

**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund  
2010 Request for Proposals (RFP)**

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**LCCMR ID: 072-B2**

**Project Title:**

R9 Renewable Wind Energy Community Based Proposal

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**LCCMR 2010 Funding Priority:**

B. Renewable Energy Related to Climate Change

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**Total Project Budget: \$** \$242,000

**Proposed Project Time Period for the Funding Requested:** 2 years, 2010 - 2012

**Other Non-State Funds: \$** \$0

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**Summary:**

The R9 Renewable Wind Energy Proposal will assist communities in South Central Minnesota develop replicable wind energy projects, create experiential education opportunities and generate economic development.

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**Location:**

**Region:** Central, SW, SE

**County Name:** Blue Earth, Brown, Faribault, Le Sueur, Martin, Nicollet, Sibley, Waseca, Watonwan

**City / Township:**

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_____ Knowledge Base	_____ Broad App.	_____ Innovation
_____ Leverage	_____ Outcomes	
_____ Partnerships	_____ Urgency	_____ TOTAL

# MAIN PROPOSAL – Renewable Energy Related to Climate Change

## PROJECT TITLE: R9 Renewable – Wind Energy: Phase Two

### I. PROJECT STATEMENT

WHY – Small, rural communities do not have the resources (expertise or finances) to develop wind energy projects by themselves. Citizens and communities **want to make a difference and be environmentally responsible by developing wind energy**. The great strength of R9 Renewable is the broad spectrum of local governmental organizations, non-profit agencies, institutions of higher education, businesses, farmers, individual project developers and public utilities from South Central Minnesota who are committed to renewable energy. Rural communities need this project to build the capacity for community based energy development and to create a template for developing wind energy projects. Each project that is developed will mean more energy dollars staying in that community, and a new energy source for that community.

GOALS – This project is in Phase 1 – R9 Renewable is working with four small wind project partnerships in South Central Minnesota to develop a replicable template for future projects: Watonwan County Baerg Initiative, Mapleton Initiative, Kiester Initiative and the Tri-City Initiative (Nicollet, Courtland and Lafayette). Wind monitoring studies are being supervised by the Gustavus Adolphus College, Johnson Center for Environmental Innovation. College students plan to begin wind studies this summer (2009). Communities will receive the necessary wind monitoring data and students will obtain invaluable hands-on work experience. Another key component of Phase 1 is community/public education, this will enable communities to make an informed decision about local wind energy projects based on local research.

**This funding request will address Phase 2 of the R9 Renewable project.** This proposal seeks to expand in more communities throughout South Central Minnesota – a replication of the wind energy template. Gustavus Adolphus College and Minnesota State University, Mankato have committed to completing additional wind studies if this project is funded. Community/public education about wind energy projects is a continuing key component, with an emphasis on reducing carbon emissions from residential and other small energy consumers. Phase 2 also includes the development of a finance package with financial institutions, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and other funding entities specific to wind energy projects. The goal is to have eleven new wind studies initiated during 2010 and 2011.

### II. DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT RESULTS

#### **Result 1: Wind monitoring wind expansion Budget: \$80,000**

To purchase equipment for 11 monitoring stations, hire interns to conduct wind studies and contract with faculty to oversee the studies.

#### **Deliverables: completed 6/2012**

- 7 wind monitoring stations, monitored by Gustavus Adolphus College
- 4 wind monitoring stations, monitored by Minnesota State University, Mankato

#### **Result 2: Community/public education in South Central Minnesota Budget: \$22,000.00**

To increase the wind energy knowledge of rural communities in South Central Minnesota through research based information.

#### **Deliverables**

- Hold community meetings throughout duration of project – completed 6/2012
- Community leaders will be trained to facilitate community meetings – completed 6/2012

## PROJECT TITLE: R9 Renewable – Wind Energy: Phase Two

### Result 3: Project coordination Budget: \$140,000.00

To produce a **replicable** wind energy template, coordinate wind studies, work with financial institutions and work with community groups to develop project plans.

