

Minneapolis Mobilizing Citizens for Grassroots Climate Change Micro Grants

The city of Minneapolis issued a request for proposal asking neighborhood groups, churches and non-profits to bring forth their best proposals for inducing residents to address climate change and sign up for the Minnesota Energy Challenge (MEC). A committee consisting of city staff, a representative from CEAC and a representative from CEE reviewed the proposals and rated them.

As the applications were being reviewed, it was noted that many of the proposals were requesting at least a part of their funds to purchase CFL's and that a wide variety of prices were being quoted. City staff, in conjunction with staff from CEE contacted Xcel energy, who have generously agreed to provide 1360 CFL's which will be distributed to the grant recipients in lieu of the CFL budget item in their proposals.

Below is a brief summary (in no particular order) of the 20 proposals which will be funded.

Kingfield Neighborhood Association (Wards 8 & 11) Distribute 25 handheld electricity calculators which will chart the electrical usage of at least 10 electrical appliances over a one month period. The residents will use the MEC to calculate energy usage on appliances that cannot plug into the calculator. All the data will be provided to the neighborhood association and real life energy savings examples will be highlighted in the neighborhood newsletter.

Cleveland Neighborhood Association (Ward 4) Regional Energy Fair in September or October. They will have computer access on site to allow residents to sign up immediately for MEC

Sheridan Neighborhood Organization (Ward 3) Supplementation to the "Lights on Sheridan" program which will allow them to provide CFL's to residents contemplating installation of security lighting. The program will also encourage the use of solar and CFL lights and promote the MEC.

Walker Community Methodist Church (Ward 9) Hire 10-12 Learn to Work/ Work to Learn youth for the summer to go door to door educating residents about climate change, making posters for community buildings regarding climate change, watering newly planted

trees in Powderhorn Park, and hosting a potluck dinner for church members, friends and community residents to screen *An Inconvenient Truth*.

St. Anthony West Neighborhood Organization (Ward 3)

Information table and MEC sign-up at the "Historic Riverfront 5K Run/Walk". Those signing up for MEC at the STAWNO annual fundraiser will receive a free CFL.

Bedlam Theatre (Ward 2) Expansion of their "How did you get HERE?" program which give a \$2 bill to every patron who arrives at the theater via mass transit, bike or walking. Grant will expand the program and be used to create signage in the lobby advertising both the "How did you get HERE?" program as well as the MEC.

Standish Ericsson Neighborhood Association (Ward 12) "Green Give-Away" drawing during their annual meeting. Items to be given away include home energy audit, CFL, 3M window treatment, low-flow shower head, gift certificate for trees, etc. A brief explanation of each item, how it saves energy and where it can be purchased will be conducted before the winning entry is drawn. Everyone who signs up for the MEC will receive a CFL.

Bike On (Ward 6) Grant will provide for an expansion of a program called "Women Bike On". Two interns, fluent in Spanish or Somali/Oromo/Amharic will work with mainly immigrant women to encourage them to learn to bike and provide them with information about the MEC during eight weeks of classes on Saturday mornings. The women will be surveyed about their energy use habits at the beginning of the classes and then have a follow up survey in May 2008.

University Baptist Church- (1219 University Ave SE, Ward 3) The church will change the bulbs in the church from incandescent to compact florescent (CFL) bulbs, publicize the changes, including wattage and carbon savings, encouraging congregants to follow suit at home. They also will maintain a thermometer in the church to show how many congregants sign up for the MEC and how much carbon they reduce.

Bryn Mawr Neighborhood Association (Ward 7) The neighborhood board will actively advocate for residents to use CFL's. Besides advertisement in the neighborhood newsletter and at neighborhood

gatherings, the neighborhood youth group will go door to door talking about the MEC and distributing 1 CFL per household.

Linden Hills Recreation Center (Ward 13) Hold a “Good Energy” fair to provide residents with simple carbon-reducing ideas. Information about the MEC and opportunities to sign up for the MEC will be provided at the energy fair. CFL bulbs will be provided to each person who signs up for the MEC.

Powderhorn Recreation Center (Ward 8) Hold a “Good Energy” fair to provide residents with simple carbon-reducing ideas. Information about the MEC and opportunities to sign up for the MEC will be provided at the energy fair. CFL bulbs will be provided to each person who signs up for the MEC.

Luxton Recreation Center (Ward 2) Hold a “Good Energy” fair to provide residents with simple carbon-reducing ideas. Information about the MEC and opportunities to sign up for the MEC will be provided at the energy fair. CFL bulbs will be provided to each person who signs up for the MEC.

Bryant Square Bike Club (Ward 10) Youth cycling club to encourage kids to be lifelong bike riders. The club will also participate in scheduled events in the neighborhood, encouraging people to participate in the MEC.

Trinity Lutheran (Ward 2) Outreach to the East African community served by the congregation to implement a global warming education program. The program will consist of an initial meeting to talk about global warming and what can be done and a distribution of CFL's to attendees. There will also be a follow up meeting to measure the impact the initial meeting had on opinions.

Corcoran Neighborhood Association (Ward 9) Sponsor 10 or more “Block Talks” concentrating on a specific technique or tactic for tackling global warming. At the end of the talk, the residents will be told about grant opportunities available for implementation of the technique or tactic just presented. Corcoran NRP funds will pay for these grants.

Southeast Como Improvement Association (Ward 2) At the Annual Como Cookout, they will discuss the advantages of using clotheslines and distribute mini retractable clotheslines to residents.

They also will give away one "Sunline Umbrella Clothesline Dryer" as a grand prize for a drawing of everyone who has signed up for the MEC.

Basilica of St. Mary (Ward 7) Adopt a goal of signing up 1,000 parishioners for the MEC. They will have an MEC table after each Mass and at the Basilica Block Party, providing info about the MEC and pledge cards to complete. Staff will then follow up with those pledging to encourage them to follow through.

EarthFusion (Ward 7) A festival to use great music and the arts as a way to bring people together and expose them to positive actions they can take to reduce their impact on the globe. Volunteers will be signing attendees up for MEC teams.

Grace University Lutheran Church (Ward 2) Conduct an energy fair at the church which would follow in the heels of two Sunday worship services and Adult Forum focusing on care of creation. Computers will be available at the energy fair to sign up for the MEC. There will be a drawing for an energy audit of all those who sign up for the MEC as well as a reduced cost energy audit for the first 25 parishioners who sign up.