

2019 Project Abstract

For the Period Ending June 30, 2023

PROJECT TITLE: Modeling Energy and Environmental Roadmaps for Minnesota Communities

PROJECT MANAGER: Blaine Hill/Rebecca Schrupp- City Manager

AFFILIATION: City of Morris

MAILING ADDRESS: 610 Oregon Ave

CITY/STATE/ZIP: Morris, MN, 56267

PHONE: (320)-589-3141

E-MAIL: rebecca@ci.morris.mn.us

WEBSITE: <https://www.ci.morris.mn.us/>

FUNDING SOURCE: Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

LEGAL CITATION: M.L. 2019, First Special Session, Chp. 4, Art. 2, Sec. 2, Subd. 07d as extended by M.L. 2022, Chp. 94, Sec. 2, Subd. 19 (c.1) [to June 30, 2023]

APPROPRIATION AMOUNT: \$150,000

AMOUNT SPENT: \$110,566

AMOUNT REMAINING: \$39,434

Sound bite of Project Outcomes and Results

This project added capacity in west central Minnesota to think about sustainability initiatives including clean energy, community resilience, gathering and analyzing building performance data, and community outreach and education focused on our changing climate and how it affects west central Minnesotans.

Overall Project Outcome and Results

This project focused on three activity areas: developing and implementing energy conservation and clean energy plans; developing and implementing a community resilience and conservation ethic plan; and community education, capacity building, and statewide research. Speaking to the first activity area, the sustainability coordinator worked with the city of Morris to learn more about energy use within city operations. The Morris Model 2018 strategic plan served as a baseline for establishing community aggregate energy consumption and establishing goals for energy conservation and conversion to on-site energy generation. In 2021, 150 kW of solar was installed on four city of Morris public buildings - each building serving a different process and providing unique data that can help inform other MN communities interested in investing in solar photovoltaic or other clean energy technology. The energy savings from these arrays is roughly \$14,000 each year. With funding from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and the Inflation Reduction Act, we are working with the Stevens County Economic Improvement Commission and local housing advocates to advance clean energy deployment and access to new rebates and credits for businesses and residents. The coordinator also worked with local experts, Scound Nature and the Nature Conservancy to host and coordinate a discussion series and workshop on community resilience building, and several community events to reflect on recent extreme weather events. The final area focused on community education and statewide outreach. Local and statewide were aided by publishing stories in the Stevens County Times and online on the [Morris Model Blog](#). The coordinator also wrote the Energy and Environmental Roadmap for Minnesota Communities, which tells the story of the formation of the Morris Model and presents a roadmap for other community organizations to follow to form similar partnerships in Minnesota and around the United States.

Project Results Use and Dissemination

The coordinator engaged with a variety of organizations in Minnesota to share the results of this project. Throughout 2023, the coordinator distributed the Morris Energy and Environment Community Resilience Plan (EERMC) report to communities across Minnesota, including presenting to Citizens for a Sustainable Future in Alexandria and working with West Central Initiative on their regional climate action plan to incorporate lessons from Morris. In addition to the EERMC, the coordinator published several articles in the Stevens County Times and online on the [Morris Model blog](#). The data prepared for B3 Benchmarking is being heavily used for

informing future clean energy and energy efficiency projects. The coordinator also worked with regional media to coordinate stories on the Morris Model.



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF) M.L.

2019 ENRTF Work Plan Final Report ~~Status Update~~ (August 2023) ~~(March 2021)~~

Today's Date: August 31st, 2023 ~~June 30, 2022~~

Date of Next Status Update Report: Final Report ~~September 1, 2022~~

Date of Work Plan Approval: June 15, 2019

Project Completion Date: June 30, 2023

~~Does this submission include an amendment request? No~~

PROJECT TITLE: Modeling Energy and Environmental Roadmaps for Minnesota Communities

Project Manager: Rebecca Schrupp ~~Blaine C. Hill~~, City Manager

Organization: City of Morris

College/Department/Division: City Manager Office

Mailing Address: 610 Oregon Avenue

City/State/Zip Code: Morris, Minnesota 56267

Telephone Number: 320-589-3141

Email Address: rebecca.bhill@ci.morris.mn.us

Web Address: https://www.ci.morris.mn.us/

Location: Statewide

Total Project Budget: \$ 150,000 ~~150,000~~.

Amount Spent: \$ 110,566 ~~82,385.28~~

Balance: \$ 39,434 ~~67,614.72~~

Legal Citation: M.L. 2019, First Special Session, Chp. 4, Art. 2, Sec. 2, Subd. 07d as extended by M.L. 2022, Chp. 94, Sec. 2, Subd. 19 (c.1) [to June 30, 2023]

Appropriation Language:

\$150,000 the first year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with the city of Morris to develop and begin implementing community resilience plans for energy and the environment and to create a model guide for other Minnesota communities to create and implement their own plans.



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF) M.L.

2019 ENRTF Work Plan ~~Final Report~~ Status Update (August 2023) ~~(March 2021)~~

M.L. 2022 - Sec. 2. ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND; EXTENSIONS. [to June 30, 2023]

I. PROJECT STATEMENT:

We propose to develop a model community for energy and environmental stewardship which can then serve as a roadmap for other communities across the state. Minnesota communities are searching for opportunities to improve their energy use and become more environmentally sound. Many opportunities exist to become more energy-efficient, develop local energy systems, protect water resources, better manage municipal waste, and become more vibrant and resilient communities. However, communities like Morris have limited financial resources to contend with ever-growing energy and environmental challenges. A roadmap will help communities make key energy and environmental decisions and provide much-needed education for citizens. Teaming with others such as the University of Minnesota, the City of Morris is leading an effort to model energy and environmental roadmap for Minnesota communities. The "Morris Model" roadmap will provide insights on incorporating energy and environmental best management practices to achieve improvements in air and water quality, climate impacts, energy efficiency, waste management, recycling, and overall resiliency.

The City of Morris is a formal sister-city with Saerbeck, Germany. This German community won the European Energy Award and is a global leader in developing innovative approaches to address energy and environmental issues at the community level. With guidance from Saerbeck, the Morris Model team has developed a list of 100 projects to pursue. The projects were developed with input from businesses, city and county government, local hospital, elementary and secondary schools, Saerbeck officials, and University campuses within the community. The Morris Model projects are divided into five categories including Energy Conservation, Clean Energy, Community Resilience and Sustainability Planning, Saerbeck Partnership, and Community Education and Capacity-Building. After reviewing the project list, the team realized two important factors. First, we can complete the vast majority of the projects with the assistance of a full-time coordinator. And second, the Morris Model can serve as an effective roadmap for other Minnesota communities. Therefore, we respectfully request funding to develop an energy and environmental roadmap, educate our local citizens, and provide outreach to communities across the state.

The outcomes of the project will be:

- An Energy Conservation and Clean Energy Plan for the City of Morris, which includes municipal- scale energy and energy security goals and activities.
- A Community Resilience and Conservation Ethic Plan for the City of Morris, which includes water and energy conservation and waste reduction goals and activities as well as the community engagement needed for their implementation.
- Initiation of implementation of at least 2 goals identified in the plans.
- A "road map" guide that will be shared with other Minnesota communities so they can develop their own sustainability and resilience plans.

II. OVERALL PROJECT STATUS UPDATES:

First Update March 1, 2020:

As part of a clean energy program, I have looked into data from Benchmarks on how much electricity has been used by all city buildings in the city of Morris. This data is used to help us in developing how much solar we need to install so that we can use 80% of electricity from renewable resources. As part of the Morris model, I am going to meet with a group of people and discuss recycling and other waste disposal methods. We have recently submitted an application for the Safe Routes to School grant which helps us in planning for the safety of kids going to school by walking or bicycle.