#### Deliverables

- Project template – completed 6/2012
- Wind study oversight – completed 6/2012
- Establish financial options to develop wind energy projects – completed 6/2012
- Organize project planning groups – completed by 6/2012

### III. PROJECT STRATEGY

#### A. Project Team/Partners for R9 Renewable

- Tri-City Initiative (Courtland, Lafayette and Nicollet)- wind monitoring site
- KEE Town and Country Initiative (Kiester) – wind monitoring site
- Watonwan County Baerg Initiative – wind monitoring site
- Mapleton Economic Development Authority Initiative – wind monitoring site
- Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED)
- Region Nine Development Commission
- Gustavus Adolphus College
- Minnesota State University, Mankato
- Numerous interested community members

#### B. Timeline Requirements

- Month 1: Project planning, contract with consultant.
- Month 2: Begin contacts with potential wind study communities (some contacts have already been made, these contacts would be to initiate the actual studies).
- Months 2 – 24: Community education.
- Months 4 – 5: Begin wind studies.
- Months 5 – 17: Wind studies completed and reports published.
- Months 17 – 24: Project template developed and published (creating ongoing opportunities)

#### C. Long-Term Strategy

The intent of this proposal is to develop a process to support, nurture and grow **locally-produced** renewable, clean energy projects, as well as to create a sustainable revenue resource in rural communities. The wind study methods used by Gustavus Adolphus College and Minnesota State University, Mankato will be **replicable** to make this process easier for other communities. The project results will be published by the accredited educational institutions of Gustavus Adolphus College and Minnesota State University, Mankato. The long term investment will be the development of community-based wind energy, enabling communities to do their part **to reduce carbon emissions**. A specific benefit of the R9 Renewable wind energy projects will be a growing number of renewable energy businesses in the region. Successful development of community capacity to create and manage community based energy projects may lead to the development of other renewable energy resources. This capacity could be applied to solar, geothermal and biomass district heating technologies.

