



Department of Energy Recovery Act State Memos

Minnesota



For questions about DOE's Recovery Act activities, please contact the DOE Recovery Act Clearinghouse:
1-888-DOE-RCVY (888-363-7289), Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Eastern Time
<https://recoveryclearinghouse.energy.gov/contactUs.htm>.

All numbers and projects listed as of June 1, 2010

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RECOVERY ACT SUCCESS STORIES – ENERGY EMPOWERS

- *Low-cost energy efficiency goes block to block 9*
- *More weatherized homes for Minnesota tribe 9*



American Recovery and Reinvestment Act



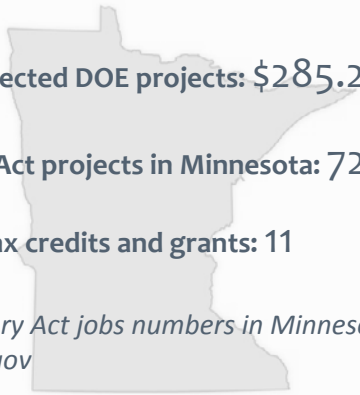
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY • MINNESOTA RECOVERY ACT SNAPSHOT

Funding for selected DOE projects: \$285.2 million

DOE Recovery Act projects in Minnesota: 72

Clean energy tax credits and grants: 11

For total Recovery Act jobs numbers in Minnesota go to www.recovery.gov



Minnesota has substantial natural resources, including biomass, wind power, and is a large ethanol producer. The **American Recovery & Reinvestment Act (ARRA)** is making a meaningful down payment on the nation's energy and environmental future. The Recovery Act investments in Minnesota are supporting a broad range of clean energy projects, from energy efficiency and the smart grid to solar and wind, geothermal power, and the Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory. Through these investments, Minnesota's businesses, universities, national labs, non-profits, and local governments are creating quality jobs today and positioning Minnesota to play an important role in the new energy economy of the future.

EXAMPLES OF MINNESOTA FORMULA GRANTS

Program	State Energy Program	Weatherization Assistance Program	Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grants	Energy Efficiency Appliance Rebate Program
Award (in millions)	\$54.2	\$131.9	\$38.5	\$5
	Minnesota Department of Commerce has received \$54.2 million to invest in state-level energy efficiency and renewable energy priorities.	The State of Minnesota has received \$131.9 million to scale-up existing weatherization efforts in the state, creating jobs, reducing carbon emissions, and saving money for Minnesota's low-income families. Over the course of the Recovery Act, Minnesota expects to weatherize more than 16,850 homes. The program also includes workforce training and education as part of the state's efforts to develop a green workforce.	Forty communities in Minnesota received a total of \$38.5 million to develop, promote, implement, and manage local energy efficiency programs.	Minnesota Department of Commerce has received \$5 million to offer consumer rebates for purchasing certain ENERGY STAR® appliances. These energy efficient appliances reduce energy use and save money for families, while helping the environment and supporting the local economy.

EXAMPLES OF MINNESOTA COMPETITIVE GRANTS, TAX CREDITS AND LOANS

Award	\$72 million	\$41.1 million	\$29.1 million	\$2.2 million
	SAGE Electrochromics , based in Faribault, was offered a conditional commitment for a \$72 million loan guarantee to support the construction and operation of a facility to produce SageGlass, an energy-saving window technology for commercial use. The loan guarantee authority for the project comes from the Energy Policy Act of 2005. The company estimates the project will create more than 210 jobs.	The Regents of the University of Minnesota were awarded several grants, including \$30.6 million for the NOVA experiment, which will help construct the building that will house an electron neutrino detector in northern Minnesota. The Regents were awarded an additional \$2.5 million for Smart Grid Workforce Training , as well as \$8 million for cutting-edge research and workforce training in Minneapolis via a Wind Energy Consortia between Institutions of Higher Learning and Industry.	Minnesota received nine 1603 payments for renewable energy generation totaling \$29.1 million , which include solar and wind facility projects. For example Moraine Wind II, LLC received \$28 million for a wind facility.	The University of Minnesota and BioCee, Inc. in Saint Paul have been awarded \$2.2 million under the Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy to develop an innovative transportation fuel using sunlight and <i>Shewanella</i> , a hydrocarbon producing bacteria.

