

*West Central Partnership  
Regional Sustainable  
Development Partnership*

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December 21, 2011

Re: University of Minnesota West Central Regional Sustainable Development Partnership and the RSDP

To Whom It May Concern:

I am pleased to endorse the University of Minnesota – Morris's 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. In western Minnesota, the West Central Regional Sustainable Development Partnership, is working with the University of Minnesota, Morris (UMM) to advance sustainable initiatives in the region, including expansion of local foods, sustainable energy, and improved water quality. In partnership with UMM, we have linked student and faculty resources to communities desiring opportunities to collaborate.

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 (Clean Energy Resource Team), a program of the RSDP utilize 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, Morris.

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

Sincerely,



Dorothy Rosemeier  
Executive Director  
University of Minnesota West Central Partnership