



## Energy & Sustainability News

Vol. 1, No.2  
August 2017

### In the Media

[New legislation rescinds Made in Minnesota Solar Incentive Program](#)

[Trump's Paris retreat: What the climate accord actually does, and how Minnesota might move forward anyway](#)

### Wood Boiler at Itasca Community College Ready for First Full Winter

In January, facilities staff at Itasca Community College commissioned a new state-of-the-art energy conversion biomass boiler to heat their campus. Design and construction of the \$1.8 million district heat plant was funded through a combination of state bond funds, HEAPR funds and a grant from the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources. The biomass system is backed-up by a pair of high efficiency condensing gas boilers. Each of the three boilers has a rated capacity of 3 MBTU. Because they are hot water boilers, the new system allowed the College to eliminate the failing steam converters in the boiler plant.

The biomass boiler provides base load heat, meeting roughly 80% of the demand on the coldest days, and can meet full demand when the temperature is above 5°F. The College is able to run the biomass boiler from November through early April as long as the temperatures are below 40°F. The gas boilers are for peaking and providing load during the shoulder seasons.

The boiler not only heats 200,000 square feet of buildings using a fuel found in abundance, it serves as an energy demonstration for regional businesses and—most importantly—an education, research and training opportunity for Itasca Community College students in the Natural Resources, Engineering and Process Controls programs.

### Green Cleaning Workshop

Ramsey County and the US EPA have organized a free Green Cleaning Workshop. Learn how to find safer cleaning products, how to use the [Minnesota State Contract](#), and where to find sample language for green cleaning products and services contracts.

Who: Facilities Maintenance, procurement/purchasing and sustainability personnel

When: Wednesday, September 27th, 2017, 8:30-10:30 a.m.

Where: Ramsey County Public Works Facility, 1425 Paul Kirkwold Drive, Arden Hills, MN 55112

To register, email [Katherine.Keller@co.ramsey.mn.us](mailto:Katherine.Keller@co.ramsey.mn.us).

### State of Minnesota Plans for Changing Climate

A new report by the Interagency Climate Adaptation Team (ICAT), a group of Minnesota state agencies (including Minnesota State) focused on adapting to the changes, says the effects of climate change, from

heavier rainfall events to changing ecosystems, will be significant and far-reaching on Minnesota.

“Addressing climate change will be good for our health, our environment, and our economy. This new report underscores the importance of ensuring Minnesota is climate resilient by implementing changes like weatherizing our buildings and improving run-off control,” said Lt. Governor Tina Smith. “Next session, I urge the Legislature to adopt the bipartisan ‘50 by 30’ renewable energy standard proposed earlier this year. It will create new jobs and reduce greenhouse emissions in our state.”

ICAT’s new report [Adapting to climate change in Minnesota](#) calls out many climate change related developments. Read more [here](#).

### **Bottle Bins (Still!) 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](mailto:beth@recycleminnesota.org) or call 651-641-4589.

### **EPA Announces 2017 Campus RainWorks Challenge**

EPA is pleased to announce the rules for the [6th annual Campus RainWorks Challenge](#), a design competition open to U.S. colleges and universities. EPA seeks to engage undergraduate and graduate students in designing innovative green infrastructure for stormwater management to showcase the environmental, economic, and social benefits of green infrastructure practices.

Stormwater pollution is a problem that is growing in scope and magnitude. Communities need planners, designers, engineers, and other professionals to create resilient and affordable infrastructure solutions for stormwater management. EPA’s Campus RainWorks Challenge invites the current generation of scholars to lend their creativity, knowledge, and energy to become part of the solution. Registration opens on September 1.

### **MnTAP**

Minnesota Technical Assistance Program (MnTAP) is a grant-funded program located in the School of Public Health at the University of Minnesota Twin Cities campus. Their mission is to help Minnesota businesses and organizations develop and implement tailored solutions that prevent pollution at the source, maximize efficient use of resources, and reduce energy use and costs to improve public health and the environment. MnTAP also administers the Minnesota Materials Exchange which provides a platform for businesses and organizations to exchange items they no longer need to help keep these items out of the landfills. Because they are grant funded, their assessment services are provided at no cost to the facility.

For more information and to subscribe to the MnTAP Source newsletter, visit <http://mntap.umn.edu/source/index.htm>.

### **Events & Webinars**

The Center for Energy & Environment (CEE) hosts low-cost and no-cost webinars every month on a variety of topics. 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. To register for these events, visit their [website](#).

## College-bound Students Can Reduce Their Dorm Room Carbon Footprint

SmarterHouse, a project of the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ACEEE), offers a campaign called “Shrink Your Dorm Print” to help students reduce their carbon footprint and live a more sustainable lifestyle on campus.

The Minnesota Commerce Department offers a few energy-saving tips from the campaign:

- Buy LED lighting. LEDs use a fraction of the energy of incandescent lights, last a lot longer and look the same.
- Purchase ENERGY STAR® products, such as laptops and tablets, power strips and mini-fridges. ENERGY STAR products are certified to save energy without sacrificing features or functionality.
- Stream smarter. Stream media using tablets or smart TVs rather than energy-guzzling game consoles.
- Give your laptop a rest. Select the automatic turn-off setting to reduce energy use when your laptop sits idle.
- Use a power strip. An advanced power strip or surge protector makes it much easier to turn off electronics when they’re not in use. Plug all electronics into this strip and simply turn it off when you leave.
- Always turn off lights when they’re not needed.
- Wash clothes using full loads on a cold setting.
- Close windows when using air conditioning or heating.

As more college students embrace these small lifestyle changes, it can add up to large reductions in energy use, helping help colleges and universities achieve their energy-saving goals.



[Read more](#) to learn about “Shrink Your Dorm Print” and additional resources students can tap to save energy.

## Webinar Series: Climate and Health Issues in Minnesota

The Minnesota Department of Health Climate and Health Program is hosting a six-part series focused on climate and health issues in Minnesota. Register for upcoming webinars:

- **Agriculture and Food Security** – September 20, 2017 from 12:00pm-1:00pm  
[Register here!](#)
- **Water Quality and Quantity** – October 11, 2017 from 12:00pm-1:00pm  
[Register here!](#)
- **Air Quality** – November 22, 2017 from 12:00pm-1:00pm  
[Register here!](#)
- **Wellbeing** – December 13, 2017 from 12:00pm-1:00pm  
[Register here!](#)

## News Tips?

Got a story idea or something you’d like to share in the next Energy & Sustainability Newsletter? Let Emily know.