations, ethanol producers, rural electric cooperatives, businesses, and individuals. It is organized to promote and expand the development of the ethanol industry. Information: All About Ethanol (Alternative Uses., Public Policy (State Legislature, Congress & Federal Gov't--Renewable Fuels Standard. Ethanol Research</p>	
Website	www.ethanol.org PH: 605-334-3381 Fax: 605-334-3389
	2500 S. Minnesota Avenue #200 Sioux Falls, SD 57105

American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy	
Biodiesel & Ethanol Mandates and Incentives to Renewable Energy Portfolio Standards & the Minnesota Energy Code (Search: "Minnesota" within each Sector) ACEEE is dedicated to advancing energy efficiency as a means of promoting both (ACEEE) economic prosperity and environmental protection. Sample Information: Energy Policy, Programs, Consumer Resources, EE Links	
Website	www.aceee.org
	1001 Connecticut Ave., NW Suite 801 Washington, DC 20036 PH: 202. 429-8873

American Council for Renewable Energy	
Focused on accelerating the adoption of renewable energy technologies into the mainstream of American society and promotes all renewable energy options for the production of electricity, hydrogen, fuels and end-use energy. Information includes: Solar, Wind, Geothermal, Hydro/Ocean, Waste energy, Biomass	
Website	www.americanrenewables.org

American Wind Energy Association	
AWEA provides current information on wind energy projects, new projects, companies AWEA working in the wind industry, technology development & policy developments related to wind and other renewable energy development. Information: News Releases/Information (wind resources/links., Utility-Scale Wind (Wind Energy Project Sites, Industry Standards., Energy Policy, Resource Library	
Website	www.awea.org
	122 C Street, NW, suite 380 Washington, DC 20001 PH: 202. 383.2500

C-BED Community Based Energy Development	
C-BED is an organization of farmers and landowners, mainstreet businesses and bankers, wind developers and component fabricators, educators, renewable energy advocates, and other members of our local communities. We share a desire to develop wind and other renewable energy resources in a way that optimizes local economic development in the communities in which we live and work.	
website	http://www.c-bed.org/

Center for Energy and Environment	
The Center for Energy and Environment (CEE) is an independent, nonprofit organization that works to promote public interest through the responsible and efficient use of natural and economic resources. CEE accomplishes this mission through program development and delivery, research and education, evaluation and public policy initiatives. CEE has provided energy, environmental and housing rehabilitation services to utilities, private corporations, neighborhood organizations, municipalities and public agencies for over twenty years. These services include financing, building audits, technical research and training, program design and delivery and evaluations.	
Website	http://www.mncee.org/
	12 3 rd Avenue North, Suite 560 Minneapolis, MN 55401 PH 612.335.5858

Center for Producer-Owned Energy (The)	
To support the creation and development of producer-owned value-added businesses related to the production of renewable energy and the utilization and marketing of related AURI /Center for Producer-Owned Energy co-products and byproducts. Information: Services offered (technical assistance, business assistance, Organizational outreach and development assistance), Programs (Green Field Energy and Renewable Technology Assessment), Links	
Website	www.mncpoe.org
Contact Information	1501 State Street Marshall, MN 56258 PH: (507. 537-7440)

Clean Air Choice - American Lung Association of Minnesota	
Website	http://www.cleanairchoice.org/outdoor/
	12 3 rd Avenue North, Suite 560 Minneapolis, MN 55401 PH 612.335.5858

Clean Energy Resource Teams (CERTS)	
CERTS teams in each of six regions in Greater Minnesota include people from communities, industry, utilities, colleges, universities, & local governments. CERTS matches the teams with technical expertise to accelerate implementation of the energy saving Regional Dev. Comm. & Rural county Energy Task Force and renewable energy projects.	
Information: Links to organizations regarding biofuels, biogas digesters, biomass energy, cogeneration, energy conservation, solar, wind, etc. Links to all six MN regions.	
Websites	www.cleanenergyresourceteams.org http://www.swrdc.org/elu.htm#certs
Contact	Annette Bair (SW Regional Contact) 2401 Broadway Ave. Slayton, MN 56172 PH: 507. 836.8547 Dorothy Rosemeier (West Central Contact) PH: 320. 760.3735

