Metro CERT 2016 Seed Grant Recipients

Minnesota Interfaith Power and Light (MN IPL): Energy Efficiency Teams
Minneapolis, MN – The Energy Efficiency Team of Minnesota Interfaith Power & Light (MN IPL) will conduct outreach to faith communities of all denominations in the twin cities Metro area and connect those entities to EnerChange and the US Green Building Council in Minnesota to increase energy efficiency and conservation efforts. Their process will provide education and raise awareness, help communities of faith receive energy assessments from EnerChange, lead them through a plan of action, and then help them achieve their goals. They will then spread the story of these successes to increase awareness and help individuals become energized to work towards making their homes energy efficient. (Energy efficiency: Low-Cost/No-Cost Upgrades; Behavior Change; Building Envelope and Lighting Upgrades; $5,000)

Chisago Lakes Chamber of Commerce: Chisago Lakes Area Hub
Chisago, MN – Chisago Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce and Eutectics will utilize the seed grant money to conduct outreach to the community as part of developing a Clean Energy Financing Hub for the Chisago Lakes area. The Hub will create a community-based public-private partnership in order to build clean energy financing solutions for all economic sectors within the region. The community outreach includes small and medium enterprises (commercial and not-for-profit), large commercial and industrial customers, public buildings, and single-family and multifamily residents. The Hub will leverage public and private financing tools to create streamlined access to technical expertise for businesses, property owners and residents, and qualified contractors to implement clean energy projects. (Energy efficiency: Low-Cost/No-Cost Upgrades; Behavior Change; Building Envelope and Lighting Upgrades; Renewable Energy: Solar Thermal and Solar Electric; Additional Technologies: Geothermal; $4,000)

Community Action Partnership of Suburban Hennepin: Community Solar for Community Action
Hennepin County, MN – Community Action Partnership of Suburban Hennepin (CAPSH) will embark on a year-long planning process in partnership with the Rural Renewable Energy Alliance (RREAL) to deploy community solar for low-income Minnesotans. The partners will engage industry and business leaders and energy professionals from within the Community Action network to facilitate discussions as part of a comprehensive stakeholder process. This will lead to a comprehensive plan that focuses on barriers to lower income solar deployment and the potential solutions to overcome them, while planning for an aggressive implementation the following year in Suburban Hennepin County. (Renewable Energy: Solar Electric; $5,000)

City of Elk River: Elk River Fuel Efficient Fleet
Elk River, MN – The City of Elk River Fleet Committee and the Energy City Commission are seeking measures to improve the city fleet mileage average, currently at 9 mpg. In order to implement a program that is efficient, cost effective, and beneficial, the city will conduct a feasibility study to identify options for action. The City of Elk River will work with existing resources and programs to analyze their fleet. The City will then assemble a guide for other Minnesota cities to use via the GreenStep Cities program. The guide will detail what information to gather when assessing city fleets, possible action steps, available resources, and any other tools to increase the adoption of more energy-efficient city fleets. (Additional Technologies: Fleet improvement; EV recharge system; $2,000)
Cleveland Neighborhood Association: Home Energy Efficiency Outreach for Underrepresented Residents
North Minneapolis, MN – The Cleveland Neighborhood Association will work in partnership with the Center for Energy and Environment (CEE), Xcel Energy, and CenterPoint Energy to create a plan for how neighborhoods in Minneapolis can work with the City’s Clean Energy Partnership to reach underserved communities, especially communities with language barriers. The partners will create and pilot an outreach model for increasing Home Energy Squad participation in underrepresented neighborhoods. (Energy Efficiency: Low-Cost/No-Cost Upgrades; $3,000)

Tangletown Neighborhood Association: Small Business Rooftop Solar Assessments
Minneapolis, MN – The “Tangletown Partners - Rooftop Solar Assessments” project will evaluate potential host sites for local rooftop Solar. The project will provide independent building assessments through the Minnesota Renewable Energy Society (MRES) for up to 4 business rooftops within the neighborhood for promising candidates. All businesses reached will also receive information about energy efficiency/conservation resources and programs. If any viable host sites are identified, the partners will connect those businesses with additional resources to take the initial steps to install solar arrays on their roofs. (Renewable Energy: Solar Electric; $1,000)