



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 Northwest 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.

Read on for all of the details about funded projects in the Northwest Region. Counties in this region include Beltrami, Clay, Clearwater, Kittson, Lake of the Woods, Mahnommen, Marshall, Norman, Pennington, Polk, Red Lake, Roseau.

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.

NORTHWEST 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)



Concordia Language Villages: BioHaus - Engaging Middle School Teachers & Students in Hands-on Activities with Renewable Energy Models

Bemidji, MN - This project will give middle school science teachers in NW Minnesota the opportunity to incorporate Concordia Language Villages' BioHaus Environmental Living Center into their curriculum. BioHaus is the first certified Passive House in North America and achieves energy savings of 85 percent annually. Teachers will attend a one-day workshop at BioHaus to learn applications of a variety of renewable energy models and how to incorporate them into a curriculum. Teachers can then bring 22-28 students to BioHaus for a full-day fieldtrip where they will calculate their own ecological footprints and evaluate their behavior patterns, in hopes of gaining an understanding of the relationship between personal choices and energy conservation alternatives. (Clean Energy & Education: School; \$5,000)

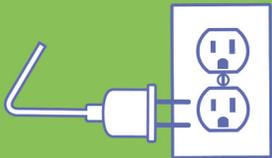
Clear Waters Life Center: Gonvick Efficiency Project

Gonvick, MN - The CWLC-Gonvick Project will improve the energy efficiency of heating and cooling the old Gonvick school building, which was purchased by the Clear Waters Life Center for conversion into a community-based facility. The building will serve to educate the public about the benefits of alternative energy sources and energy efficiency. (Energy Efficiency: Building Efficiency, Education: School & Research; \$4,000)

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Bemidji State University: Climate Action Planning

Bemidji, MN – Bemidji State University and Bemidji city officials have made written commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. To comply with these commitments, the partners will collaborate with a hired consultant to form a city Sustainability Commission and draft a Climate Action Plan that will advise the Mayor and City Council on projects that impact the local community members and environment. (Education & Research; \$10,000)

Northwest Technical College: Ethanol-Fueled ATV Demonstration

Bemidji, MN – The project is designed to demonstrate the potential benefits of modifying engines to better utilize ethanol-blend fuels in the regionally-manufactured Arctic Cat all-terrain vehicle (ATV). Students and faculty from the Northwest Technical College's High-Performance Engine Machinist Program and Arctic Cat employees will conduct research in this unique partnership. Their findings will be used to educate decision-makers and the public about the modifications, resulting efficiency gains, cost-effectiveness, potential applications and markets for the engine modifications, exciting areas for further study and testing, and the potential opportunities for further developing bio-fueled engine industries. (Research & Education: School; \$5,000)

University of Minnesota-Crookston Center for Sustainability: Students Paving a Green Path

Crookston, MN – Students at the University of Minnesota - Crookston will be paired with a faculty or staff member to work on research projects. The projects will include the feasibility and design layout of a methane digester, as well as an inventory of building-to-building energy usage and creating a dorm energy conservation competition. Projects are designed to develop leadership skills, and incorporate a real-world, living laboratory through collaboration between students, faculty, and staff on clean energy projects related to sustainable development. (Clean Energy: Biogas Digesters, Energy Efficiency: Building Efficiency & Education: School; \$11,000)