CERTs 2022 Seed Grant Awards

NORTHEAST REGION

40 Acre Cooperative: Solar Powered Hoop Houses for Crop Protection

Rutledge, MN — This project will complete the installation of solar equipment previously purchased that will provide power to the farm's research and development hoop house. This solar powered hoop house project will extend the growing season and protect plants from weather, pests, and external threats, and can be especially useful for market and other specialty crop farmers in the region. This project looks to demonstrate the cost savings and economic viability of solar powered hoop houses to extend the growing season for small and specialty farmers in the region. (\$5,500 Commerce, Morgan)

East Central ISD #2580: Eagles Soar with Solar

Finlayson, MN — The school has already done many energy efficiency upgrades and now wants to complete an evaluation to see if they are a good fit for solar energy. By having solar energy, the school hopes to reduce its ecological footprint and save money on increased summer electric bills. (\$5,000 Commerce)

East Range Academy of Science and Technology: 40kW School Solar Array

Mountain Iron, MN — The school's students, school board, faculty, and administration want a solar PV system as part of an overall strategy to achieve the goal of a zero net carbon building. The system will be net-metered with a capacity of 40 kW, with roof-based and ground-based solar panel arrays. It will use microinverters to provide AC power for school use and feed power back into the community electrical grid during times of lower demand. (\$5,000 Commerce)

Ecolibrium3: Lincoln Park Resilience Hub Resilient Power Design Project

Duluth, MN — This project is the reimaging of a closed senior center into a refreshed community space that meets the needs of the surrounding low-income neighborhood while demonstrating potential for resilient power solutions. The grant-funded portion of the project will support local staff assistance during technical analysis and design phases for resilient power solutions that will allow continued functioning during disasters and/or grid outages. The 20,000 sq ft facility is made up of two buildings that will serve as home to Duluth's winter warming shelter for homeless individuals, multiple direct service nonprofits, and a local food access solution. (\$5,000 Commerce)







Ecolibrium3: One Block — Developing Environmental Justice Climate Resilience Data

Duluth, MN — The One Block project recognizes that advancing climate equity, energy transition, and disaster resilience is complicated. The project will assist in determining the best solution sets for hyper-local implementation in an environmental justice neighborhood of Duluth. The grant will support Ecolibrium3's Building Performance Professional in home and property evaluations to determine potential scopes of work and funding needed for healthy and efficient transition to Ready4-Rain housing with beneficial electrification. (\$5,000 Commerce)

Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa: Sustainable Living Tours

Cloquet, MN — Within Carlton county, the Fond du Lac Band has constructed the first LEED Resource Management building, a one megawatt solar field, biomass district heat system, Tesla 8 vehicle charging stations, a Forest Carbon Sequestration Project, and an organic farm with food storage and processing area. They have developed a Strategic Energy Plan and reduced fossil fuel use by 50% and CO2 by 80%. This grant will help cover staff time as they provide tours and discuss pathways to achieve sustainable living with schools, colleges, organizations, and the public. (\$5,000 Commerce)

Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa: Clean Energy Initiative

Grand Portage, MN — Grand Portage will begin converting many of their enterprises to solar power. A feasibility study is necessary to determine whether each building should have its own solar array, or whether there should be one for the community at large, and if the latter is true, where would be the best location and what size of array would be appropriate. (\$5,000 Commerce)

Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa: Log Building LED Project

Grand Portage, MN — Grand Portage Community Log Building is a public meeting place. This project will support the Band transitioning this facility to all LED lighting. (\$5,000 Commerce)

Healthy Alliances Matter for All, St. Mark AME Church: Charcoal Coolers at the Giving Garden

Duluth, MN — This project will enhance the Giving Garden's success in sustaining produce grown, gathered, and shared by the community. Three charcoal coolers and how-to use videos and fact sheets will be built and designed by youth. Charcoal coolers address the need for refrigeration in areas where electricity is unavailable. Youth and neighbor participants will receive hands-on experience in the benefits of clean energy systems for food preservation. (\$5,000 Morgan)

Kanabec County Agricultural Society: Light the Grounds

Mora, MN — The project aims to change out exterior light fixtures at the fairgrounds in order to decrease annual use and cost to the organization. There will be a brochure, signs, and news articles to educate the community about the savings as a result of these changes, especially during the county fair. Additionally, the project will explore the possibility of adding a Community Solar Garden on the fairgrounds with the intent of establishing an energy source for both the fairgrounds and for low income households in the community. (\$4,740 Commerce)



Prototypical LLC: Ten K Solar Microinverter Adaptation Project

Finland, MN — This project will research, develop, and market a device that allows solar systems, previously built by Ten K Solar (dissolved company) to continue producing clean energy, and, in the process, connect owners with resources to keep their systems operational. Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning Center will serve as a test location for prototypes. (\$5,000 Commerce)

Regency Park Mobile Homes: Mora Energy Efficiency Outreach

Mora, MN — Create an outreach event at the Mora Regency mobile home park (approximately 85 units) to educate residents about how to save money, conserve energy and water, and connect them to available programs such as utility rebates and community action agency programs (Head Start, SNAP, weatherization). (\$1,900 Commerce)