



## Community Planning and Economic Development Department

# News Release

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*Minneapolis City Goals:* A Safe Place to Call Home ▫ Jobs & Economic Vitality ▫ Eco-Focused ▫ Livable Communities, Healthy Lives ▫ Many People, One Minneapolis ▫ A City That Works

## Federal stimulus dollars help more than 500 residents train for and find green jobs

July 27, 2011 (MINNEAPOLIS) – Minneapolis Mayor R.T. Rybak and Saint Paul City Council Member Lee Helgen celebrated the success of RENEW—Renewable Energy Networks Empowering Workers—a program that recruits job seekers from the core neighborhoods of Minneapolis and Saint Paul, prepares them for green careers and connects them with businesses who are hiring. The press event was held at a RENEW hiring fair, hosted by Dunwoody College of Technology, one of the training sites.

RENEW has exceeded its goal of training 500 workers: more than 580 residents enrolled in the program, with 350 earning industry-recognized credentials and more than 240 securing employment in living-wage jobs directly related to their training. Program participants select from more than 70 training options in areas of construction—manufacturing, building systems, and renewable energy with a focus on solar power. Employment service providers support participants with training guidance and tuition assistance; job search and resume building; and workshops and networking seminars.

RENEW is a collaboration between the City of Minneapolis and Ramsey County Workforce Solutions, made possible by a \$4 million grant from the U.S. Department of Labor, called “Pathways Out of Poverty,” that is part of the federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

“RENEW creates opportunity for our residents who need it most, by giving them the credentials and job placement they need to land good careers in the new economy,” said **Minneapolis Mayor R.T. Rybak**. “It builds on the years of work our cities have already done, and it’s a great example of how

President Obama's economic stimulus is moving our economy forward and moving people into living-wage jobs," **Rybak** added.

"Both cities are reaping the benefits of working regionally across boundaries to meet the needs of employers," said **Saint Paul Mayor Chris Coleman**.

"ReGo Electric Conversions partnership with RENEW has provided us with talented and enthusiastic trainees as we work to fulfill our mission of strengthening the local green economy," said **Shayna Berkowitz, owner of ReGo Electric Conversions**.

Strong performance in credentialing and employment outcomes recently gained RENEW recognition for "promising practices" by the U.S. Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration. RENEW was the only ARRA Pathways Out of Poverty grant in the country selected for a review. A report on the RENEW Project is currently being developed by the Department of Labor, for release later this month. -

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