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# **Rural Energy Affordability, Efficiency, and Economic Development through Partnership**



# CERTs: Purpose and Structure

# CERTs: A Statewide Partnership

Regional Sustainable  
Development Partnerships

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA  
**EXTENSION**



**GREAT PLAINS  
INSTITUTE**





# CERTs Mission

To connect individuals and their communities to the resources they need to identify and implement community-based clean energy projects

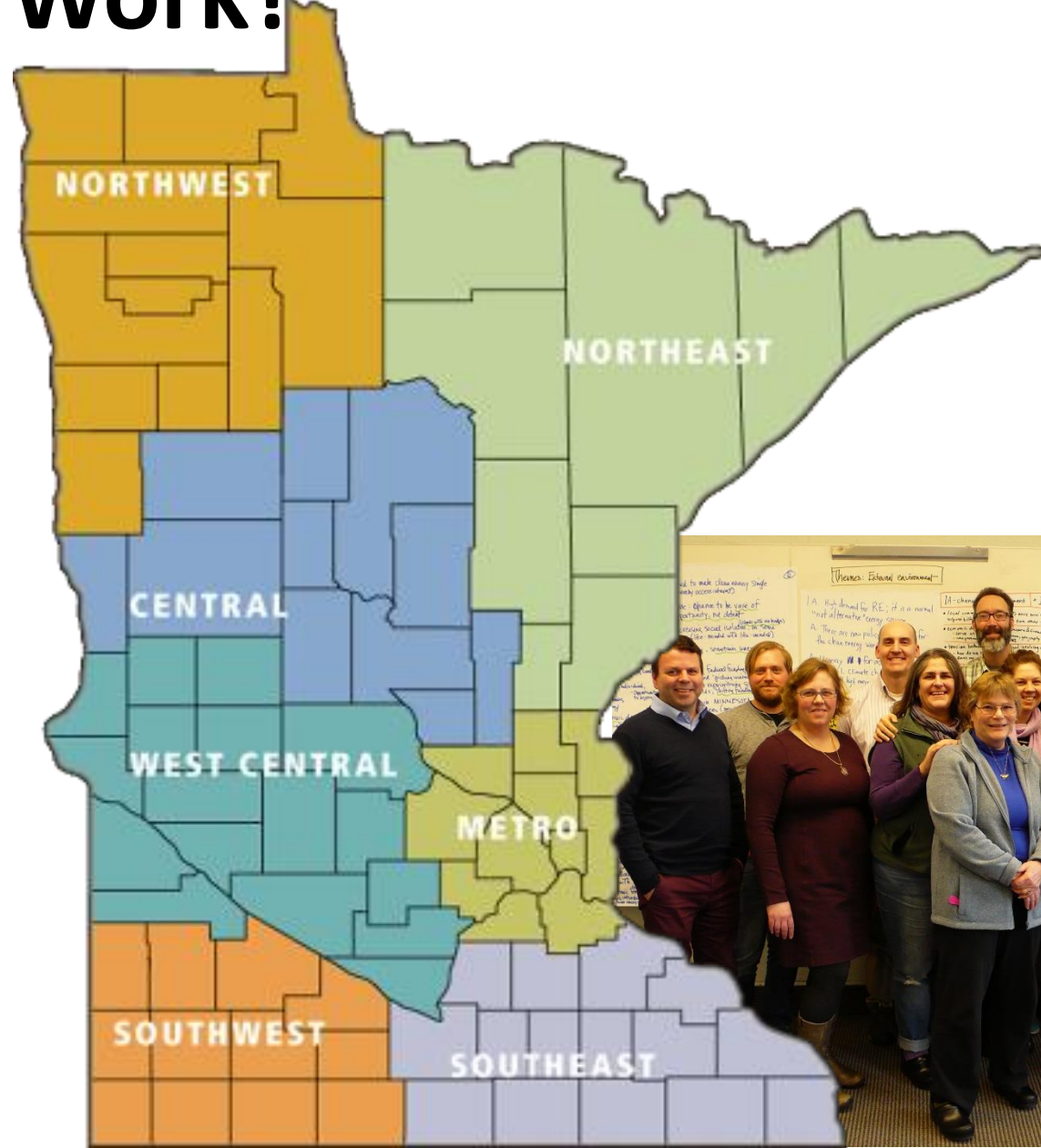
Defined in Statute: MN Statute 216C.385





# How Does CERTs Work?

- Community-driven Clean Energy Projects
- Regional coordination
- Statewide leadership
- Multi-agency partnership