Funding Allocation Table (Figure 1)

Total dollar amounts in this document are accurate as of June 1, 2010. Please note that Recovery Act Programs are ongoing and the dollar amounts are subject to change. Recipient locations are based on project sites rather than recipients' headquarters locations.

Recovery Act Pillar	Flagship Program Names & Funding Type ¹	Number of Selections	Selected Amount (in millions) ²
Energy Efficiency	<i>Weatherization Assistance Program (F)</i>	1	\$131.9
	<i>State Energy Program (F)</i>	1	\$54.2
	<i>Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (F)</i>	40	\$38.5
	<i>Energy Efficient Appliance Rebate (F)</i>	1	\$5.0
	<i>Building Energy Efficiency (CM)</i>	11	\$0.01
	<i>Industrial Energy Efficiency (CM)</i>	2	\$1.5
	<i>Additional Programs (CM & C)</i>	1	\$1.3
	TOTAL Energy Efficiency	57	\$232.4
Renewable Energy	<i>Solar (CM)</i>	2	\$2.2
	<i>Wind (CM)</i>	2	\$8.5
	<i>Geothermal (CM)</i>	1	\$1.6
	TOTAL Renewable Energy	5	\$12.3
Electric Grid	<i>Smart Grid Investment and Demonstrations Project (CM)³</i>	1	\$1.5
	<i>State and Local Energy Assurance and Regulatory Assistance (F)</i>	2	\$1.6
	<i>Smart Grid Workforce Training (CM)</i>	2	\$3.3
	TOTAL Electric Grid	5	\$6.4
Carbon Capture and Storage	<i>Research and Training (CM)</i>	1	\$0.3
	TOTAL Carbon Capture and Storage	1	\$0.3
Science and Innovation	<i>Advanced Research Projects Agency - Energy (ARPA-E) (CM)</i>	1	\$2.2
	<i>Small Business Research (SBIR/STTR) (CM)</i>	1	\$0.1
	<i>National Laboratory Facilities (C)</i>	1	\$30.6
	<i>Additional Programs</i>	1	\$0.9
	TOTAL Science and Innovation	5	\$33.8
TOTAL - DOE Programs⁴		72	\$285.2
Tax Credits/ Payments ⁵	<i>Payments for Renewable Energy Generation in Lieu of Tax Credits (1603)</i>	9	\$29.1
	<i>Clean Energy Manufacturing Tax Credits (48C)</i>	2	\$2.7
	TOTAL Tax Incentives	11	\$31.8
TOTAL - DOE/Treasury + DOE		83	\$317.0
¹ F=Formula Grant, CM=Competitive Grant, C=Contract			
² "Selected" indicates DOE has selected a potential funding recipient, which begins the process of negotiating an agreement. This does not necessarily indicate that a final agreement has been reached.			
³ Projects may cross state boundaries, signifies HQ location.			
⁴ Total does not include administrative funds.			
⁵ Jointly administered by DOE and the U.S. Department of Treasury.			

ENERGY EFFICIENCY – 57 projects totaling \$232.4 million

Helping millions of American families cut utility bills by making homes and appliances more energy efficient, expanding the home efficiency industry in sales and manufacturing. For more information, visit <http://www.energy.gov/recovery/energyefficiency.htm>.

Award(s): \$131.9 million, Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP)

Location: Statewide

Minnesota received \$131.9 million to increase existing weatherization efforts in the state, create jobs, reduce carbon emissions and save money for Minnesota's low-income families. Over the course of the Recovery Act, Minnesota's goal is to weatherize more than 16,850 homes. The program also includes workforce training and education as part of the state's efforts to develop a green workforce. The Minnesota Department of Commerce administers the DOE-funded Weatherization Assistance Program for the state. The Minnesota Department of Commerce sets eligibility requirements and oversees the local agencies providing weatherization services in the field. The Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) uses energy conservation techniques to reduce the cost of home energy. Correcting health and safety hazards and potentially life-threatening conditions is the first consideration in WAP activities.