Community Action Links Western CAP Minnesota Valley CAP Southwest MN CAP	http://www.ncaf.org/linkcaas.htm#Minnesota http://www.wcainc.org/ http://www.mnvac.org/lnindex/index.htm 800.658.2444
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Consumer Info Center	
, Food Safety for links to: To promote and protect the public health by helping safe & effective products reach the US Food and Drug Administration market in a timely way, to monitor products for continued safety, and to help the public get the accurate, science-based information needed to improve health. Information: Center for Food Safety & Applied Nutrition, Program Areas,	
Website www.cfsan.fda.gov	

DSIRE USA	
(Federal and State Incentives - What's Happening in Your State. Information: MN Incentives for Renewable Energy, Rules, Regs & Policies (Database of State Incentives for Renewable Energy))	
Website	www.dsireusa.org

Energy and Environmental Building Association	http://www.eeba.org/technology/publications/hec/default.htm
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Energy Foundation, (The)	
The Energy Foundation is a partnership of major foundations interested in sustainable energy. Information: The Energy Foundation awards grants to non-profits and takes initiatives in six areas: Power, Buildings, Transportation, National Policy & Analysis, Climate, and The China Sustainable Energy Program (Links: National Database of State Incentives, American Council for an Energy Efficient Econ)	
Website	www.ef.org
1012 Torney Ave. #1 San Francisco, CA 94129 PH: 415. 561-6700 Fax: 415. 561-6709	

Energy Information Administration	http://eia.doe.gov/
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Environmental Law & Policy Center	
To improve environmental quality and public health by reducing both the pollution from coal plants and the environmental, public health and safety risks from nuclear plants, which requires increasing the use of less-polluting energy efficiency and renewable resources to meet energy needs in the electricity services marketplace of the Midwest/Great Lakes states. Information: Smart Energy (2004 USDA Renewable Energy & Energy Efficiency Grant Program, Farm Bill Section 9006, Links (Solar, Wind, Biomass.	
Website	www.elpc.org
Contact Information	35 East Wacker Drive, Suite 1300 Chicago, IL 60601-2208 Ph: 312-673-6500 Fax: 312-795-3730

Great Plains Institute	
Because the Upper Midwest has vast and largely untapped sources of clean, domestic energy to produce power, fuel and materials, we are working with elected and government officials, energy industry executives, agricultural leaders and environmental advocates to capture the enormous economic prize that these home-grown resources represent. By engaging a strong, bipartisan, multi-interest coalition of leaders today, our region will prosper as outside events require rapid change or present unique economic opportunities	
website	http://www.gpsd.net/
Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy (IATP)	
Website	www.iatp.org
Interstate Renewable Energy Council (IREC)	
The Interstate Renewable Energy Council's mission is to accelerate the sustainable utilization of renewable energy sources and technologies in and through state and local government and community activities. Formed in 1982, IREC supports market-oriented services targeted at education, coordination, procurement, the adoption and implementation of uniform guidelines and standards, workforce development, and consumer protection. Today, IREC's programs include: The Going Solar/PV4You Program; The Database of State Incentives for Renewable Energy (DSIRE); Connecting to the Grid Project; The Schools Going Solar Information Clearinghouse; Community Outreach; the Training & Certification Project; Small Wind Energy News; The Workshop-in-a-Box Program; The Annual Renewable Energy Recognition Awards; and Videos, Public Service Announcements, Guides, Newsletters	
website	http://irecusa.org/smallwindenergy/e-newsletter.html
Linder Farm Network	http://www.katoinfo.com/linder_radio/farmnetwork/
McKnight Foundation, (The)	
To improve the quality of life for present and future generations and to seek paths to a more humane and secure world. Sample Information: Environment (Renewable Energy Program administered by The Energy Foundation of San Francisco)	
Website	www.mcknight.org
	710 South Second Street, Suite 400 Minneapolis, MN 55401 Ph: (612. 333-4220 Fax: (612. 332-3833
Midwest Independent System Operator (MISO)	
The non-profit Midwest ISO is an Independent Transmission System Operator that serves the electrical transmission needs of much of the Midwest. The Midwest ISO is committed to reliability, the nondiscriminatory operation of the bulk power transmission system, and to working with all stakeholders to create cost-effective and innovative solutions for our changing industry.	
website	http://www.midwestiso.org/
Minnesota Corn Growers Association	
Today's Minnesota news and agriculture headlines. Sample Information: Consumer Info Center (Food Safety links to US Food & Drug Admin., Corn & Renewable Fuels - links to major ethanol organizations, . Resource Room, News (Mpls. Grain Exchange, Chicago Board of Trade, US Dept. of Ag.	
Website	www.mncorn.org
	738 First Ave. East, Shakopee, MN 55379 PH: 952. 233.0333
Minnesota Department of Commerce	
To protect, improve and enjoy Minnesota's natural resources. Information: Agriculture (Alternative & Sustainable Ag, Farmlands), Energy (Alternative Energy, Conservation, Ethanol, Production Tax Credits),	
Website	www.state.mn.us
Contact Information	Energy Information Center 1-800-657-3710 (MN only) Phone: 651-296-5175 FAX 651-297-7891 energy.info@state.mn.us
Minnesota Electric Transmission Planning	http://www.minnelectrans.com/

