

Keynotes for Communities January 2009



INITIATIVE
FOUNDATION

Workshops & Conferences

2009 Clean Energy Resource Team (CERTs) Conference: Harnessing Resources & Teamwork for MN's Energy Future

February 10-11

St. Cloud Civic Center

www.cleanenergyresourceteams.org

Sponsored by the Clean Energy Resource Teams (CERTs) and their partners, this conference is for everyone interested in being a part of Minnesota's clean energy future - farmers, utility representatives, school staff, local officials, students, business owners and members of any community. It's an excellent opportunity to learn what people are doing across the state on energy issues, and to connect and share resources.

The event starts on Tuesday, February 10th with optional in-depth workshops and an evening reception, followed by the daylong conference on February 11th. Conference topics are wide ranging and include:

- Local Foods
- Cities Leading the Way
- Biogas Digesters
- Geothermal
- Energy Efficiency
- Small-Scale Wind
- Solar
- Affordable Housing

The opening keynote speaker is Randy Udall, energy expert from Colorado and board member of the Association for the Study of Peak Oil and Gas - USA. The event also includes a legislative forum moderated by Kerri Miller of Minnesota Public Radio.

Registration is \$50 for the conference and \$30 for the pre-conference workshops. For details visit the web site above.

Asset-Based Development and Asset Mapping

Tuesday, February 10, 1:00 - 4:30 PM

First Lutheran Church (Koininia Room), 424 S 8th St Brainerd

At this workshop, learn the principals behind asset-based development and building strong, connected communities; and build upon the human and social capital that lies in every organization, congregation, and community. Learn the process of asset-mapping as a way to brainstorm on where to find the resources to get stuff done, and at the same time, build healthier organizations and communities.

Cost: \$40 per person; \$25 for each additional registrant from the same organization (up to a total of 4)

We have invited Karl Samp, Organizational Consultant and Trainer to lead this interactive training. The process is a way for small groups of public and private, for-profit and not-for-profit, and faith-based and secular organizations to work productively together, even without access to the financial assets we may be used to. Register your team of 2-4 people today by emailing Jen, jen@bridge-of-hope.net.

Minnesota Marketplace for Entrepreneurs

Monday, February 23, 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM

Alltel Center in Mankato

The event will bring entrepreneurs together along with other business and service providers. There will be displays of entrepreneurs' new ideas, training sessions and speakers. The event is free for entrepreneurs and the public. For more information please visit www.mnmarketplace.org.

Seventh Annual Symposium on Small Towns

Communities 2050: Building and Livable, Renewable and Responsible Future

June 2-3 – SAVE THE DATE!

Please join us June 2-3, 2009 for an action-oriented Symposium focused on rebuilding local economies, educating and motivating our communities, capitalizing on political change, and celebrating rural living. For more information visit: www.centerforsmalltowns.org or download [this flyer](#).

Funding Opportunities

Creative Music Education Programs Funded

[The Mockingbird Foundation](#)

The Mockingbird Foundation is a nonprofit organization of Phish fans, founded to raise money for charity. The Foundation offers competitive grants to schools and nonprofit organizations that focus on music education for children in the United States, with an emphasis on geographic diversity throughout the country. The Foundation is particularly interested in projects that encourage creative expression in all musical forms, as well as projects that foster self-esteem. The target age is children eighteen years or younger, but the Foundation will also consider projects that benefit college students, teachers/instructors, or adult students, especially from disenfranchised groups. The next deadline for letters of inquiry is February 1, 2009. Visit the website listed above to submit an online letter of inquiry.

Grants Promote Healthy Boating Habits

[BoatU.S. Foundation: Clean Water Grants Program](#)

The BoatU.S. Foundation, established by the Boat Owners Association of the U.S., is dedicated to promoting safe and environmentally sensitive boating. The Foundation's Clean Water Grants Program awards grants of up to \$4,000 to local nonprofit volunteer organizations for the promotion of clean boating education. The Foundation is looking for creative and innovative projects that teach boaters to reduce their impact on the waters they use for boating. Topics can range from petroleum pollution prevention to pumpout education to keeping trash out of waterways. The deadline is February 2, 2009. Application guidelines can be downloaded from the Foundation's website.

Funds Address Childhood Obesity

[Robert Wood Johnson Foundation: Healthy Kids, Healthy Communities](#)

The primary goal of Healthy Kids, Healthy Communities: Supporting Community Action to Prevent Childhood Obesity, an initiative of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, is to implement healthy eating and active living policy and environmental initiatives that can support healthier communities across the United States. Special consideration will be given to communities in 15 states where the risk for childhood obesity is the greatest (Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and West Virginia). The objective of the current Call for Proposals is to provide support for community initiatives that will increase opportunities for physical activity and improve access to affordable healthy foods for children and families. The Foundation will award approximately 60 grants for Healthy Kids, Healthy Communities sites, each of which will receive up to \$360,000 total over four years, or approximately \$90,000 per year. Brief proposals must be submitted online by February 3, 2009. Visit the website listed above for program details and application instructions.

