

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

LCCMR ID: 080-B3

Project Title:

Creating a Clean Energy economy in Northfield

LCCMR 2010 Funding Priority:

B. Renewable Energy Related to Climate Change

Total Project Budget: \$ \$595,000

Proposed Project Time Period for the Funding Requested: 3 years, 2010 - 2013

Other Non-State Funds: \$ \$0

Summary:

We will create a sustainable clean energy economy in Northfield through an active local commitment to efficiencies and transforming energy systems used in economic development and environmental protection.

Name: Joel Walinski

Sponsoring Organization: City of Northfield

Address: 801 Washington St
Northfield MN 55057

Telephone Number: (507) 645-8833

Email: joel.walinski@ci.northfield.mn.us

Fax: _____

Web Address: www.ci.northfield.mn.us

Location:

Region: SE

County Name: Rice

City / Township: Northfield

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

MAIN PROPOSAL

PROJECT TITLE: Growing a Local Clean Energy Economy in the Northfield Area

I. PROJECT STATEMENT

This project will act as a catalyst in an ongoing effort to create a vibrant, sustainable, local clean energy economy in Northfield and surrounding small communities and rural townships. The project will spearhead an active and growing local commitment to making energy systems transformation the central element of the community's economic development and environmental protection strategy. Funding would be used to implement key recommendations of a Northfield Energy Task Force report submitted to the Northfield City Council in June 2008.

The City of Northfield created a citizens' Energy Task Force that operated from June 1 2007 to May 31 2008. The ETF was charged with the following:

1. To assess opportunities to develop local energy efficiency and clean energy projects that will protect the community from future energy price and supply instability, enhance local economic development, and provide local, regional and global environmental benefits.
2. To recommend citywide target greenhouse gas emissions reductions to fulfill Milestone 2 of the City's commitment to the ICLEI Cities for Climate Protection Campaign (CCPC)
3. To develop an action plan to meet the CCPC targets.

The ETF submitted a report (<http://www.ci.northfield.mn.us/assets/e/Energy-Task-Force-Master-Report-061108.pdf>) in fulfillment of these charges in June 2008. The report was accepted by the City Council. Several key recommendations were that the City:

1. Lead clean energy projects and model energy conservation/efficiency efforts within the community to create social norms of energy conservation/efficiency for all.
2. Adopt greenhouse gas emission reduction targets significantly more aggressive than the State's: 15% reduction by 2013, 50% by 2028, and 100% by 2033.
3. Establish a **One-Stop Clean Energy Shop** to provide and facilitate city- and-community-wide, clean energy services, and staff it with a fully- qualified Energy Coordinator.
4. Establish a citywide **Clean Energy Financing District** that would allow property owners (residential and commercial) to install renewable energy systems and make energy efficiency improvements and pay for the cost as a 20-year assessment on their property tax. The project would be funded from a revolving fund repaid by those tax assessments.

This grant would move ahead these and other key recommendations, and would allow the City and its partners to develop a sustainable funding mechanism, allowing Northfield to improve energy-efficiency, and decrease greenhouse gas emissions, while helping the local economy.

Project funding would be used to

- 1 Start-up funding of City Energy Coordinator position(**\$300,000** for three years)
- 2 Fund a clean energy rehab of an existing house in partnership with the Northfield HRA to be split into an affordable housing unit and a workshop/demonstration facility with informational displays (wall insulation cutaways, attic bypasses and insulation, ground source heat pump; solar thermal/ electric)(**\$100,000** purchase price; **\$125,000** rehab)
- 3 Finance a feasibility study to determine the funding mechanism for a sustainable clean energy program(**\$70,000**)

Total project funding requested: \$595,000

II. DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT RESULTS

Result 1: Hire Clean Energy Coordinator to carry out program Budget: \$300,000 for 3 years

Hire a qualified staff person reporting to the City Administrator to carry out all activities relating to energy in the City of Northfield, including those listed in the Energy Task Force report.

Deliverables:

1. Meet milestones listed by the Cities for Climate Protection
2. Set up the One Stop Clean Energy Shop for business and city clients
3. Complete annual greenhouse gas emissions inventory

Result 2: One Stop Clean Energy Shop Budget: \$ 225,000

Together with Northfield Housing and Redevelopment Authority, obtain a duplex house, or house with apartment, undergoing foreclosure. Rehabilitate the house using energy efficiency, Energy Star appliances, etc. Use a portion of the house as a workshop and demonstration area for energy education (cutaway walls showing insulation, appliances, etc.).

