



Solar for Schools

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Program Overview

2026 R1 Funding

- Readiness Assessment Open Jan. 5 – 30, 2026
- Full Applications due May 29, 2026
- <https://mn.gov/commerce/business/rfp.jsp>

2026 R2 Funding

- Readiness Assessment Open Throughout July 2026
- Full Applications Due end of November 2026

More Information: mn.gov/solar4schools

The image shows a document titled "REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL" from the "MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE". The document number is "COMM-SFS06-20240701" and the subject is "Minnesota Solar for School Program Application". It outlines two steps: "Step 1: Notice of Intent: School Readiness Assessment*" and "Step 2: Full Grant Application*". Step 1 includes a date of issue (Monday, July 1, 2024), a due date (Wednesday, July 31, 2024), and a school readiness eligibility notification date (Friday, August 30, 2024). Step 2 includes an application open date (Upon Notification) and an application due date (Friday, November 29, 2024). A footnote states that responses to both steps must be submitted online using the Department of Commerce's grant interface website ("GIW"). The document footer includes "RFP: COMM-SFS06-20240701" and "Page 1 of 23".

mn COMMERCE DEPARTMENT

85 7th Place East, Suite 200
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101
mn.gov/commerce/energy
energy.contracts@state.mn.us

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

COMM-SFS06-20240701

Minnesota Solar for School Program Application

Step 1: Notice of Intent: School Readiness Assessment*
Date of Issue: Monday, July 1, 2024
Due: Wednesday, July 31, 2024
School Readiness Eligibility Notification: Friday, August 30, 2024

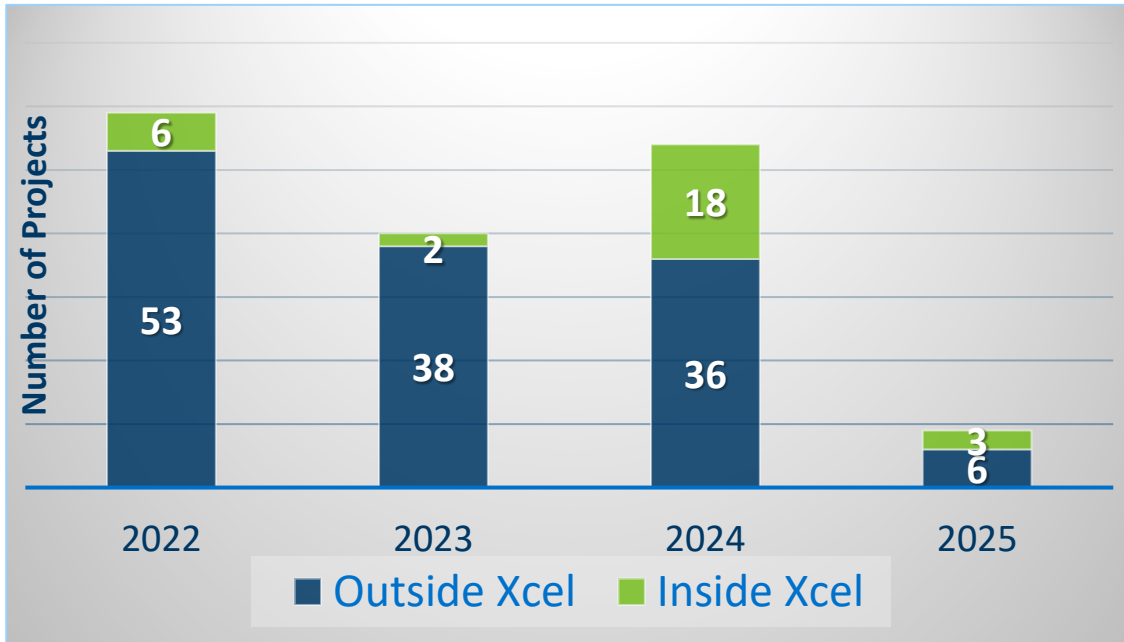
Step 2: Full Grant Application*
Application Open: Upon Notification
Application Due: Friday, November 29, 2024

*Responses to both steps of this RFP must be submitted online using the Department of Commerce's grant interface website ("GIW"). Responders must create an account on the GIW in order to submit an Assessment and the Full Grant Application. Details are in this RFP.

