



*helping Minnesota communities determine their energy future*

**The Clean Energy Resource Teams (CERTs) connect you and your community members with resources to identify and implement energy efficiency and renewable energy projects.**



## CERTs: Minnesotans Building a Clean Energy Future

**COMMUNITY MEMBERS FROM AROUND THE STATE** have developed a bold vision for Minnesota's energy future, through greater energy efficiency and production from clean 21st Century technologies including wind, biomass, biofuels and solar power. Minnesotans' vision is becoming a reality now, one project at a time. The Clean Energy Resource Teams (CERTs) project, launched in 2003, is connecting people with the technical resources needed to identify and implement community-scale energy efficiency and clean energy projects.

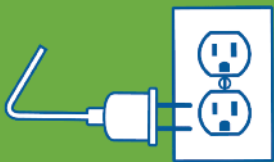
The Clean Energy Resource Teams are diverse—individuals, small business owners, farmers, members of environmental groups, local utility representatives, local, state and federal government staff and elected leaders, academics—and all share common goals and values. They want strong communities, local jobs, and secure, clean, reliable energy.

The CERTs approach is one of pragmatism and cooperation. It's a model for how tangible economic, social and environmental benefits can be achieved by reaching across traditional interest groups and taking a true, community-based approach. In fact, CERTs has become something of a model for community-based clean energy.

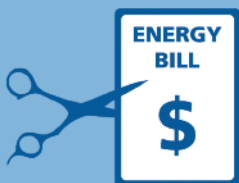
### LEARN



### CONNECT



### ACT



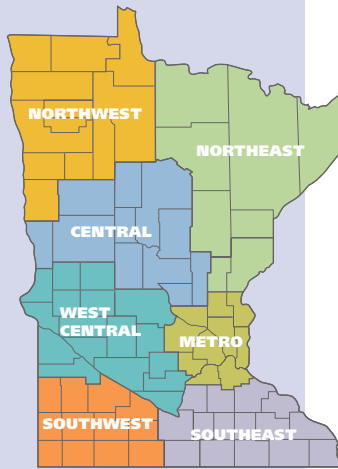
#### CERTs SUCCESSES

Since its inception in 2003 CERTs has created networks, provided education and helped catalyze projects. Here are a few key CERTs milestones:

- In 2005, Regional Strategic Clean Energy Plans were created in the six rural CERT regions.
- In 2006, 17 new clean energy projects were catalyzed with seed grants of \$1,000 or less, leveraging additional community funding and helping to create tomorrow's energy system in communities today.
- CERTs won the 2006 Minnesota Environmental Initiative's Partnership of the Year award for the diverse collection of stakeholders it's mobilized.
- In 2007, CERTs was written into state statute. CERTs awarded a total of \$300,000 in seed grants for clean energy projects throughout the six greater Minnesota regions during 2008 and 2009. The legislature also provided for the expansion of CERTs to the Twin Cities metro area.
- Over 2,000 individuals participate in CERT meetings and educational forums, and volunteer thousands of hours to the CERTs project.
- On May 7, 2009 Governor Pawlenty signed the Environment Budget bill, which included \$1.25 million over the biennium for CERTs to help local groups develop project ideas, and organize and implement projects in their communities.
- In 2009, CERTs received \$450,000 over two years from the Bush Foundation.
- In 2010, CERTs announced 55 seed grants of up to \$11,000 that will bring communities together in identifying and implementing projects. A total of \$280,000 was awarded.
- From 2009-2011, CERTs has helped Minnesotans save over 35 billion BTUs of energy—enough to heat 400 Minnesota homes for a year—and CERT seed grants have supported over 180 new and existing employment opportunities.

**The CERTs website provides current information on projects, technologies, events & much more!**

[WWW.CLEANENERGYRESOURCE TEAMS.ORG](http://WWW.CLEANENERGYRESOURCE TEAMS.ORG)



## ACTION IN EACH MINNESOTA REGION

All of the regional teams have learned that energy efficiency is the first step towards economic development and energy independence.

Along with efficiency, teams are pursuing a variety of other projects:

**Central** Solar thermal heating in low-income housing and innovative building construction.

**Northeast** Solar, wind, and energy efficiency projects at K-12 schools.

**Northwest** On-farm biodiesel production and mobile biomass gasifiers.

**Southeast** Biomass projects, hazelnut nurseries, and partnerships with local utilities for efficiency programs and educational outreach.

**Southwest** Wind development and its impact on infrastructure, and encouraging energy efficiency through energy audits.

**West Central** Youth energy projects and tours that highlight solar thermal manufacturing, energy efficiency, and community wind production.

**Twin Cities Metro** Many Twin Cities neighborhood groups, community organizations and other metro-area residents are currently engaged in local energy efficiency and clean energy efforts.



## YOU CAN GET INVOLVED!

CERTs members all over the state share the goal of creating opportunities for local ownership and energy independence. We always welcome new participants who are interested in putting significant clean power and energy efficiency to work for the benefit of local communities throughout Minnesota. Visit [mncerts.org](http://mncerts.org) to find out how to join the team closest to you.

## WHO IS BEHIND THIS EFFORT?

### CERTs Partners include:

- University of Minnesota's Regional Sustainable Development Partnerships and Extension
- Eureka Recycling
- Southwest Regional Development Commission
- The Minnesota Project
- Minnesota Division of Energy Resources
- Community members from all over the state

### Funding for this project is provided by:

- Minnesota Division of Energy Resources
- McKnight Foundation
- Bush Foundation
- Carolyn Foundation
- University of Minnesota Extension



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