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Second Update September 1, 2020

The new Sustainability Project Coordinator, Chris Watkins, began work on August 30, 2020 after the departure of Sandeep Kotala on May 14, 2020. Following the departure of Mr. Kotala, the Project Manager and team went through the process of soliciting the position, accepting and evaluating applications, and conducting interviews to hire a new coordinator. The position was offered to Mr. Watkins, who was residing overseas at the time completing his enlistment contract with the US Navy. There were also delays to the project due to impacts from COVID-19. Since his arrival, the new project coordinator has been spending the past two weeks making contact and establishing communication with the different organizations and people assisting the Morris Model team. He has also been updating the city energy consumption data from March through August into the B3 benchmarking tool in order to compare the most recent energy usage against the established baseline of 2016. There have also been bi-national meetings with the Climate Smart Municipalities members from the city, University of Minnesota Morris campus, and delegates from the participating cities and government officials in Germany via Zoom.

Third Update March 1, 2021

Work has continued with aggregating and benchmarking the energy usage of all municipal buildings and public works facilities. A complete data set for calendar year 2020 has been completed and uploaded into the online B3 Benchmarking tool, and this data – along with other metrics and information collected regarding fuel usage in the city fleet and waste management processes – will be reported to the GreenStep Cities program by April 2021. By reporting these metrics, the city of Morris will be eligible to be designated as a Level 4 GreenStep City. I have also been working with the MN Clean Energy Resource Teams and Great Plains Institute towards getting the city of Morris certified as a SolSmart Silver community. Towards this end we recently created a new solar ordinance for the city of Morris to simplify the permitting and inspection process, as well as decrease soft costs and time demand for contractors to come into the city and install solar PV systems. We have also coordinated with Solar United Neighbors (SUN) to start a co-operative in Morris and the surrounding areas to bring home- and business-owners together to leverage their group buying power and the technical expertise and oversight of SUN to bring solicit contractors to come and install solar systems in the area. The cooperative currently has 35 members, and has selected a contractor and is moving forward with site visits and inspections with the intent to allow more participation before signing the final contract. Regular meetings with the Climate Smart Municipalities has continued, recent topic of discussion and networking amongst member cities has been focused on resiliency and adaptive planning efforts at the city level. We applied for, and were awarded, a grant from the West Central Initiative Foundation to host a webinar series centered on local resiliency and climate adaptation planning for rural communities. We have submitted applications for grants from the MPCA to add an electric bus to the Morris Transit fleet, as well as install four new electric vehicle chargers for public use at the municipal liquor store.

Fourth Update September 1, 2021

Significant progress has been made on the initiatives discussed in the March 1, 2020 update above. The city has been awarded Greenstep Cities Level 4 designation, and has also obtained SolSmart Silver recognition for its work in implementing best practices and removing obstacles to solar development in government ordinances and zoning practices. The city has contracted with Blue Horizon Energy to install 100kW of solar PV arrays on four municipal facilities: city hall, library, municipal liquor store, and community center. These installations will include live displays inside the buildings to show visitors and community members a real-time display of the energy being produced as well as total energy produced and GHG emissions avoided over the lifetime of the project. The city has been facilitating a series of monthly webinars focusing on identifying the region's vulnerabilities and adaptation opportunities in the face of changing weather and climate patterns in west central MN, and is currently planning an in-person workshop (pending COVID) in spring of 2022 to bring together key stakeholders and elected officials to draft a climate action plan for the community. I have been working with the Facilities and Finance board at the Morris Area School district to assist them in writing an RFP for solar PV on their buildings, and providing technical assistance as they weigh their options of having a system designed



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to either max out the available grant money coming next year from the Solar on Schools program or negotiate a much larger array utilizing the large available roof space on the building. I will be traveling to Germany in early September with the Climate Smart Municipalities delegation as a representative of the city of Morris, learning and bringing home information on how the city can best partner with county- and state-level governments to continue to drive innovation and development of clean energy projects in Stevens County. Work has also continued on creating an organic waste collection program in the county, in partnership with Stevens County, Pope-Douglas Solid Waste Management, and our local waste hauler. A grant was obtained by the county to hire an intern to assist in this work, and the city was chosen to be a host site for a Greencorps member in 2021-2022 to help with the community education and engagement portion of the project.

Fifth Update March 1, 2022

Waived by LCCMR staff

Amendment Request June 30th, 2022

We are requesting that \$125.44 is reallocated from the **Equipment/Tools/Supplies** budget line to pay for a booth space at the Stevens County Fair. We plan on communicating many of the results of this LCCMR project to the public during this 5-day event. We also plan on having resources for home owners and renters available to make their homes more sustainable and energy efficient. Being a rural and generally agrarian community, our county fair presents a very rare opportunity to communicate with a large percentage of our county's population that may normally be out of reach.

- Equipment/Tools/Supplies budget line would be reduced \$126. From \$2,975 to \$2,849.
- New Budget line has line specifying how re-appropriated money will be spent.

Amendment Approved by LCCMR 7/18/2022

Update as of June 30, 2022:

Project extended to June 30, 2023 by LCCMR 6/30/22 as a result of M.L. 2022, Chp.94, Sec. 2, Subd. 19, legislative extension criteria being met.

Sixth Update as of September 6, 2022:

The newest Sustainability Project Coordinator has settled into their role well. They have made connections to staff across different departments of the city and with relevant community organizations and stakeholders. The coordinator has been working to catch up on work that accumulated when the position was empty during winter 2021-22. Additionally, the coordinator has been working on aspects of this LCCMR project concurrently to aspects outlined in the newly approved LCCMR project "Morris GHG Emissions Inventory and Mitigation Strategies." The Coordinator has been working on several different projects for the City. The coordinator has been working to finish the Energy and Environmental Roadmap for Minnesota Communities. A primary rough draft has been produced and the coordinator is working with members of the Morris Model to make edits and changes to this first draft. The Coordinator has also connected with the Stevens County Times and has begun writing a bi-weekly column to help educate our community on renewable energy and energy literacy concepts. The column also provides a more direct interaction between community members and our sustainability work. Also connected to building our community's energy literacy, the coordinator has been working on completing preliminary design and information for a "Morris Sustainability and Environmental Interpretive Path." This path will bring residents and visitors to Morris on a tour of downtown Morris. The tour will focus on building energy literacy and introducing people to sustainability concepts. The Coordinator is also currently handling the procurement of an EV Bus, Fast Charger, and Facility Upgrade project for the Morris Transit Agency. The coordinator is working with MN DOT to complete this project. The coordinator is also working on identifying other electrical loads within the city's operations to pair solar power with. This is in part because of the great success we have seen since installing 100 kW of Solar on city buildings. In the spring of 2022, members of the Morris Model and other community



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stakeholders met with facilitators from Second Nature to complete a community resiliency building workshop and report based on the Morris Model Resiliency Discussion Series which took place in 2021. Second Nature has developed a community report that we are now using to plan additional community outreach and education events. This is especially important as we experienced a high wind event in May of 2022 where winds reached over 90 mph. Areas of Stevens county were left without power for more than 3 days. This event has helped us to emphasize how important community resiliency is, even in rural communities. The organic waste program has continued to grow and evolve. Community surveys have been done to find the best places for community drop sites and work to install these drop sites will hopefully begin before winter 2022.