RFP: COMM-SFS06-20240701 Page 1 of 23

[Department of Commerce Active RFPs](#)

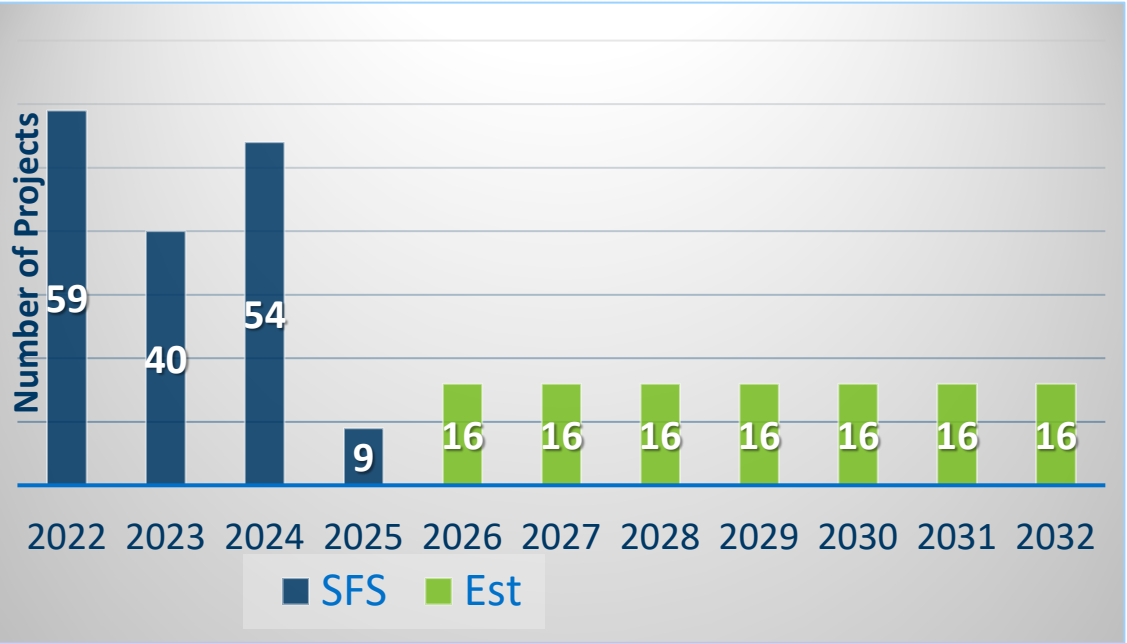
Program Overview – Impact to Date



[Full Grant Recipient List](#)

Installation Capacity	2022	4.54 MW	# Projects	\$7,160,125
	2023	2.54 MW		\$4,069,981
	2024	10.87 MW		\$11,874,327
	2025*	1.51 MW		\$1,744,256
	Total	33.16 MW		\$24,848,689

