
Workshops & Conferences

Green Jobs in Minnesota: What does it mean for my community?

Thursday, December 17th, 2009

3:00 – 5:00 p.m.

MN Pollution Control Agency, 7678 College Rd, Suite 105, Baxter

Over the past year many economic forecasters have declared that “green jobs” are a growth sector as our nation seeks to produce more renewable energy, conserve the energy we have, and otherwise lessen our impact on the environment while saving money. What is the reality of this prediction here in Minnesota? What industries are hiring now, and what skills do they require? Is continued optimism warranted?

Joan B. Danielson is the Central MN Regional Administrator for the MN Department of Employment and Economic Development and will share what DEED is seeing in terms of job creation and retention, and also what opportunities and barriers she sees in her crystal ball. She is also likely to be joined by other peers working in the field of Green Economic Development to share their interpretations of our dynamic economic climate.

The Brainerd Area Environmental Learning Network (BAELN), now in its seventh season, offers people in the environmental field and the community timely information on environmental and sustainability issues, along with the chance to network with others. This season's theme Greening the Economy gives us insight into the jobs, skills and opportunities that the green jobs direction offers. BAELN events are held most third Thursdays of the month from 3:00-5:00 p.m. and include an hour-long presentation with time for questions, networking and refreshments. The events are free and all are invited to participate.

BAELN is a collaborative effort of the following organizations: 1000 Friends of Minnesota, Central Lakes College, Crow Wing County Soil and Water Conservation District, Initiative Foundation, MN Department of Natural Resources, MN Department of Transportation, MN Pollution Control Agency, Minnesota Waters, The Nature Conservancy, community member and University of Minnesota Extension. If you would like to be on the BAELN email list or for general information on BAELN, please contact Stephen Mikkelsen at (218) 316-3887, or toll free at 1-800-657-3864.

Upcoming events: 2009-2010 Schedule (subject to change)

Location: MN Pollution Control Agency, 7678 College Rd, Suite 105, Baxter

Times: 3:00-5:00 p.m.

- January 21: Attacking Poverty through Green Jobs (podcast)
- February 18: The Impacts of a Green Workforce on the Economy
- March 25 (fourth Thursday): Deconstruction Reuse = Green Opportunities
- April 15: Putting Green Practices into Action: MN GreenCorps and MN Conservation Corps
- May 20: Greening Transportation - Northstar Rail
- June 17: Training the next generation of green workers (and a few old dogs too)

Funding Opportunities

Support for K-12 Libraries

[Laura Bush Foundation for America's Libraries](#) (Deadline: 12/31/09)

The goal of the Laura Bush Foundation for America's Libraries is to provide print books to the K-12 school libraries and students that most need them. Grants of up to \$6,000 are offered to update, extend, and diversify the book collections of school libraries throughout the United States. Preference is given to elementary, middle, or high schools in which 90% or more of the school population receives free or reduced lunch. Funds are available only for library books and magazine/serial copies and subscriptions; requests for staffing, shelving, furniture, equipment, software, videos, classroom book sets, or exams are not considered. All grants are made to individual schools rather than to school districts, foundations, or other entities. The application deadline is December 31, 2009. Online application information is available on the Foundation's website.

Funds for Youth Nutrition and Fitness Programs

[General Mills Champions for Healthy Kids Grant Program](#) (Deadline: 1/15/10)

The General Mills Champions for Healthy Kids Grant Program is a partnership of the General Mills Foundation, the American Dietetic Association Foundation, and the President's Council on Physical Fitness. The goal of the program is to encourage U.S. communities to improve the eating and physical activity patterns of young people, ages 2-18. In 2010, the program will award 50 grants of \$10,000 each to nonprofit organizations, schools, and government agencies throughout the country that offer innovative programs to help youth adopt a balanced diet and physically active lifestyle. Local organizations that work with children, including park districts, health departments, government agencies, Native American tribes, municipal organizations, schools, YMCAs, Boys & Girls clubs, etc., are encouraged to apply. Online applications will be available on the program's website in October 2009 and must be submitted by January 15, 2010.