Support for Music Education Programs

[Muzak Heart & Soul Foundation: Music Matters Grant Program](#)

The Muzak Heart & Soul Foundation's mission is to redefine and support music education. Through the Foundation's Music Matters Grant Program, grants are provided to K-12 public schools and music programs throughout the United States. The focus of the grant program is on educational reform in school music programs and independent music programs. Public school programs (qualifying for Title I federal funding and serving a minimum of 70% low-income students) as well as nonprofit organizations with music education programs that serve students regardless of their ability to pay are eligible to apply. The application deadline is February 4, 2009. Program details and application guidelines are available on the Foundation's website.

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) school parent-teacher groups associated with public schools that develop projects that encourage parent involvement and build stronger community spirit. Lowe's will donate \$5 million at more than 1,000 different schools throughout the U.S. during the 2008-2009 school year. Preference is given to funding requests which have a permanent impact such as facility enhancement as well as landscaping/clean-up projects. The upcoming application deadline is February 13, 2009. Visit the website <http://www.toolboxforeducation.com/> to take the eligibility test and submit an online application.

Childhood Obesity Programs Funded

[Robert Wood Johnson Foundation: Communities Creating Healthy Environments](#)

Communities Creating Healthy Environments, a national program of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, aims to prevent childhood obesity by increasing access to healthy foods and safe places to play in communities of color. The program will support community-based organizations and federally chartered tribal nations in the development of effective, culturally competent policy initiatives to address childhood obesity at the local level. Examples of eligible proposals include action to increase public resources for recreation in underserved communities, and land-use and zoning policies that increase healthy food access in a community. Eligible applicants must have a track record of at least two years of successful community organizing and policy advocacy to address health-related problems in communities of color. Through this call for proposals, the Foundation will provide grants of up to \$250,000 over a three-year period in up to ten communities. The application deadline for brief proposals is February 26, 2009. Applications must be submitted online through the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation website listed above.

Support for PreK-12 STEM Programs

[Motorola Foundation: Innovation Generation Grant Program](#)

The Motorola Foundation focuses its funding on math and science teacher-training programs as well as nonprofit organizations that excite young people about these subjects. Through the 2009 Innovation Generation Grant Program, the Foundation will provide \$5 million to organizations that engage U.S. preK-12 students, especially girls and underrepresented minorities, and teachers in innovation, science, technology, engineering, and math programming. Grant applicants may request up to \$75,000. Any U.S. nonprofit organization, school, or school district may apply; however, priority will be given to programs that operate in communities where Motorola facilities are located in Arizona, California, Florida, Illinois, Massachusetts, New York, Pennsylvania, and Texas. The application deadline is February 15, 2009. Visit the Motorola website listed above for funding guidelines and online application information.

Grants Promote Environmental Consensus in Rural America

[Laura Jane Musser Fund: Environmental Initiative Program](#)

The Laura Jane Musser Fund's Environmental Initiative encourages rural communities throughout the United States to use a consensus-based approach to environmental decision-making. Under this initiative, grants are provided through two distinct programs. The Environmental Stewardship Program supports projects that manage resources of ecological, economic, or aesthetic value, and that include a broad range of community members and stakeholders involved in both the planning and implementation of the project. The Environmental Dispute Resolution Program supports projects that engage in a collaborative process in order to build consensus instead of confrontation, so parties may resolve a conflict and move forward without resorting to litigation. The application deadline for both programs is February 18, 2009. Visit the website listed above for application guidelines.

Community Safety Awards Program Recognizes Innovative Partnerships

[MetLife Foundation: Community-Police Partnerships Awards Program](#)

The Community-Police Partnership Awards, sponsored by the MetLife Foundation and the Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC), identify innovative partnerships between community groups and police that promote neighborhood safety and revitalization. Six Neighborhood Revitalization Awards, ranging from \$15,000 to \$25,000, will recognize exemplary collaborations that address crime reduction as well as economic development. Five Special Strategy Awards of \$15,000 each will recognize exemplary collaborations that yield significant public safety outcomes in seven specific categories. Public agencies (including police departments and public schools) must apply in conjunction with at least one nonprofit organization. The preliminary application deadline is February 27, 2009. The RFP and preliminary application form will be available on the LISC website on January 5, 2009.

Animal Shelter Improvements Funded

[American Humane: Meacham Foundation Memorial Grant Program](#)

Each year American Humane awards grants to local animal shelters through the Meacham Foundation Memorial Grant Program. Funded organizations must provide a physical structure within which animals are sheltered; work with an animal population primarily comprising dogs, cats, and/or horses; and place animals in private homes by means of an adoption program. Grants can only be used for animal environment enrichment, construction, physical improvements, or equipment that directly impacts the welfare of animals in the shelter. To qualify, organizations and agencies must be current members of American Humane at the Agency Member level. Applications will be accepted between January 1 and February 28, 2009. Visit the American Humane website to download the grant program's brochure.