Award(s): \$54.2 million, State Energy Program (SEP)

Location: Statewide

The Minnesota Department of Commerce received \$54.2 million to invest in state-level energy efficiency and renewable energy priorities. Minnesota is using its Recovery Act SEP funding to improve energy efficiency in residential, commercial and government buildings as well as increase the amount of renewable energy produced in-state. Minnesota is awarding grants to new or existing manufacturers of renewable energy, energy storage systems, ground-source heat pump and components to foster the direct and indirect expansion of green economic activity in the state. In another activity, to ensure Minnesota's residential buildings continue to improve in energy performance, the state is developing and implementing multiple residential energy efficiency programs reflecting a variety of income levels.

Award(s): 40 totaling \$38.5 million, Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program (EECBG)

Location: Statewide

Recipients: Anoka County, Apple Valley, Blaine, Bloomington, Brooklyn Park, Burnsville, Carver County, Coon Rapids, Dakota County, Duluth, Eagan, Eden Prairie, Edina, Hennepin County, Lakeville, Lower Sioux Indian Community in the State of Minnesota – Tribe, Mankato, Maple Grove, Maplewood, Minneapolis, Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, Minnesota State Energy Office, Minnetonka, Moorhead, Plymouth, Prairie Island Indian Community in the State of Minnesota – Tribe, Ramsey, County, Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians – Tribe, Rochester, Scott County, Shakopee, Mdewakanton Sioux Community of Minnesota – Tribe, St. Cloud, St. Louis Park, St. Louis County, St. Paul, Stearns County, Upper Sioux Community – Tribe, Washington County, Woodbury, Wright County

Forty communities in Minnesota received a total of \$38.5 million to develop, promote, implement and manage local energy efficiency programs.

This project assists states, U.S. territories, Indian tribes, counties and cities to develop, promote, implement and manage localized energy efficiency programs through individual program grants. The project funds programs which reduce fossil fuel emissions in a manner that is environmentally sustainable, maximizes cost savings, reduces the total energy use of eligible entities and improves energy efficiency in the transportation, building and other appropriate sectors. An example is:

- **City of Minneapolis - \$3.9 million**

The City of Minneapolis received \$3.9 million to create, implement and administer a residential energy efficiency program, including a revolving loan fund. The program targets individuals and families who are not eligible for the Low Income Weatherization Program now operated by Community Action of Minneapolis. The program is done in partnership with local neighborhood organizations and other community-based organizations. Additionally, the city is creating an Energy Efficiency Business Revolving Loan Program providing financing to Minneapolis businesses in order to improve their facilities to decrease overall impact on the environment. The city is working in participation with the Center for Energy and Environment to provide loans in the amount of up to \$75,000 to finance energy efficiency improvements.

Award(s): \$5 million, Energy Efficient Appliance Rebate Programs

Location: Statewide

The Minnesota Department of Commerce received \$5 million to offer consumer rebates for purchasing certain ENERGY STAR® appliances. These energy efficient appliances reduce energy use and save money for families, while supporting the local economy. This funding assists state-level rebate programs by paying up to 50 percent of the administrative costs of establishing and executing these types of programs. Though states and territories determine the appliances which apply, typically those include clothes washers, dishwashers, refrigerators, freezers, room air conditioners and water heaters.

Award(s): \$72 million from DOE / Treasury, Loan Guarantee Program

Location: Faribault

SAGE Electrochromics in Faribault, Minnesota, was offered a conditional commitment for a \$72 million loan guarantee to support the construction and operation of a facility to produce SageGlass, an energy-saving window technology for commercial use. The loan guarantee authority for the project comes from the Energy Policy Act of 2005. The company estimates the project will create more than 210 jobs.