## Project Budget

### R9 Renewable- Wind Energy: Phase Two

#### Two Year Budget

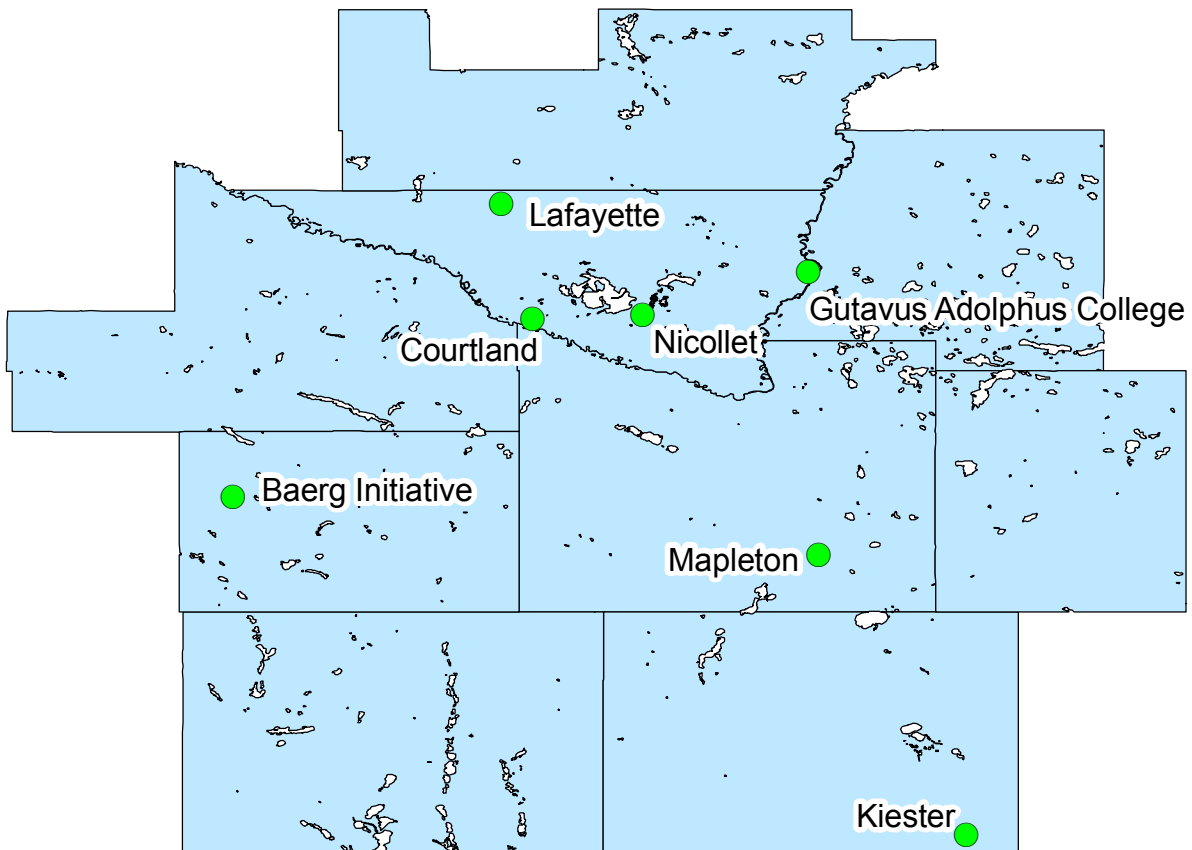
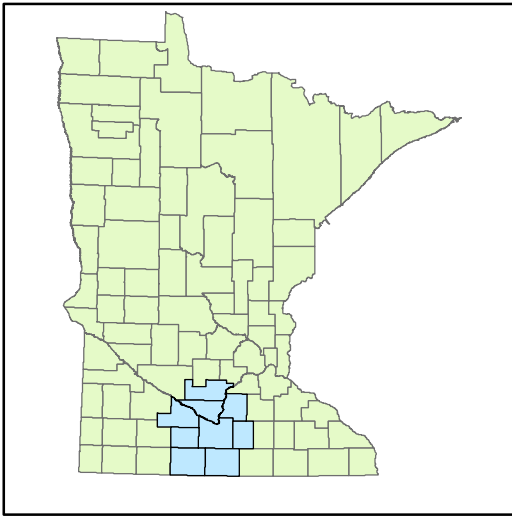
<b>BUDGET ITEM</b> <i>(See list of Eligible &amp; Non-Eligible Costs, p. 13)</i>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
<b>Personnel</b> - Student workers - 2 wind studies per student, 4 studies per summer for 2 summers = \$10,000.00 per summer x 2 summers	\$40,000.00
<b>Personnel</b> - Faculty summer stipend for supervision (\$5,000 per summer). GAC staff are not compensated by their employer for summer work.	\$20,000.00
<b>Personnel</b> - Project fiscal oversight and reports: \$5,000.00 per year for two years.	\$10,000.00
<b>Personnel</b> - Project Consultant - project development: meeting coordination, training, technical support, project template creation. Work activities: community consultations, facilitate community wind community based wind energy initiatives, review and provide information on wind turbines and interconnection technical issues. \$30,000 per year, two year project.	\$140,000.00
<b>Equipment/Tools/Supplies:</b> Equipment cost per measuring station (approximately 10 meters) - \$1,200.00 x 11 (eleven studies per summer for two summers). This equipment will have had its "useful life" done after the wind studies are completed.	\$14,000.00
<b>Acquisition (Fee Title or Permanent Easements):</b> <i>In this column, indicate the proposed # of acres and who will hold title (e.g. DNR, Non-profit).</i>	not applicable
<b>Travel:</b> \$2,000 per summer for two summers - this will cover the cost of travelling to four different sites in rural areas.	\$6,000.00
<b>Additional Budget Items:</b> supplies (\$500 x 2); printing and copying (\$1,000 x 2); telephone and fax (\$500 x 2); postage and delivery (\$1,000 x 2); community meeting expenses (\$2,000 x 2).	\$12,000.00
<b>TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET REQUEST TO LCCMR</b>	\$ 242,000