Seventh update as of March 1, 2023.

The coordinator has made substantial progress on many of the projects mentioned in the last update. They recently finished the procurement process of the first cutaway EV transit bus for a rural MN agency. The procurement process took much longer than expected for many reasons including adding a spec for a diesel heater to the 2022 bid. The coordinator is now working on the procurement of an EV fast charger and associated electrical upgrades. The coordinator has finished a final draft of the Energy and Environmental Roadmap for Minnesota Communities and is currently waiting for final comments and edit suggestions from Morris Model partners. Once final comments and edits have been made, the coordinator will work within regional and state networks to conduct outreach with other MN communities. This could include traveling to other communities to have discussions with local leaders on how they can make their communities more sustainable. The coordinator has continued writing columns for the Stevens County Times and has published 13 articles so far detailing sustainability in Morris with examples from around the world. The coordinator also submitted final designs of the Morris energy and environmental educational pathway. We are expecting these signs and their mounts to be delivered in the next two weeks and plans on installing them once the weather is nice enough. An event to celebrate their installation will be held with UMN Morris WCROC once their pathway is also installed. As of the writing of this update, the coordinator is meeting with Blue Horizon Energy to review an engineering proposal to move forward on studying adding almost 700 kW of solar to our water treatment facilities. These are critical pieces of our infrastructure and we plan to add solar now with the opportunity to add energy storage in the coming years. Making these facilities more resilient will be good, but the arrays also provide the added benefit of significantly reducing Morris's GHG footprint and electrical consumption. A 60% reduction in energy use across city operations is expected with 40%-50% reduction in Morris's CO₂ footprint. The coordinator is also working with an intern hired through a WCI resiliency grant to communicate the results of our community resilience building workshop with local leaders and community members from across Morris and Stevens County.

Final Report as of August 28, 2023 ~~of June 30, 2023 (to be submitted before August 15, 2023)~~:

This project focused on three activity areas. Developing and implementing energy conservation and clean energy plans, Developing and implementing a community resilience and conservation ethic plan, Community education, capacity building, and statewide research. Speaking to the first activity area, the sustainability coordinator worked with the city of Morris to learn more about energy use within city operations. The Morris Model 2018 strategic plan served as a baseline for establishing community aggregate energy consumption and establishing goals for energy conservation and conversion to on site energy generation. In 2021, 150 kW of solar was installed on 4 city of Morris public buildings- each building serving a different process and providing unique data that can help inform other MN communities interested in investing in solar pv or other clean energy technology. The energy savings from these arrays is rough \$14,000 each year. Now with the immense funding from the IJIA and the IRA, we are working with the Stevens county economic improvement commission and local housing advocates to advance clean energy deployment and access to new rebates and credits for businesses and residents. The coordinator also worked with local experts, second nature and the nature conservancy to host and coordinate a community resilience building discussion series, a community resilience building workshop, and several community events to reflect on recent extreme weather events. The final area focused on community education



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and statewide outreach. Local and statewide were aided by publishing stories in the Stevens county times and online on the Morris Model Blog. The coordinator also wrote the Energy and Environmental Roadmap for Minnesota Communities which tells the story of the formation of the Morris Model and presents a roadmap for other community organizations to follow to form similar partnerships in MN and around the US.

III. PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES:

ACTIVITY 1 Title: Developing and Implementing Energy Conservation and Clean Energy Plans

Description:

Data from local government buildings will be compiled using existing meters and invoices. Data will be summarized in order to get baseline energy consumption. Based on this data, the city, county, school, and University will be encouraged to establish goals for reducing energy consumption and increasing clean energy generation. The same approach will then be applied to residential and commercial buildings. A comprehensive plan will be developed to achieve these goals. We will then begin implementing this plan.

ACTIVITY 1 ENRTF BUDGET: \$60,120

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Summarize available energy consumption data on all local residential, municipal, and commercial buildings	12/31/2020
2. Establish goals for reducing energy consumption in public facilities	6/30/2021
3. Establish goals for energy conservation and clean energy for residents and businesses	6/30/2021
4. Develop and begin implementing at least 2 goals from the plan to incorporate energy conservation measures and clean energy alternatives in public facilities	12/31/2021
5. Develop and begin implementing at least 2 goals from the energy conservation and clean energy plan for residents and businesses.	5/31/2022
6. Complete a feasibility study on developing a resilient and smart micro-grid for the city	5/31/2022

First Update March 1, 2020:

I have been collecting data on all the municipal buildings in the city so that we can see how much electricity is being used and to develop strategies to reduce the amount of energy used and to determine how much solar energy we need to produce to achieve our goal of producing 80% of electricity from renewable resources. I had the opportunity to look at the data from 2016 to today. Most of the lights were changed to LED to be more efficient. I have contacts at Otter Tail Power Company to gather data about electricity being used by residential and commercial buildings. We are talking to Otter Tail about the solar power we can install by the end of the year with the help of the Publicly Owned Property (POP) solar program.

Second Update September 1, 2020

Data for the city's electricity and natural gas consumption for the months of March – August 2020 have been collected and entered into the B3 Benchmarking tool. This current information is being compared to the established baseline year of 2016 in order to find the most cost-effective and efficient opportunities for improvements to facilities and utility systems to conserve energy. The sustainability coordinator has begun reaching out to utility representatives at Otter Tail Power to find out how to collect data on residential and private business energy usage. This information will be used to develop goals and targets for energy conservation and efficiency improvements for the city as well as local business and residents. Despite the impacts of COVID-19 or the time when there was no sustainability project coordinator on board, no anticipated issues are expected in meeting the proposed timelines for any of the outcomes in this Activity.



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Third Update March 1, 2021

While compiling and analyzing data for city buildings and facilities has been completed and is ongoing without issue, it has proven difficult to get granular, accurate data from local utilities required to accurately categorize electricity and natural gas consumption in the county by residential and commercial sector. We are currently investigating methods by which we can estimate consumption by sector utilizing the most accurate assumptions and load profiles in order to be able to most accurately create actionable and measurable targets for energy conservation implementation. The city has recently released a Request for Proposals (RFP) through the MN Clean Energy Resource Teams network to advertise the city's desire to install solar PV systems on three municipal buildings: City Hall, the Senior Community Center, and the Municipal Liquor Store.

Fourth Update September 1, 2021

The city signed a contract with Blue Horizon Energy for the installation of solar PV arrays on City Hall, Senior Community center, and Municipal Liquor Store. Upon learning that there was still Publically-Owned Property Solar rebate money available with Otter Tail Power (and that next year's funds were already spoken for) the city decided to add another building, the public library, to the contract and executed a change order to add it to the list. As of September 1st the system has been installed on the municipal liquor store, and work is ongoing at the community center. These four arrays total approximately 100kW, and will provide about 11% of the city's annual electricity usage. The city and university are providing technical and financial analysis support to the Morris Area School District as they begin the process of releasing an RFP for a solar array project on the elementary and high school buildings, as well as their transit bus garage. Exploratory work is being conducted to investigate procurement and financing options for the city to pursue carbon-neutrality in local government operations while working towards the Morris Model goal of facilitating the installation of generating facilities sufficient to provide 80% of the electricity consumed in the community via renewable resources located within Stevens County. Discussions have included the potential of purchasing Renewable Energy Credits from the University of Minnesota – Morris wind turbines, entering into joint or aggregated PPAs with regional partners, and plans to participate in the Equitable Solar Access workshops convened by the Department of Commerce that focus on community solar projects outside of Xcel territory. Preliminary work is underway to get Stevens County enrolled in the SolSmart program and remove obstacles to solar development in ordinances or land use planning regulations.

