



Northwest CERT 2012–2013 Seed Grants

Helping Minnesota communities determine their energy future

The Clean Energy Resource Teams (CERTs) connect you and your community with resources to identify and implement energy efficiency and renewable energy projects.

Northwest CERT awarded \$10,000 worth of seed grants, catalyzing energy efficiency and renewable energy projects across the region.

Funding is provided by the Minnesota Department of Commerce, Division of Energy Resources. Thanks to everyone who submitted a proposal. Learn more and see past projects at <http://projects.mncerts.org>.

Village of Hope Homeless Shelter – Bemidji Homeless Shelter Goes Solar
Bemidji, MN – The Village of Hope Homeless Shelter facility was built to accept solar panels but due to lack of funds the panels were not installed. With a renewed goal of reducing energy costs, Village of Hope plans to dedicate those savings toward programs, projects and personnel. The Village of Hope Homeless Shelter will install a grid-tied, Minnesota-made solar electric system as a community example of how solar can reduce operating costs and empower nonprofits. (Renewable Energy: Solar Electric; \$5,000)



American Agricultural Energies – Torrefaction of Agricultural Residues into Biofuels Project
St. Hilaire, MN – American Agricultural Energies is planning to build a biofuel renewable energy torrefied solid fuels plant. This fuel would be made from agricultural and forestry residues, such as sunflower hulls, flax straw and rye grass drawn from the Thief River Falls area. Torrefaction is a thermochemical treatment of biomass at 200-320°C. The final product is a solid, dry material which is referred to as “torrefied biomass” or “bio-coal”. After the biomass is torrefied it will be densified into pellets. The final product repels water and thus can be stored in moist air or rain. The CERT grant will help with research and testing. (Renewable Energy: Biomass/Biofuels; \$4,000)

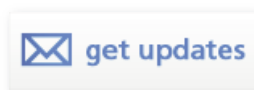
Center for Renewable Energy Education and Demonstration – Discovering Science on the Range in the Field of Energy
Northwest Region – This cooperative effort involving the CREED Project, Hamline University’s Center for Global Environmental Education (CGEE) and the Laurentian Environmental Center (LEC), is designed specifically for high/middle school teachers wishing to update their Energy Efficiency/Renewable energy industry knowledge and to then encourage their students to choose a future career in this field. Statewide Seed Grant funding for this project will support the equivalent of 9 teachers in Minnesota. (Energy Efficiency, Renewable Energy and Additional Technologies; \$1,000)

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