

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Morris Campus

Office of Sustainability

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Innovation Credit #2

Title: Growing the Rural Climate Dialogues Initiative in Morris

Description:

The Morris campus is partnering with the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy and Jefferson Center to improve community planning for clean energy implementation in Stevens County. During the academic year 2017-2018 our partnership focused on implementing two large community meetings. The first meeting was called Our Energy Future: Stevens County. The meeting focused on increasing community energy literacy. Several community presenters provided information about the local energy planning environment, including the energy resource planning manager from the local utility. The meeting also focused on brainstorming clean energy projects that the community wanted to see implemented. The second meeting was called: Our Energy Future: Ideas to Action. Again, we brought in different speakers to share new information about clean energy projects happening in the community. And, we focused on developing a set of actions we could take to increase the likelihood of project implementation in Morris and Stevens County.

Results:

Our public engagement project was very successful. We were able to get 70 community members together to learn, discuss, brainstorm and develop ideas to increase clean energy implementation in the Morris community. We were able to bring new community leaders into the conversation that had not been present before. And, we helped to model an approach for engaging in rural communities around clean energy implementation.

Submitted by:

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