Award: \$1.2 million, Advanced Materials RD&D in Support of EERE Needs to Advance Clean Energy Technologies and Energy-Intensive Process R&D

Location: Morris

Regents of the University of Minnesota in Morris received \$1.2 million for Advanced Materials RD&D in Support of EERE Needs to Advance Clean Energy Technologies and Energy-Intensive Process R&D. Funds are being used for determining optimal performance in adapting onsite electrical generation platforms to operate on producer gas from fuels of opportunity.

Award(s): 11 totaling \$13,000, Buildings and Appliance Market Transformation

Location: Minneapolis

Best Buy Government, LLC, in Minneapolis received eleven awards totaling \$13,000 in funding. The Buildings and Appliance Market Transformation project expands building codes, accelerates the pace

of Appliance Standard test procedure development and improves the efficiency of commercial buildings' operations by training building operators and commissioning agents.

Award(s): \$1.3 million, Ground Source Heat Pumps

Location: Eagan

Eagan received \$1.3 million for Ground Source Heat Pumps. The proposed centralized heat pump system will reduce energy consumption for the central plant equipment in the renovated building and reduce energy consumption in the new expansion by 64 percent, as compared to the traditional system.

Award(s): \$350,000, Industrial Assessment Centers and Plant Best Practices

Location: East St. Paul

The Minnesota Department of Commerce received \$350,000 for Industrial Assessment Centers and Plant Best Practices. Funds are being used to coordinate and conduct trainings, energy assessments, technology demonstrations / pilots and technical assistance throughout the state.

RENEWABLE ENERGY – 16 projects totaling \$44.1 million

Developing the clean renewable resources in order to double our supply of renewable energy and boost domestic renewable manufacturing capacity. For more information, visit <http://www.energy.gov/recovery/renewableenergy.htm>.

Award(s): 9 payments totaling \$29.1 million from DOE / Treasury, 1603 Payments for Renewable Energy Generation

Location: Statewide

*For current number of 1603 awards, see the weekly update at <http://www.treas.gov/recovery/1603.shtml>

Minnesota received nine 1603 payments for renewable energy generation totaling \$29.1 million, which include solar and wind facility projects.

- **Moraine Wind II, LLC, Woodstock - \$28 million**
Moraine Wind II, LLC, in Woodstock received \$28 million for a wind power project.
- **Best Power Int'l, LLC, Collegeville - \$869,000**
Best Power Int'l, LLC, in Collegeville received \$869,000 for a solar electricity project.
- **Spruce Tree Centre, LLP, St. Paul - \$108,000**
Spruce Tree Centre, LLC, in St. Paul received \$108,000 for a solar electricity project.
- **BI, Minneapolis - \$26,000**
BI in Minneapolis received \$26,000 for a solar electricity project.
- **FreEner-g, LLC, Plymouth - \$16,000**
FreEner-g, LLC, in Plymouth received \$16,000 for a solar electricity project.
- **FreEner-g, LLC, Edina - \$13,000**
FreEner-g, LLC, in Edina received \$13,000 for a solar electricity project.

- **Arne Stoen, Starbuck - \$10,000**
Arne Stoen in Starbuck received \$10,000 for a wind power project.
- **FreEner-g, LLC, St. Paul - \$7,000**
FreEner-g, LLC, in St. Paul received \$7,000 for a solar electricity project.
- **FreEner-g, LLC, Bloomington - \$7,000**
FreEner-g, LLC, in Bloomington received \$7,000 for a solar electricity project.

Award(s): 2 totaling \$2.7 million from DOE / Treasury, Clean Energy Manufacturing Tax Credit (48C)
Location: Fairbault, Rogers

- **AAF-McQuay, Inc., Fairbault - \$1.4 million**
AAF-McQuay, Inc., in Fairbault received \$1.4 million to re-equip a manufacturing facility for the production of rooftop air-conditioning systems used in heating, ventilation and air-conditioning (HVAC) systems.
- **Flame Metals Processing, Rogers - \$1.4 million**
Flame Metals Processing in Rogers received \$1.4 million to purchase equipment used in the heat treatment of gears for the gear assembly in wind turbines.