Fifth Update March 1, 2022 Waived by LCCMR Staff

June 30, 2022:

Project extended to June 30, 2023 by LCCMR 6/30/22 as a result of M.L. 2022, Chp.94, Sec. 2, Subd. 19, legislative extension criteria being met.

Sixth Update as of September 1, 2022:

All four of the solar arrays have been installed on the Library, Community Center, City Hall, and the Liquor Store. These buildings have all seen a considerable drop in the amount of grid energy they use with most of the buildings being able to be run completely by solar energy during the day. Currently the city manager and the sustainability project coordinator are investigating how to add solar power and possible battery storage to our water treatment plant and our waste water treatment plant. These are two essential pieces of infrastructure that must continue operating even in power outages. When we had a high wind event in May, the waste water treatment plant's generator failed. Luckily city engineers were able to respond quick enough with a new generator to avoid any issues. However, this helped to highlight why a renewable energy system with storage may be a good idea for these pieces of essential infrastructure. The coordinator has also worked with learn more about the options that local residents have when it comes to installing renewable energy on their properties. They are working with community members to better understand barrier that



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may exist at the city or county level and is working with city and county officials to better understand why these barriers exist in the first place. Data tracking for energy use across city agencies has continued and been improved by the current coordinator. Prior to the current coordinator being hired with the City of Morris, they worked with UMN Morris and other schools in MN to improve data tracking and analysis. Taking these previous experiences, the current coordinator has expanded to include the airport and other city infrastructure in their tracking of energy use. This data tracking has mainly taken place through the B3 Benchmarking system used by public entities in the state of MN. The Morris Model, which connects the City, University, University Extension, Morris Area Schools, and others, includes goals for reducing energy use by 30% by 2030 and producing 80% of energy used locally. These have helped to guide the City's and University's goals when it comes to energy reduction and renewable energy projects.

Seventh Update as of March 1, 2023:

We have continued to see success from our installed solar on city buildings. In a recent analysis, the coordinator was able to determine some interesting facts about the arrays. The array installed at City hall reduced electrical usage by around 60% from 2018 use. The arrays installed on the community center, library, and liquor store have all reduced their respective buildings electricity use by about 30%. The coordinator has continued to enter monthly energy data into B3 benchmarking. The coordinator has also begun work on a GHG inventory of city operations outlined in a concurrent LCCMR work plan. The coordinator has also met with utility representatives to investigate the feasibility of installing a battery storage system at city hall and the community center to make them into an emergency response center where community members can access basic necessities during emergency situations when our community experiences a grid failure. Ottertail expressed that no other entity within their service territory has attempted something similar. As of now it appears that making an islandable microgrid is a possibility for the city of Morris, but it will require extensive collaboration with our utility and extensive engineering to ensure that safety measures are met. The coordinator also completed a solar guide for Morris and Stevens county residents to help them navigate the process of installing solar on their homes and businesses. This guide includes common terminology, types of solar systems and how they interact with the grid, and pre-vetted installers that are able to come to Morris for solar array installations. The coordinator is also working with the utility, Blue Horizon Energy, and the administrative team within the city to investigate adding solar to our water treatment facilities. The base proposal is to add 690 kW of solar which will offset 100% of energy use. The coordinator is now meeting with Blue Horizon to hear a proposal for further engineering. One potential issue lies with the utility though. They have told us that this may require upgrades to their infrastructure in order to interconnect arrays of this size. They expressed that Morris would need to be responsible for any upgrades, which in the opinion of the coordinator and the city manager is unreasonable. In our view, as renewable energy continues to be the norm, utilities across the US will need to upgrade their transmission lines. We don't believe that this upgrade falls to the consumer. This will be further explored once engineering with BHE has started.

Final Report as of ~~June 30, 2023~~ (to be submitted before August 28th, 2023):

The project coordinator has continued to track and summarize data at the city operations level. The coordinator also worked with Stevens county and the Morris Area Schools to summarize their own energy use and GHG emissions. The UMN Campus and UMN WCROC have also continued to track and report on their energy use and emissions profiles. Residential and Commercial energy use have been difficult to quantify. While estimates can be made from publicly available data, Ottertail Power and Centerpoint have made it difficult to access this data citing customer privacy as their issue with releasing data to the City of Morris. Goals for reducing energy use and increasing clean energy generation can be found in the Morris Model strategic plan from 2018. The Morris Model and Morris community are now working on a new strategic plan with updated goals that reflect the lessons of the last 5 years and new funding appropriated through the IRA and IIJA. The coordinator worked with blue horizon energy to install 150 kW of solar to 4 city buildings. This project not only reduced operating costs by \$14,000 and emissions by 5%, but also demonstrated how solar works with four different building types. The liquor store being a retail location, the library being an example of an educational space, the community center as an example of a office/community space, and city hall which is purely an office space.



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By analyzing demand profiles and working with a German intern- we were able to return a report that shows the positives and negatives of installing solar on different building types. The coordinator is also working with blue horizon energy to evaluate adding solar and storage to the water treatment plant and the waste water treatment plant. These projects would take advantage of IRA tax credits and POP solar financing. If completed these projects would further reduce Morris's grid electrical use and its GHG emissions from operations. As well as saving the city approximately \$80,000 in utility bills and demand charges. The coordinators have also worked to think about developing microgrids in Morris. Initial conversations with ottertail power were discouraging as they have not other microgrids enabled with energy storage and clean energy generation. Later discussions with MN political leaders and regional climate planning professionals coupled with renewed interest from the community and Morris city council has led the coordinator to begin contemplating novel methods for creating a microgrid including the use of Electric vehicles as mobile power stations and using generators powered by 'green' ammonia.

Activity 2 Title: Developing and Implementing a Community Resilience and Conservation Ethic Plan

Description:

Resilience and conservation stewardship plans will be developed, including activities that can be undertaken at a residential and individual scale with support from the city and county. Plans will incorporate items such as waste reduction, composting, improving water quality and use, recycling, use of recycled materials, bike and bike path programs, energy conservation, GHG reduction, planning for extreme weather, electric vehicle adoption, incentivizing participation, and community education and outreach.

ENRTF BUDGET: \$59,627

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Complete a community resilience and conservation stewardship plan including activities that can be undertaken at a residential and individual scale with support from the city and county.	12/31/2020
2. Establish programs that promote and incentivize conservation stewardship	6/30/2021

First Update March 1, 2020:

As part of the Community Resilience and Conservation Ethic Plan, I met with a group of people on 21 February to talk about proper methods of recycling and waste management. In the summertime, I am planning to go out and check out recycling carts so that I will have an idea of what contamination is present and then I can organize a meeting with the public to educate them about proper recycling. In January we applied for a Safe Routes to School planning grant to improve facilities and to promote walkability and bike-ability to school. Recently I had the opportunity to talk with MNDOT, Phoenix Motorcars and CALSTART about EV transit buses and fast chargers. The state will put in a grant application for us. This summer I will be checking survey data on all streets and sidewalks to determine a strategy to make appropriate changes in order to make it easier to walk and bike.

