

# **2023 Annual Report**

# Highlights & Accomplishments



Connected with 11,000+ people at 530 events and meetings.



Saved Minnesotans 19.4 billion BTUs.



Engaged 136,000 web visitors with 106 clean energy stories.

## **ENGAGING PARTNERS TO SERVE OVER 200 MINNESOTA COMMUNITIES**

### **Expanded community reach:**

• Ambassadors Initiative: Launched with events and a toolkit for Minnesotans to help their communities access new clean energy programs. Over 800 Ambassadors engaged in 2023.

# **Supported learning opportunities:**

- Community Energy Network: Convened 80+ local government staff to explore clean energy opportunities.
- EV-Smart Cities and Native Nations: Advanced electric vehicle readiness, like the Ride-and-Drive event with Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe.

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### **Provided direct assistance:**

- Solar for Schools: One-on-one technical assistance to 45 public school districts.
- Food Shelves: Project assistance and funding information to 60+ food shelves.
- Local Jurisdictions: Moved projects forward, such as solar procurement in Faribault and heat pumps in La Crescent.











# ADVANCING CLEAN ENERGY FOR ECONOMIC BENEFITS

- Provided direct project assistance to rural small businesses and farms through Renewable Energy for Greater Minnesota program.
- Connected **rural grocery stores** to energy audits and funding opportunities, reducing energy costs through efficiency measures.
- Developed partnerships to improve access to energy upgrades for small businesses in underserved corridors in the Metro.
- Partnered with Rural Minnesota Energy Board on an event about economic opportunities related to green hydrogen and ammonia.
- Received Energizing Rural Communities Prize for a new clean energy workforce partnership with White Earth Tribal and Community College and White Earth Nation.
- Hosted a clean energy careers event at the Heliene solar manufacturing facility in Mountain Iron.



Owner of Aaron's Grocery in Fertile with new, energy efficient coolers.

CEED distributing energy education packets at a community gathering in Brooklyn Center.

# GROWING LOCAL EFFORTS THROUGH STATEWIDE SEED GRANTS

49 CERTs Seed Grant projects wrapped up work in communities across Minnesota in 2023. A few:

- Shetek Lutheran Ministries in Slayton installed LED lighting and shared energy education.
- Willmar Municipal Utilities conducted energy efficiency outreach in manufactured home parks.
- Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa explored solar options for tribal buildings.
- City of Halstad insulated 14 rental homes and installed a Level 2 EV charger.
- Center for Earth, Energy and Democracy in Hennepin County connected with Southeast Asian community members on energy efficiency.

### REDUCING HOME ENERGY BURDEN

- Connected shoppers at 7 food shelves to resources to reduce home energy costs.
- Partnered with utilities, community action agencies, and nonprofits to conduct energy efficiency "blitzes" in 14 manufactured home parks, serving over 900 households.
- Supported **3 projects to pilot solar** for manufactured home residents.



An energy efficiency "blitz" in Cambridge.