

Vergas Energy Grant Update

Grant: Rural Community Action: Achieving Municipal Building Energy Efficiencies and Renewable Energy Integration.

Grant funded by EMSC (Empowering Small Minnesota Communities) & CRSDP (Central Region Sustainable Development Partnership)

Status

- August 20th on site municipal building audit & on site energy audit conducted.
- Energy use data analysis in process.
- Municipal building computer models being developed to examine potential energy savings calculations.
- October 29th on site thermal imaging of municipal building roofs.
- October 29th present grant status to the ESMC board of directors.
- Public meeting prior to November City Council meeting regarding to data findings and recommendations.
- Continue participation with West Central Initiative (WCI) Municipal Building Solar Cohort.
- New Lakes and Prairies Solar Co-op information provided to community via newsletter, website & bulletin boards. Information to make going solar at home, farm, or small business easier and more affordable. www.solarunitedneighbors.org/lakesandprairies

April 2025

Final report

Public meeting to present final report findings



Want to go solar on your home, farm, or small business but don't know where to start?

Good news! The new Lakes and Prairies Solar Co-op is now open for new members. This opportunity is brought to you by West Central Initiative, the Clean Energy Research Teams (CERTs), and Solar United Neighbors (SUN).

The solar co-op is free to join, making going solar easier and more affordable than ever.

www.solarunitedneighbors.org/lakesandprairies

What is a solar co-op?

Solar co-ops are neighbors joining together to use group buying power to get the best price on solar. It also allows co-op members to tap into the expertise of SUN and other community members who have gone solar to help you with your solar transition.

Why a solar co-op?

- Get a great price and service when going solar.
- Tap into and understand financial incentives for going solar.
- Get support throughout the process of going solar.
- Join for free with no obligation to go solar.

Now is a great time to go solar:

- With the Inflation Reduction Act of 2023, the Federal Solar Investment Tax Credit is now at 30% of the cost of going solar.
- Through Minnesota's "net metering" policy your electric utility compensates you for the solar power you produce but don't use.
- Solar panels start generating income the moment they are turned on and can pay for themselves over the life of the system.

Attend a Solar 101 event in your community or online to learn more!

- Morris: November 12, 2024, at 6:30 p.m. at the West Central Research and Outreach Center
- Fergus Falls: December 4, 2024, at 6:30 p.m. at the Fergus Falls Public Library
- Moorhead: January 23, 2024, at 6:30 p.m. at the Moorhead Library
- Virtual Solar 101: February 11, 2025, at noon.
- Virtual Solar 101: March 25, 2025, at 7 p.m.

Learn more & sign up for the Lakes and Prairies Solar Co-op:

For more information contact

John Anderson at Solar United Neighbors at MNTeam@solarunitedneighbors.org or 612-446-5577.

Scan to join the co-op, register for a Solar 101 event, or learn more!



www.solarunitedneighbors.org/lakesandprairies



Morris Model