Award(s): \$1.6 million, Enhanced Geothermal Systems (EGS) Technology R&D
Location: Minneapolis

The University of Minnesota in Minneapolis received \$1.6 million for Enhanced Geothermal Systems (EGS) Technology R&D. Funds are being used to modify a numerical simulator (TOUGH2). The simulator will allow coupling of experimentally observed chemical interactions between supercritical carbon dioxide and EGS reservoir rocks with spatial and temporal variations in pore / fracture geometries and associated permeability and flow fields.

Award(s): \$1 million, High-Penetration Solar Deployment
Location: St. Paul

St. Paul received \$1 million for High-Penetration Solar Deployment. Funds are being used to integrate a solar thermal system into a local district energy system. This integration will demonstrate how solar energy can supplement existing district energy systems from both a technological perspective and a business model perspective.

Award(s): \$1.2 million, Photovoltaic (PV) Systems Development
Location: East St. Paul

3M Corporation in East St. Paul received \$1.2 million for Photovoltaic (PV) Systems Development. Funds are being used to develop a polymer barrier film which has lower inherent costs and higher transparency, replacing traditional barrier films.

Award(s): \$8 million, Wind Energy Consortia between Institutions of Higher Learning and Industry
Location: Minneapolis

The University of Minnesota in Minneapolis received \$8 million for a Wind Energy Consortia between Institutions of Higher Learning and Industry. This funding goes to an industry / academic consortium for achieving 20 percent wind by 2030 through cutting-edge research and workforce training.

Award(s): \$562,000, Wind Energy Technology R&D and Testing

Location: Golden Valley

Honeywell Corporation in Golden Valley received \$562,000 for Wind Energy Technology R&D and Testing. Funds are being used for condition-based monitoring on wind farms.

MODERNIZING THE ELECTRIC GRID – 5 projects totaling \$6.4 million

Harnessing clean energy sources and integrating them onto a modernized electric grid, while giving consumers better choices and more control over their energy use. For more information, visit <http://www.energy.gov/recovery/smartgrid.htm>.

Award(s): \$679,000, Enhancing State and Local Governments' Energy Assurance

Location: St. Paul

The Minnesota Department of Commerce received \$679,000 for Enhancing State and Local Governments' Energy Assurance. Funds are being used to improve state emergency preparedness plans and ensure quick recovery and restoration from any energy supply disruptions. Funds will be used by state governments to hire or retrain staff and expand state-level capacities to address challenges to the country's energy systems, including emergency situations such as blackouts, hurricanes, ice storms and disruptions to heating supplies.

Award(s): \$1.5 million, Smart Grid Investment Grant Program (EISA 1306)

Location: Duluth

The Minnesota Power Company in Duluth received \$1.5 million for the Smart Grid Investment Grant Program. The grant expands implementation of Minnesota Power's existing smart meter network by deploying an additional 8,000 meters as well as new measurement and automation equipment. Minnesota Power is also beginning a dynamic pricing program.

Award(s): 2 totaling \$3.3 million, Smart Grid Workforce Training

Location: Minneapolis, St. Paul

- **Regents of the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis - \$2.5 million**

Regents of the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis received \$2.5 million for Smart Grid Workforce Training. This program facilitates the implementation of laboratories at the university level to create a new educational framework in power engineering. This framework is transforming undergraduate and graduate education and research in the areas of renewable energy while meeting the challenges of making the grid cleaner, smarter and more reliable. The project complements other Federal grants at the University of Minnesota and includes a community of over 80 collaborating universities, further disseminating the laboratory curriculum to other universities and technical and community colleges in the region.

- **St. Paul College, St. Paul - \$750,000**

St. Paul College in St. Paul received \$750,000 for Smart Grid Workforce Training. This funding is helping re-design the current Energy Process curriculum and programming into an Energy Process and Smart Grid Technology program. The program is a key vehicle for current energy industry employees to re-tool and refine their current skill set, draw upon their existing work experience and rapidly become trained to work in new sectors with emerging energy technologies. Over the three year project period, St. Paul College anticipates that 90-360

students will successfully complete a certificate, diploma or degree in Energy Process and Smart Grid Technology.

