



Request for City Council Committee Action City Coordinator's Office

Date March 3, 2008

To Honorable Scott Benson, Chair, Health Energy & Environment Committee

Prepared by Gayle Prest Phone 673-2931

Approved by Steven Bosacker

Subject Community Climate Change Micro Grants Update

Recommendation Receive and file

Presenters in Committee: Gayle Prest

Financial Impact (Check those that apply)

- No financial impact (If checked, go directly to Background/Supporting Information)
- Action requires an appropriation increase to the Capital Budget
- Action requires an appropriation increase to the Operating Budget
- Action provides increased revenue for appropriation increase
- Action requires use of contingency or reserves
- Other financial impact (Explain):
- Request provided to the Budget Office when provided to the Committee Coordinator

Background/Supporting Information

This is part of the City's Sustainability Initiative to reduce the City's carbon dioxide footprint 12% by 2012 with the realization that we all can and must play a part in reducing climate change.

2007 Climate Change Grants Findings

In 2007 the City of Minneapolis became the first city in the country to award small grants to groups interested in reaching out to residents and businesses in promoting concrete actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Minneapolis residents know about global warming; the focus of these grants was to motivate and teach individuals about effective action. The City realized the importance of one-to-one contact in stressing the urgency of global warming and the compelling reasons for each of us to take immediate actions. The City awarded twenty grants of up to \$1,000 and five grants of \$10,000 each.

Businesses in the community helped make this program a success. Xcel Energy provided over 1,300 free compact fluorescent light bulbs; Center for Energy and Environment (CEE) was very

generous and resourceful in assisting the grantees in promoting the Minnesota Energy Challenge; and Neely Crane Smith spent countless hours on the phone and at special events promoting not only the Minnesota Energy Challenge but also energy conservation and efficiency options in general.

Following are highlights from the 2007 Minneapolis Climate Change project. A more comprehensive review of the findings from the Climate Change grant is attached.

- The City received 55 grant proposals and funded 25 projects. From the \$70,000 that was originally awarded, \$60,245 was actually spent.
- An estimated value of \$127,000 was leveraged as a result of the City's grants, equaling an overall 211 percent return on investment. The leverages mainly took the form of monetary support from local groups and businesses, in-kind contributions, donated staff and volunteer time (the hourly rate is estimated from \$15 to \$20).
- Teams registered 1,418 participants in the Minnesota Energy Challenge, bringing the total number of participating Minneapolis residents and businesses to about 2,500.
- Team members pledged to save more than 8.2 million pounds of carbon dioxide annually for a reduction of \$682,340 on their energy use. According to the Center for Energy and Environment, this is equivalent to taking 683 cars off the road or eliminating electricity in 478 houses.
- Many things are not quantifiable such as the increased capacity in the community to engage its members on climate change issues and the partnerships built between organizations.
- Many of the grantees made a commitment to continue their efforts after the grant period ends.

2008 Climate Change Grants

Based on the success of climate change grants last year, the City of Minneapolis is once again taking applications for grants to help people in Minneapolis take steps to reduce global warming. Neighborhood, business, and faith-based associations are eligible to apply for the grants, along with other non-profits, libraries, park and recreational centers, and other public organizations. Two types of grants are available through the program and available on the City's website:

Grassroots Climate Change Micro Grants

Grant amount: up to \$1,500 (no match required)

Application deadline: 4 p.m., Thursday, March 20, 2008

Climate Change Innovations Grants

Grant amount: Up to \$10,000 (no match required)

Application deadline: 4 p.m. Monday, March 24, 2008

It is expected that 20 to 30 Grassroots Climate Change Micro Grants will be awarded, along with 5 to 7 of the larger Climate Change Innovations Grants.

The application is relatively short and easy to fill out. Applicants are asked to submit plans for a project that results in meaningful, measurable steps to reduce climate change. There has been widespread publicity including a press release, email alerts, and an informational and outreach meeting at the upcoming March 8 Neighborhood Sustainability Conference.

Attachment 1: 2007 Minneapolis Climate Change Grant Findings