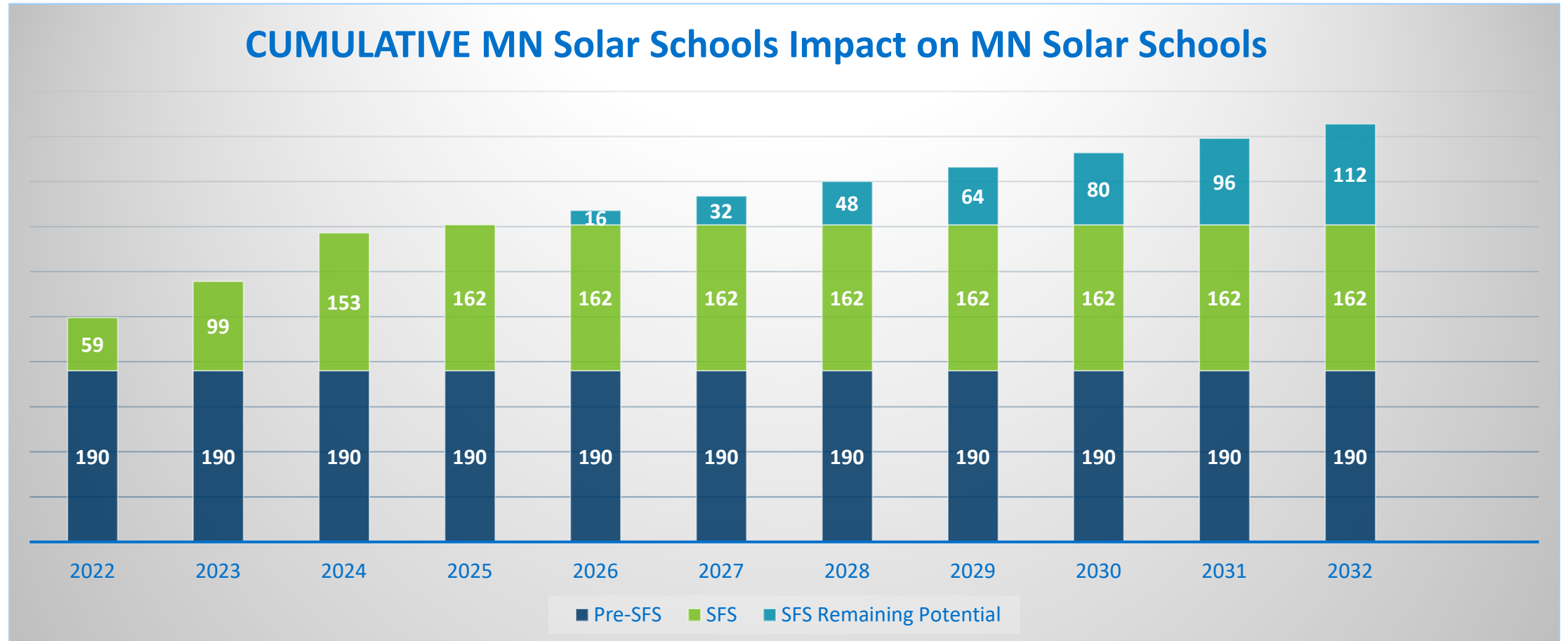
Potential Total Program Impact by 2032



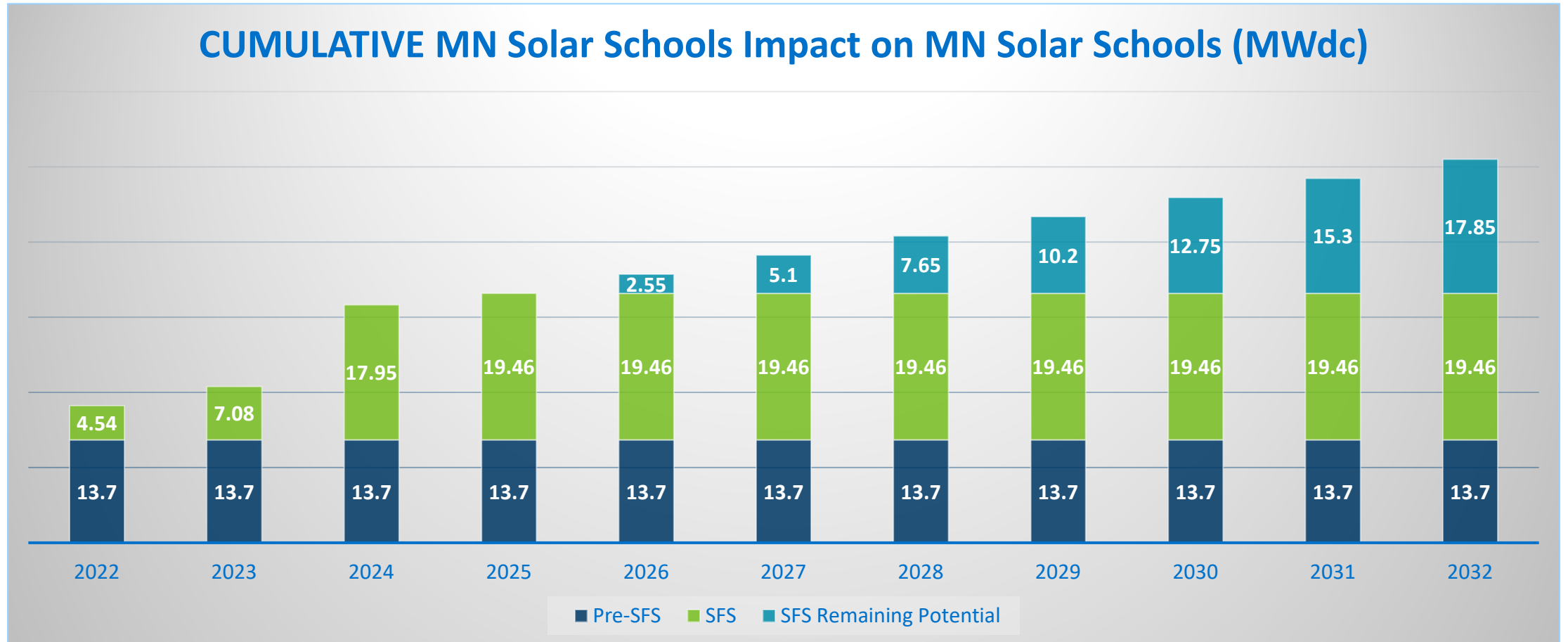
[Full Grant Recipient List](#)

Installed Capacity	Pre-SFS	13.7 MW	# Projects	190
	2022	4.54 MW		59
	2023	2.54 MW		40
	2024	10.87 MW		54
	2025*	1.51 MW		9
	2026-2032	17.85 MW		112
	Total	51.01 MW		464

Cumulative Impact and Potential



Cumulative Impact and Potential



Program Overview

	2022	2023	2024	2025*	Total Grant Reservation	Total Grant Budget	Remaining Grant Budget
K-12 (Xcel)	\$1,983,131	\$476,502	\$4,796,088	\$408,650	\$7,187,869	\$20,637,527	13,449,658*
K-12 (Other)	\$5,176,993	\$3,545,479	\$6,991,128	\$1,335,606	\$17,049,206	\$21,012,000	\$3,962,794
MN State (Xcel)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,117,800	\$1,117,800
MN State (Other)	\$0	\$48,000	\$87,111	\$0	\$135,111	\$2,142,000	\$2,006,889
TOTAL	\$7,160,124	\$4,069,981	\$11,874,327	\$1,744,256	\$24,848,688	\$44,909,327	\$20,060,639

MN Comparison (Solar Installs Through 2023)

State Rankings for Solar Schools

Rank	Cumulative Solar Capacity on K-12 Schools (kW)	
	STATE	TOTAL kW
01	CA	723,409
02	NJ	211,972
03	AZ	127,537
04	MA	85,105
05	CT	69,781
06	IL	66,028
07	IN	61,331
08	NY	59,436
09	VA	55,423
10	PA	38,812
11	OH	31,451
12	MD	25,939
13	MN	24,185
14	CO	20,925
15	VT	20,805
16	NV	20,433
17	WI	18,070
18	AR	15,271
19	DC	13,981
20	SC	12,816

Number of Schools with Solar	
STATE	TOTAL
CA	2,815
NJ	696
IL	568
AZ	411
CT	336
NY	325
MA	309
WI	285
FL	280
MD	197
MN	193
VA	180
NV	167
CO	166
TX	140
IN	135
UT	123
HI	118
WA	118
PA	114

