

# **Summary from group discussions at June 6 conference: Next steps needed for communities to address climate and energy change (also includes recommendations from conference evaluation forms)**

*Background: A conference “Preparing Your Community for Climate and Energy Change: Opportunities for Local Sustainability” was held in St. Paul, MN on June 6, 2007. Sponsored by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency with 15 cosponsoring organizations, the event attracted over 300 attendees. The conference was targeted at local elected officials, local government staff, and other community leaders.*

*The conference agenda – see [www.nextstep.state.mn.us/conference](http://www.nextstep.state.mn.us/conference) - included four plenary talks in the morning about climate and energy trends. Following these talks and lunch, attendees were assigned randomly into 8 rooms for concurrent hour-long discussions about the morning sessions. One aspect of these discussions was for the participants to identify next steps that were needed for their communities to prepare for climate and energy change, including identifying needed assistance and barriers to action.*

*The listing below was transcribed directly from notes taken in the discussion sessions and is organized by topic to be more usable. It also includes relevant comments from attendees that were submitted on the conference evaluation forms. This listing may be useful for those seeking to provide assistance to local governments and communities regarding climate and energy challenges. Any inaccuracies, errors or omissions in transcription are the sole responsibility of the conference organizers.*

## **Action items:**

- Give us 5 everyday actions to reduce energy dependence
- Communicate what tangible things people can do
- Need specific goals and actions we can take to begin to change behaviors
- What can I do? What can my profession do? - List of professions
- Training in practical steps.

## **Barriers need to be overcome:**

- Sense of entitlement
- People don't understand the costs of their choices- ramifications need to be understood
- Climate changes are not tangible enough for general public/populations
- Disconnectedness- natural environment/outdoors
- State/MN needs to invest at statewide/local level (funding cut previously)
- It takes time to figure out transit
- It needs more urgency and needs to be “gangsta”
- Ignorance/and stubbornness
- Issue seems to be so enormous people have lost hope
- People may be worried about meeting daily needs
- Resistance change- education that this is progressive not regressive)

- Denial, money, time
- Hugeness of the issue
- Lack of human (staff) resources in communities
- Gap between decision makers and affected people
- Perceived impacts on quality of life (sacrifices)
- Lack of transportation options (due to low density population)
- Perception that solutions are cost- prohibitive/elitist
- No one wants to be first, can't stand alone
- Choices don't reflect true costs
- Leave everything to free market - government has role (i.e. Chicago climate exchange)
- As an urban planning student I think the 5 minute walk is a huge barrier. We as urban planners have an idea of what this should be, but the biggest problem will be correcting the last 50 years of development that has gone against this principle. For this, physical redevelopment and rebuilding is the biggest problem, financing it.

### **Behavior change:**

- Education and awareness is good, but how do we actually change behavior?

### **Best practices:**

- More support for good practices!

### **Bold thinking:**

- Need for big changes, “Sea Change” needs to be embraced by all, planners, and whole communities, all residents

### **Building community:**

- More block parties- get to know neighbors

### **Buying local:**

- Small business incentive to shop campaign
- All public agencies should require goods and food to be locally produced in order to increase local manufacturing and food production – same model as preference for minority contractors
- Incentives: local preference in contracts of all kinds for purchasing – esp. in the case of the new renewable energy standard, for example

### **Celebration of success:**

- Visible celebrations of Green successes

### **Changing minds:**

- Change the mind of our city administration and council.

## **Community focus:**

- Local city efforts – mobilize business and residents (i.e., Energy Challenge, CFL’s) – support community efforts
- Communities embracing community – sustainability
- Mobilizing MN- one community at a time. The next step for action driven engagement to sustainable change and teams formations. Practical tools to help teams plan for the change.
- I’m working on a neighborhood scale- I’d love grants, training and education for people in our “hood.”
- Community strategies or educational items

## **Connections:**

- Demonstrate the connections between issue i.e. climate change and links to health

