

# CERTs: Helping Minnesotans Build Clean Energy

Melissa Birch Central CERT Coordinator Power of Minnesota—Deep Portage Learning Center February 8, 2020

### Helping Minnesotans build clean energy



**MISSION** We connect individuals and their communities to the resources they need to identify and implement community-based clean energy projects



#### How does CERTs help?





#### Hands-on assistance

For cities, counties, utilities, farmers, businesses, and other organizations looking to make a change

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#### Practical steps to clean energy

Resources for getting started, moving forward, and completing projects

#### Learning opportunities

We host events, create resources, and highlight clean energy stories and jobs

#### CERTs Partners

Regional Sustainable Development Partnerships UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA EXTENSION





### Support on clean energy in Greater MN



Farmers and small businesses can get assistance with:

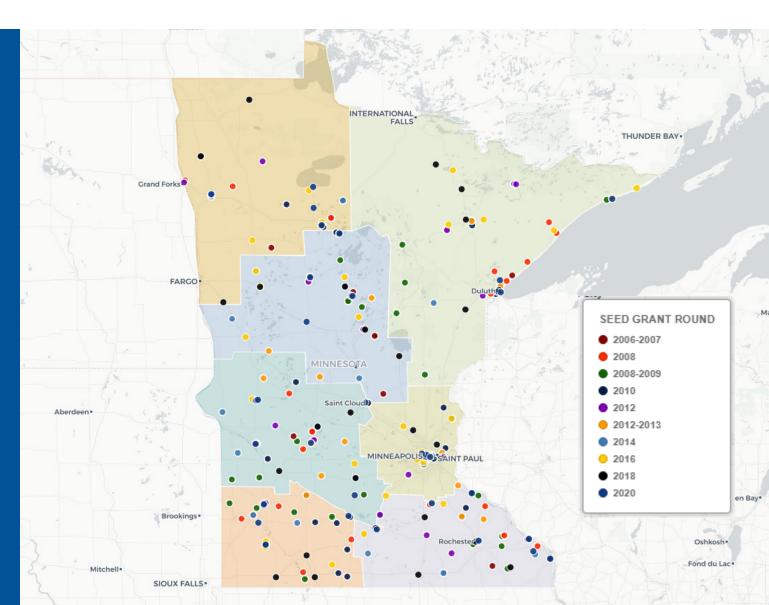
- Solar site assessments
- Support with financing like PACE and grants like USDA REAP
- Available utility incentives
- Guidance on federal tax credit, depreciation



## **Catalyzing projects with CERTs Seed Grants**



- Awarded over \$1.3 million to 393 energy projects since 2006
- Pays for labor costs
- Must have a community component
- 6 projects awarded in the Central Region this round



### Resources for cities, counties, and schools



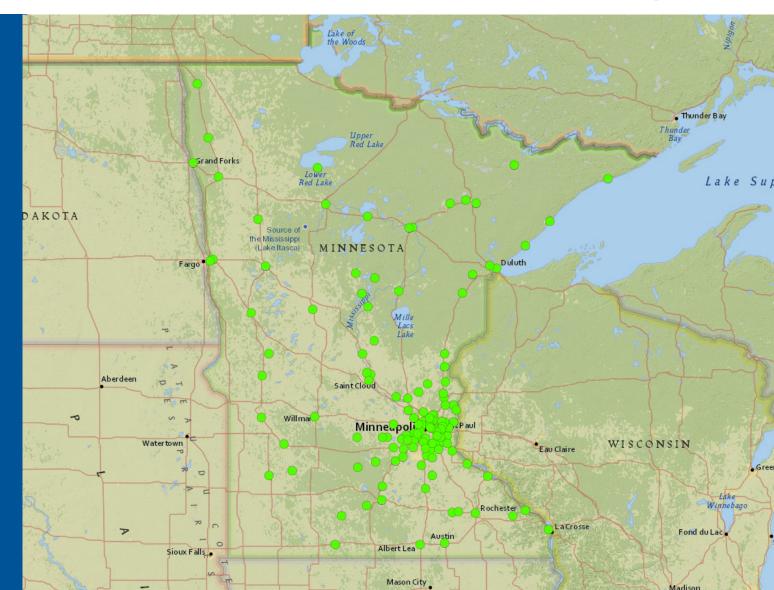
- Energy benchmarking and audits for public buildings
- Step-by-step guidance for going solar
- Hands-on assistance
- Financing options



## Taking action with proven best practices



Minnesota GreenStep is an action-oriented voluntary program offering Cities and **Tribal Nations a cost**effective, step-wise path to implement sustainable development best practices



#### The CERTs website is full of resources!



#### **CleanEnergyResourceTeams.org**



Visit CleanEnergyResourceTeams.org or connect with CERTs staff!

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