Number of Students Attending a Solar School	
STATE	TOTAL
CA	2,302,977
NJ	437,748
IL	340,943
FL	295,072
AZ	243,073
NY	212,352
MA	198,065
CT	186,218
MD	141,944
WI	141,134
VA	128,350
TX	126,782
MN	117,140
CO	108,610
PA	101,707
WA	88,257
NV	86,079
UT	85,099
IN	82,221
HI	79,773



8,971

Number of Solar Schools



1,814 MW

Cumulative Solar Capacity



202 kW

Average System Size per School

Resource: State Solar Master Contract

Admin Minnesota

Office of State Procurement

Room 112 Administration Bldg., 50 Sherburne Ave., St. Paul, MN 55155; Phone: 651.296.2600, Fax: 651.297.3996
Persons with a hearing or speech disability can contact us through the Minnesota Relay Service by dialing 711 or 1.800.627.3529.

CONTRACT RELEASE: S-1049(5)

DATE: June 3, 2024

PRODUCT/SERVICE: Solar Power System Design and Installation

CONTRACT PERIOD: June 30, 2022, through May 31, 2026 (varies by contract)

EXTENSION OPTIONS: Up to 12 months

ACQUISITION MANAGEMENT SPECIALIST /BUYER (AMS): Doug Heeschen

PHONE: 651.201.2422 E-MAIL: doug.heeschen@state.mn.us WEB SITE: <https://mn.gov/admin/osp/>

The following vendor is certified as an eligible Targeted Group, Economically Disadvantaged or Veteran-Owned business:

CONTRACT VENDOR	CONTRACT NO.	TERMS	DELIVERY
Solar Pod (formerly Mouli Engineering) Mouli Vaidyanathan, Founder/CEO mouli@mysolarpod.com 2915 133rd St. W., Shakopee, MN 55379 VENDOR NO: 0000348045 (Location 2)	212927	NET 30	30 DAYS

For Contract questions:
Mouli Vaidyanathan
mouli@mysolarpod.com
763-489-1611

For Solicitation Notification:
mouli@mysolarpod.com
ivans@mysolarpod.com

The following vendors are NOT certified as an eligible Targeted Group, Economically Disadvantaged or Veteran-Owned businesses:

Apadana Energy LLC Ameer Kian, Director Ameer.Kian@ApadanaTechnology.com 3401 Nevada Ave. N Suite 2C, Minneapolis, MN 55427 VENDOR NO: 0000978994	renewal pending MDHR	NET 30	30 DAY
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For Contract questions:
Ameer Kian, Ameer.Kian@ApadanaTechnology.com

For Solicitation Notification:
Ameer.Kian@ApadanaTechnology.com
Ahmad.Kian@ApadanaTechnology.com

Contract Release 17 (11/16/17)

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Questions and Assistance:

- [State Solar Master Contract](#)
- Doug Heeschen, doug.heeschen@state.mn.us

Includes:

- pre-vetted vendors qualified to design and install solar
- many consumer protections incorporated into contract*
- technical assistance through RFP and proposal selection

*vendors only pre-qualified for use through the contract. Use of one of the contract vendors *outside of use of the contract and full contract process*, does not guarantee the contract's consumer protections. If selecting a contract vendor outside of the master contract, public RFP process recommended as procurement best practice

Resource: Clean Energy Resource Teams (CERTs)

Questions and Assistance:

- <https://www.cleanenergyresourceteams.org/schools>
- Peter Lindstrom: plindstr@umn.edu

Free, Unbiased Technical Assistance Options Include:

- Scheduling a CERTs Pre-Application consultation to go over solar best practices
- One-on-one assistance meeting Readiness Assessment requirements.
- Understanding solar array's cost and anticipated savings
- Developing and distributing your solar RFP, and evaluating received proposals

“Minnesota schools are eager to adopt solar energy, but many have questions about how to move from interest to installation. That’s where we come in.” - Peter Lindstrom, CERTs