Grants for Affordable Housing Projects in the U.S. and Canada

[The Home Depot Foundation: Affordable Housing Built Responsibly Grant Program](#) (Deadline: 1/15/10 & 7/1/10)

The Home Depot Foundation is dedicated to building affordable homes for working families that are healthy to live in and affordable to own. Through the Affordable Housing Built Responsibly Grant Program, the Foundation supports nonprofit organizations throughout the United States and Canada whose missions align with the Foundation's interests in supporting the production and preservation of affordable, efficient, and healthy housing. Preference is given to proposals that result in the production, preservation, or financing of housing units for low- to moderate-income families. The most promising proposals should incorporate a number of "green" building design practices. The 2010 deadlines for online letters of inquiry are January 15 and July 1. Visit the Foundation's website to review the grant criteria and take the eligibility test.

K-12 Science Education Supported

[Toyota TAPESTRY Grants for Science Teachers](#) (Deadline: 1/18/10)

The Toyota TAPESTRY Grants for Science Teachers program, administered by the National Science Teachers Association, provides support for K-12 science teachers throughout the United States for innovative projects that enhance science education in their schools and/or school districts. The 2010 grant categories are Physical Science Application, Environmental Science Education, and Integrating Literacy and Science. Fifty large grants of up to \$10,000 and a minimum of 20 to 32 mini-grants of up to \$2,500 will be awarded. All applicants must have at least two years of science teaching experience in a K-12 school, not including the current school year. Online applications must be submitted through the National Science Teachers Association website by January 18, 2010.

K-12 School Improvement Projects Funded

[Lowe's Charitable and Educational Foundation: Toolbox for Education Grant Program](#) (Deadlines:2/12/09)

The Toolbox for Education Grant Program, offered by Lowe's Charitable and Educational Foundation, provides grants of up to \$5,000 to K-12 public schools and 501(c)(3) parent-teacher groups associated with public schools that develop projects that encourage parent involvement and build stronger community spirit. Lowe's will donate a total of \$5 million to more than 1,000 different schools throughout the U.S. during the 2009-2010 school year. Preference is given to funding requests which have a permanent impact such as facility enhancement or landscaping/clean-up projects. In addition, for this school year basic needs requests will take priority in order to provide the tools that help educators and parent groups through these challenging times. The upcoming application deadlines are October 16, 2009, and February 12, 2010. Visit the website listed above to take the eligibility test and submit an online application.

Youth Service Projects Supported in the U.S. and Canada

[Pay It Forward Foundation Mini-Grant Program](#) (Deadlines: 2/15/10)

The Pay It Forward Foundation was established to inspire students to realize that they can change the world, and to provide them with opportunities to do so. Pay It Forward Mini-Grants are designed to fund one-time service-oriented projects that are identified by youth as activities they would like to perform to benefit their school, neighborhood, or greater community, and that include learning goals for the youth participants. Projects must contain a "pay it forward" focus – that is, they must be based on the concept of one person doing a favor for others, who in turn do favors for others, with the results growing exponentially. Schools, churches, and community youth groups (with an adult sponsor) in the U.S. and Canada may apply for funding. The application deadlines are September 15 and February 15 of each year; however, requests may be submitted at any time. Visit the Foundation's website to download the Mini-Grant guidelines.

Instrument Donations for Music Programs Nationwide

[Fender Music Foundation](#) (Applications submitted throughout year)

The mission of the Fender Music Foundation, formerly the Guitar Center Music Foundation, is to support nonprofit music programs across America that offer instruction so that more people can experience the joys of making music. The Foundation accepts grant applications from music academies, schools, local music programs, and national music programs throughout the country that teach people of any age who would not otherwise have the opportunity to make music. Almost all of the grants provided are comprised of traditional instruments and the equipment necessary to play them. Online applications may be submitted at any time and are reviewed three times per year. Visit the Foundation's website to access program guidelines and the online grant application form.

