

CENTRAL REGION



Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe: Guiding Leech Lake to Sustainability

Cass Lake, MN – The Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe seeks to significantly advance sustainability in their built environment. Their approach will be threefold: solar readiness of new construction and major renovations, approaching net zero energy and overall sustainability of new construction and major renovations, and electric vehicle readiness and infrastructure support. The funding secured from CERTs will cover the cost of hiring a design professional to develop guidance, policies, and ordinances that will facilitate the implementation of the Band’s new initiatives. (\$5,000)

Community Grassroots Solutions: Community Engagement for Energy Empowerment

Waite Park, MN – Project will reach out to East African Community in Central Minnesota to share information about the existence of energy empowerment programs and how these programs can provide relief to the burden of utility costs and offer support to achieve income security for low-income communities. This project will explain to the community the significant and long-lasting financial benefits that energy efficiency projects can provide. CGS will use several community engagements tools, such as Somali speaking radio, social media, phone calls and zoom meeting. We will also translate information and distribute to the community. (\$3,520)

Hubbard County Food Shelf: Hubbard County Food Shelf LED Lighting Project

Park Rapids, MN – The Hubbard County Food Shelf plans to reduce its electricity expenditures by converting all lighting in their building to LED. Keeping these expenses to a minimum allows them to allocate more funding towards distributing basic necessities to their client base, many of whom are living below the poverty line. The funds awarded by CERTs will help cover the labor costs of the electrical contract work required for the lighting upgrades. (\$1,500)

Rural Renewable Energy Alliance: Solar Schools Curriculum Development

Central MN – In 2019, the Rural Renewable Energy Alliance installed 1.5 megawatts of solar capacity at three area schools. RREAL will expand on this success by developing solar energy education toolkits and online tools for distribution to all 24 schools in Region 5 in Central MN. The end goal will be for students to gain a comprehensive knowledge of solar technology and renewable energy careers, as well as ideas about how they can get involved in their local clean energy economy. (\$3,000)

RETHOS: Places Reimagined: Energy Efficiency & Home Winterization

Workshops St. Cloud, MN – Rethos will host four workshops to teach homeowners how to maximize energy efficiency and minimize heat loss. Classes will include Why Old is Green, Repairing and Restoring Old Windows, Energy Audit Walkthrough, and DIY Energy Upgrades, which will demonstrate such concepts as the importance of conducting an energy audit, basic weatherization and winterization skills, and ways in which older homes can be upgraded and improved. The CERTs Seed Grant will fund the staff and contracting labor required to develop and implement a curriculum at the workshops and conduct effective outreach to stakeholders. (\$3,000)

City of Wadena: Downtown EV Charging Station

Wadena, MN – As a rural community, Wadena currently lacks EV charging infrastructure, but its location at the intersection of three major state highways makes it an ideal place for drivers to recharge their cars while traveling across the state. Using Seed Grant funding, the City will cover the labor costs of installing two charging stations at parking spaces in the City-owned parking lot along Aldrich Avenue SW. In addition to facilitating use of EVs, Wadena also hopes that this project will energize (pun intended) the city's downtown business district by increasing customer traffic and raising Wadena's profile among eco-conscious consumers. (\$4,500)