Second Update September 1, 2020

Since his arrival on August 30, a majority of the time spent by the sustainability project coordinator regarding this Activity was spent in building up the communications network with various partners in the Morris Model team and the residents of the city. Introductory emails and phone calls have taken place with all the involved participants, and work is beginning on creating a social media presence for the Morris Model that will serve as the communications hub for all the various activities of the city, University, and local participating businesses to share their lessons learned and accomplishments in conserving energy. Once this platform has been solidified and linked with the social media accounts of the other member organization of the Morris Model team, content will be posted with regular frequency that will describe actions that can be taken at the local level to increase community resilience and promote conservation stewardship. The city of Morris'



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application for a planning assistance grant for the Safe Routes to School (SRTS) was accepted, and the sustainability coordinator is meeting soon with the Regional Development Organization (West Central Initiative) to begin coordination with the SRTS team at Morris to begin planning a project to improve walk-/bike-ability for students to the school. Despite the impacts of COVID-19 or the time when there was no sustainability project coordinator on board, no anticipated issues are expected in meeting the proposed timelines for any of the outcomes In this Activity.

Third Update March 1, 2021

As mentioned above, the Morris Model team is launching a year-long effort in 2021 to create a community resiliency plan to engage community members and elected officials in thinking about, and planning for, an uncertain future in how we relate to the local land and weather patterns. This process is beginning with an initiative titled the Morris Model Resiliency Series (MMRDS). We were awarded a grant from the West Central Initiative Foundation to pay for honorariums for guest speakers, a student intern from the University of Minnesota – Morris to work on outreach and communications, and fund a two day workshop with consultants from Community Resiliency Building to come to Morris in late fall (pending COVID restrictions). The MMRDS is a series of seven monthly webinars, each an hour long and conducted via Zoom, that brings scientific experts and local practitioners together to present the latest data and observed trends in our changing local weather patterns, and how these changes are projected to impact various sectors of the community. The inaugural session was on February 23rd, bringing climate scientists from the University of Minnesota to Morris virtually to provide the foundational climate knowledge and contextual information needed to frame the following discussions. Sessions are in the works to specifically discuss the impacts of increased warming and precipitation events in west central Minnesota to agriculture, community health, public infrastructure and utilities, land values and insurance, outdoor recreation and natural resources, and community identity and culture. All discussions and supplemental information is being archived on the Morris Model website, and will be referred to extensively during the resiliency building workshop in late fall. The ultimate goal of the initiative is to gain community support and priorities for implementation into a Community Resilience Plan for adoption by elected officials into comprehensive planning, zoning, and land use ordinances in the future.

Fourth Update September 1, 2021~~2~~

The MMRDS webinars have been a resounding success, bringing industry experts and state agency representatives to the community digitally to raise awareness of the need for adaptive planning in response to increasing climate impacts to our regional way of life. Six events have been hosted and archived thus far, with one more planned for October that will touch on the public health impacts of the increasing warmer seasonal patterns in the community. The city has partnered with the University of Minnesota – Morris's Office of Sustainability to convene an in-person resiliency planning workshop in spring 2022 (shifted from fall 2021 due to COVID resurgence). The partnership is leveraging the expertise and resources of the Second Nature and professional facilitators from Community Resilience Building who will be contracted to come to Morris to lead the discussion and assist in data collection, aggregation, and application in writing reports to be integrated into city and county planning efforts. All the data and archived presentations from the MMRDS will be used throughout this process. The city has hosted informational webinars regarding Property Accessed Clean Energy financing opportunities for rural businesses and non-profits, and continues to act as a resource for business owners and residents who are interested in pursuing energy conservation or renewable energy installation projects.

Fifth Update March 1, 2022:

Waived by LCCMR staff

Update as of June 30, 2022:

Project extended to June 30, 2023 by LCCMR 6/30/22 as a result of M.L. 2022, Chp.94, Sec. 2, Subd. 19, legislative extension criteria being met.



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Sixth Update as of September 1, 2022:

After the MMRDS concluded last spring, a virtual planning event was held with facilitators from Second Nature. After this event, the facilitators developed a review of the resilience building event and included a report the Morris Community's strengths and areas for growth and future development. The coordinator has begun evaluating conservation policies that can be taken into consideration over the next several months. One of these considerations is to incorporate exceptions into mowing and landscaping policies for Morris residents to be able to plant more native grasses and pollinator friendly lawns. The Coordinator is also evaluating additional policies to allow for more native plantings on city owned properties and how this type of landscaping can be encouraged among area resident and businesses. Using money from an aforementioned grant from West Central Initiative, we plan to hire an intern from UMN Morris to assist with planning additional community outreach and education events in Morris that are based on the findings from the Community Resiliency Building series and workshop. The intern will work closely with the Project Coordinator and with the Director of Sustainability at UMN Morris, Troy Goodnough. Additional projects that relate to this activity include the Coordinator's work to bring an EV Transit Bus, Fast Charger, and associated electrical upgrades to the Morris Transit Agency. The transit agency provides residents in the city of Morris with more than 65,000 rides each year. This EV bus will serve as a proof of concept project for transit agencies across the state of MN. Additionally, this EV Bus will provide many people in Morris and Stevens County their first experiences with an electric vehicle. This means it will help to educate our community on what EV's are, how they work, and why EV's are still a great option for people living in rural communities like Morris. Work to bring community composting drop sites to Morris has continued with plans to install these drop sites in fall of 2022 or spring of 2023. Many community members have also begun composting at home with their own compost piles. Finally, the coordinator is also working with the city manager to identify possible funding opportunities to support building a new biking/walking path for students walking or biking to school this path would bypass the busy Colombia Avenue where the majority of school related traffic enters an exits school parking lots. This path would bypass busy driveway crossings (6) on this path to school. The coordinator is working with the city manager to identify grants that could be used to fund the planning and construction costs of making this path a reality.

Seventh Update as of March 1, 2023:

The coordinator has continued to evaluate ways to increase resilience to extreme and changing weather through green infrastructure projects. They are currently in the process of writing an application for a Greencorps member to study green infrastructure more in depth over 2023-24 service year to help further develop Morris's plans for green infrastructure improvements and increasing community resilience. The coordinator has hired an intern to continue work around our community resilience building plan. They have already hosted an even intended to remind and educate local leaders about the plan and next steps. We are now in the process of planning a larger community event that focuses on communicating results with community members and sharing examples of resilience from Morris Model partners. The coordinator has continued work on the EV bus project, submitting the final order a couple of weeks ago. We expect the EV bus to be delivered sometime in Q1 or Q2 of 2024. Between then and now we will perform an addition to our existing bus garage and add a DC fast charger and associated transmission upgrades to support the demands of fast charging. Community dropsites for composting have been installed and we have seen great engagement with the program so far. Many area businesses also participate in organics recycling. The coordinator is waiting to move forward with projects to increase walking and biking to schools until a new city manager is chosen in July of 2023.

