

**Stevens FORWARD, the University of Minnesota West Central Partnership  
& the West Central Clean Energy Resource Team present:  
“Incentives Available NOW for Residential Clean Energy Projects”**

Win a FREE Clean Energy site evaluation at your home or business (5 winners!)

**Wednesday, April 22nd, 2009**

**6:30 pm to 9:30pm**

**Prairie Inn**

**200 E Highway 28**

**Morris, MN 56267**

**(320) 589-3030**

*46 attendees were at the meeting.*

*To read an article about the meeting in the Morris Sun Tribune, please visit*

*<http://www.morrissuntribune.com/articles/index.cfm?id=17234&section=news>*

6:30 Clean Energy Raffle Registration

6:45 Introduction of the evening – Stevens FORWARD, Paul Watzke & Roger McCannon,  
Clean Energy Resource Teams co-coordinator Joel Haskard

7:00 Clean Energy Incentives: Overview

- Federal Stimulus Package (ENERGY STAR handout)
- USDA- Rural Energy for America (REAP)
- Database of State Incentives for Renewable Energy (DSIRE website)

*Note: The handout is included at the end of this meeting summary*

7:10 Energy Efficiency- Bill Klyve, Otter Tail Power

*To see a list of Otter Tail rebates, please visit*

*<http://www.otpco.com/SaveEnergyMoney/Rebates.asp>*

7:30 Residential-scale Wind- Tim Lipetsky, Green Energy Products LLC (*focus on wind, but  
solar PV, too*)

*To learn more about Green Energy Products LLC, please visit*

*<http://www.greenenergyproductsllc.com/>*

*To see a map of small wind and solar installers/dealers, please visit*

*<http://www.cleanenergyresourceteams.org/get-answers/03/11/2008/solar-small-wind-installers-minnesota>*

7:50 BREAK (light refreshments)

8:05 Solar Photovoltaic- Dennis Williams, Next Generation Power Systems (*focus on solar,  
but residential wind, too*)

*To learn more about Next Generation Power Systems, please visit*

*<http://www.nexgenpowersystems.com/nextgeneration.php>*

8: 25 Solar Thermal (hot water)- Randy Hagen or Kurt Koegel, Solar Skies

*To learn more about Solar Skies, please visit <http://solarskies.com/mfg/index>*

8: 45 Geothermal- Bob Donley, Econar

*To learn more about Econar, please visit <http://www.econar.com/>*

9: 05 Introduction of the student Clean Energy Corps and mentorship program- David Fluegel, Center for Small Towns

*To learn more about the environmental studies major that will be offered at Morris (and where many of the students who will partner with Stevens FORWARD and other organizations will come from) please visit <http://www.morris.umn.edu/ummnews/View.php?itemID=5030>*

9:20 The \$11,000 check was presented to Stevens FORWARD & five lucky people won the raffle drawing: Nancy Barbour, Don Reicosky, Kevin Hein, Debra Luetmer & Arne Kildegaard.

*Roughly \$1,000 has been set aside to help pay for the labor of the 5 clean energy site visits in Morris, with the remaining \$10,000 to be used to help Stevens FORWARD achieve their goal to be the first carbon neutral county in the world by 2015, demonstrating viable models for green housing, neighborhoods and public buildings.*

9: 30 Adjourn

Presented by Stevens Forward, University of Minnesota West Central Partnership & the West Central Clean Energy Resource Team (WC CERT)



[www.cleanenergyresourceteams.org](http://www.cleanenergyresourceteams.org)

## Funding Resources

**The Clean Energy Resource Teams (CERTs)** provides a monthly list of funding opportunities for energy & environment projects on their homepage in the “CERTs Announcements” column <http://www.cleanenergyresourceteams.org/>. CERTs may also have mini-grants (typically \$5,000) available summer 2009.

**American Recovery & Reinvestment Act (The Federal Stimulus)** The Department of Commerce – Office of Energy Security has a wealth of information here <http://www.energy.mn.gov> (look for the Federal Energy Stimulus Info button). And CERTs is updating information about it here

<http://www.cleanenergyresourceteams.org/get-answers/31/03/2009/minnesota-stimulus-energy-efficiency-news>. One of our favorite links that has all the tax forms you will need is ENERGY STAR here

[http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=products.pr\\_tax\\_credits](http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=products.pr_tax_credits).

