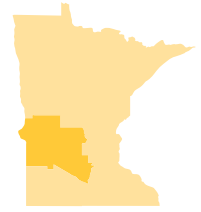


WEST CENTRAL REGION



Akiing 8th Fire: 8th Fire Crew Trains and Installs at Lower Sioux Indian Housing Authority

Morton, MN — A crew from Akiing 8th Fire will travel to Lower Sioux to train people and install solar thermal panels for local housing. This will provide new skills within the solar field and work opportunities for Lower Sioux Tribal members, as well as White Earth Tribal members. This represents an opportunity for partnership between two tribal nations on a project that reflects Indigenous worldviews of harmony with the environment. (\$5,000 Morgan)

City of Morris: Energy Experience Pathway

Morris, MN — This project will raise community awareness and engagement with clean energy technologies and their applicability within rural municipalities. The Energy Experience Pathway (EEP) will identify sites throughout Morris, the University of Minnesota Morris campus, and the surrounding countryside to feature, and signage at each location will provide explanations and information on the theory and application of the technology deployed, energy savings (in kWh and dollars), and history behind each project. (\$5,000 Commerce)

City of Willmar: Willmar GreenStep Reboot

Willmar, MN — This project will jump start the GreenStep work previously initiated, and bring in more community members not only to help implement best practices in the city, but also to provide educational lectures on best practices. The first goal is to create the Willmar Green Team with members from the utility, city, county, and other important regional organizers. These members will be the leaders and presenters for future community meetings. (\$2,000 Commerce)

Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches: MN Venture Farms Cold Climate Solar Greenhouse

Benson and Paynesville, MN — Year-round food production is nearly impossible for BIPOC and economically disadvantaged farmers who lack the capital to own and operate cold-climate solar greenhouses that can actively grow produce during Minnesota winters. This project will design a plan to implement and operate cold-climate solar greenhouses at multiple farm sites to increase access to locally produced, healthy foods year round; increase food security; reduce health disparities; promote sustainable agriculture; and provide agricultural education programs. (\$5,000 Morgan)

Gustavus Adolphus College: Promoting Clean Energy and Energy Efficiency In Diverse Communities

St. Peter, MN — This project will engage college students in local clean energy, energy efficiency efforts, and education. Gustavus interns will be mentored by, and work directly with the Southcentral Minnesota Clean Energy Council (SMCEC) to develop collaborations and identify specific local opportunities. The interns will recruit students from area colleges to engage with SMCEC, and develop local action plans for clean energy and energy efficiency, with an emphasis on underrepresented communities. Student groups will then execute the action plans in their local communities. (\$1,850 Commerce)

Paynesville Area Secondary School: Performing Arts Center/Lighting Upgrade

Paynesville, MN — The Performing Arts Auditorium, located in the Paynesville Area High School, has a mix of LEDs and inefficient high bay lights. This project will replace the lights with dimmable LED high bays, which will involve removal of seating and use of a lift and scaffolding. The project will also educate the greater community about opportunities to switch to LED lighting in their homes. (\$5,000 Commerce)

Regional Fitness Center: Growing Support for Electric Biking in Stevens County

Morris, MN — This project will increase support and awareness of electric bikes as a clean energy solution by creating content to market electric bikes and their use, performing outreach to the campus and community with this content, teaching awareness and the importance of electric batteries and vehicles, as well as their connection to clean energy; and setting procedures in place for the future. (\$3,950 Commerce)

University of Minnesota Morris: Intercultural Sustainability Leaders in Energy

Morris, MN — This project will develop a sustainability leadership program for college students from diverse backgrounds. Students from marginalized communities report that they do not see themselves represented in the sustainability and energy movements, making it hard for them to envision career pathways. This program will expose students to BIPOC leaders in clean energy from across Minnesota and the U.S. The program will also help students articulate sustainability and energy transition in culturally and community relevant ways. (\$4,050 Commerce)

Willmar Municipal Utilities: Regency Park Energy Efficiency Outreach

Willmar, MN — Create outreach events with multiple partners at the two Regency Mobile home parks in Willmar to educate about electrical efficiency, thermal savings with water efficiency, and communication about wastewater issues. Local utilities have identified these sites to have significantly high water and electricity use, and they hope to educate residents and reduce the average use per household. (\$2,200 Commerce)