Final Report as of ~~June 30, 2023 (to be submitted before August 2815, 2023):~~

The coordinator position worked with industry experts across the state to plan and host the Morris Model resiliency discussion series. The series took place over the spring and summer of 2021. Then the coordinator worked with UMN Morris Office of Sustainability Director Troy Goodnough to coordinate with second nature and the nature conservancy to host a Community Resilience Building workshop. The workshop was originally planned to be in person in fall 2021 then



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moved to a virtual modality for March of 2022 after the fall/winter 2021 covid 19 surge in infections. The workshop took place over Zoom in March 2022 and focused on aggregating assets and vulnerabilities to extreme weather and a changing climate in our community. Then participants were asked to identify priority actions for local leaders to pursue to increase resilience within the community. Then in May 2022 our community was hit with a massive and devastating storm that caused millions of dollars in damage and left portions of our community without power for 4 days. Although the storm was devastating, it provided the community with a test case to see if our assumed assets and vulnerabilities performed as assumed. While pieces of our infrastructure proved to be resilient- like out ballasted solar arrays, others proved to not be. The generator at our waste water treatment plant failed and raw sewage had to be released into our river to avoid backups into residential homes. City of Morris employees had to install an emergency generator in the dark to get the plant up and running again and grid power wasn't restored for 3 days. Throughout 2022 and 2023, the new coordinator worked with a UMN Morris intern to research and host two community events focused on communicating what the city, county, and university are doing to address resilience in their operations and extend resilience into the wider community. These events engaged around 45 community leaders and community members and were also held in conjunction with a Residential EV showcase. The composting program in Morris has been a resounding success with over 500,000 pounds of oorganics being diverted in the first year of the program. The county board of commissioners approved additional funding for the county waste coordinator position through the end of 2024 to continue spreading the program among Morris and Stevens county residents. The EV bus project has also continued- the bus was ordered in the February 2023 and will arrive by the end of 2024. The coordinator is also working on procuring a DC fast charger and electrical upgrades to the facilities. Currently SRTS projects have been sidelined as the coordinator is currently working on too many projects to provide meaningful capacity.

Activity 3 Title: Community Education, Capacity Building, and Statewide Outreach

Description:

The coordinator will establish a volunteer program to build capacity for implementing the community resilience and conservation stewardship programs. An education program will be developed and implemented for local elementary and secondary schools, local governments, businesses, and residents of the community. Program materials and results will be compiled into a guide for other communities to use as a roadmap. The roadmap will be disseminated in many formats and the project team will provide outreach to communities across Minnesota.

ENRTF BUDGET: \$30,253

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Develop a community volunteer program to build capacity	12/31/2020
2. Initiate at least two goals from the community resilience and conservation stewardship plan	6/30/2021
3. Complete the guide "Energy and Environmental Roadmap for Minnesota Communities"	12/31/2021

First Update March 1, 2020:

As part of community education, I will be meeting with some of the volunteer groups and discuss with them the projects the Morris model is working on and will take input from them in order to make strategies for the future goals. A coalition of volunteers will be developed. The city of Morris has a university intern working on content production of videos for the Morris Model. We are planning to make educational videos we can show in schools to educate kids about the environment and what they should do to make Morris more sustainable. 10 high school kids are going to Germany to learn more about the projects in our sister city of Saerbeck and will come back to share their experiences. We can do some videos about what they did in Germany and use them to show people how we are going to implement those things to meet Morris's needs.

Second Update September 1, 2020



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Since his arrival on August 30, a majority of the time spent by the sustainability project coordinator regarding this Activity was spent in building up the communications network with various partners in the Morris Model team and the residents of the city. The sustainability coordinator is starting to familiarize himself with the progress made with University interns and school officials towards creating content for presentation at the K-12 school in Morris. COVID-19 unfortunately forced the city to cancel the exchange program this past summer, and students from Morris did not travel to Germany. Despite the impacts of COVID-19 or the time when there was no sustainability project coordinator on board, no anticipated issues are expected in meeting the proposed timelines for any of the outcomes in this Activity.

Third Update March 1, 2021

Work has steadily progressed in building operational capacity and networking throughout the community to both advertise the accomplishments of the Morris Model as well as improve outreach and support efforts to increase productivity in meeting the goals of the Morris Model. We have developed working relationships with Conexiones, a local immigrant and non-english speaking advocacy group, in order to ensure that our efforts are beneficial to traditionally marginalized or under-represented communities such as the large Hispanic cohort that comes to Morris to work on the large dairy operations. Working with Stevens County officials and representatives from Pope/Douglas Solid Waste Management (PDSWM), we have also dedicated time and effort towards applying for a grant from the MPCA to create an organics recycling and composting collection program to divert waste from landfills towards the newly expanded Glacial Ridge Composting Facility owned and operated by PDSWM. As a part of this effort, we will be applying for a Greencorps member for 2021-22 to work under the Sustainability Project Coordinator. This Greencorps member will be working across multiple agencies and reporting to the SPC, and will be tasked with organizing community outreach and education events to improve participation in the new organics collection program. I have also begun attending regular monthly meetings of the local West Central MN Climate Action Network, a citizen's action and advocacy group that is focused on the implementation of sustainable strategies and community education towards those ends. The Morris Model is also staying very engaged with the University, and is looking to obtain a student intern during the coming year to conduct a regional greenhouse gas emissions inventory and investigate methods and programs that can be used to decrease our emissions profile.

Fourth Update September 1, 2021

The work reported in the last update has resulted in Stevens County being awarded a grant to set up a regional organic waste collection program for the city, and the city was selected to serve as a host site for an AmeriCorps Greencorps member who will work under the direction of the Sustainability Project Coordinator in conduction outreach and educational efforts to drive citizen participation in the organics collection program. Work has begun in planning kick-off events and raising awareness of the program through publication of promotional materials, outreach through local media, and identifying and managing a network of local volunteers in getting the word out and inspiring businesses and households to take advantage of the new program. The Sustainability Project Coordinator has been pursuing opportunities to share the message of the successes in the community, meeting with elected officials or other decision-makers in other greater Minnesota communities to aid them in beginning to pursue clean energy goals or meet other climate objectives. The city will be participating in the Upper Midwest Association for Campus Sustainability 2021 Conference in September alongside representatives from Duluth, Bemidji, and Northfield, sharing our story of creating and maintaining effective city/university partnerships while pursuing sustainability goals. The city has also met informally with other rural cities to aid them in identifying resources and planning work required to implement their own sustainability goals and initiatives. Lastly, the city remains an integral partner in the Climate Smart Municipalities exchange program between Minnesota and the German state of North Rhine Westphalia, engaging in monthly meetings with the community to share ideas and best practices and participating in the delegation from Minnesota visiting Germany in early September to learn about how to effectively coordinate city, county, and state efforts towards climate-sensitive policies and operations.



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Fifth Update March 1, 2022:

Waived by LCCMR staff

Update as of June 30, 2022:

Project extended to June 30, 2023 by LCCMR 6/30/22 as a result of M.L. 2022, Chp.94, Sec. 2, Subd. 19, legislative extension criteria being met.

Sixth Update as of September 1, 2022:

The Sustainability Project Coordinator has worked with active and inactive members of the Morris Model partnership to learn more about the processes that have led to the widespread success to sustainability projects being completed in our community. The Morris Model has an existing network of 80-90 community members who are deeply interested in the work of the model and want to pursue projects and individual goals to support our community wide oriented work. Working with core members of the Morris Model, the project coordinator has completed a rough first draft of an Energy and Environmental Roadmap for Minnesota. Using these core member's feedback, the coordinator will begin working on a secondary draft, expanding on ideas from the first draft while editing word choice and other aspects of the first draft. The AmeriCorps Green Corps member is nearing the end of their time with us in Morris. They have completed several modes of community outreach to learn about what people think of composting so far and get feedback for where future community drop sites will be built. The city continues to be an active member of the Climate Smart Municipalities program, meeting monthly virtually and occasionally with CSM members in person. While the projects that the coordinator is working on relate back to the community resiliency building report, there are two specific projects that fulfill this outcome. First the coordinator and city manager are working with Blue Horizon energy to design renewable energy systems with integrated energy storage for critical water and sewage treatment facilities. The second goal that the coordinator has been working on is to include more resources for Spanish speaking members of our community. In 2020, Latin and Hispanic people made up about 9% of Stevens County's population, with 17% of enrolled students at Morris area schools coming from these latinx/Hispanic families. This work includes translating resources into Spanish and Portuguese. The coordinator has also met with the local non-profit Conexiones to better learn about the needs to our Spanish speaking population and how sustainability work can be used to support this community.