Minnesota Rural Electric Association	http://www.mrea.org/
Minnesota Soybean Growers Association (MSGA).	
MSGA and the MN Soybean Research & Promotion Council (MSR&PC. are two very distinctive and different organizations who work together toward a common goal to increase the profitability of soybean farmers. Sample Information: Priority Issues, Legislation, Biodiesel, Soy Foods & Health, Links (Biotechnology, Biodiesel, Soy Foods & Health, Resource Links, Government, Farm Broadcaster News	
Website	www.mnsoybean.org
	360 Pierce Ave., Suite 110 North Mankato, MN 56003 PH: 507. 388.1635 PH: 888. 896.9678
Minnesotans for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ME3)	
To increase renewable energy (wind, solar., increase energy efficiency in homes, government and business, protect public health and quality of life, & promote an energy-efficient economy. Information: Energy Issues (BioMass, Efficiency, Wind., Legislative Watch (Laws., MN Energy Info (Renewable Incentives., and Energy Links	
Website	www.me3.org
Contact Information	Michael Noble, 46 E. 4th St. Ste. 600 Saint Paul, MN 55101 Phone (651.225-0878 fax (651. 225-0879
Minnesota Dept. of Agriculture:	
To work toward a diverse agricultural industry that is profitable and environmentally sounds; to protect public health and safety regarding food and agricultural products; and to ensure orderly commerce in agricultural and food products. Information: Food/beverage, Animals/Feed, Promotion/Education, Farm Planning/Practices (Research & Dev., Energy & Sustainable Agric, Biotechnology.	
Website	www.mda.state.mn.us
National Biodiesel Board (NBB).	
To increase the demand of commercially produced biodiesel in the United States through education, communication, and quality assurance programs and by serving as the national coordinating entity and clearinghouse of information. Information: Resources (Related links in energy, Government Agencies, corporations, organizations. News, Buying Biodiesel)	
Websites	www.biodiesel.org www.nbb.org
Engine Warranties & Standards	http://www.nbb.org/resources/fuelfactsheets/standards_and_warranties.shtm
Ph: 573. 635.3893	3337A Emerald Lane PO Box 104898 Jefferson City, Missouri 65110
National Energy Education Development (NEED).	
The mission of the NEED Project is to promote an energy conscious and educated society by creating effective networks of students, educators, business, government and community leaders to design and deliver objective, multi-sided energy education programs. Information: resources and links.	
Websites	http://www.need.org/
National Ethanol Vehicle Coalition	http://www.e85fuel.com/index.php
National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL)	
NREL develops renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies and practices, advances related science and engineering, and transfers knowledge and innovations to address the nation's energy and environmental goals. Information: Research & Technology Dev., Applying Technologies, & Learning About Renewables & Energy Efficiency	
Website	www.nrel.gov
National Rural Electric Cooperative Association	http://www.nreca.org/
National Wind Coordinating Committee (NWCC)	
Representatives from the utility, wind industry, environmental, consumer, regulatory, power, marketer, agricultural, tribal, economic development and state and federal sectors to support the development of an environmentally, economically, & politically sustainable commercial market for wind power. Information: Working Groups, Technical Assistance, Other Resources (National)	
Website	www.nationalwind.org
PH: 888. 764-WI ND	1255 23rd St. NW, Suite 275 , Washington, DC 20037 PH: 202. 965.6398