Award(s): \$883,000, State Assistance on Electricity Policies

Location: St. Paul

The Minnesota Public Utility Commission in St. Paul received \$883,000 to address its Recovery Act electricity workload. The PUC will be hiring new staff and retraining existing employees to ensure they have the capacity to quickly and effectively review proposed electricity projects. The funds help the PUCs accelerate reviews of the large number of electric utility requests expected under the Recovery Act. The PUC will be reviewing electric utility investments in projects such as energy efficiency, renewable energy, carbon capture and storage, transmission lines, energy storage, Smart Grid, demand response equipment and electric and hybrid-electric vehicles.

CARBON CAPTURE & STORAGE – 1 project totaling \$300,000

Developing clean coal technologies so we can utilize America's coal resources sustainably. For more information, visit <http://www.energy.gov/recovery/ccs.htm>.

Award(s): \$300,000, Geologic Sequestration Training and Research Grant Program

Location: Minneapolis

The University of Minnesota in Minneapolis received \$300,000 for the Geologic Sequestration Training and Research Grant Program. This grant provides funding for research on the geomechanical simulation of fluid-driven fractures. This project provides graduate and undergraduate students the opportunity to participate in research related to the modeling of fluid-driven fractures, a very challenging problem in geomechanics. The research approach includes numerical analyses with discrete element and boundary element methods and physical experiments for material estimation and model testing.

SCIENCE AND INNOVATION – 5 projects totaling \$33.8 million

Renewing our commitment to science and innovation to ensure global competitiveness in the future. For more information, visit <http://www.energy.gov/recovery/innovation.htm>.

Award(s): \$2.2 million, Advanced Research Projects Agency - Energy (ARPA-E)

Location: St. Paul

The University of Minnesota and BioCee, Inc., in St. Paul received \$2.2 million under the Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy to develop an innovative transportation fuel using sunlight and *Shewanella*, a hydrocarbon producing bacteria.

Award(s): \$878,000, Energy Sciences Fellowships and Early Career Research Program

Location: Minneapolis

The University of Minnesota in Minneapolis received \$878,000 for the Energy Sciences Fellowships and Early Career Research Program. The award provides research funding on consolidating biomass pre-treatment with saccharification by resolving the spatial control mechanisms of fungi.

Award(s): \$30.6 million, NOvA Major Items Equipment

Location: Minneapolis

The University of Minnesota in Minneapolis received \$30.6 million for NOvA Major Items Equipment. The NOvA experiment constructs a detector, optimized for the detection of electron neutrinos, in

the path of the existing NuMI neutrino beamline from Fermilab. This project advances the NOvA experiment by completing the construction of the building in northern Minnesota that houses the far detector and advancing procurements for the detector. The University of Minnesota has a cooperative agreement with DOE to construct the building on university-owned land.

Award(s): \$143,000, Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) / Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) Round 1

Location: Elk River

Applied Colloids in Elk River received \$143,000 for Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) / Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR). The funds are being used to develop technology to improve biofuel production, such as ethanol. The project also helps reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

ENERGYEMPOWERS.GOV

Recovery Act Success Stories

Energy Empowers is a U.S. Department of Energy clean energy information service. Our team produces stories featuring the people and businesses that are fueling the energy transformation and economic recovery in America. For more stories from your state, go to energyempowers.gov/Minnesota

MINNEAPOLIS

Low-cost energy efficiency goes block to block

An innovative pilot program in Minneapolis, Minnesota, focuses on rallying whole communities around energy efficiency. Through the program, area residents cash in on a home energy-efficiency upgrade that saves them roughly \$130 on their annual energy bill.

They only have to contribute a little time and a small initial payment.

“The most effective way to get people involved is for people to tell each other, neighbor to neighbor,” says Lola Schoenrich, who signed up after reading about the program in her neighborhood newsletter. She volunteered to go door-to-door on her block handing out registration materials and talked to about two thirds of her neighbors.

