

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:

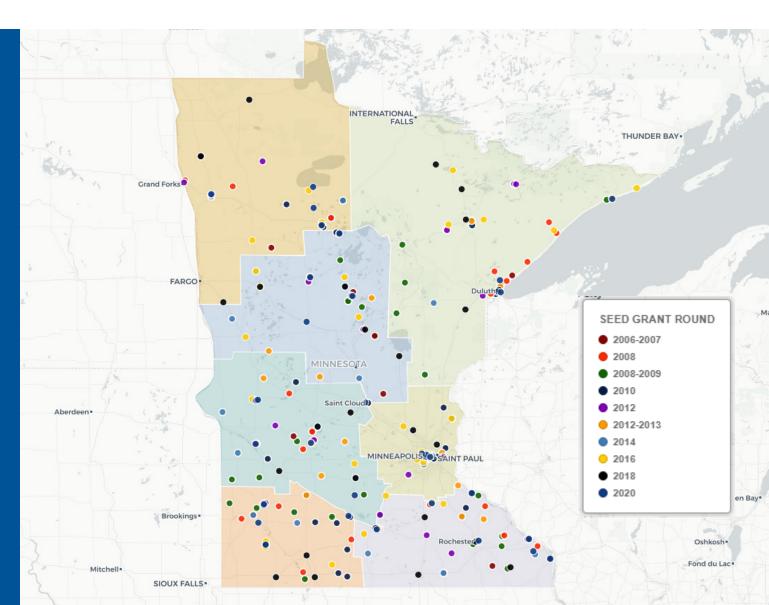
- Solar site assessments
- Support with financing like PACE and grants like USDA REAP
- Available utility incentives
- Guidance on federal tax credit, depreciation



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



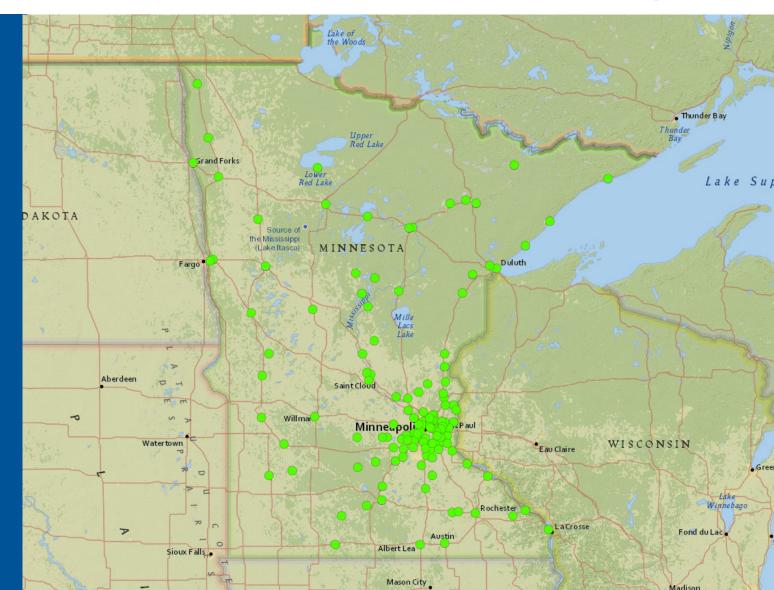
- Energy benchmarking and audits for public buildings
- Step-by-step guidance for going solar
- Hands-on assistance
- Financing options



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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