National Wind Technology Center	
Managed by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory for the U.S. Dept. of Energy, NWTC works with members of the wind energy industry to advance wind power technologies that lower the cost of wind energy through research and development of state-of-the-art wind turbine designs. Information: US Dept. of Energy's Wind Energy Program, For Consumers Links. Working with Industry, NWTC Library, Links for more Wind information.	
Website	www.nrel.gov/wind
	18200 State Hwy. 128 Boulder, CO 80303 PH: 303. 384.6900

Nat'l Corn Growers Assn.	
National Food Safety Programs, Special Interest Areas, Other Sources NCGA is a federation of state organizations, corn boards, councils & commissions developing and implementing programs and policies on a state and national level to help protect and advance the corn producer's interests. Information: Farm Bill 2002, Biotechnology, Ethanol & Co-Products, Trade, Transportation, Farm & Rural Dev. Programs, Research & Business Dev., Livestock	
	www.ncga.com

Northern Plains Family Farmer	http://www.bowviewfarm.com/FamilyFarmer.shtml
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RC&D's in MN	http://www.mn.nrcs.usda.gov/partnerships/marcd/contact.htm
Coteau des Prairie RC&D	http://www.mn.nrcs.usda.gov/partnerships/coteau/
Application	http://www.mn.nrcs.usda.gov/partnerships/coteau/Project%20Application.doc

Renewable Energy Policy Project (REPP)	
To accelerate the use of renewable energy by providing credible information, insightful policy analysis, and innovative strategies amid changing energy markets and mounting environmental needs by researching, publishing, and disseminating information, creating policy tools, and hosting highly active, on-line, renewable energy discussion groups. Information: Energy Policy, Hydro, Bioenergy, Geothermal, Wind, Solar, Hydrogen, and Efficiency	
Website	www.repp.org or http://www.crest.org/index.html
Contact Information	1612 K St. NW, Suite 202 Washington, DC 20006 Ph: 202. 293-2898 Fax: 202. 293-5857

Renewable Fuels Association (RFA)	
To promote increased production and use of ethanol through supportive policies, regulations, and research & development initiatives. The RFA works with state governments, agriculture, petroleum, environment and public interest groups, & ethanol advocates across the country. Information: Public Policy, Ethanol Plants, Industry Outlook Links Links to several Ethanol Advocates (click Governors' Ethanol Coalition, Member Governors, & Click on Links, Ethanol Advocates, Government & choose Minnesota, links to Governor of MN homepage., Government & Other Resources Resources	
Website	www.ethanolrfa.org
	One Massachusetts Ave., Suite 820 Washington, DC 20001 Ph: 202. 289.3835 Fax: 202. 289.7519

Renewing the Countryside	
Renewing the Countryside strengthens rural areas by championing and supporting rural communities, farmers, artists, entrepreneurs, educators, activists and other people who are renewing the countryside through sustainable and innovative initiatives, businesses, and projects. We do this by sharing stories of rural renewal, building awareness and support for sustainable endeavors, connecting people interested in sustainable rural development to each other, providing practical assistance and networking opportunities for those working to improve rural America, and fostering connections between urban and rural people.	
website	http://renewingthecountryside.org/content/blogcategory/69/45/