Deliverable

1. Purchase house
2. Rehabilitate house, using energy efficient materials meeting stringent energy guidelines
3. Install ground source heat pump and energy efficiency demonstration materials

Result 3: Feasibility study for financing a sustainable clean energy program Budget: \$ 70,000

Conduct a feasibility study to determine best method for financing a sustainable clean energy program. When completed, the feasibility study report will be used to obtain funding for a sustainable clean energy program. The fund will be a revolving fund that would allow property owners to make energy efficiency improvements (weatherization, appliances, photovoltaic, for example) to their properties and place the cost as a special assessment on their property tax for a 20 year period. Taxes received would go back into the fund for redistribution.

Deliverable

1. Completed feasibility report submitted to City Council for approval
2. Implement the funding mechanism and establish the fund
3. Applications will be made, and funds distributed

III. PROJECT STRATEGY

A. Project Team/Partners

The project team will consist of City of Northfield staff and staff from advisory boards (Environmental Quality Commission, Economic Development, HRA, and Energy Board).

B. Timeline Requirements

The timeline is over a three year period -- July 2010 to June 2013. The hiring can be completed within six months of project approval, however purchasing, rehabilitating, and equipping the One Stop Shop will likely take much of 2011. The remainder of the period will be full implementation.

C. Long-Term Strategy

The City joined the Cities for Climate Protection Campaign in 2005, and committed to reduction in greenhouse gas emissions. The Energy Task Force created the report With Hope: A Resilient Community, listing the framework for future reductions in carbon emissions. By this grant, Northfield will continue reducing its carbon footprint further.

Project Budget

INSTRUCTIONS AND TEMPLATE (1 PAGE LIMIT)

Attach budget, in MS-EXCEL format, to your "2010 LCCMR Proposal Submit Form".

(1-page limit, single-sided, 11 pt. font minimum. Retain bold text and delete all instructions typed in italics. **Add or delete rows as necessary.** If a category is not applicable you may write "N/A", leave it blank, or delete the row.)

IV. TOTAL PROJECT REQUEST BUDGET ([Insert # of years for project] years)

BUDGET ITEM <i>(See list of Eligible & Non-Eligible Costs, p. 13)</i>	AMOUNT
Personnel: 1.0 FTE Energy Coordinator	\$ -
1 Full-time Energy Coordinator 68% salary, 32% benefits, 3 year position	\$300,000
	\$ -
Contracts:	N/A
	\$ -
Equipment/Tools/Supplies:	N/A
Acquisition (Fee Title or Permanent Easements): Purchased foreclosed house, duplex, or apartment	\$ 50,000
Travel:	N/A
Additional Budget Items: Rehabilitate house with insulation, Energy Star appliances, ground source heat pump, solar, etc.	\$ 170,000
Conduct feasibility study to determine best financing mechanism for clean energy program	70,000
TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET REQUEST TO LCCMR	\$ 595,000

V. OTHER FUNDS

SOURCE OF FUNDS	AMOUNT	Status
Other Non-State \$ Being Applied to Project During Project Period:	none	
Other State \$ Being Applied to Project During Project Period:	none	
In-kind Services During Project Period:	none	
Remaining \$ from Current Trust Fund Appropriation (if applicable):	none	
Funding History:	None	

Mr. Joel Walinski is the current Northfield City Administrator. Mr. Walinski has over 20 years experience in project management, grant oversight, and personnel management. As City Administrator Mr. Walinski also coordinates and oversees the management of all city resources, which includes personnel and Council approved annual budget allocations. He has a very positive track record of accomplishing City projects including facility improvements, delivery of City Services, and public work related projects.

In the area of energy conservation, Mr. Walinski implemented the change over of all Northfield Diesel Public Works vehicles and City transit to biodiesel use in 2006. In 2008 with council approval he initiated and oversaw the city's contract with Johnson Controls Energy Improvement Projects. These projects included the implementation of dual fuel at the City's Waste Treatment Facility, a City wide energy management system for HVAC systems at all City facilities, solar heating and pool covers at the two City pools - one outside and one inside pool, and the energy improvement at the City 's 30 year old Ice arena. These projects reduced the overall energy use and cost saving will be used to offset the costs of these improvements.

Mr. Walinski's management and leadership style will ensure the successful outcome of the grant requirements if funded.

