

Programs in which participants can be involved

These are the basics of what we have designed for our program. These are still evolving, and you'll get a chance to help shape them if you join us!

We Make It - Green Industry: We will work with labor leaders, workforce training groups, and green manufacturing businesses to advance community-sustaining green manufacturing projects in the Twin Cities. Participants will have the opportunity to play a role in:

- Advancing the green manufacturing vision as an integral part of revitalizing the Ford Site and the 3M site in St. Paul by participating in community forums and working with St. Paul city officials.
- Identifying potential contracts for green manufacturers seeking to expand their businesses and to deploy high efficiency and clean energy products in more places (may also connect to efficiency projects)
- Conducting listening projects and community engagement venues to help local community groups understand green economy projects, express their thoughts, and identify how to make these projects a positive part of their community.

We Use It - Energy Efficiency: We will work with Cooperative Energy Future, a cooperative launched through SoS 2008 to improve residential and small business energy efficiency. Participants will have the opportunity to play a role in:

- Doing outreach with community partners to engage residents in the opportunities of energy efficiency in Phillips and in other communities.
- Training community residents in engaging their neighbors as part of community-based efficiency teams and will help build CEF's membership base.
- Assessing and implementing efficiency measures in area small businesses, particularly minority-owned businesses to help them save money and energy.
- Help support young people and other community residents train for jobs engaging the community and installing energy efficiency measures.
- Helping lead community-based planning sessions for implementing new sustainability initiatives at the community level.
- Working with city officials, utilities, financial institutions, and other community partners to generate resources for community projects, create new tools that empower community efficiency and energy ownership, and raise the community's voice.

- Helping run the internal logistics of running an energy cooperative, including supporting communities in bulk buying, adding memberships, creating trainings and materials.
- There is also the opportunity for youth to take internship roles outside of the Twin Cities helping implement community energy efficiency initiatives in other communities trained by CEF but leading operations elsewhere (several locations across Minnesota)

We Grow It - Urban Food Production: We will work with the Women's Environmental Initiative and the Little Earth Housing Association to help build local food production systems. Participants will have the opportunity to play a role in:

- Helping develop the Little Earth Housing Association urban farm and support getting it started.
- Working to identify new community leaders to start urban farming centers and trained through WEI's programs.
- Learning the process of starting urban farming and create collaborations with back-yard agriculture and farmers market groups

We are also continually working on local opportunities to tie in projects related to smart design, transit systems, and renewable energy development. These projects will advance through the spring and summer and you're welcome to help them come to fruition.