

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Morris Campus

Office of Sustainability

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Innovation Credit #4

Title: Building a Climate Smart Community

Description:

The Morris campus and city of Morris are partnering with the University of Minnesota -- Institute on the Environment Climate Smart Municipalities program. The CSM program selected 5 pilot communities in Minnesota to partner with 5 communities in North Rhine Westphalia, Germany. The city of Morris entered into a sister-city and technical partnership agreement with the city of Saerbeck. Saerbeck is one of the greenest cities in Europe (Winner of the European Energy Award). During academic year 2017-2018 we partnered to bring a delegation of Germans from the five cities to Morris. We also sent delegations of Morris representatives to Germany, including administrators and students.

Results:

We are building a lasting relationship with the city of Saerbeck. Morris students, staff and administrators have visited North Rhine Westphalia, and Saerbeck, and have created new friendships. We have exchanged technical ideas and used them to improve our work. The Morris campus provides support to the city of Morris to maintain this relationship. For example, when the German delegation visited Morris we provided a large community dinner event, followed by a community discussion with members of the German delegation, Morris students, and community members. We are expanding our efforts into the Morris public schools – connecting high school students in Germany and Morris.

Submitted by:

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