Grants Promote Environmental Conservation Programs

[Wallace Genetic Foundation](#) (Applications submitted throughout year) - provides grants to nonprofit organizations nationwide that believe in the long-term conservation of the soil and of the environment, rather than exploitation of natural resources for temporary profits. Specific areas of interest include: sustainable agriculture, protection of farmland near cities, plant genetic research, biodiversity protection, and environmental education and media. Requests may be submitted throughout the year. Application guidelines and forms are available on the Foundation's website.

Grants Target Rural Communities

[Pioneer Hi-Bred International: Community Investment Program](#) (Applications submitted throughout year) – supports efforts to improve the quality of life in the communities where the company's customers and employees live and work. The company focuses its grant making in the following areas: education, with an emphasis on science; agriculture; and farm safety. Priority is given to nonprofit organizations located in Pioneer facility communities or rural agricultural regions. Organizations with active Pioneer management/employee participation receive priority consideration. Requests may be submitted at any

time and are reviewed quarterly. Visit the website listed above to learn more about the program; click on [U.S. Grant Guidelines](#) to access the grant application.

Community Watershed Protection Projects Funded

[RBC Blue Water Project: Community Action Grants](#) (Applications submitted throughout year) - The RBC Blue Water Project, an initiative of the Royal Bank of Canada (RBC), will provide \$50 million in grants through 2017 to support programs that foster a culture of water stewardship. The initiative's funding focus is Watershed Protection and Access to Safe Drinking Water. Launched in 2008, the RBC Blue Water Project Community Action Grants are provided to local grassroots organizations in Canada, the United States, and the Caribbean for projects devoted to informing, educating, and mobilizing people about watershed protection at the community level. Requests for grants ranging from \$1,000 to \$5,000 may be submitted throughout the year. Visit the Blue Water Project's website listed above for more information.

Support for Community Collaborations Promoting Pet Adoptions

[Maddie's Fund](#) (Applications submitted throughout year) - The goal of Maddie's Fund is to help build a no-kill nation where all healthy and treatable shelter dogs and cats find loving new homes. Through the Fund's Community Collaborative Project Grants, support is provided to community-wide collaborations of adoption guarantee organizations, animal control and traditional shelters, and private practice veterinarians working together to provide adoptions for all their treatable shelter dogs and cats within ten years. In order to prepare communities to be eligible for a Community Collaborative Project Grant, Maddie's Fund also provides Starter Grants, which offer support for the development of the various components of community collaborations. Applications for these grants, as well as several other programs offered by the Fund, are accepted throughout the year. Details on each of the Fund's distinct grant programs are available on the website listed above.

Early Child Care Programs Funded

[Rosie's For All Kids Foundation](#) (Applications submitted throughout year) - awards grants to nonprofit organizations dedicated to helping disadvantaged children and low-income families. The majority of the Foundation's grants are made through the Early Childhood Care and Education program. Priority is given to experienced, community-based programs serving children in low-income areas where many families struggle to find affordable, high-quality early education and care. Types of support include tuition subsidies; small renovations, supplies, and equipment upgrades; playground construction; and staff development opportunities. Grants typically range from \$5,000 to \$15,000. Letters of intent may be submitted throughout the year. Visit the website listed above to take the online eligibility quiz and submit an online application.

Small Grants Assist Domestic Violence Survivors

[Allstate Foundation Education and Job Training Fund](#) (Applications submitted throughout year) - established by the Foundation in partnership with National Network to End Domestic Violence, provides small grants to survivors of domestic violence to help them achieve their educational and job related goals. Eligible expenses include books and tuition for school, job skills training, temporary child care, public transportation, etc. Any survivor of domestic violence is eligible to apply; however, the application must be completed by a local domestic violence program or coalition to be accepted. Applications may be submitted at any time. Details about the program are available on the National Network to End Domestic Violence website.

