

# JOIN US AT THE FAIR!

- Has your community engaged in **Clean Energy** efforts?
- Are you willing to share your **successes** with other Minnesota communities?
- Do you want to have your community featured in the **Eco Experience** at the **Minnesota State Fair**?

The Minnesota Department of Commerce State Energy Office has developed the Clean Energy Community Education Grant Program to promote clean energy education efforts, to be featured at the Fair. The grant program is intended to support participation in an educational initiative that showcases the use of energy efficiency and renewable energy, addresses climate issues, and empowers, inspires, and motivates a new generation of energy leaders—of all ages and backgrounds—in communities around Minnesota.



# Clean Energy Community Education Planning Grants 2019 Eco Experience Energy Exhibit

## Eco Experience

With over 25,000 square feet of space and dozens of partner organizations, the Eco Experience is the largest exhibit of its kind in the country. Housed in the Progress Center at the Minnesota State Fair, the award-winning Eco Experience delivers educational environmental messages to over 260,000 people over 12 days at the end of August. Since 2008, Commerce has been the Energy Exhibitor at the event, bringing together a wide range of climate and energy related partners and messages.

## Exhibit Goals

The 2019 Energy Exhibit will include a large display featuring the clean energy efforts of Minnesota communities, including:

- Measurable efforts towards the state's clean energy goals.
- Policy development, such as adoption of Comprehensive, Sustainability, Zoning, or Climate Action Plans that support measurable clean energy achievements in public or private buildings or other infrastructure.
- Community partnerships with local business, industry, agriculture, nonprofits, utilities, or residents.
- Public engagement efforts, stakeholder education, or other community outreach endeavors.
- Implementation of energy efficiency or renewable energy projects or programs that benefit low-income and/or historically under-served communities.

## Scope of the Grant

Commerce will provide financial and logistical support for communities that wish to be a partner in the Clean Energy Communities display. Selected communities will have a designated 'day' at the exhibit, where representatives will share their clean energy success stories with fairgoers. Grants (of up to \$2,500 each) will be awarded to 12 communities to assist in creating:

- Implementation and design plans for clean energy project messaging
- Content for inclusion in displays, materials, collaterals
  - » *Infrastructure and production by Commerce*
- Collaborations (including funding or other support) with partner organizations, such as:
  - » *Energy project vendors, nonprofits/community groups, funding organizations*
- A staffing coverage plan for one day of the fair (9-9)
  - » *Minimum of two people at all times, four people during 12-6 times*

## Commerce Support

Commerce will provide infrastructure, support, and guidance for participating communities, including:

- Installation of the components of the exhibit space, such as finished walls, lighting, and collateral storage and distribution systems
- Design, production, and installation of all exhibit signage and collateral materials
- Additional displays that will further the goals of the exhibit
- Planning support, through consultations with participating communities by phone, e-mail, webinars, in-person meetings
- Staff training via videos, written documents, in-person exhibit tours

**A Request for Proposals (RFP) for the Clean Energy Community Education Grant Program (COMM\_SEO03\_20190215) is available for download on the Commerce RFP webpage:**

**<https://mn.gov/commerce/industries/rfp/>**

**Applications due April 1, 2019.**