

ARISE (Alliance to Re-Industrialize for a Sustainable Economy)

ARISE grew out of an ongoing effort to resurrect the planning process for the St. Paul Ford Manufacturing site and orient it around a vision for a sustainable and just local economy. Local labor leaders, students at Macalester college, and non-profits in the transit, economic justice, regional greening, affordable housing, and climate and energy-solutions fields came together throughout 2007 to design and build support for the sixth scenario, a vision for the site that incorporates green manufacturing, mixed-used sustainable community design, multi-modal transit, and clean energy production. ARISE is *currently* a coalition of NGO's, labor unions, students, city officials and community members in the Twin Cities working on the Ford Plant site and linking with others around the country to use it as a model for green economic development globally. Both the framework for sustainable re-industrialization and the collaborative process we have used serve as a model that can be used by anyone, anywhere: let's all ARISE to the occasion and *build* a clean energy economy, one that is climate positive by 2030.

Vision

Together we can:

- Re-tool industries to produce the products needed to stimulate and build a clean energy economy.
- Re-connect our nation's transit system by utilizing freight rail for industrial transit and investing in interstate commuter lines.
- Re-wire our energy sources so industries, homes and everything in between are powered by carbon free energy.
- Re-secure family sustaining manufacturing jobs while creating thousands more.
- Re-localize our markets so communities profit from the work of their residents.
- Re-unite our communities by advancing environmental justice and broad socio-economic and racial equity.
- RE-INDUSTRIALIZE for a sustainable economy!

Process

Nestled along the Mississippi River, the 136-acre Ford Motor Company manufacturing plant will close in 2009, taking with it more than 1,800 living wage union jobs and leaving the future of the site in question. The parcel has a large multi-track freight rail spur stretching to downtown St. Paul, hydro-electric power , ground source heat availability, and a large modern MNSCU training center, demonstrating clear sustainable development potential. Aging industrial sites globally provide a bold opportunity to restore the productive core of our society in ways that are community-sustaining and ecologically beneficial.

The St. Paul planning commission charged the Ford Site Task Force with preparing a development framework which encompasses both the best land use and a fitting legacy for Ford Motor Company and the City of Saint Paul. Their recommendation will be submitted to the St. Paul Planning Commission, the City Council and the Mayor, then handed over to a master developer. Over the past year the Ford Site Task Force has selected 5 scenarios which they are now analyzing in order to determine a final plan for the site.

Seeing the opportunities inherent in the Ford Site Re-development members of ARISE came together the spring of 2007 and solidified a sustainable sixth scenario. After a year working along side the Ford Site Task Force's process, the scenario developed by the ARISE team is increasingly being adopted by the city. Currently city planners are actively pursuing a development scenario which encompass ARISE's five design components:

-Green Manufacturing-

- Ensuring at least 2,000 family sustaining jobs in green manufacturing of wind turbines, mass transit vehicles or green building equipment.
- Utilizing the MNSCU training center as a research and development facility that supports new clean energy markets and equitable access to new green jobs.

-Clean Energy-

- Maintaining local clean energy production and harnessing additional energy sources to the 18MW hydro facility and investing in ground-source heating, solar technologies, and anaerobic digester to produce enough green energy on-site and to sell green energy back to the grid, serving as a carbon offset for St Paul
- Implementing the infrastructure necessary for zero waste management programs

-Green Building-

- Designing neighborhoods and buildings which use energy efficiently
- Constructing buildings with local labor and green products
- Retaining the economic diversity of housing of the greater Highland community by including a full range of housing options including low and middle-income housing

-Mass Transit-

- Retaining freight lines for manufacturing
- Adding mass transit capacity to the rail corridors and connecting it to regional systems

-Re-localizing-

- Supplying the nation with the products necessary to build a new energy society
- Locating services for residents close to home within walking distance
- Fostering community through gardens, civic centers, and recreational areas

Next Steps

As we work with the city of St. Paul and community members to implement our vision, we are linking with more groups across the Twin Cities and around the country. We seek to share our experience and demonstrate the holistic solution for pressing environmental and social issues that re-industrialization for a sustainable economy provides. ARISE will network with existing green job creation programs and to inspire new coalitions to create green jobs by revitalizing industrial sites nationwide.