The program is administered by the Center for Energy and the Environment (CEE), a local non-profit. After attending an energy-efficiency workshop and paying a \$20 fee, two energy technicians visit the homes of the qualified participants. The crew installs up to \$400 worth of efficiency items such as, compact fluorescent light bulbs, programmable thermostats, low flow showerheads, faucet aerators and pipe wrap. Crews perform a blower door test to measure air leaks and use their findings to suggest upgrades, including attic air sealing and insulation. Working with a group of pre-qualified contractors, crews are able to provide estimates on the spot, as well as information about financing and rebates.

The initial workshop gives homeowners a better sense of the ways the home uses or loses energy through the building envelope – or air seal of the home – the heating and cooling systems, appliances and phantom load – appliances that use energy even when they’re turned off. It also offers them easy ways to save energy by doing simple things like turning off lights and lowering the temperature of their hot water heater.

Leaders of the program aim to help the community become more energy efficient through technology while educating homeowners to make better energy choices. “We’re trying to teach people that energy efficiency isn’t about being cold and trapped alone in the dark,” says Judy Thommes, marketing manager at CEE. “You need that educational component. People really respond to the training and want to know more about what they can do.”

The program also gives residents data specific to their personal energy use. “They gave you a sheet that showed your plot of energy usage next to the plots of other people in houses like yours, to see how they compared,” Lola says.

Program partners include the Environment and Natural Resource Trust Fund, the City of Minneapolis and local utilities Xcel Energy Inc. and CenterPoint Energy, which provide the labor costs for the CEE staff that carry out the program. The effort helps the utilities

meet their energy efficiency mandates. CEE and partners have already conducted visits at more than 500 homes. CEE is using \$705,000 in Recovery Act funding from Minneapolis to support the program and plans to serve 4,000 homes over the next two years.

Using a neighborhood-by-neighborhood approach, CEE saves time and fuel. “We’re about doing the little things that you can do,” Judy says. “Little things add up to big things.”

FOND DU LAC RESERVATION

More weatherized homes for Minnesota tribe

Randy and Dorothy Pittman are cozy now, but for the first few winters in their new home at the Fond du Lac Reservation this was not the case. At first, the couple, who moved from muggy Alabama, thought they needed time to acclimate to the Minnesota cold. It turned out it was the two-story house they constructed that needed adjusting.

“I had not built a house in the North,” says Dorothy, a tribal member of the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, who takes partial blame for a drafty downstairs. “It’s a whole different climate here.”

Everything changed last fall after a weatherization crew from Arrowhead Economic Opportunity patched up the problem areas Dorothy and her husband missed during construction. The crew insulated walls on the second floor and put plastic sealant underneath the house to protect it from Cloquet, Minn.’s harsh winters when the average temperature is 10 degrees.

“Before, you couldn’t be comfortable unless you had a blanket,” says Dorothy. “But after they left, you could tell the difference almost immediately.”

Dorothy is one of 40 tribal members of the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa who have benefitted from the increased funds under the Recovery Act to the Department of Energy’s Weatherization Assistance Program.

Typically, the reservation receives enough funding to weatherize three homes a year for eligible low-income families, says Joan Markon, director of community services on the reservation. But a bump in funds from the Recovery Act allowed Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency, the tribe’s service partner, to make 20 tribal members’ homes more energy efficient in 2009.

Arrowhead has weatherized 20 tribal homes this year. That’s about five houses a month, a rate that Joan expects the agency to maintain for the rest of year.

The Recovery Act provided Minnesota’s Office of Energy Security \$132 million—10 times the state’s regular annual amount—to expand their weatherization efforts through March 2012.

Weatherization crews across the state have been busy replacing old furnaces, sealing air leaks, and weathering stripped doors for people who are at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty line, with priority given to households with elderly or disabled people.

Joan says there are about 500 tribal members of the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa who qualify for energy assistance.

“The most effective way to get people involved is for people to tell each other, neighbor to neighbor.” - Lola Schoenrich