# Partnering with MN's SEO State Energy Program

# State Energy Program

## Clean Energy Marketplace:

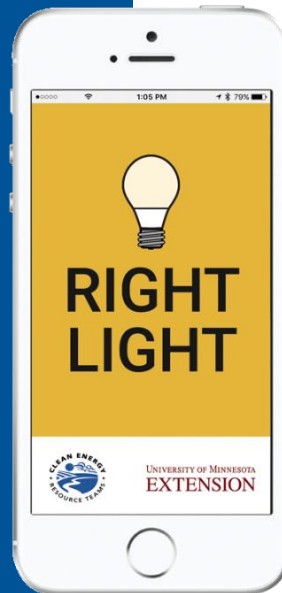
- Technical Assistance
- Communicate data
- Program coordination
- RLF oversight >\$21M
- Community outreach / stakeholder engagements



# CERTs' Rural Efforts that Support MN SEO: State Energy Program

## Education & Outreach

- Community Solar Gardens
- Guaranteed Energy Savings Program
- PACE & RLFs





# CERTs' Rural Efforts that Support MN SEO: State Energy Program

## Community Support:

- Regional Events
- SEED Grants
- Clean Energy Community Awards
- GreenStep Cities
- Bi-Annual Conference



# CERTs' Rural Efforts that Support MN SEO: State Energy Program

...and stakeholder engagement

**MN SOLAR PATHWAYS**  
illuminating pathways to 10% solar

## Core Partners



## Project Participants



Partnering with MN's SEO  
**Conservation  
Improvement Program**

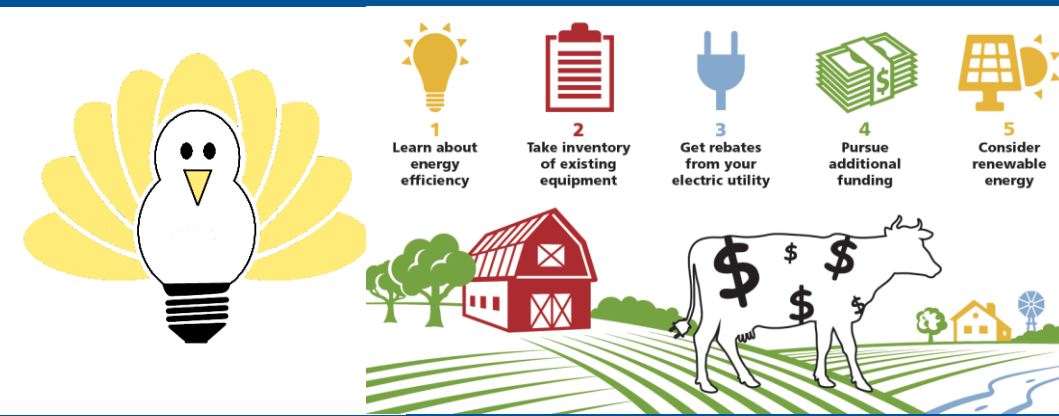
# Conservation Improvement Program

- Evaluate utility CIP regulatory filings
- Oversee EM&V control mechanisms
- Provide technical assistance to utilities
- Administer research and development for new CIP programs

CERTs' Rural Efforts that Support MN SEO:

# Conservation Improvement Program

- CERTified Campaigns
- Business Blitzes
- Utility Outreach



# Partnering with MN's SEO Low-Income Weatherization Assistance Program

# Weatherization Assistance Program

## Bridging the Divide to Underserved Communities

- \$21M USDOE/HHS comprehensive weatherization
- Leveraging resources
  - CIP/EAP/WAP
  - Healthy AIR
  - CLICERS
  - Policy development

CERTs' Rural Efforts that Support MN SEO:

# Weatherization Assistance Program

- Utility outreach
- Seed grants
- Outreach to underserved communities
- Listening sessions







Questions?