Seventh Update as of March 1, 2023:

The coordinator has finished their final draft of the EERMC and are waiting on final comments from core morris model partners. Once final comments and edits have been made, the coordinator will begin conducting outreach within Stevens county and to other communities in west central MN. This outreach will consist of meeting with local leaders who are looking for methods to make their communities more sustainable and resilient. The coordinator will use the EERMC to help communities develop ideas for where to start and funding sources to pursue. The coordinator has continued to investigate methods to translate emergency information and other critical information related to MN's extreme weather. The coordinator has also continued to investigate opportunities to add energy storage to different critical facilities.

Final Report as of ~~June 30, 2023 (to be submitted before August 2815, 2023):~~

Using the finished EERMC report, the coordinator engaged with the Region 4 economic development communities and the West Central Initiative to incorporate ideas from the report into region wide climate action planning that took place this spring and throughout the summer. The report has also been shared with local leaders and state level leaders. Too. With regard to two goals from the community resilience plan. First, the Morris city council approved a \$30,000 engineering study to better understand the opportunity to install solar and eventual storage at the water and waste water treatment plant. This approval happened in the spring and in September the coordinator will present the final proposal to the city council for approval. If approved it would decrease Morris's local government operations emissions by over 22%.



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Additionally, if approved, the project would be the largest privately held array in our utility's service area. The coordinator is also working on writing a grant to study energy storage opportunities in Morris- specifically focused on water treatment infrastructure and designing a resilient community hub/shelter. The prospect of energy storage to increase resilience also piqued the interest of Majority Whip Athena Hollins when she visited Morris with Sen. Kupec and Sen. Rassmussen when they visited Morris after their trip to Germany with the CSM. With regard to increasing access to resilience and climate material to our latino and Hispanic populations, the coordinator will continue to work with UMN Morris faculty, Staff, and students to engage the Spanish speaking community and to translate relevant materials into Spanish.

IV. DISSEMINATION:

Description:

The purpose of this project is to generate various projects to share that information with other communities so that they can learn how to do what we do. The Sharing of this information will be done through various media including depositing the information on our current website <https://www.morrismodel.org/>. In addition, the plan is to generate presentations that can be provided at various locations. This includes traveling several times during the year to make presentations. Finally, the City of Morris is in the process of developing social media platforms for the dissemination of information to the general public. These platforms can be used to disseminate this information. It may be written or even in the form of a video that could be shared. At a minimum, the project coordinator and manager will ensure that prepared reports are disseminated at the noted times.

The Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF) will be acknowledged through the use of the trust fund logo or attribution language on project print and electronic media, publications, signage, and other communications per the https://www.lccmr.leg.mn/pm_info/acknowledgement_guidelines.pdf

First Update March 1, 2020:

As a sustainability project coordinator, I am gathering the information that is required by the Morris Model team to achieve their goals. We have established social media platforms like Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and YouTube for the city so that we can communicate with the public and update them about projects we are working on. We will be preparing reports, information pieces, and videos to share on the Morris Model website (<https://www.morrismodel.org/>) and other social media. I am also working on an Energy Pathway developed in Morris. We will be putting up informational signs on selected buildings and at important sites in the city, at the university and the university research center. I am planning on giving presentations about the Morris Model and how their strategies can be used in different cities so they can be more sustainable.

Second Update September 1, 2020

Work is continuing on establishing the social media presence to disseminate information, however the decision has been made to set up social media accounts independent of the city in order to make sure that the audience understands the Morris Model efforts are a combination of effort of multiple organizations. Facebook and Instagram pages are being created which will drive traffic to the Morris Model website, as well as link to other participating organizations. The sustainability coordinator is working with public works department to get the GreenStep City signs installed on the city population signs on the four main routes into the city. At this point in the project focus is being placed on strengthening the local communications plan, after this has been set up and running smoothly more attention will be shifted to creating the roadmap guide for other cities.

Third Update March 1, 2021

The Morris Model website and Facebook page remains the primary means of releasing information regarding MM activities at this time. We have been networking with various groups in west central Minnesota to begin to share our



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experiences and bring them along with us on the journey of completing the goals of the Morris Model. We anticipate that throughout the MMRDS initiative we will continue to create and strengthen ties with other rural communities who wish to implement their own targeted emissions reductions, energy efficiency and renewable generation improvements, or incorporate resilient-focused strategies into their local government planning operations.

Fourth Update September 1, 2021

The city has been engaging with other rural local government officials and decision-makers to share the story of the Morris Model and provide valuable insight and best practices to communities pursuing similar goals. Representatives from Morris have met with Howard Lake, Mayer, Bemidji, and the North House Folk School in Grand Marais. The city is an active participant in webinars hosted by Clean Energy Resource Teams, Greenstep Cities, Climate Smart Municipalities, and University of Minnesota Extension, using these opportunities to provide input and observations of how state policies are implemented and viewed by the public in west central Minnesota. The Morris Model team and the city recently met with the board of directors of Otter Tail Power to share our goals and aspirations towards a transition to a more sustainable energy future and identify potential projects or partnerships that could prove valuable to the achievement of each organization's missions. The city has also had a meeting with key planners and project managers at the West Central Initiative Fund in order to be able to better coordinate plans and policies to support the work of the WCIF in realizing Sustainable Development Goals in the region.

Fifth Update March 1, 2022:

Waived by LCCMR staff

Update as of June 30, 2022:

Project extended to June 30, 2023 by LCCMR 6/30/22 as a result of M.L. 2022, Chp.94, Sec. 2, Subd. 19, legislative extension criteria being met.

Sixth Update as of September 1, 2022:

The Morris Model website remains as one of the key resources we use to disseminate information to the community. We have also been making use of the City of Morris facebook page which is widely followed by members in our community. The coordinator has worked with other sustainability coordinators with CSM partnership cities to learn more about the needs of different MN communities and how that can be included in a Energy and Environmental Roadmap for MN Communities. As mentioned earlier, a preliminary first draft of this roadmap has been completed and is currently being reviewed by core members of the Morris Model team. The coordinator will continue working on this roadmap and will seek out information from sustainability professionals in other cities to better strengthen the concepts behind such a report. Although a city or Morris Model Instagram page has not yet been made, the coordinator is aware that this may be useful for connecting with younger members of the Morris community and with more young people in general.

Seventh Update as of March 1, 2023:

The coordinator continues to use the Morris Model website to communicate results of sustainability in Morris. They publish bi-weekly columns in the Stevens County Times and upload them to the Morris Model website blog after they have been published in the paper. The coordinator will work to disseminate the EERMC with communities across MN throughout the spring through the end of this project on June 30th 2023. The coordinator is holding off on creating an Instagram page until a transition in city leadership is complete. The coordinator also recently met with Citizens for a Sustainable Future, a citizen group in Alexandria, MN. The group wants the city of Alexandria to hire a sustainability position similar to my position with the city of Morris. Recommendations included incorporating their group as a non profit and commissioning reports on the community regarding sustainability and community resilience.



