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Survey results show availability of green jobs more likely to be found in greater Minnesota

The Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) recently released its initial results from a survey which began last December on available green jobs in Minnesota. According to DEED, 64 percent of all green job vacancies were found in greater Minnesota, while only 42 percent of all job vacancies were outside the seven-county metro area. DEED believes these findings suggest that green vacancies in the future are more likely to be found in greater Minnesota, while the overall majority of all vacancies will remain in the metro area.

DEED defined "green jobs" as those providing "opportunities to engage in energy or natural resource conservation, renewable energy development, pollution cleanup, [or] pollution reduction."

The study is funded by a \$1.15 million grant from the U.S. Department of Labor to help DEED collect, analyze and disseminate labor market information on green jobs in the state. Final results of the study will be made available after May, 2011. An overview of the initial results may be found by clicking visiting <http://bit.ly/cHZBZ9>.

Minnesota joins Midwest Solar Training Network

Seven educational institutions and one nonprofit group in Minnesota were selected to be part of the Midwest Solar Training Network (MSTN) and include:

- Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College
- Century College
- Hibbing Community College
- Riverland Community College
- Minneapolis Community College
- St. Paul College
- Central Lakes College
- Minnesota Renewable Energy Society

News in Review

Click on a blue link to read the full article.

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[Brainerd Dispatch: Region 5 in Staples gets 825k HUD grant](#)

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[Fergus Falls Daily Journal: Fergus Falls students win Envirothon](#)

[Rochester Post-Bulletin: First two wind turbines being erected in Winona County](#)

[Minnesota Outdoor News: Feds confirm \\$12 million in 'open fields' for 17 states](#)

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MSTN is a group of technical and community colleges, nonprofit organizations, universities and industry leaders. The group works to build solar training capacity in the Midwest, improve the quality and accessibility of solar installation training and expand the nation's trained solar workforce. It is part of the U.S. Department of Energy Solar Instructor Training Network and led by the Midwest Renewable Energy Association. *(From Office of Energy Security)*

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Green cities article features GMET members

The Star Tribune recently reported on the state's growing Green Steps City initiative, referencing a consortium of pilot cities who have committed to achieving sustainability goals through implementation of 28 best practices. The program was created by the MPCA with a goal of assisting cities with implementing and maintaining sustainability practices in their communities. Beyond the five pilot cities, ten cities have signed a resolution to join and nine others are considering a resolution. GMET member city Mankato has signed the resolution, and the Green Steps website notes that Rochester is considering a resolution in support. The full article can be reviewed at <http://bit.ly/cgepff>.

DOE small business grants available soon

The U.S. Department of Energy plans to open Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) Grant programs soon. Minnesota small businesses in the process of developing a new energy technology are encouraged to begin preparing for the grant process. For information and assistance with the federal small business programs in Minnesota, contact Becky Aistrup, SBIR/STTR program director, at the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development at Becky.Aistrup@state.mn.us or 651-259-7634. Visit <http://bit.ly/xY0SP> for more information.