

**Regional Sustainable  
Development Partnership**  
College of Design  
College of Food, Agricultural and  
Natural Resource Sciences  
University of Minnesota Extension

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Re: University of Minnesota Regional Sustainable Development Partnerships

To Whom It May Concern:

I am pleased to endorse the University of Minnesota - Twin Cities' innovation credit on the Regional Sustainable Development Partnerships (RSDP). The links created through the RSDP between public entities, research, and local communities are critical to advancing sustainability across Minnesota. The U of M - Twin Cities is leading the way through its participation in the Partnerships and the Clean Energy Resource Teams (CERTs), one of the major programs in the metro area, to develop a model for other Universities and states to follow.

The RSDP is truly an innovative partnership between the University of Minnesota and the community. The Regional Partnerships focus on sustaining the social, economic, and environmental health of the state through community-led projects. RSDP involves the UMN [College of Food, Agriculture and Natural Resource Sciences](#), UMN [College of Design](#), UMN [Extension](#), the [Minnesota Agricultural Experiment Station](#), as well as numerous regional partners. The Partnerships encourage open dialogue between the University campuses, state entities, and the community, resulting in timely projects addressing the specific needs of communities. CERTs utilizes these main principles to specifically advance energy efficiency in local businesses and residences, engaging community members and supporting the local economy. Project results and lessons learned are shared across the Partnerships to further sustainability throughout the state.

The collaborative techniques of the RSDPs and CERTs programs have resulted in truly innovative and successful projects across the State of Minnesota. I support the Regional Sustainable Development Partnerships as an important and innovative solution, supported by the work and participation of the University of Minnesota -Twin Cities.

Please contact me if I can provide any further information for this credit.

Sincerely,



Kathryn J. Draeger, Ph.D.  
Statewide Director