



helping Minnesota communities determine their energy future

CERTs PARTNERS

- University of Minnesota Regional Sustainable Development Partnerships
The Green Institute
Southwest Regional Development Commission
The Minnesota Project
Minnesota Office of Energy Security



CERTs 2010 Central Seed Grant Recipients

As we kick off 2010, we are excited to announce the projects awarded CERTs seed grants in each of the seven Minnesota CERTs regions.

These catalyzing grants of up to \$11,000 will help projects garner further funding and bring communities together in identifying and implementing energy efficiency and renewable energy projects. CERTs received 122 proposals requesting a total of \$829,224; of these, 55 proposals were funded for a total granting amount of \$280,000.

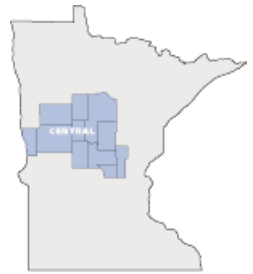
Read on for all of the details about funded projects in the Central Region. Counties in this region include Benton, Becker, Cass, Crow Wing, Hubbard, Mille Lacs, Morrison, Otter Tail, Todd, Wadena, Wilkin.

CERTs connect you and your community members with resources to identify and implement energy efficiency and renewable energy projects. Learn more at www.CleanEnergyResourceTeams.org.

CENTRAL REGION

Rabideau Conservation Academy & Learning Center: Solar Contest

Black Duck, Bemidji & Cass Lake, MN - The Rabideau Conservation Academy and Learning Center (CALC) will hold a solar heating design contest for high school students in Black Duck, Bemidji and Cass Lake School Districts. A panel of three judges will choose the winning design which will then be constructed by a group of youth, with guidance from the winning design team. The solar heating units will supply supplemental heat to a series of greenhouses, and ultimately, lengthen the growing season for Rabideau Gardens. The solar heater will be used as a public education model on solar energy and local food production and be a permanent youth learning program at Rabideau CALC. (Clean Energy: Solar Thermal & Education: School; \$5,000)



City of Park Rapids: Armory Square Project Feasibility Study

Park Rapids, MN - This project is a comprehensive feasibility study to evaluate the technologies and methods available to retrofit the former 24,000 square foot armory building in downtown Park Rapids. The study will identify ways to integrate energy management systems, weatherization, heating & cooling zoning, peak load energy management, on-site generation of renewable energy, and off-peak energy storage technology. The project serves to showcase real-world building energy efficiency applications, substantially reduce the carbon footprint of the building, and bring a valuable historical asset back into the life of the community. (Research: Feasibility Study; \$7,000)

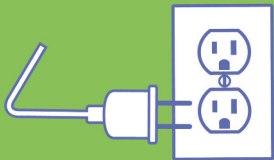
Northland Arboretum: Induction Lighting Demonstration

Brainerd & Baxter, MN - The Northland Arboretum, encompassing over 580 acres of urban Brainerd and Baxter, MN, will upgrade their seven 250 watt mercury vapor lights to higher-efficiency induction lighting. This project is estimated to reduce energy consumption by over 1,051 kWh annually, resulting in over 20,000 kWh over the life of the project. In addition, they will construct an outdoor display kiosk to educate visitors about the efficiency of induction lighting, develop an indoor monitor to display up-to-date energy savings, and host an annual workshop on the lighting technology. (Energy Efficiency: Lighting & Education: Community; \$4,500)

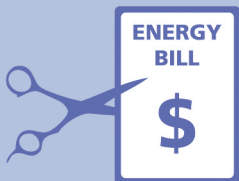
LEARN



CONNECT



ACT



Leech Lake Tribal College: Sustainable Development Plan

Cass Lake, MN – This project will create a master campus development plan for Leech Lake Tribal College. With a primary vision of designing future buildings to incorporate geothermal and solar energy technology as primary heating and cooling sources, the plan will also include options for retrofitting their four existing buildings for increased energy efficiency and use of renewable energy sources. LLTC will construct all future buildings to at least LEED Silver standards. (Research: Planning; \$6,000)

Rural Renewable Energy Alliance: Solar for Local Units of Government in Region 5

Cass, Crow Wing, Morrison, Todd & Wadena Counties, MN – The Rural Renewable Energy Alliance (RREAL) will conduct feasibility studies on government buildings and determine the most applicable solar technology or technologies for each particular location. With approval from local governmental units on the recommended plan(s), the appropriate technology will be implemented to reduce local dependence on fossil fuels, energy costs, and greenhouse gas emissions, as well as promote educational activities about and further advance understanding of solar energy technologies. (Clean Energy: Solar PV, Solar Thermal & Research; \$5,000)

Rural Renewable Energy Alliance: Solar Space Heat Performance Estimation

Pine River, MN – This project will create a user-friendly performance simulation module for solar space heat applications. The module will be created by TESS (Thermal Energy System Specialists), a company which has significant expertise and experience in solar performance modeling. Upon completion of the module, it will be made available upon request to Minnesota research institutions, Community Action / Weatherization Agencies who wish to employ the technology, and local units of government who wish to conduct analyses of solar air heat on publicly-owned buildings. This innovation will help determine the feasibility and applicability of solar air heat technology in particular locations and buildings compared with the use of other renewable technologies. (Clean Energy: Solar Thermal, Research; \$5,000)

St. Cloud Joint Planning District: Sustainability Framework Plan

Stearns, Benton & Sherburne Counties, MN – The St. Cloud Joint Planning District Sustainability Committee, in collaboration with professionals, local communities, and the public and private sectors, will establish a vision and outline best practices in several focus areas: sustainable land use, multi-modal transportation, alternative energy, efficiency, education, groundwater resources, and food systems. This plan will aid in achieving reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, economic savings for greener practices, alternative energy projects, and adoption of modern ordinances. In addition, a regional approach to sustainability will allow the area's residents and entities the greatest opportunity to adapt and adjust to the challenges that lie ahead. (Research: Planning; \$7,500)