

Creating a Resilient Region:
The Central Minnesota Sustainable Development Plan
(2010 HUD/DOT/EPA SCRIP awardee)

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OPPORTUNITIES

- PROJECT PLANNING FORM
- PREFERRED SUSTAINABILITY STATUS
- Collage of Sustainability Symposium Oct 13. Pine River.
(see handouts)

How to be involved?

To join the consortium contact:
Dan Frank, Initiative Foundation
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QUESTIONS

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Survey

- Eight respondents
- Seven Utility Companies
- One Housing /Redevelopment Authority.

All Region Five Counties Represented

Crow Wing, Cass, Todd, Wadena and Morrison.

Number of Members served

- 1 serves: 0-999
- 2 serve: 1,000 – 4,999
- 2 serve: 5,000 – 9,999
- 2 serve: 10,000 – 49,999
- 1 serves: 50,000 +

Services Provided

- Energy Efficiency Education: 85.7%
- Energy Efficiency Rebates: 100%
- Renewable Energy Rebates: 28.6%
- Energy Efficiency Loans: 42.9%
- Renewable Energy Incentives: 28.6%
- Energy Management Services: 57.1%
- Build Energy Efficient Homes: 14.3%
- Provide Weatherization services: 0%

Programs specific to Low Income

- Yes: 75%
- No: 25%

Which Programs?

1. Low income Housing section 8
2. Work with Local CAPs on Weatherization
3. Several programs through local CAPs
4. Grant program with local HRA to target low income properties they manage.
5. Energy Awareness Expo and Energy Partners
6. Funding to CAPs for weatherization as well as funding member improvement projects directly.

What Orgs do you collaborate with?

- Utility Companies: 57.1%
- Community Action Programs: 71.4%
- Central MN Housing Partnership: 14.3%
- Habitat for Humanity organizations: 42.9%
- Housing and Redevelopment Authorities: 28.6%
- Economic Development Practitioners: 28.6%
- Division of Energy Resources: 14.3%
- Clean Energy Resource Teams: 28.6%
- Region Five Development Commission: 28.6%
- Renewable Energy Companies: 28.6%
- Energy Management Companies: 57.1%
- Energy Education Companies: 14.3%

General Topics around collaboration you would like to discuss

1. Low income HVAC Installation
2. CAP Agencies and How \$\$ is spent on weatherization
3. Education Efforts, single point source for information
4. Helpful to Develop plans for collaboration that address specific goals within the region.

Discussions around Collaborations

- Fill out Post it and put it up
- We can do up to three topics at a time
- We can do two sets of discussions

The Nominal Process

- Use Go-Rounds
- Everyone has an opportunity to speak once before anyone speaks twice
- Respect every ones contributions
- No side conversations

Record Answers on sheet on tables

Questions

- What is the issue?
- Who can be involved?
- What are the benefits?
- What are the cautions?

Law of two feet, move if you need to

Record answers on sheet on tables

Next Steps

- Go to a topic of interest
- Discuss Next Steps with Others
- Brief report out to group

Record Next steps

Wrap Up

- Thanks!
- Complete Evaluation
- Upcoming Events, December 15th
- Lunch

Group Discussion Summary

General Topics Around Collaboration	Next Steps
How do we provide more energy efficiency low-interest loans?	8. Start an energy rating system for rentals for tenants to use, like "Agnie's list" 9. Additional incentives for landlords-vouchers for low income 10. If landlord receives HUD voucher-low income 11. If tenant has high bills will struggle to pay rents (landlord's problem)
How do we work with CEE to do neighborhood energy challenge?	1. Use existing software, "My Meter" to encourage customers to manage usage 2. Publicize case studies of families that have utilized programs that save energy
What are additional opportunities to spend low-income dollars?	1. Utilities will list the programs they have for low income; 2. target group homes and programs serving low-income/senior disabled
How do we consistently share information on commercial building projects?	1. Have city/county/RSDC put utilities on email for agendas of EDA/IRA/Planning Commissions, etc. Utility can review for possible projects 2. EDA to send email to utilities with prospects 3. Utilities poll EDAs for information

Group Discussion Summary

continued

General Topics Around Collaboration	Next Steps
Rebates - how do we standardize across utilities?	1. Regional utilities map 2. List of utility personnel that utilities can refer to 3. Post utility rebates on the new resilient region websites 4. Setup regular schedule for utilities to meet on this issue
How do we create partnerships between electric and gas utilities?	1. Inventory Region Five utilities and post on Resilient Region website 2. Address the policy issue collectively (credits for BTUs and/or KWHs saved); get support from energy advocate agencies and LUGs
Commercial, Industrial, Agriculture: How do we help finance efficient business equipment?	1. Statewide conference for agriculture/farmers just on energy efficiency 2. Utilities to lead discussion 3. Support MN Project Dairy Initiative 4. Campaign for C&I efficiency 5. Coordinate and promote existing programs