

SUSTAINABLE CITIES

CASE STUDY DATABASE

JULY 2018

MINNESOTA



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The development of this guide is supported by the Department of Energy, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE), under Award Number DE- DE-EE0007229. This project was made possible by a grant from the U.S. Department of Energy and the Minnesota Department of Commerce. The team includes LHB, Great Plains Institute, and the University of Minnesota's Energy Transition Lab and Center for Science, Technology, and Environmental Policy.

SUSTAINABLE CITIES CASE STUDY DATABASE

The following is a supplemental resource providing context and information regarding sustainability activities and noteworthy strategies implemented by cities to achieve greenhouse gas and energy reductions. Please see the LoGoPEP City Case studies [here](#) and on the [Energy Transition Lab](#) website.

RENEWABLE ENERGY

GOING FARTHER TOGETHER: THE GOVERNMENTAL SOLAR GARDEN SUBSCRIBER COLLECTIVE

http://www.cleanenergyresourceteams.org/sites/default/files/CERTs_SolarGardenCollaborative_Report_Final.pdf

A detailed review of the Governmental Solar Garden Subscriber Collaborative, an effort by over 30 local governments in the greater Twin Cities metropolitan region. Stakeholders and support staff executed a broad RFP process, resulting in approximately 33 MW of cumulative solar garden capacity proceeding toward signed subscription agreements.

-Clean Energy Resource Teams (CERTs). February 2017.

READY FOR 100%: ROCHESTER, MN

<https://www.sierraclub.org/sites/www.sierraclub.org/files/blog/RF100-Case-Studies-Cities-Report.pdf>

Review of factors and municipal efforts driving Rochester, MN's stated goal of being powered by 100% renewable energy by 2031. Part of a Sierra Club review of the efforts of 10 US Cities moving towards the goal of full renewable power, the study highlights city staff, municipal utility, and community engagement.

-Sierra Club. 2016.

MINNESOTA COMMUNITY SOLAR GARDENS

https://www.theclimategroup.org/sites/default/files/downloads/etp_minnesotacasestudy_oct2016.pdf

Short review of Minnesota's Community Solar Garden incentive program. Study highlights results to date of the program, challenges faced by program participants, and methods and approaches used by participants to mitigate these challenges.

-The Climate Group. October 2016.

CASE STUDY: STEARNS COUNTY, MINNESOTA

http://www.growsolar.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/06/StearnsCounty-case-study_FinalDraft.pdf

Short case study reviewing the substantial growth of solar in Stearns County and the subsequent reaction and actions taken to engage stakeholders and the public. The confluence of community solar and large utility projects resulted in over 50MW (over 200 acres) of projects under development to date.

-Grow Solar. Late 2016.

SOLAR PIONEERS: A CASE STUDY OF THE SE COMO NEIGHBORHOOD SOLAR THERMAL PROJECT

<http://www.cleanenergyresourceteams.org/community-projects/case-study/solar-pioneers-case-study-se-como-neighborhood-solar-thermal-project>

Description of a neighborhood-level project installing solar powered thermal water heaters in a primarily single-family residential setting.

- CERTs. December 2007.

SOLAR PV THE STAR OF RED WING CLEAN ENERGY TOUR

<https://www.cleanenergyresourceteams.org/blog/solar-pv-star-red-wing-clean-energy-tour>

Snapshot review of Red Wind's solar installations on multiple city facilities.

- CERTs. October 2016.

HOW ST. CLOUD WILL BE POWERED BY 80% RENEWABLE ENERGY BY 2018

<https://www.cleanenergyresourceteams.org/blog/how-st-cloud-will-be-powered-80-renewable-energy-2018>

Overview and interview with city staff on 2016 Clean Energy Community Award awarded efforts by St. Cloud on their plan to transition from 5% to 80% renewable over a short time period.

- CERTs. January 2017.

CITY FACT SHEET: MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

http://webcache.googleusercontent.com/search?q=cache:Z79pGqyO6o4J:graham.umich.edu/media/pubs/CityFactSheet_Minneapolis.pdf+&cd=9&hl=en&ct=clnk&gl=us

Review of climate vulnerability studies and the climate action plans made by the City of Minneapolis, and their effects on day-to-day City actions. Discussion focuses on the contents (in the abstract) and procedures, while fact sheet includes broader activities.

-Graham Sustainability Institute, University of Michigan. August 2016.

CITY OF HUTCHINSON'S BROWNFIELD SOLAR PROJECT

<http://www.ci.hutchinson.mn.us/december-2-grand-opening-ceremony-landfill-mounted-solar-pv-system/>

<http://www.cleanenergyresourceteams.org/blog/largest-brownfield-solar-project-minnesota-installed-city-hutchinson>

<https://environmental-initiative.org/news/hooray-for-hutchinson-meet-the-energy-climate-winners/>

Collection of information and articles about the development of a 400 kW solar installation on a former landfill. Information covers challenges, funding, design, and stakeholders.

