

Utility Conservation Improvement Program Forums – Spring 2013

Presenter Information

Jessica Burdette

Supervisor, Conservation Improvement Program (CIP)

Minnesota Department of Commerce, Division of Energy Resources

Jessica Burdette oversees staff and programs to develop, promote and implement energy efficiency and energy conservation through administration of CIP. She coordinates with over 180 natural gas and electric utilities to ensure achievement of the 1.5% energy savings goal through cost-effective demand-side management activities. She is also responsible for a \$225 million annual gas and electric CIP budget; and a \$3.6 million annual research and development grant program budget. Jessica has previous experience working as a consultant developing and managing CIPs for many utilities throughout Minnesota with specific focus on commercial and industrial energy management.

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Joel Haskard

Co-Director

Clean Energy Resource Teams

Joel Haskard is the Clean Energy Resource Teams (CERTs) Co-Director for the University of Minnesota's Regional Sustainable Development Partnerships program and Extension. From 2009-2011, the CERTs program has helped Minnesotans save over 78 billion BTUs of energy—enough to heat 400 Minnesota homes for a year—and CERT seed grants have supported over 180 new and existing employment opportunities. Joel has over twelve years experience coordinating and managing community and economic development activities in the U.S. and abroad.

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Karen Moe

Energy Policy Coordinator

Minnesota Community Action Partnership

Karen Moe is the Energy Policy Coordinator with Minnesota Community Action Partnership. She has been working with MinnCAP since January of 2009, primarily supporting the Weatherization Assistance Program and the Energy Assistance Program. In this role, she advocates for these two programs. She also tracks how energy policy decisions impact low-income citizens. Karen is a graduate student at the Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities.

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Laura Silver

Senior Program Administrator, CIP

Minnesota Department of Commerce, Division of Energy Resources

Laura Silver has worked with the Minnesota Department of Commerce, Division of Energy Resources as a regulatory analyst since October 2008. Her responsibilities include reviewing ratepayer-funded energy efficiency program filings, overseeing research projects, and providing technical assistance to utilities and other program administrators. Much of her work with the State has focused on the residential, low-income, multifamily, and agricultural sectors. Laura holds a Master of Science in Science, Technology and Environmental Policy from the Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities.

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Fritz Ebinger

Clean Energy Program Manager

The Minnesota Project

Fritz Ebinger serves as the Clean Energy Program Manager for The Minnesota Project. Fritz graduated cum laude from St. John's University in 2001 and served in the Peace Corps as an Agroforestry Volunteer in Panama from 2001-2003. He attended Drake Law School as a Public Service Scholar and graduated with distinction in 2008. While at Drake, he focused his studies on agricultural, environmental, and natural resources law and wrote for the Drake Agricultural Law Journal. Following graduation, Fritz clerked for Judges Joe Chase and Robert Birnbaum in Minnesota's Third Judicial District from 2008-2010. Fritz comes to The MN Project from his namesake law firm, where he practiced in distributed electrical generation, agricultural law, and business entity formation.

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Joe Plummer

DSM Analyst and Engineering Support, CIP

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Joe Plummer is an analyst with the Minnesota Department of Commerce, Division of Energy Resources. His responsibilities include development of the Minnesota technical reference manual and ESP® system for energy efficiency data management; analysis of utility CIP and IRP filings; and development of policies in support of the goals of the Next Generation Energy Act. Joe is a Certified Energy Manager and has masters' degrees in electrical engineering and science/technology/environmental policy from the University of Minnesota. Joe lives in south Minneapolis with his wife and two young children.

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Mary Sue Lobenstein

Conservation Applied Research and Development (CARD) Program Administrator, CIP

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Mary Sue Lobenstein manages CIP activities related to the Conservation and Applied Research and Development (CARD) grant program. Mary Sue has worked in the energy field for over 25 years, conducting energy evaluations, efficiency studies, field research, and technology assessments in residential, multifamily and commercial buildings. The author of numerous technical papers, reports and articles based on her work, she has also presented her research at national energy utilization and engineering conferences. She has extensive first-hand experience in transferring successful technologies and strategies to the building sector, including designing and conducting workshops for building owners and managers, utilities, government agencies, energy and environmental specialists, building technicians and contractors.

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