Research Reports International	
An independent publishing company that provides analysis on key issues facing businesses to keep our clients on the cutting edge of trends in a rapidly changing environment. We offer executives, managers, and professionals up-to-date, unbiased information on the challenges facing them. We have a well-deserved reputation for providing high-quality, objective, and critical analysis to our more than 2,000 clients who rely on us for timely and relevant information demanded by their jobs	
website	http://www.researchreportsintl.com
	Research Reports International, Inc. PO Box 1867 Evergreen, CO 80437-1867 phone: (303) 670-0296 FAX (303) 379-1358 email info@ResearchReportsIntl.com

Southwest Minnesota Foundation	
Mission: To be a catalyst, facilitating opportunities for economic, social, and cultural growth by promoting philanthropy, leadership, innovation, and collaboration for our eighteen county region.	
Website	www.swmnfoundation.org
	1390 Highway 15 South PO Box 428 Hutchinson, MN 55350 PH: 800. 594-9480 E-mail: info@swmnfoundation.org

Southwest Minnesota Housing Partnership	http://www.swmhp.org/
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The Effect of Wind on Local Property Values	http://www.crest.org/articles/static/1/binaries/wind_online_final.pdf
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The Green Institute	
To create a local model and provide national leadership for community residences and businesses in their efforts to exercise control and economic power over the cost and conservation of energy. Information: Green Resource Center (Energy Efficiency, Fuel Cells, General, and Wind Energy - links to many organizations., Phillips Community Energy Cooperative (on-line links to many major websites for energy, natural sciences, & pollution prevention.	
Website	www.greeninstitute.org
Contact	2801 21st Ave. S. Suite 110 Minneapolis, MN 55407 PH: 612-278-7100 FX: 612-278-7101

The Land On-Line	http://www.the-land.com/
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The Minnesota Project	
Dedicated to environmental protection and sustainable development in greater MN and promotes socially, environmentally and economically healthy communities. Information: Agriculture, Energy, State & Federal Policy, Clean Energy Resource Teams (CERTS., Farm Energy/Biogas Energy, Links.	
Website	www.mnproject.org
Contact Information	1885 University Ave., Suite 315 Saint Paul, MN 55104 phone 651. 645.6159

The New Rules Project Institute for Local Self-Reliance	
	www.newrules.org
T: 612-379-3815	1313 Fifth Street SE Minneapolis, MN 55414 F: 612-379-3920

Transmission in SW Minnesota	
Website	http://www.solpath.com/luna/admin/documents/345_presentation.pdf

University of Minnesota Initiative for Renewable Energy and the Environment (IREE)	
Promote statewide economic development, sustainable, healthy, & diverse ecosystems, & national energy security through development of bio-based & other renewable resources & processes. Primary goal: to harness the strengths of University expertise and, along with public & private partners, apply them to creative solutions in renewable energy. Information: Clusters (Hydrogen, Bioenergy & Bioproducts, Policy, Economics, Ecosystems, Conservation & Efficient Energy Systems., Library	
Website	www.umn.edu/iree

Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS)	
To achieve practical environmental solutions by combining rigorous scientific analysis, innovative policy development and effective citizen advocacy and to ensure that all people have clean air, energy & transportation, & food produced in a safe & sustainable manner. Information: Clean Energy (Renewable Energy, Policies. Food & Environment) (Biotechnology, Sustainable Ag., Genetic Engineering)	
Website	www.ucsusa.org

University of MN, Extension Service	
The major educational outreach arm of the University of Minnesota Information: Community, Environment, Farm (Related Websites, Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering Extension, Programs/Outreach, Alternative Energy, Bio, Solar, Wind. (Many links to related websites on Agriculture & Alternative Energy)	
Website	www.extension.umn.edu

US Department of Energy Clean Cities	http://www.eere.energy.gov/cleancities/
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US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)	
EPA AgStar Program is sponsored by US EPA, US Dept. of Ag, AgStar Prgm & the US Dept. of Energy to encourage the use of methane recovery (biogas) technologies at confined animal US EPA AgSTAR Prgm feeding operations that manage manure as liquids or slurries. These technologies reduce MC 6202J methane emissions while achieving other environmental benefits. Information: Basic Information, Documents, Tools, & Resources (Funding for Biogas Recovery Systems, Biogas Interim Standards, Anaerobic Digestion. Experts	
Website	www.epa.gov/agstar
PH: 800. 952- 4782	1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW Washington, DC 20460 202. 343-9041

