

AGENDA WITH LINKS TO PRESENTATIONS AND INFORMATION

Powering Tomorrow: Energy Project Resource Summit

October 28, 2025

Eddie Manderville Chalet at Theodore Wirth Park
1301 Theodore Wirth Parkway, Golden Valley, MN 55422

8:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

Continental Breakfast & Registration



9:00 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.

Welcome Remarks and Setting the Stage

State agency partners will welcome participants and provide an overview of the meeting.

Speakers:

- Welcome – Kari Moeller, Minnesota Department of Commerce, State Energy Office
- We did it, so can you, an early adopter's story - Superintendent Tim Lutz, Red Lake Public School District
 - Learn more: [Red Lake Schools profile, electric buses, solar, curriculum, HVAC](#)
 - Learn more: [Red Lake School District #38 Unveils New Electric School Buses](#)
 - Learn more: [Red Lake Public Schools solar dashboard](#)

9:45 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.

Energy Efficiency, Indoor Air Quality, and Improved Educational Outcomes

This session will feature an overview of Minnesota's Air Ventilation Pilot Grants, as well as options and resources for planning, purchasing and implementing air ventilation upgrades. This session will make the connection from efficient healthy schools to student achievement.

Moderator:

- Mike Lynn, Minnesota Department of Commerce Division of Energy Resources
 - Learn more: [Minnesota Air Ventilation Pilot Grant Program \(HVAC Program\)](#)

Speakers:

- Jill Heins, American Lung Association [Learn more: Clean Air School Challenge; Mini-Grants](#)
- Ben Wallace, Ameresco [Learn more: K12 solutions; 12 solutions for savings](#)
- Tony Glenz, Sourcewell [Learn more: K12 solutions](#), see event folder

10:45 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Networking Break – Attendees can visit the Tabletop Resource Networking area.

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| • Ameresco | • Clean Energy Resource Teams (CERTs) | • GreenStep Schools, Cities & Tribal Nations |
| • American Lung Association | • Commerce Dept/ Division of Energy Resources | • McKinstry |
| • Center for Energy and Environment (CEE) | • Electric School Bus Coalition | • Sourcewell |
| • Clean Energy Economy MN (CEEM) | | |

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11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Energy Performance Contracting and the Benefits of Public-Private Partnerships

This session will cover energy savings performance contracts and the role of owners' representatives, public and private partners, and for budget constrained school districts. We will share examples of public-private partnerships, innovative funding, and financial strategies.

Moderator:

- Charlie Schneider, Minnesota Department of Commerce Division of Energy Resources

Speakers:

- James Goblisch, Winona State University **Learn more:** [WSU project overview](#)
- John Neville, McKinstry **Learn more:** [About McKinstry](#)
- Ben Wallace, Ameresco **Learn more:** [Energy savings performance contracting](#)
- Tony Glenz, Sourcewell **Learn more:** [Higher education](#), see event folder

12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Lunch & Resource Showcase – lunch and visit the Tabletop Resource Networking area.

1:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Financial Leveraging

This session will provide information about federal tax credits, specifically on provisions around direct pay and transferability, and the availability bridge loans to enable schools to invest in efficiency and electrification measures and offset total project costs.

Moderator:

- John Michael Cross, Minnesota Department of Commerce Division of Energy Resources

Speakers:

- Kristen Hengtgen, Undaunted K12
 - **Learn more:** [Meet Undaunted](#); [Energy Tax Credits for Schools Hub](#)
- Arpita Bhattacharyya, the MN Climate Innovation Finance Authority (MnCIFA)
 - **Learn more:** [MnCIFA fact sheet](#); [Portfolio Loan Fund](#)

1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

A Picture is Worth a Thousand ... Kilowatts: Powering Learning through Solar for Schools

Minnesota is home to more than 340 solar schools, a 160% increase since the Solar for Schools grant program launched in 2022! Solarizing schools offers a unique opportunity for Minnesotans to reduce a school's operating expenses, provide hands-on STEM education, career exposure for the next generation of energy professionals, and demonstrate fiscal stewardship to the community. This session will provide an opportunity to ask school district leadership about their experiences and lessons from going solar, learn best practices from a solar installer, and prepare you to begin exploring solar opportunities available at your school.

Moderator:

- Mandi Schienebeck, Minnesota Department of Commerce Division of Energy Resources
 - **Learn more:** Minnesota's [Solar for Schools program overview](#)

Speakers:

Thank you for attending. Visit mn.gov/commerce/energy for more energy partnership ideas.

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- Dave Kerkvliet, Superintendent, Sebeka Public School District
 - **Learn more:** [Sebeka project details](#); [Sebeka project overview](#)
- Scott Monson, Superintendent, Minneota Public School District
 - **Learn more:** [Minneota school reports positive outcomes with new solar panels](#)
- Brok Johnson, Solar Connection **Learn more:** [Solar for Schools presentation](#)

2:30 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.

Networking Break – Attendees can visit the Tabletop Resource Networking area.

2:45 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

The Journey is Just as Important as the Destination: Making Electric School Buses (ESB) a Reality for Students

This session will underscore the importance of energy efficiency and improved air quality on the way to and from school as well. Speakers will showcase the benefits of zero-emission school bus technology and will cover the current landscape of potential financing mechanisms and business models that can help ensure access to this technology for all school districts, regardless of size or funding. The panel will focus on actionable next steps for school districts and their transportation partners.

Moderator:

- Anna Crouch, Minnesota Department of Commerce Division of Energy Resources
 - **Learn more:** Minnesota's [Electric School Bus Deployment Grant Program](#)

Speakers:

- Nick Martini, Northstar Bus Lines LLC
- Joshua Williams, Highland Electric **Learn more:** [ESB FAQ](#); [ESB and extreme weather](#)
- Mike Domin, Sourcewell

3:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

ABC's of Energy Affordability: Public Resources and Technical Assistance

Modern, energy efficient school facilities help lead to improved educational and economic outcomes. This session will highlight coordinated public efforts to establish or facilitate energy project improvements, build technical capacity, and support school districts in long term planning.

Moderator:

- Brain Strub, Minnesota Department of Commerce Division of Energy Resources

Speakers:

- Kristin Mroz, GreenStep Cities, Schools, & Tribal Nations
 - **Learn more:** [GreenStep Schools flyer](#); [GreenStep Schools web](#)
- Pete Lindstrom, Clean Energy Resource Teams (CERTs) **Learn more:** [CERTs school info](#)

4:00 p.m. - 4:15 p.m.

Closing Remarks - Kari Moeller, Minnesota Department of Commerce Division of Energy Resources