



Energy & Sustainability News

Vol. 1, No.1
May 2017

In the Media

- [Electric Avenue: Bemidji officials introduce charging station tech for electric car owners](#)
- [Minnesota State spurs innovation with a growing renewable energy program](#)
- [The U.S. wind industry now employs more than 100,000 people](#)

Bemidji State University's Sustainability Efforts Win Green Ribbon from with U.S. Department of Education

Congratulations to Bemidji State University (BSU), one of nine post-secondary institutions in the country to be honored with a 2017 U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools Postsecondary Sustainability award.

The honor places BSU among a group of 63 total honorees for 2017—which includes 45 schools and nine school districts in addition to the post-secondary winners—being recognized this year for innovative efforts to reduce environmental impact and utility costs, improve health and wellness, and ensure effective sustainability education.

Read more [here](#).

Grant Opportunities

Grant funding from state and federal partners as well as outside foundations is available from time to time. Those opportunities will be posted in this newsletter.

We recommend you subscribe to funding announcements by visiting the following websites:

[Minnesota Department of Commerce](#)

[National Renewable Energy Laboratory](#)

[Center for Energy and Environment](#)

[Clean Energy Resource Team \(CERTs\)](#)

[Federal Energy Management Program \(FEMP\)](#)

[Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy \(EERE\)](#)

[Board of Water and Soil Resources \(BWSR\)](#)
(offers block grants to local government but is administered at the county level)

[Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources \(LCCMR\)](#)

Bottle Bins Available

The Recycling Association of Minnesota has used



bottle-shaped recycling bins available for purchase for \$55-65. Green rectangular room bins are also available. Bins are clean and in good condition and ready to ship (or pick up in St. Paul). To order, contact Beth at

beth@recycleminnesota.org or call 651-641-4589.

Sustainability at the State

In July, Governor Dayton's office [announced](#) the creation of the Office of Enterprise Sustainability (OES). Larry Herke was appointed the director of the office, which is charged with helping state agencies reach goals related to energy, water, waste, procurement, fleet, and greenhouse gases.

We will be learning more about the OES in the coming months and will share information with campuses whenever possible. Please visit the OES website [here](#) for more information.

Events & Webinars

The Center for Energy & Environment (CEE) hosts low-cost and no-cost webinars every month on a variety of topics. In May, tune in for "Operational Practices to Optimize Condensing Boilers." To register for these events, visit their [website](#).

The Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) newsletter provides lots of valuable information about campus sustainability around the country and internationally. Webinars, seminars and conferences—including many available at no cost—are advertised here as well. In May, tune in for "Reduce the Juice - Saving Energy in Halls of

Residence." To register for these events, visit their [website](#).

Update on Community Solar Gardens

Many campus leaders have been approached by Community Solar Garden developers asking them to subscribe to nearby solar gardens. To build an understanding of the costs and benefits of Community Solar Gardens, the system office issued a Request for Information (RFI) to gather information about the current market for Community Solar Gardens within the Xcel Energy territory. A white paper was then drafted to summarize the findings of the RFI and to address next steps.

Campuses within the Xcel territory have been advised to contact the system office if they are interested in participating in a joint Request for Proposal this summer.

Green Product News

Many online news sources provide useful information about green building products, design, operations and construction. A few to check out:

[Green Building News](#)

[Building Green](#)

[Inhabitat](#)

[USGBC+](#)

Share Your MS4 Compliance Strategies

For those 22 campuses that are required to hold Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permits, annual reports are due in June. Let us know: what did your campus do to meet the BMP and ERP development requirements for construction and inspections this year? Where might there be overlap across campuses, or opportunities for resource sharing? Send your ideas to Emily Ziring and she will compile them for distribution to MS4 campuses.