West Central Research & Outreach Center Research Areas (WCROC) (U of M, Morris)	
Provide leadership in the generation and dissemination of research-based knowledge that addresses agricultural and rural issues. Information: Renewable Energy Program	
Website	http://wcroc.coafes.umn.edu

Wind Energy Resource Atlas of the United States	
website	http://rredc.nrel.gov/wind/pubs/atlas/appendix_D.html

Windustry	
To create an understanding of wind energy opportunities for rural economic benefit by providing technical support and creating tools for analysis with special focus on: economic development from wind energy; landowner rights, risks, and benefits; and community-based wind energy. Information: Wind opportunities & economic dev., wind turbine sites, Community Wind, U.S. Farm Bill, Resource Library (Nat'l, Reg'l & State., Windustry Farmers Network)	
Websites	www.windustry.com www.windfarmersnetwork.org
	2105 First Ave. S. Minneapolis, MN 55404 PH: 800. 946.3640 PH: 612. 870.3461

Wind Logics	
website	http://www.windlogics.com/

Wind on the Wires	
To ensure that wind energy has equal access to transmission lines and to remove bottle-necks in the transmission system by focusing on 1. technical issues; 2. regulatory, and 3. education and outreach. Information: Presentations, Technical and Regulatory Resources, Links	
Website	www.windonthewires.org
	1619 Dayton Ave. Suite 203 St. Paul, MN 55104 PH: 651. 644.3400

Wind Power Monthly an e- magazine	
website	http://windpower-monthly.com/

Wind Powering America	
To dramatically increase the use of wind energy in the U.S. This initiative will establish new sources of income for American farmers, native Americans, and other rural landowners, and (Through the Office of Energy Efficiency & meet the growing demand for clean sources of electricity. Renewable Energy, US Dept. of Energy-DOE. Information: Regional Activities (links to MN and all other National web sites.	
Website	www.eere.energy.gov/windpoweringamerica/

Utilities

Xcel Energy	http://www.xcelenergy.com	Dundee Electric Utility	
Alliant Energy	http://www.alliantenergy.com/	Dunnell Electric Department	dunnell@bevcomm.net
Otter Tail Power Co	http://www.otpco.com/	Jackson Elec Light&Power	http://www.jacksonmn.com/
Basin Electric	http://www.basinelectric.com/	Fairmont Pub Utilities	http://www.fairmont.org/
East River Electric Coop	http://www.eastriver.coop/	Lakefield Pub Utilities	http://www.lakefieldmn.com/
Lyon-Lincoln Elec Coop	http://www.lyon-lincolnelectric.coop/	Luverne Public Utilities	http://www.cityofluverne.org/
Great River Energy	http://www.greatriverenergy.com/	Madelia Municipal Light & Power	http://www.madeliamn.com/
Brown Co Rural Elec Assn	http://www.browncountyrea.coop/	Marshall Municipal Utilities	http://www.marshallutilities.com/
Benco Electric Cooperative	http://www.benco.org/distmap.cfm	Mountain Lake Mun Utilities	http://www.mountainlakemn.com/
Federated Rural Elec Assn	http://www.federatedrea.coop/	New Ulm Pub Utilities	http://newulm.govoffice.com/
Nobles Coop Electric	http://www.noblesce.coop/	Redwood Falls Pub Utilities	http://www.ci.redwood-falls.mn.us/
Redwood Elec Coop	http://www.greatriverenergy.com/member/mc_redwood.html	Round Lake Electric Dept	http://www.roundlk.net/
South Central Elec Assn	http://www.southcentralelectric.com/	Rushmore City of	
MN Valley Coop Lt&Pwr	http://www.mvec.net/	Sleepy Eye Pub Utilities	http://www.sleepyeye-mn.com/
Sioux Valley Southwestern	http://www.svswe.com/	Springfield Pub Utilities	
SMMPA	http://www.smmpa.org/	St. James City of	http://stjames.govoffice.com/
Adrian Public Utilities	http://www.adriamn.net/	Truman Municipal Utility	http://www.trumanmn.us/
Alpha City of		Tyler Mun Light&Power	http://www.tylermn.com/
Bigelow City of*		Westbrook Mun Light&Power	djutting@rrcnet.org
Brewster Elec Light&Power		Windom Municipal Utilities	http://www.windom-mn.com/
Ceylon Public Utilities		Worthington Mun Power	http://www.worthingtonpublicutilities.com/

