

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

On October 29th, Julie Bruhn gave presentation to the state RSDP Board regarding Vergas Energy grant and status.

RSDP Energy Grant presentation given at November Vergas City Council meeting sharing preliminary findings from energy audit and building audits.

Vergas will have a RSDP Graduate Research Assistant, January-May, to compile a report with full findings and recommended actions.

Julie Lammers will participate in RSDP calls and coordinate completion of energy grant.

WCIF Municipal Solar Cohort has 10-13 communities interested in next steps with solar, however WCIF will be looking at only 5-6 projects for this first summer. Funding will be tailored more toward low or no interest loans.

Continued engagement in the WCIF Municipal Solar Cohort requires participation by the community mayor in calls and training.

WCIF RFP being drafted to get community names included in Municipal Building Solar Cohort. Communities must have an energy analysis (WCIF) and building energy audits (OTPC) completed to be included. WCIF would come to the council to get approval of the RFP for communities that are ready during Jan-Mar. WCIF putting out installer bids in May.

MPCA grants now open until January 9th. Vergas should look at doing a grant proposal to fund further energy planning or implementation. Vergas is the only rural community involved with energy, so could have good chance to receive.