Grants Enhance Health and Wellness in Company Communities

[Walgreens Corporate Contribution Program](#) (Applications submitted throughout year)
The Walgreens Corporate Contribution Program supports nonprofit organizations in local Walgreens communities throughout the United States. (Walgreens stores are located in 49 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico.) The company provides grants to organizations that focus on the following issues: access to health and wellness in their communities, pharmacy education programs and

mentoring initiatives, civic and community outreach, and emergency and disaster relief. The largest share of the company's annual grants budget is allocated to programs that address the health needs of community residents. Online applications may be submitted throughout the year. Visit the Walgreens website to download the contribution guidelines.

Alcoholism Prevention & Education Programs Funded

[Christopher D. Smithers Foundation](#) (Applications submitted throughout year) - The mission of the Christopher D. Smithers Foundation is to inform the public that alcoholism is a respectable, treatable disease from which people can and do recover; to encourage prevention programs and activities, with an emphasis on high risk populations; and to continually fight to reduce and eliminate the stigma that is associated with the disease of alcoholism. The Foundation focuses its grant making on a wide range of issues related to alcoholism, including prevention, treatment, research, public education, and creating awareness of alcoholism problems in the nation's work world. While a number of grants go to national organizations, regional and local organizations across the country may also receive funds. Grant proposals are reviewed throughout the year. Guidelines for submitting requests are available on the Foundation's website.

Grants Encourage the Empowerment of Disadvantaged Groups

[Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People](#) (Applications are accepted throughout the year) The Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People (SDOP) focuses its efforts on the empowerment of economically poor and disadvantaged people seeking to change the structures that perpetuate their condition. SDOP currently supports groups in the United States who are oppressed by poverty and social systems and want to take charge of their own lives. Funded projects must be presented, owned, and controlled by the groups of people who will directly benefit from them and must address long-term corrections of the conditions that keep people bound by poverty and oppression. Requests may be submitted throughout the year. Visit the SDOP website to review the funding guidelines and download the application form.

Resources

Homegrown Responses to Economic Uncertainty in Rural America

Rural Sociological Society, 2009

Rural communities have been hard by the recession, but those that have approached economic development by looking inward to community strengths and existing resources are often faring better than those that attempt to lure companies to relocate by promising low wages and tax incentives. The latter can no longer compete in a global economy. [Read full article...](#)

Small Town Grocery Stores

The Agurban, Your Hometown E-Zine

One of my most memorable Boomtown talks occurred in Wimbledon, ND, a small town of 237 residents. Over half the town came out to hear me speak back in 2005. When it was announced that their local grocery store would be closing, a corporation was formed and stock shares of \$100 each were sold to raise the necessary capital to keep the store open. The Wimbledon Community Grocery Store opened on October 4, 2006, after being closed for less than a week in the transition from M&J's Grocery. [Read more...](#)

Baby Boom Migration Tilts Toward Rural America

Baby boomers are expected to follow migration patterns similar to their predecessors which means the rural population age 55-75 will increase by 30 percent between 2010 and 2020. Local economic development strategies aimed at attracting more jobs will likely have little effect on the migration decisions of baby boomers searching for a better quality of life. [Read more...](#)

Minnesota Technical Assistance Program – Industrial Waste and Energy Reduction

Assessments - MnTAP Intern Program: Minnesota businesses interested in reducing waste and improving efficiency are encouraged to apply for the annual MnTAP summer intern program. Businesses get a highly-qualified student intern with a background in engineering or science. Each student's work is guided by a technical expert at MnTAP who provides additional resources to help determine solutions to improve the use of raw materials, reduce waste, increase efficiency, and save money. Project proposals are being accepted by MnTAP and are due by February 1, 2010. Click here to apply: <http://mntap.umn.edu/intern/business.htm#apply>

This newsletter is designed to share funding opportunities, resources, and conferences or training events of common interest for program participants and supporters of the Initiative Foundation. For more information about these and other training opportunities, contact (Dan Frank, dfrank@ifound.org).

If you wish to be removed from this mailing list or if you have other names/e-mails to add please contact Jolene Howard, jhoward@ifound.org.