#### V. OTHER FUNDS

<b>SOURCE OF FUNDS</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>	<b>Status</b>
<b>Other Non-State \$ Being Applied to Project During Project Period:</b> <i>Indicate any additional non-state cash \$ to be spent on the project during the funding period. For each individual sum, list out the source of the funds, the amount, and indicate whether the funds are secured or pending approval.</i>	not applicable	<i>Indicate: Secured or Pending</i>
<b>Other State \$ Being Applied to Project During Project Period:</b> <i>Indicate any additional state cash \$ (e.g. bonding, other grants) to be spent on the project during the funding period. For each individual sum, list out the source of the funds, the amount, and indicate whether the funds are secured or pending approval.</i>	not applicable	<i>Indicate: Secured or Pending</i>
<b>In-kind Services During Project Period</b> - 1,000 hours of community volunteer time: based on \$20.00 per hour	\$ 20,000	
<b>Remaining \$ from Current Trust Fund Appropriation (if applicable):</b> <i>Specify \$ and year of appropriation from any current Trust fund appropriation for any directly related project of the project manager or organization that remains unspent or not yet legally obligated at the time of proposal submission. Be as specific as possible. Describe the status of \$ in the right-most column.</i>	not applicable	<i>Indicate: Unspent? Not Legally Obligated? Other?</i>
<b>Funding History:</b> A \$20,000.00 grant was secured from the Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation in March, 2009 for building the basis of the community support for wind energy. These funds will expended before the July, 2010 funding is available.	\$ 20,000	SMIF

# Environmental Stewardship Grant Application

## *R9 Renewable*



By: John Considine, Regional Development Planner 2/26/09

## PROJECT MANAGER QUALIFICATIONS AND ORGANIZATION DESCRIPTION

### PROJECT MANAGER

An outside consultant with experience in development of wind turbine facilities will be hired for this project. Discussions have begun with Rich Huelskamp, Sun's Warmth. *Mr. Huelskamp has over 25 years of experience supporting, educating and assisting homeowners, business owners and community organizations as well as Minnesota's energy industry professionals. With a thorough understanding of residential thru industrial energy using buildings and equipment, Mr. Huelskamp has evaluated, recommended and verified energy, efficiency and renewable energy systems.* Members of R9 Renewable have a proven track record of expertise in wind study research, economic development, manufacturing training, business development and the community connections to build support and capacity for this project, not the technical expertise.

### ORGANIZATION DESCRIPTION

The Region Nine Renewable Energy Task Force (R9 Renewable) began as an effort of Three Rivers Resource Conservation and Development in 2004 and evolved into a joint committee with Region Nine Development Commission (RNDC) in 2005. The initial focus of the Task Force was to educate members about renewable energy to prepare for future opportunities. The Wind Energy Subcommittee (R9 Renewable) was established **in 2008** to focus on our regional wind energy resources.

The **mission** of R9 Renewable is *"To explore and support renewable energy uses in the nine county area to enhance our quality of life."* R9 Renewable meets regularly, with additional work sessions focusing on wind energy.

The **vision** of R9 Renewable is to see the small cities and counties in the Region Nine area become more economically and energy self-sufficient by producing wind energy, thereby reducing their environmental impact. The **purpose** of the wind sub-committee is *"To develop a replicable template for community wind projects that would be owned by local units of government and partners in the Region Nine area."*

R9 Renewable covers the counties of Blue Earth, Brown, Faribault, Le Sueur, Martin, Nicollet, Sibley, Waseca and Watonwan in South Central Minnesota. Region Nine Development Commission (RNDC) is the fiscal host for this proposal.