

**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund  
2019 Request for Proposals (RFP)**

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**Project Title:**

**ENRTF ID: 196-EH**

Modeling Energy and Environmental Roadmaps for Minnesota Communities

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**Category:** H. Proposals seeking \$200,000 or less in funding

**Sub-Category:** E. Air Quality, Climate Change, and Renewable Energy

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**Total Project Budget: \$** 199,995

**Proposed Project Time Period for the Funding Requested:** June 30, 2022 (3 yrs)

**Summary:**

The City of Morris and several partners will develop a model community for energy and environmental stewardship which will serve as a roadmap for other small communities across the state.

**Name:** Blaine Hill

**Sponsoring Organization:** City of Morris

**Title:** City Manager

**Department:** Administration

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Morris MN 56267

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**Location**

**Region:** Statewide

**County Name:** Stevens

**City / Township:** Morris

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**Alternate Text for Visual:**

An outline of Minnesota with Morris located in the west central region is the hub of a wheel. Between spokes are community, clean energy, conservation, water quality, education, and agriculture.

<input type="checkbox"/>	Funding Priorities	<input type="checkbox"/>	Multiple Benefits	<input type="checkbox"/>	Outcomes	<input type="checkbox"/>	Knowledge Base	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Extent of Impact	<input type="checkbox"/>	Innovation	<input type="checkbox"/>	Scientific/Tech Basis	<input type="checkbox"/>	Urgency	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Capacity Readiness	<input type="checkbox"/>	Leverage	<input type="checkbox"/>		TOTAL	<input type="checkbox"/>	%
<input type="checkbox"/> If under \$200,000, waive presentation?								



**PROJECT TITLE: Modeling Energy and Environmental Roadmaps for Minnesota Communities**

**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 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 an 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 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.

**II. PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES**

**Activity 1: Implementation of Energy Conservation and Clean Energy Plans**

**ENRTF BUDGET: \$63,794**

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. A comprehensive plan will be developed to achieve these goals. The project coordinator will develop a pilot energy conservation and clean energy program for city residents and businesses. The coordinator will also work with the local utility and other stakeholders to study the feasibility of a developing a resilient and smart micro-grid for the city.

<b>Outcome</b>	<b>Completion Date</b>
<i>1. Summarize available energy consumption data on all local government buildings</i>	<i>12/31/2020</i>
<i>2. Establish city, county, school, and University goals for reducing energy consumption</i>	<i>6/30/2021</i>
<i>3. Develop a plan to incorporate energy conservation measures and clean energy alternatives in public facilities</i>	<i>12/31/2021</i>
<i>4. Pilot an energy conservation and clean energy program for residents and businesses</i>	<i>5/31/2022</i>
<i>5. Complete a feasibility study on developing a resilient and smart micro-grid for the city.</i>	<i>5/31/2022</i>



**Activity 2: Development of Community Resilience and Conservation Ethic Programs**

**ENRTF BUDGET: \$61,917**

Community resilience and conservation stewardship plans will be developed for 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.

<b>Outcome</b>	<b>Completion Date</b>
1. Complete and implement a community resilience plan including the city and county	12/31/2020
2. Establish programs that promote and incentivize conservation stewardship	6/30/2021
3. Develop an implementation plan to incorporate energy conservation measures and clean energy in public facilities	12/31/2021

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

**ENRTF BUDGET: \$74,284**

The coordinator will establish a volunteer program to build capacity for developing and implementing energy education programs. Education programming 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.

<b>Outcome</b>	<b>Completion Date</b>
1. Develop a community volunteer program to build capacity	12/31/2020
2. Initiate community energy and environmental education programs	12/31/2021
3. Complete the guide "Energy and Environmental Roadmap for Minnesota Communities"	6/30/2022

**III. PROJECT PARTNERS:**

**A. Partners receiving ENRTF funding**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>	<b>Role</b>
Blaine Hill	City Manager	City of Morris	Project Manager

**B. Partners NOT receiving ENRTF funding**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>	<b>Role</b>
Bryan Herrmann	Vice Chancellor, Finance	UMN, Morris	Morris Model Team
Michael Reese	Director, Renewable Energy	UMN WCROC	Morris Model Team

**IV. 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.

**V. TIME LINE REQUIREMENTS:** The project is three years beginning July 1, 2019 and ending June 30, 2022.

**VI. SEE ADDITIONAL PROPOSAL COMPONENTS:** (Categories C., D., and E. are intentionally deleted).

A. Proposal Budget Spreadsheet, B. Visual Map, F. Project Manager Qualifications and Organization Description, and G. Resolution from the City of Morris Council.