Something to keep in mind is there are tax incentives for 30% of the costs with no upper limits for solar PV, geothermal and small wind systems and \$1500 (or 30% of a project cost) available for energy efficiency projects like insulation, windows & doors, HVAC, biomass stoves etc.

**The Database of State Incentives for Renewables and Efficiency (DSIRE)** is a comprehensive source for state, local, utility, and federal incentives that promote renewable energy and energy efficiency projects. It also includes helpful state-specific energy rules, regulations, and policies.

<http://www.dsireusa.org/>

**USDA Rural Development- Rural Energy for America Program (REAP)** has grants available for both energy efficiency and renewable energy. The renewable energy grants can be up to 25% of a projects costs, up to \$500,000.

<http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/mn/RBS/Section%209006%20Renewable%20Energy%20Program.htm>.

**Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA)** posts their grant opportunities here

<http://www.pca.state.mn.us/grants/>

**Legislative-Citizen Commission On Minnesota Resources (LCCMR) (Due May 1<sup>st</sup>!)**

The LCCMR is made up of 17 members: 5 Senators, 5 Representatives, 5 citizens appointed by the governor, 1 citizen appointed by the Senate, and 1 citizen appointed by the House.

The function of the LCCMR (formerly LCMR) is to make funding recommendations to the legislature for special environment and natural resource projects, primarily from the

Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund. These projects help maintain and enhance Minnesota's environment and natural resources.

<http://www.lccmr.leg.mn/>

**Xcel Energy's Renewable Development Fund**

[http://www.nextstep.state.mn.us/res\\_detail.cfm?id=585](http://www.nextstep.state.mn.us/res_detail.cfm?id=585)

**Rural Energy Development Initiative (REDI)** Through a network of regional partners, this program provides financing through loans to pay for a portion of the costs associated with community wind feasibility studies, business plans, and preparation of interconnection applications. For information in your area, contact Rich Huelskamp (SMIF) at [rich@smifoundation.org](mailto:rich@smifoundation.org) or 507-455-3215 ext. 123 or Cheryl Glaeser (SWIF) at [cheryl@swifoundation.org](mailto:cheryl@swifoundation.org) or 800-594-9480.

<http://www.swifoundation.org/renewableenergydevelopmentinitiative.html>

**Southwest Initiative Foundation's Renewable Energy Loan Program** promotes the industry by supporting business ventures including energy production businesses, secondary businesses that support the renewable energy industry, energy usage conversion projects, or new and emerging technologies. For more information contact Josh Gehlen at 800-594-9480 or [joshg@swifoundation.org](mailto:joshg@swifoundation.org).

<http://www.swifoundation.org/renewableenergyloanprog.html>

**Clean Renewable Energy Bonds (CREBs)** are a financing tool for electric cooperatives, public power systems and units of state and local government to build renewable electricity projects. CREBs are special-purpose tax credit bonds which provide the equivalent of an interest-free loan.

[http://www.dsireusa.org/library/includes/incentive2.cfm?Incentive\\_Code=US45F&State=federal&currentpageid=1&ee=1&re=1](http://www.dsireusa.org/library/includes/incentive2.cfm?Incentive_Code=US45F&State=federal&currentpageid=1&ee=1&re=1).

**Minnesota Chamber of Commerce's Energy Smart program** is a great resource for improving energy efficiency in businesses across the state. They list financial incentives.

<http://www.mnenergysmart.com/home.cfm>

For more information in regards to clean energy projects or programs, please give me a call anytime and I'll try to help you out! If I don't know the answer, I'll work to find someone that does.

Joel Haskard, Co-Coordinator  
Clean Energy Resource Teams (CERTs)  
P: 612-625-8759  
F: 612-625-1268  
[haska004@umn.edu](mailto:haska004@umn.edu)  
[www.cleanenergyresourceteams.org](http://www.cleanenergyresourceteams.org)

Also, don't forget the Department of Commerce – Office of Energy Security website <http://www.energy.mn.gov> and their "Ask the Energy Guy" hotline, 1-800-657-3710