CERTs 2022 Seed Grant Awards



METRO REGION

All Parks Alliance For Change: Manufactured Home Improvement **Partnership Program**

Saint Paul, MN — Manufactured homes built prior to creation of HUD's federal housing code in 1976 are among the lowest quality housing stock with some residents using 30% or more of their income for housing cost, based on utilities alone. A Minnesota Housing Finance Agency manufactured home rehab loan program allows home replacement, but many resident homeowners, park owners, and cities are largely unaware of the program. This project will support repairing and/or replacing pre-1976 homes. (\$5,000 Commerce)



Minneapolis, MN — Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative is working to add rooftop solar arrays to most of their Minneapolis properties. They are working in partnership with Cooperative Energy Futures (CEF), a member-owned cooperative that focuses on broadening access and building wealth for Minnesotans, particularly those who are people of color and/ or who have low to moderate incomes, or have otherwise been economically marginalized. CEF will be supported by 1-2 staff from a local energy democracy nonprofit called Community Power. (\$5,000 Commerce)

Center for Earth, Energy and Democracy (CEED): Energy Education

Hennepin County — CEED will be working with community partner, Phitsavath Nantharath (Phitz), to do outreach and education on energy efficiency in the Southeast Asian community in Hennepin County. This project builds on previous work providing energy education on how to read energy bills, ways to save on home energy costs, and ways to conserve home energy use. This work previously reached over 200 Southeast Asian households across the Metro region. (\$5,000 Morgan)

City of Bloomington: Energy Resource Workshops

Bloomington, MN — The city aims to connect residents, especially those with higher energy burden, to resources that will lower their energy bills, reduce greenhouse gas emissions from residential energy use, and improve community health. Many homes in Bloomington are lacking insulation and could benefit from air sealing. Through community energy conversations in 2021, city staff learned many residents are confused or unaware about energy program offerings. The city also learned about the barriers residents face when signing up for the energy assistance program and/or weatherization assistance program. The purpose of these workshops is to address those barriers. (\$4,775 Commerce)



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City of Maplewood: Clean Energy for All

Maplewood, MN — The Clean Energy for All study seeks to identify program opportunities to reduce energy burden for historically underserved populations living in manufactured home parks. The study will research and outline creative ways to reduce energy use, create clean energy opportunities, and outline actions and next steps. It will help guide an energy burden outreach project that will focus on 800 households within three manufactured home parks in Maplewood, and include actions for immediate reduction of energy use, and review of solar benefits. (\$1,000 Commerce)

City of St. Louis Park: Engaging NOAH Property Owners and Tenants for More Resiliency

St. Louis Park, MN — The City of St. Louis Park looks to hire a consultant to conduct a community engagement research project on the barriers to energy efficiency and rooftop solar projects in Naturally Occurring Affordable Housing (NOAH) properties. The project will engage tenants about their experiences with energy burden, energy-related repairs, and displacement concerns. The project will also engage property owners to identify specific barriers to participating in energy efficiency, solar, and affordable housing incentive programs. Findings will inform future programs in the city. (\$5,850 Commerce)

Clark Grace United Church of Christ: UCC Energy Outreach

South St. Paul, MN — This project is a community energy efficiency outreach program that creatively builds on energy efficiency upgrades at the church. The program will include a ribbon-cutting event for the energy efficiency upgrades and an energy efficiency fair that will include information on how individuals can reduce energy, greenhouse gas emissions, and costs. The first 25 households who sign up for a Home Energy Squad visit will receive a discount. In addition, a case study describing the impact of installing energy efficient equipment will be developed and distributed. (\$4,050 Commerce)

Iby's LLC: Light of Lake Street

Minneapolis, MN — The goal of this project is to add renewable energy resources and limit dependence on energy sources that cause climate change and damage the environment. The multi-faceted project will add solar energy to two new projects on Lake Street — a mixeduse building and a commercial building between Nicollet and Bloomington where little to no renewable energy projects exist. The project will also fund and facilitate a youth incubator to train youth about the potential of solar, how to install solar energy, and how to market solar to the rest of the community. (\$5,000 Commerce)

Just B Solar Co: Intro to Solar 101

Minneapolis, MN — Just B Solar (JBS) was established because case studies, research, and personal experience illustrated that there needed to be an emphasis on renewable energy in low income and underserved communities. Their goals are to engage people in their community in the new energy revolution; build awareness and education about solar in underfunded and low-income communities; educate youth, and spark innovation and interest in new energy. (\$5,000 Morgan)

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Minneapolis Climate Action: Art and Climate Change — Creating Partners in **Community Solar Gardens**

Minneapolis, MN — This project will create an arts-based, outreach guide designed to educate community stakeholders and historically underrepresented communities on the benefits of Community Solar Gardens (CSGs). The visual guide will serve to educate, increase environmental justice, and promote climate literacy. Minneapolis Climate Action will use art to engage new voices, build trust, and bring the benefits of CSGs to underserved neighborhoods. They are partnering with Central and Lyndale neighborhoods, focusing on the Latinx, Somali, and African American communities, to create the guide. (\$5,000 Commerce)

Northcountry Cooperative Foundation: Improving Energy Efficiency of Manufactured Homes

Anoka and Chisago Counties — The grant will be used to assess the energy efficiency of manufactured homes in Northcountry Cooperative Foundation's client communities including Park Plaza Cooperative, Fridley (86 homeowners); Stonegate Cooperative, Lindstrom (50 homeowners) in partnership with Slipstream. The assessment data will be used to develop a scalable energy efficiency rehab loan and grant program for manufactured/mobile homeowners. (\$5,000 Commerce)

Unidos MN Education Fund: Energy Justice Pueblitos

Minneapolis, Minn — Unidos MN will conduct a series of train-the-trainer educational workshops on energy efficiency and electric bills with support from Minnesota's Citizen Utility Board. Unidos MN plans to establish a cohort of community experts who will engage with Latinx community members on energy efficiency resources and tools, as well as provide bill consultation. (\$5,000 Commerce)