## 2019 Proposal Budget Spreadsheet

**Project Title:** Modeling Energy and Environmental Roadmaps for Minnesota Communities

### IV. TOTAL ENRTF REQUEST BUDGET 3 years

BUDGET ITEM	AMOUNT
<b>Personnel:</b> \$125,476 to fund a project coordinator position for three years as follows (1 FTE, 3 years, 32% Fringe, 2% COLA): \$54,120 in Year 1, \$55,202 in Year 2, \$56,306 in Year 3. \$22,000 to fund undergraduate student intern positions as follows (2 years, 0% Fringe) \$5,500 in Year 1, \$11,000 in Year 2, and \$5,500 in Year 3.	\$ 187,629
<b>Equipment/Tools/Supplies:</b> \$1,210 for a laptop computer to be used by the project coordinator and manager for dedicated education and outreach programming. \$3,600 for educational signage and other multi-media supplies.	\$ 4,810
<b>Travel:</b> In-state travel for project manager and coordinator to conduct outreach to Minnesota communities. Amount includes \$3,924 for mileage (8 trips per year x 3 years x average round trip of 250 miles x \$.545 /mile), \$ 1,200 lodging (4 nights per year x3 years x \$100 per room), and \$432 for employee meals while on multi-day travel (3 meals per trip x \$12 /meal x 12 overnight trips)	\$ 5,556
<b>Additional Budget Items:</b> \$2,000 for printing "Energy and Environmental Roadmap for Minnesota Communities" guide (\$8 / copy x 250 copies).	\$ 2,000
<b>TOTAL ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND \$ REQUEST =</b>	<b>\$ 199,995</b>

### V. OTHER FUNDS *(This entire section must be filled out. Do not delete rows. Indicate "N/A" if row is not applicable.)*

SOURCE OF FUNDS	AMOUNT	Status
<b>Other Non-State \$ To Be Applied To Project During Project Period:</b>	\$ -	NA
<b>Other State \$ To Be Applied To Project During Project Period:</b>	\$ -	NA
<b>In-kind Services To Be Applied To Project During Project Period:</b>	\$ -	NA
<b>Past and Current ENRTF Appropriation:</b> The city has no other appropriation.	\$ -	NA
<b>Other Funding History:</b>	\$ -	NA



**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 GreenStep 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 [www.morrismodel.org](http://www.morrismodel.org).



## F. Project Manager Qualifications and Organizational Description

**Blaine Hill, Project Manager:** Blaine Hill is the city manager for the city of Morris, Minnesota, a city in which he was born and raised. Morris is a small farming community with a population of 5,300 people located in west central Minnesota. Morris is home to the University of Minnesota, Morris and a number of governmental agricultural experimentation organizations. Recently the city has entered into a climate protection partnership agreement with the city of Saerbeck, Germany and has begun implementing projects to reduce energy use, to identify renewable energy sources and to look at ways to protect the environment. Prior to being named the city manager in Morris, Hill served as the city clerk-treasurer for the City of Breckenridge, Minnesota for 17 years. He started his career in government as a city accountant for the City of Morris. He has 38 years of experience in city finance and administration. He holds a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Minnesota, Morris and an associate's degree in accounting from the Willmar Vocational School. Hill served as the president of the League of Minnesota Cities in 1997.



The city of Morris is located in west central Minnesota and is the county seat for Stevens. The city is governed by the city council which is made up of the mayor and four additional council members. The City Coordinator is responsible for day-to-day administration and implementing council policy. The City of Morris is responsible for the police force, transit authority, a park system including a camp ground, city facilities including an administration building, public library, maintenance / public works garage, liquor store, senior /community center, and airport. The City of Morris is helping to lead a community-wide initiative called the Morris Model ([morrismodel.org](http://morrismodel.org)). The Morris Model brings together the city, county, University of Minnesota-Morris (UMM), West Central Research and Outreach Center, K-12 schools, a regional hospital, public health, local faith groups, and other community partners under an umbrella to advance shared energy and environmental goals. The Morris Model has received statewide attention for its work in helping to advance resilience planning with citizens in Stevens County (Environmental Initiative Award in 2015 with partners and a Local Government Innovation Award from the Humphrey Institute in 2017). The city of Morris also received the Minnesota Clean Energy Community Award. The city partnered with the UMM campus to earn the Minnesota Climate Adaptation Award. The city and Morris Model partners meet several times a month. The city of Morris has reached GreenStep Cities II certification and would like to continue make progress in this program. The city of Morris is a sister-city of Saerbeck, Germany, which is one of the greenest cities in Europe (Winner of European Energy Award).