Awards for Experienced Social Innovators

[Civic Ventures: Purpose Prize](#)

The Purpose Prize, administered by Civic Ventures, provides awards to people over 60 who are taking on society's biggest challenges. The prize recognizes those with the passion and experience to discover new opportunities, create new programs, and make lasting change. Five awards of \$100,000 and five awards of \$50,000 will be given to exceptional individuals who are channeling their creativity and talent to address critical social problems at the local, regional, national, or international level. The winners may be working in public, private, nonprofit, or for-profit organizations devoted to tackling the hardest challenges of our time: homelessness, social justice and human rights, violence, poverty and hunger, health, education, and the environment, to name a few. Nominees must be legal residents of the U.S. who have initiated important innovations in an encore career. The nomination deadline is March 9, 2009. Nomination guidelines are available on the Civic Purpose website.

The Bowerman Track Renovation Program, administered by Nike's Corporate Responsibility Department, provides matching cash grants to community-based, youth-oriented organizations that seek to refurbish or construct running tracks anywhere in the world. Matching grants of up to \$50,000 are provided to nonprofit organizations, NGOs, government agencies, schools, and school districts. **Requests are reviewed quarterly, and will be accepted on an ongoing basis through May 31, 2009.** Application guidelines may be downloaded from:

http://www.nikebiz.com/responsibility/community_programs/bowerman_track_program/

Funds for PreK-12 Educational Programs

[Qwest Foundation](#)

The Qwest Foundation supports nonprofit organizations located in the communities served by the company in the states of Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Iowa, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming. The Foundation's primary initiative, Qwest for Education, focuses on enriching the lives of children by supporting solid preK-12 educational programs. Grants are provided for programs that promote innovative models to strengthen K-12 public school education, effectively use technology, improve skills and leadership of educators and parents, and promote innovative early childhood education programs. Requests may be submitted at any time. The application guidelines and forms are available on the Qwest website listed above.

Micro-Energy and Conservation Home Improvement Loans. This month \$10 million became available through 2008 state legislation to homeowners (whose annual income is under \$93,100) for energy conservation and solar, wind and other renewable energy project loans to help cut energy costs. Loans of up to \$35,000, for terms of up to 20 years, will be made by the Fix-Up Fund, a statewide program that offers low-interest loans through Minnesota Housing Agency's large network of lending partners across the state, listed at <http://www.mnhousing.gov/consumers/lender/> For more information go to: <http://tinyurl.com/4ktdd6>

Resources

One of the best short summary documents - RURAL AMERICA AT A GLANCE, 2008 EDITION – is now available! *Rural America At A Glance, 2008 Edition* highlights the most recent indicators of social and economic conditions in rural areas for use in developing policies and programs to assist rural areas. The 2008 edition focuses on employment, poverty, population change, and demographic characteristics of nonmetro areas. Go to: <http://www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/EIB40/>

Energy Smart Program for Small Business - new! This fall Minnesota businesses have a new resource for improving energy efficiency and saving money, and specifically for connecting businesses (with under 100 employees) to existing programs offered by the state's energy utilities. Energy Smart is an arm of Minnesota Waste Wise, a service for members of the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce, which has 15 years of experience helping businesses save money through waste reduction, resource conservation and now energy efficiency. For information go to: <http://www.mnenergysmart.com>

Community vs. Corporate Wind Economic Study. Findings developed by faculty at the University of Minnesota-Morris in this 25-page study from 2006 suggest that community-owned wind projects have 5 times the economic impact and 3.4 times the local job creation, when compared with corporate-owned projects.

Corporate wind ownership structures generally include large-scale wind projects, often 50 megawatts (MW) in capacity or larger, that are developed, installed, and operated by non-local owners or commercial utility companies. Local participation is often limited to a minor role in construction (e.g. cement contracting) and a continuing stream of land-lease payments. Alternatively, while community wind structures tend to vary greatly, they are generally defined as locally-owned and operated small-scale projects of 20 MW capacities or less. <http://cda.mrs.umn.edu/~kildegac/CV/Papers/IREE.pdf>.

Growing by Design Technical Resource Center

1000 Friends of Minnesota's Growing By Design Technical Resource Center offers innovative analysis of land-use options, access to tailored community data, and modeling of development options using geographic information systems (GIS) technology. This information is then delivered in the form of dynamic visuals that foster a common understanding of the issues.

For more information, visit their website at www.1000fom.org or download [this flyer](#).

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 Leah Posterick, lposterick@ifound.org.