-City of Hutchinson. November 2015., CERTs. December 2015., Environmental Initiative. April 2017.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY

B3 CASE STUDIES DATABASE

<http://casestudies.b3mn.org/Projects?ViewMode=TableView>

Database containing a series of over 100 case studies showcasing energy efficiency and environmentally-friendly strategies used in a wide variety of building projects to achieve cost and/or energy savings. Each individual database entry includes comparisons in areas such as energy use, carbon footprint, water use, waste generation, and stormwater runoff.

-B3MN, University of Minnesota. Dates varied.

SUSTAINABLE FACILITY CASE STUDIES

<http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/sustainability/buildings-energy/sustainable-energy/index.htm>

Highlighting Minneapolis City buildings which use sustainable practices. Focuses on project practices instead of deep data measurement and analysis.

-City of Minneapolis. Dates varied.

MINNESOTA STORMWATER MANUAL: CASE STUDIES

https://stormwater.pca.state.mn.us/index.php?title=Case_studies

Online collection of case studies related to managing stormwater. Case studies cover infiltration, green roofs, tree trenches and tree boxes, stormwater and rainwater harvest and use/reuse, and permeable pavement.

-Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. Dates varied.

PINE CITY LEADS WITH EV CHARGING AND GREENSTEP CITIES WORK

<https://www.cleanenergyresourceteams.org/blog/pine-city-leads-ev-charging-and-greenstep-cities-work>

Interview with city staff regarding implementation of electric vehicle and charging infrastructure in a small, rural city.

-CERTs. December 2015.

SAVING ENERGY CITY-WIDE IN BEMIDJI WITH THE GUARANTEED ENERGY SAVINGS PROGRAM

<https://www.cleanenergyresourceteams.org/blog/saving-energy-city-wide-bemidji-gesp>

Overview and interview with city staff of Bemidji, the first local government in Minnesota to utilize the Guaranteed Energy Savings Program (GESP) for energy efficiency improvements city-wide.

-CERTs. August 2015.

EMPOWERING LATINO HOMEOWNERS TO SAVE ENERGY AND MONEY IN RICHFIELD

<https://www.cleanenergyresourceteams.org/blog/empowering-latino-homeowners-save-energy-and-money-richfield>

Review of the efforts by the City of Richfield Housing and Redevelopment Authority (RHRA) to boost participation in a home energy savings program by identifying and addressing barriers being experienced within Richfield's Latino community.

-CERTs. February 2016.

LED RETROFIT BRIGHTENING UP BIWABIK CITY HALL

<https://www.cleanenergyresourceteams.org/blog/led-retrofit-brightening-biwabik-city-hall>

Brief review of the city's LED retrofit project.

- CERTs. December 2016.

CITY OF FARMINGTON USES [B3 SB 2030] ENERGY EFFICIENT OPERATIONS MANUAL TO GUIDE SAVINGS

<https://www.cleanenergyresourceteams.org/blog/city-farmington-uses-energy-efficient-operations-manual-guide-savings>

Interview and overview of the city's utilization of the B3 manual.

-CERTs. January 2017.

GLENDALE TOWNHOMES IN PROSPECT PARK NEIGHBORHOOD OF MINNEAPOLIS TO UNDERGO EXTENSIVE WEATHERIZATION

<http://finance-commerce.com/2017/04/sustainable-energy-partnership-targets-public-housing/>

Article describing collaborative efforts to achieve efficiency improvements in public housing. Includes details around city, utility, and broader stakeholder involvement.

-Finance & Commerce. April 2017.

KODA ENERGY BIOMASS PROJECT

http://www.cleanenergyresourceteams.org/files/CS_Biomass_Koda.pdf

Review of Koda Energy, a combined heat and power biomass facility created through a partnership between the Shakopee Mdewakanton Dakota Community and Rahr Malting Company- a family owned business based in Shakopee.

-CERTs. March 2006.

MINNESOTA CLEAN ENERGY COMMUNITY AWARDS

<https://mn.gov/commerce/industries/energy/efficiency/ceca.jsp#winner>

Review of the Clean Energy Community Awards sponsored by the Minnesota Department of Commerce and list of 2018 winners.

-Minnesota Department of Commerce. 2018.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Minnesota’s Local Government Project for Energy Planning (LoGoPEP) builds upon existing efforts to engage local governments in committing to actionable strategies for energy and greenhouse gas emission reductions. LoGoPEP provides communities with planning tools and actual results to measure progress toward their goals. Tools developed for communities can be found on the [LoGoPEP website](#).



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