



Will Steger gave the keynote address at the first Minnesota Clean Energy Community Awards presentation.

Eight Minnesota communities receive the 2016 Clean Energy Community Award

It was only fitting that Will Steger, our nation's leading eyewitness to the consequences of climate change, was on hand to salute the honorees of the first-annual Clean Energy Community Awards on Nov. 10 at the Science Museum of Minnesota in St. Paul.

Steger delivered the keynote address and shared plenty of stories, slides and videos from his many expeditions to document the melting of the polar icecaps. He also helped present the awards. Steger was joined in the awards presentation by Mike Rothman, commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Commerce, and Bill Grant, deputy commissioner of Commerce. The day included a luncheon, followed by Steger's keynote and the awards presentation. The event concluded with a Community Resources Panel Discussion led by Joel Haskard of Clean Energy Resource Teams (CERTs) and a Community Achievement Awards Panel Discussion moderated by Grant.

Eight communities in Minnesota were recognized at the 2016 Clean Energy Community Awards, sponsored by Commerce. The awards recognize communities that contribute to the state's clean energy goals by planning and implementing programs, policies, and technologies that encourage energy efficiency, conservation, and renewable energy generation.

Five winners were recognized for clean energy *achievements*:

- City of Hutchinson
- City of Minneapolis
- Minnesota Air National Guard, 133 AW
- City of Morris
- City of St. Cloud

Three communities were recognized for *planning*:

- Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe
- Cities of Pelican Rapids and Fergus Falls
- Chisago County

[Read more](#) to learn about the clean energy activities of the honorees.



Eight communities were presented with Clean Energy Community Awards.