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Final Report as of ~~June 30, 2023 (to be submitted before August 28, 2023)~~:

Throughout the project, the coordinator used a variety of means to disseminate learnings from their position. The Morris Model website and blog is one way the coordinator has released information to the wider community of folks interested in the partnership or in Morris. These blog posts alone gathered hundreds of views. Prior to being published on the Morris Model blog, these articles were published by the Morris newspaper in a 'Sustainability Spotlight' column that focused on current Morris projects but also generally educated on clean energy, energy efficiency, and community resilience topics. The coordinator also worked with a Clean Energy Resource Teams grant to design, purchase, and install an energy and environmental education pathway with 12 signs throughout 2 blocks of the central business district in Morris. Topics on the pathway range from Morris's solar pv projects and disseminating energy and cost savings data, but also highlights other sustainable community topics like cooperative ownership models and organics recycling. The UMN WCROC research farm has also completed a pathway and is installing it this summer. The EERMC was shared within the CSM network with partner cities and other stakeholders within the partnership. It was also shared with West Central Initiative, the West Central Certs Steering committee, the UMN SWRSDP, the West Central Climate Practitioners network, and the West Central MN Climate network- a local concerned citizens group. Information will also be used and shared in upcoming Morris Model Strategic Planning. No instagram page was made for the model- but the coordinator still recognizes the importance it could play in connecting with youth. The Morris Model facebook page is another resource the coordinator uses to disseminate information and feature other community events that focus on environmental conservation and stewardship.

V. ADDITIONAL BUDGET INFORMATION:

A. Personnel and Capital Expenditures

Explanation of Capital Expenditures Greater Than \$5,000: N/A

Explanation of Use of Classified Staff: N/A

Total Number of Full-time Equivalents (FTE) Directly Funded with this ENRTF Appropriation: 1

Enter Total Estimated Personnel Hours for the entire duration of the project: 4,476 5,200 – 2.152.5 Years	Divide total personnel hours by 2,080 hours in 1 yr. = TOTAL FTE: 1
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Total Number of Full-time Equivalents (FTE) Estimated to Be Funded through Contracts with this ENRTF Appropriation:

Enter Total Estimated Contract Personnel Hours for the entire duration of the project: N/A	Divide total contract hours by 2,080 hours in 1 yr. = TOTAL FTE: N/A
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VI. PROJECT PARTNERS:

A. Partners outside of the project manager's organization receiving ENRTF funding

Name	Title	Affiliation	Role
Rebecca SchruppBlaine Hill	City Manager	City of Morris	Project Manager



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B. Partners outside of the project manager's organization NOT receiving ENRTF funding

Name	Tittle	Affiliation	Role
Bryan Herrmann	Vice-Chancellor, Finance	UMN, Morris	Morris Model Team
Eric Buchanan	Renewable Energy Scientist	UMN, WCROC	Morris Model Team
<u>Troy Goodnough</u>	<u>Director of Sustainability</u>	<u>UMN, Morris</u>	<u>Morris Model Team</u>

VII. LONG-TERM- IMPLEMENTATION AND FUNDING:

~~A second phase is anticipated using thermal imaging drones to audit energy losses within government facilities, businesses, and residences. Once established, programs are intended to be financed in part through energy savings and possibly service fees intended to encourage a conservation ethic. A current ML 2022 LCCMR is already active in Morris. The coordinator has been splitting their time between finishing this LCCMR report and dedicating time to GHG inventories and expanded clean energy work that continues to build on the immense progress supported by this first appropriation. The coordinator is gearing up to host a Morris Model Strategic Plannign session and will continue to build relationships with local leaders to expand energy effeicient technology and clean energy generation for residents, small businesses, industrial commercial operations, and farmers. This new appropriation will also support home energy studies with a thermal imaging camera.~~

VIII. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:

1. Project status update reports will be submitted March 1 and September 1 each year of the project
2. A final report and associated products will be submitted between June 30 and August 15, 2023



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IX. SEE ADDITIONAL WORK PLAN COMPONENTS:

A. Budget Spreadsheet: Attached.

B. Visual Component or Map:



Located along the Pomme De Terre River in west-central Minnesota, the City of Morris has 5,349 residents. Agriculture and farming is the main industry of the region, but the community is also home to a vibrant manufacturing base. The city has rich educational and research resources including the University of Minnesota – Morris, University of Minnesota - West Central Research and Outreach Center, and the USDA ARS North Central Soils Conservation Research Lab. As the county seat for Stevens, the city also has a public and private elementary school, public high school, and the Stevens Community Medical Center (clinic and hospital).

In recognition of past leadership in the area of energy and the environment, the City of Morris has won many awards including the 2017 Local Government Innovation Award from the University of Minnesota Humphrey Institute. The award was sponsored by the Bush Foundation, the League of Minnesota Cities, the Minnesota Association of Townships, the Association of Minnesota Counties, and the Minnesota School Boards Association. The city has achieved Green Step Cities II certification from the MPCA and was one of five cities within the state to be included in the Climate-Smart Municipal Partnership with North-Rhine Westphalia, Germany.

To learn more about the Morris Model and community energy and environmental stewardship efforts, go to <https://www.morrismodel.org/>

C. Parcel List Spreadsheet: N/A

D. Acquisition, Easements, and Restoration Requirements: N/A



ENVIRONMENT
AND NATURAL RESOURCES
TRUST FUND

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E. Research Addendum: N/A

Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund**M.L. 2019 Budget Spreadsheet**

Legal Citation: M.L. 2019, First Special Session, Chp. 4, Art. 2, Sec. 2, Subd. 07d

Project Manager: Blaine C. Hill

Project Title: City Manager

Organization: City of Morris

Project Budget: \$150,000

Project Length and Completion Date: 4 Year - June 30, 2023

Today's Date: 08/28/23 (updated through 12/31/22)



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund Budget	Revised Budget 7/18/2022	Amount Spent	Balance
Budget Item			
Personnel (Wages and Benefits)			
Wages and Benefits	\$142,975.00	\$109,868.55	\$33,106.45
Professional/ Technical/ Service Contracts			
N/A	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Equipment/ Tools/Supplies			
Educational signage and other multi-media supplies to be used by project coordinator and manager for dedicated education and outreach programming.	\$2,849.00	\$111.74	\$2,737.26
Capital Expenditures Over 5,000			
N/A	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Fee Title Acquisition			
N/A	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Easement Acquisition			
N/A	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Professional Services for Acquisition			
N/A	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Printing			
The printing of an "Energy and Environmental Roadmap for Minnesota Communities" guide to be used by the project coordinator and manager (\$8/ copy x 200 copies).	\$1,600.00	\$0.00	\$1,600.00
Travel expenses in Minnesota			
In-state travel for project manager and coordinator to conduct outreach to Minnesota communities	\$2,450.00	\$464.77	\$1,985.23
Money for Booth at County Fair			
The county fair here in Stevens county is one of the rare opportunities we get to interact with our counties residents at a more direct level. We will be sharing the results of our community resiliency building series and sharing resources with residents to make their homes more energy efficient.	\$126.00	\$120.00	\$6.00
Other			
N/A		\$0.00	\$0.00
COLUMN TOTAL	\$150,000.00	\$110,565.06	\$39,434.94

OTHER FUNDS CONTRIBUTED TO THE PROJECT	Status (Secured or	Budget	Spent
Non-State-Certs Seed Grants-WCI Community Resilience Grants	Secured	\$ 13,000.00	\$ -
MNDOT/Federal- EV Bus Project- In Progress	Secured	\$ 375,590.00	\$ -
In Kind		\$ -	\$ -

Past and Current ENRTF Appropriations	Amount legally obligated but	Budget	Spent
Current appropriation ML 22 GHG Reductions	170,000		\$ -
Past appropriations		\$ -	\$ -