

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

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**LCCMR ID: 203-F**

**Project Title:**

Climate Change Programs in the St. Croix Valley

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**LCCMR 2010 Funding Priority:**

F. Environmental Education

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**Total Project Budget: \$** \$55,000

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

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

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**Summary:**

Carpenter Nature Center will develop and disseminate active outdoor environmental education programs, events, and activities to teach an understanding of humankind's pivotal role in climate change and our environment.

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**Name:** James Fitzpatrick

**Sponsoring Organization:** Carpenter St. Croix Valley Nature Center

**Address:** 12805 St. Croix Trail  
Hastings MN 55033

**Telephone Number:** (651) 437-4359

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**Web Address:** www.carpenternaturecenter.org

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**Location:**

**Region:** Metro

**County Name:** Dakota, Ramsey, Washington

**City / Township:** Hastings/Denmark

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

# MAIN PROPOSAL

**PROJECT TITLE:** Climate change and alternative energy programs for St. Croix Valley

## I. PROJECT STATEMENT:

Carpenter Nature Center has provided students, schools, and families with award-winning environmental education on 725 acres of restored and native wildlife habitat for the past 28 years. A focus has been active outdoor lessons, using seasonal comparisons, which address state science standards. Currently the Center offers 130-140 age appropriate programs yet not one program is focused on climate change and renewable energy. Recent staff cuts mean that there is not ample funding for current staff to develop these very necessary programs.

Throughout the next two years Carpenter Nature Center will contract a naturalist to create eighteen climate change and renewable energy environmental education programs for Kindergarten through eighth grade. Carpenter Nature Center has 28 years of site-specific phenology data, 28 years of regional bird banding data, and a variety of natural habitats on 725 protected acres that provide substantial examples of global warming's impact on the St. Croix Valley. To reach the general public the contract educator will coordinate a twelve programs series, many using guest lecturers/partners, on climate change and renewable energy. The contract naturalist will coordinate a community earth day event in 2011 and 2012. To reach the online community the contract educator will develop twelve seasonally specific downloadable activities for families to use to explore Carpenter Nature Center and learn about climate change.

**Outcomes:** In a typical calendar year the Nature Center reaches 25,000-30,000 visitors for all on-site programs, events and outreaches. We anticipate that between July 2010 and June 2012 we will reach approximately 25,000 visitors with our climate change and renewable energy programs, events, activities, and displays.

**Impact:** These visitors will use the knowledge provided by Carpenter Nature Center to consider making changes in their daily lives to live more environmentally sustainable lifestyles.

## II. DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT RESULTS

**Result 1:** Climate Change/renewable energy school programs Budget: \$ 20,000

The contract education specialist will research existing climate change/renewable energy programming for school aged youth. Taking into account site-specifics of Carpenter Nature Center, state science standards, teacher responses, and local renewable energy resources the educator will design two climate change / renewable energy programs for each age group. One suited to delivery in September through December portion of the school year and the other suited to January to May. Programs will be presented in the first year of the grant on a trial basis. Feedback will be incorporated and a full season of programming is expected in the second year of the grant. The curriculum will then be packaged and shared with colleagues in the environmental education field.

### Deliverable

1. Eighteen time-tested, teacher-evaluated climate change programs

### Completion Date

August 31 2011

**Result 2:**Climate change/ renewable energy public presentations Budget: \$ 10,000

The contract naturalist will design a calendar of public programs for the two year grant period. While some programs may be presented by the contract educator themselves, a majority will be contracted/partner experts from the field. For example: John Fitzpatrick from Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology will present a program on the impact of climate change on native bird species.

**Deliverable** **Completion Date**

1. Twelve climate change /renewable energy related public programs June 2012

**Result 3:**Community earth day events, programs and activities Budget: \$ 10,000

The contract naturalist will coordinate a community event on earth day which will feature family activities, public programs, guest speakers, and informational booths from local companies involved in sustainable lifestyle choices.

**Deliverable** **Completion Date**

Two community earth day events one in 2011 and one in 2012. September 2012

**Result 4:**Online climate change/renewable energy activities for families Budget: \$ 15,000

The contract naturalist will design a set of twelve seasonally specific activity sheets that families can download and use to explore Carpenter Nature Center or other local nature area. These activities will be geared towards encouraging families to get outside and learn about nature, while also teaching them about climate change and alternative energy.

**Deliverable** **Completion Date**

1. Twelve seasonally specific activities for families to download. June 2011

### III. PROJECT STRATEGY

#### A. Project Team/Partners

The project team will include the education staff of Carpenter Nature Center (Jim Fitzpatrick, executive director; Mayme Johnson, program director; Alan Maloney, naturalist; seasonal education interns; and a contract educator). The program evaluation team would include area teachers from Washington and Dakota Counties. The guest speakers have not been contacted but would include John Fitzpatrick of Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology and other experts.

