

NORTHEAST REGION



Ecolibrium3: Duluth Citizens' Climate Action Plan

Duluth, MN – Ecolibrium3 will work with the Corporation for National and Community Service and the Duluth Climate and Energy Network to develop a Citizens' Climate Action Plan to guide implementation of sustainability-focused projects, programs, and behavioral change in Duluth over the next five years.

This effort will involve five public engagement sessions and visioning gatherings to look at ways that all citizens can participate in building a greener, more equitable Duluth. The CERTs Seed Grant award will help cover the costs of a facilitator for visioning gatherings. (\$5,000)

The Boreal Farm: Food Preservation with Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy

Duluth, MN – The Boreal Farm was founded as a teaching farm and living classroom for local farmers and students. One of the greatest issues facing farmers is the need for a long-term, high volume, energy efficient means of food preservation; this includes a need for storage systems for everything from fruits and vegetables to cured meat and seeds. The Boreal Farm plans to apply renewable energy and modern technologies in a traditional food preservation method of root cellaring by re-purposing precast concrete septic tanks. By coupling this with solar and wind, and by applying geothermal principles, they will create an efficient, duplicable, low-cost food preservation system to meet the needs of farmers and other artisan food crafters. (\$5,000)

through design LLC: Here Comes the Sun – Family Education Workshops

Duluth, MN – through design LLC, a Duluth-based consultant, and new Duluth entity Brick and Mortar LLC will work with non-profit organizations the Family Freedom Center, the American Indian Community Housing Organization (AICHO), Ecolibrium3, and Minnesota Interfaith Power & Light to deliver community workshops focused on the benefits and opportunities with solar energy. Attendees will participate in discussions about renewable energy, climate change, and economic justice, including ways that they can participate and lead in the transition to renewable energy in their own communities. Guest speakers are Minnesota entrepreneurs who will share their stories of finding work in the clean energy sector. The events will provide information about education, training and job opportunities related to renewable energy, and include activities for students. (\$5,000)

City of Grand Marais: Municipal Fleet Electric Vehicle Suitability Assessment

Grand Marais, MN – The City of Grand Marais will conduct a study using Geotab telematics devices and Sawatch Labs analytics software in municipal vehicles to gather data that will help identify opportunities for integrating electric vehicles (EVs) into the city fleet. The City will install telematics devices and engage consulting services to conduct the research, data analysis, and education necessary to successfully identify EV integration opportunities and present these findings to the city council. The ultimate hope is that this study will construct a sound rationale for purchasing electric vehicles for the Grand Marais fleet, thus furthering the city's goal of net-zero carbon emissions by 2040, as well as share the findings with neighboring communities in Cook county. (\$5,000)