



# Southeast Clean Energy Resource Team *Strategic Energy Plan Summary*

June 2005

INCREASING EFFICIENCY AND DEVELOPING CLEAN ENERGY WILL HELP SE/SC CERT MEET THE REGION'S ENERGY DEMAND.

*CERTs Partners:*

Minnesota Department of Commerce, The Minnesota Project, University of Minnesota Regional Sustainable Development Partnerships, Rural Minnesota Energy Board, Metropolitan Counties Energy Task Force, Resource Conservation and Development Councils

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The vision, goal and mission of the Southeast/South Central Clean Energy Resource Team is to lead the region toward energy self-sufficiency, where the energy needs of the region are being met from local clean renewable energy resources, using energy more wisely, and renewable energy projects owned and managed by people in the region.

## CERT CONFIDENT A CLEAN RENEWABLE ENERGY FUTURE IS POSSIBLE

The SE/SC CERT region has wonderful renewable energy resources, including wind, solar, biomass, biogas, and geothermal, and opportunities for cogeneration. The team is confident that the current and future needs of the people in the region for energy in various forms can be met by using existing resources more wisely and by implementing clean energy projects throughout the region.

## CERT EMPHASIZES NEED FOR CITIZENS TO BE INVOLVED IN THEIR HOMES, SCHOOLS, CHURCHES, BUSINESSES, AND COMMUNITIES

In Phase 1, the SE/SC CERT gathered information about energy and how it is being used and identified renewable energy resources and opportunities to use energy more wisely in our region. In Phase 2, the team will launch an education and outreach campaign to share the information gathered and work with citizens, utilities, schools, government officials, churches, economic development organizations, interested businesses, and communities to implement renewable

energy and energy efficiency programs in our region.

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE SE/SC CERT JANUARY 2003 TO JUNE 2005

*What has the team accomplished in Phase I of the project?*

- Prepared a strategic plan with vision and mission statements, a goal, objectives and strategies to guide the team's work
- Completed a broad inventory and assessment of the SE/SC CERT region, including land use, demographics, and infrastructure
- Finished an assessment of the current energy situation in the region, including who is providing energy, what types of energy and amounts are being used, locations of power plants and renewable energy projects in the region
- Identified renewable energy resources and opportunities to use energy more wisely in the region



- Identified barriers to implementing renewable energy projects and started working on ways to address them
- Began developing an education/out-reach campaign about energy and the findings in our various assessments
- Began work on a demonstration renewable energy home at Eagle Bluff Environmental Learning Center
- Held five regional meetings. Topics included: Principles and Possibilities of Renewable Energy in SE MN, Renewable Energy and Economic Development, Agriculture as a Producer and User of Energy.

### OTHER CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT IN RENEWABLE ENERGY IN THE REGION:

- The CERT members in Olmsted County have formed the Olmsted CERT
- The Three Rivers RC&D has formed an energy committee to work within Region 9
- Citizens are forming an energy committee in Houston County to work within the Tri-County Co-operative territory
- Citizens in Winona County are involved in a variety of renewable energy projects
- RENew Northfield is very active in Rice County and the Northfield area
- CURE is actively involved in renewable energy projects in Lake City and Wabasha County

### SE/SC MINNESOTA AT A GLANCE

The region encompasses nearly 6 million acres. According to the latest Land Use Census, 70% of the land was being cultivated; 14% was forested; and 10% was pasture and hay ground. Only 3.5% of the land was being used for urban and rural development. The 2000 Census showed that there were approximately 580,000 people living in 220,000 households. By 2030 the population is expected to grow to 704,930, with the fastest growth occurring in Olmsted, Rice, and Dodge Counties.



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*Southeast/South Central  
 CERT Member Snapshot:*

- Blue Earth County Commissioner
- Citizens United for Responsible Energy
- Dairyland Power Cooperative
- Eagle Bluff Environmental Learning Center
- Farm Wind Power, LLC
- Individuals interested in energy issues
- Isaac Walton League
- Olmsted Waste-to-Energy Facility
- Prairie Country RC&D
- RENNew Northfield
- Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency
- Sun's Warmth
- Winergie Wind Energy Development Corp
- Winona County Environmental Services