#### B. Timeline Requirements

While the school year is important for the delivery of K-12 programming, this position must also work with the seasonal calendar to plan appropriate on-site programming and events. As in the past we have found that the preliminary year of offering new programs does not always result in high attendance by schools and it is not until the completion of the second year that we can consider the program established.

#### C. Long-Term Strategy

Carpenter Nature Center has been providing quality environmental education in the St. Croix Valley for 28 years. Funding comes from a variety of sources including gifts and grants, earned income and proceeds from the original Carpenter Endowment Fund. The new curriculum would be added to our existing curriculum and would receive appropriate funding from the above-mentioned sources. We anticipate that the earth day event, once established after the first two years should be self-sustaining through donations, sponsors and merchandise sales. It is hoped that the guest speaker program will result in some programmatic income, some sales or sponsorship income, and will incorporate some guest speakers who make pro-bono presentations. In this manner, if the series is popular, we will be able to continue it beyond the grant period.

## 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)

<b>BUDGET ITEM</b> <i>(See list of Eligible &amp; Non-Eligible Costs, p. 13)</i>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
<b>Personnel:</b> One FTE contract naturalist for two years. 80% of salary and benefits costs reflected in amount. Percent Salary=80%. Percent benefits=20% This individual will be responsible for developing programs, coordinating events, recruiting partners under the supervision of the executive director.	\$ 50,000
<b>Contracts:</b> Stipends for guest lecturers	\$ 2,000
<b>Equipment/Tools/Supplies:</b> Printing and publishing of bi-ennial project report	\$ 500
<b>Equipment/Tools/Supplies:</b> Printing and publishing of curriculum guides	\$ 500
<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>	
<b>Travel:</b> Travel to Carpenter Nature Center for partners/guest lecturers	\$ 2,000
<b>Additional Budget Items:</b>	
<b>TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET REQUEST TO LCCMR</b>	<b>\$ 55,000</b>

#### 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> Program fee for school and public programs attendees (approximately 4,000 student visitors and public program attendees @ \$4.00 per visitor)	\$ 16,000	<i>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>	\$ -	<i>Indicate: Secured or Pending</i>
<b>In-kind Services During Project Period:</b> Supervisory time of current staff	\$ 3,000	Secured
<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</i>		<i>Indicate: Unspent?</i>
<b>Funding History:</b> <i>Indicate funding secured prior to July 1, 2010 for activities directly relevant to this specific funding request. State specific source(s) of funds.</i>	\$ -	

**Project Supervisor who will coordinate the hiring of the contract naturalist and complete oversight of the project.**

**James Michael Fitzpatrick**

Thirty-three years of professional naturalist and environmental education experience. Twenty-eight years of non-profit organization, personnel management and leadership experience. Twenty two years of development/fundraising and land preservation experience.

**Carpenter St. Croix Valley Nature Center, Hastings, MN** *Executive Director 28 years*  
**Thomas Irvine Dodge Nature Center, West St. Paul, MN** *Interpretive Naturalist*  
**Minnesota Zoological Gardens, Apple Valley, MN** *Part-time Professional Naturalist*  
**Minnesota Educational Research Foundation, St. Paul, MN** *Sr. Research Biologist*  
**International Raptor Research Foundation, Inc.** *Treasurer*  
**National Wildlife Rehabilitators Association** *Founding Board of Directors*  
**National Association of Interpretation** *Treasurer, Nature Center Directors Section*  
**U.S.G.S. Office of Migratory Bird Management** *Master Bander Permit #21405*  
**St. Croix River Association** *Past President, Board of Directors*  
**Minnesota Naturalists Association** *Vice Pres., Board of Directors*  
**Denmark Township Board of Supervisors** *Fourth term Elected Official, Board Chair*  
**Minnesota Environmental Partnership Board** *Board of Directors*  
**Minnesota Wisconsin Boundary Area Commission** *Governor's Appointee*  
**Lower St. Croix Watershed Management Organization** *Township WMO rep.*  
**Dakota County Shoreline and Zoning Board of Adjustment** *County Appointee*

**Carpenter St. Croix Valley Nature Center** is a 501 (c)(3) not-for-profit organization located on 725 acres of protected habitat. The Nature Center opened to the public in 1981 and has served over 430,000 visitors since that time. The mission of the nature center is to foster appreciation and inspire stewardship of the natural world through acquiring and protecting land, providing quality environmental education, conservation practices, and outdoor experiences for visitors of all ages and capabilities. The Nature Center is located near the confluence of the federally designated Wild & Scenic St. Croix River and the great Mississippi River, the Center encompasses diverse habitats including prairies, pine stands, oak savannahs, riverfront and wooded ravines. The 2009 operating budget of Carpenter Nature Center is approximately \$531,000. Support from the following sources makes our services possible:

Thomas E. and Edna D. Carpenter Foundation	39%
Special Events & Membership	16%
Organizations, Foundations, Corporations	30%
Earned Income	15%