USDA Program Specifics

2006 Program Announced for Section 9006 <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/regs>

The basic grant program and application process are largely unchanged from 2005. The minimum grant size is for energy efficiency is \$1,500 (renewable energy \$2,500) and the maximum is \$250,000 for energy efficiency improvements and \$500,000 for renewable energy systems. Grants can provide up to 25% of total project costs. However, there are some significant changes in how projects will be evaluated and scored:

- ? Renewable energy projects geared towards energy replacement (e.g., small wind systems. can receive up to 15 points (50% + displacement. while the maximum for projects aimed at energy generation is 10 points.
- ? Projects that can be tied into a written environmental goal (local, state, federal) may receive additional points.
- ? Technical Merit Score: This is now the largest scoring category (35 points. Points will be awarded on a number of criteria in this category based on elements of the project plan and feasibility analysis.
- ? Project Readiness: Projects will be awarded up to 15 points for showing commitment letters for all sources of required funding.
- ? Small Producers with revenue less than \$600,000 will receive 5 points and those under \$200,000 will receive 10 points.
- ? No Previous Awards: Applicants who have not received a grant in the past 2 years will receive 5 points.
- ? Return on Investment: Projects with a payback less than 4 years receive 10 points, 4-8 years 4 points, and 8-11 years receive 2 points.

FEDERAL: *Below is a summary of other related programs included in the 2002 Federal Farm Bill. Only programs that currently have funding are listed:* (from www.dsireusa.org website)

Section 9002 – Federal Procurement of Biobased Products

? Federal agencies are required to give preference to purchasing items containing the highest percentage of biobased products whenever practicable and available, consistent with maintaining a satisfactory competition level, and when the purchase price exceeds \$10,000.

? Draft rules have been issued to establish criteria for evaluating and selecting products. To review these draft rules, see <http://www.biobased.oce.usda.gov>.

Section 9008 – Biomass Research and Development

? This Section extends the authority of the Biomass Research and Development Act of 2000 through September 30, 2007.

? This program is funded at \$5,000,000 in 2002, and \$14,000,000 for each year in 2003-2007, to be made available from the Commodity Credit Corporation. An additional \$49,000,000 is authorized and subject to appropriations each year in 2002-2007.

? Grants are awarded to universities and private corporations for applied research and development projects covering any aspect of the conversion and utilization of biomass feedstocks for energy and chemical production.

Section 9010 – Continuation of Bioenergy Program

? This section authorizes continuation of the Commodity Credit Corporation's payment support program for producers of ethanol and biodiesel derived from corn, wheat, and other agricultural commodities, and cellulosic commodities (such as hybrid poplars and switchgrass), and fats, oils, greases and certain animal byproducts.

? Up to \$150 million of funding from the Commodity Credit Corporation is made available each year from 2003 to 2006.

Section 6401 – Value Added Producer Grants

? The program provides matching grants of up to \$500,000 for business planning or feasibility for any value added agricultural activity.

? This program is open to independent producer, agricultural producer group, farmer or rancher cooperative, or majority-controlled producer-based business venture.

? This program is not part of the Energy Title but has been used for energy-related projects including wind projects and ethanol facilities.

? **Veneman Announces The Availability Of \$13. 2 Million In Grants To Expand Value-Added Agricultural Business Ventures** <http://www.usda.gov/Newsroom/0230.04.html>

? For more information on this program, see <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rbs/coops/vadg.htm>