

# The Clean Energy Community Awards (CECA)

minnesota  
clean energy  
community

The Clean Energy Community Awards are an acknowledgment of the work done by Minnesota communities to further the state's clean energy goals by implementing planning, programs, policies, and technologies that encourage energy efficiency, conservation, and renewable energy generation.

The awards are given in two categories, **Achievement** and **Planning**.

## Achievement Awards

Given to up to five Minnesota communities, the CECA **Achievement** awards acknowledge the work that communities have had in place in the previous year that demonstrates progress towards reaching the state's clean energy goals. Designed to showcase and support the efforts of Minnesota's communities, the **Achievement** awards also encourage a network of communications for sharing of best practices among communities from around the state.\*

## Planning Awards

Given to up to three Minnesota communities, the CECA **Planning** awards seek to provide support and resources for communities that are at the beginning to intermediate stages of working towards the state's clean energy goals. Designed to encourage the implementation of planned projects, the **Planning** awards will provide feedback to successful applicants as well as connect communities with a variety of clean energy resources.\*

## Eligibility

- Communities can consist of any group formed to implement clean energy goals. Units of government (city, county, tribal nation, school district, military unit, or other jurisdiction) must be a core member, but coalitions that include nonprofits, service organizations, and businesses will strengthen the application.
- Planning initiatives must be active during 2017 and Achievement initiatives implemented by the time of application.
- Applications will be considered from throughout the state, regardless of population or geographic location.

## Evaluation

Applications will be reviewed by the Minnesota Department of Commerce, Division of Energy Resources. Successful applicants will be evaluated by the following metrics:

- Efforts towards furthering the state's clean energy goals.
- Policy development, such as adoption of Comprehensive, Sustainability, Zoning, or Climate Action Plans that support measurable clean energy achievements in public or private buildings or other infrastructure.
- Community partnerships with local business, industry, agriculture, nonprofits, utilities, or residents.
- Public engagement efforts, stakeholder education, or other community outreach endeavors.
- Implementation of energy efficiency or renewable energy projects or programs that benefit low income and/or historically underserved communities.

## To Learn More

To learn more or apply for the Clean Energy Community Award: [cleanenergyresourceteams.org/clean-energy-awards](http://cleanenergyresourceteams.org/clean-energy-awards) or contact the Minnesota Department of Commerce: [energy.info@state.mn.us](mailto:energy.info@state.mn.us) or 800-657-3710.



## \*Community Clean Energy Art Contest

Additionally, applicants to either the Achievement or Planning awards are invited to submit original and creative visual images as representations of clean energy in their community. Selected images will be displayed at the [CERTs \(Clean Energy Resource Teams\) Conference](#) March 28, 2018 in St. Cloud, Minn., and in the Eco Experience at the 2018 Minnesota State Fair.

Applications due 2/12/18

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# Possible Initiatives

Communities can meet the **Achievement** award metrics by implementing initiatives that further progress towards the state's clean energy goals. **Planning** award applicants can meet the metrics by demonstrating planning progress towards the state's clean energy goals. Below are samples of possible initiatives that will be considered; applicants may submit additional initiatives.

## Planning

Creation of multi-year Comprehensive, Sustainability, Zoning, or Climate Action Plans, including:

- Prioritized steps towards mitigation of climate change through energy efficiency, conservation, and clean energy generation systems.
- Goals of achieving net-zero energy in public buildings.
- Participation in programs such as the Guaranteed Energy Saving Program (GESP), GreenStep Cities, Local Energy Efficiency Program (LEEP), Local Government Project for Energy Planning (LoGoPEP).
- Measuring efficient building operation through benchmarking tools such as B3.
- Meeting the Better Buildings Challenge.

## Energy Efficiency in Public Buildings

- Existing Buildings:
  - Implementing repairs and updates of public buildings to reflect priorities of energy efficiency/conservation through building shell improvements (including insulation, air sealing, windows), lighting upgrades, HVAC maintenance and replacements, or appliance/equipment maintenance and upgrades.
- New Buildings:
  - Designing & spec'ing new building construction to high standards of efficiency, comfort, safety, and durability through certification such as ENERGY STAR, B3, SB 2030, and LEED.

## Energy Efficiency in Private Buildings

- Facilitate improvements in existing buildings and new construction through codes, permitting, financing, or incentive programs.
- Benchmarking private buildings.
- Implement public engagement efforts that promote the benefits of meeting and exceeding energy codes.

## Energy Efficiency in Public Infrastructure

- Relamping or upgrading public streetlights to energy efficient lighting.
- Achieving efficiencies in sewage or water treatment facilities that reduce energy usage.
- Other infrastructure improvements that provide energy savings.

## Clean Energy Generation

Facilitate installations of non-carbon based clean energy generation systems through land use, permitting, financing, or incentive programs:

- Installation of clean energy generation systems on public buildings or public land.
- Creation of streamlined permitting process for private or community-based clean energy generation systems.
- Offering and promoting financing programs (PACE, etc.) for business/homeowners to install clean energy generation systems.
- Offering incentives (TIF, etc.) for developments (business/residential) utilizing clean energy generation systems.
- Qualifying systems include solar electric, solar thermal, wind, heat pumps, biomass, biogas, hybrid renewable, or combined heat and power.

## Transportation

- Conversion/replacement of city vehicle fleets to low/no carbon fuels.
- Infrastructure support for electric/NG/hydrogen vehicle fueling stations:
  - Siting on public property (public parking areas, schools, other public buildings).
  - Encouragement of private business to site on their property.

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