## **Conservation:**

- Focus on conservation

## **Cooperation and partnerships:**

- Government- work together more- i.e., carbon cap and Trade
- Communication and coordination needed- connecting people
- Point to other models, share ideas
- Communal snow blowers, lawnmowers, tool sharing
- Promote diverse discussions, multi-sector
- Less duplication of services, expand partnerships (example: shared police dispatching between cities)
- High performance partnership- 11 cities build a collective emergency response center will do.
- Inadequate \$ and human resources on local level
- can turn to non-profits
- partner with early adopting local businesses mobilize financial and technical resources
- Create forums for public-private exchange to address sustainability
- Use or educational institutions as potential partners
- Where can cities share action items? How can we easily track what other Minnesota cities are doing?
- Share ideas with one another – this worked for us ---- maybe it will work for you. How? (Forums, workshops, conference, web sites, etc.)
- We’re not teaming with Healthcare
- important enviro/health connection
- Coordination: various methods- website where folks could post links or list addresses by community- would be great!
- Like to have a network for the cities that have signed the U.S M. Climate protection Agreement.
- How to work cooperatively across the river with the eastern MN communities that reside in WI- St. Croix.

- More coordination between agencies, government, advocacy groups and organizations so that the communities can get information easier.

### **Data and information:**

- Need baseline load numbers for base load power
- Full-cost accounting/lifecycle costs by cities
- Measure how much energy is consumed to establish baseline
- Energy audits
- Need to inventory energy use on local level
- MPCA – publish the true costs of non sustainable economic decisions on strategy and give locally sustainable alternatives
- neighborhood inventories
- Track how much money is spent outside your village that if turned around could create dynamic/sustainable local economy
- MN get honest and get real about our ecological footprint
- Where does MN's 97% energy consumption/dependence come from?
- Make the Power Point presentations from this morning's sessions available on line
- A neighborhood inventory for housing, schools, libraries, businesses in light of energy issues
- PCA (and/or Commerce) should report very publicly on energy use and GHG emissions and energy \$ spent annually and in great detail.
- MPCA Report – easy to read, simple, clear
- GHG emissions report
- How are we doing on the Governor's plan/new legislation
- Need state/fed gov't assistance to help with true cradle-to-cradle/life cycle analysis of purchasing and disposal and consumption/production, etc. – local gov't do not often have the resources to do this
- Data=education=leverage to make a change
- Regular reporting on city and state results.
- How do we track CO2?
- Co2 tracking system.

### **Developing alternatives:**

- Where will people go if they move the city?
- Important! Natural gas curve
- Scary. Costs will go up, what is our alternative?

### **Ecological footprint:**

- MN get honest and get real about our ecological footprint

### **Ecological literacy:**

- Demonstration of “ecological literacy” as goal for operations – all kinds of institutions, schools, colleges, cities, neighborhoods, gov't agencies

## **Ecological restoration:**

- Restore natural systems in cities

## **Economic development**

- provide action items for people (economic development strategies)
- Create livable wage rural jobs, reduce costs for family

## **Education:**

- Basic sustainability education for all
- Bicyclist safety efforts
- More outreach to people who aren't here today (and education)
- Educate residents/communities there are small ways to contribute
- Educate residents on reasons for actions
- PowerPoint available?
- Biography? Book suggestions?
- Need access to resources
- Educating people-
- Environmentalists should learn economic theory, especially of capitalism, which runs this energy consumption society
- Need easy access to information - where to go – comprehensive source
- how can we educate department wide – staff wear multiple hats – technical support needed from state
- support placed based education
- Engage youth in determining their schools' eco-footprint
- Make the Power Point presentations from this morning's sessions available on line
- What are job options and higher education challenges for the future?
- Do a place-based curriculum on MN ecosystems – start teaching in grade school
- Demonstration of “ecological literacy” as goal for operations – all kinds of institutions, schools, colleges, cities, neighborhoods, gov't agencies
- Use or educational institutions as potential partners
- HealthySchools. State.mn.us
- Metro network of high school environmental clubs
- Continued opportunities for education and networking. Current Natural Step Study Circles in St. Croix Valley towns could benefit from a “speakers” pool for brief presentations at circle meetings.
- Education of the general public, so they can internalize the impacts of peak oil/water etc. Personally, I would like to know if there are any resources for citizens to pressure their local municipalities to deal with these issues.
- Training on sustainability (Natural Step Framework). These conferences on a regular basis to bring people together grants to do sustainability education.
- How to reach/ educate citizens?
- Resource list- more training out in the “boonies” life beyond the cities. We need to get city staff and councils to these!
- Education/networking (like this event).

- Training in practical steps.
- Education and training across the board.
- Education: maybe workshops/sessions addressing many of the topics addressed here.
- Educational materials, especially targeting certain groups: youth, seniors, low income, people of color, non-English language, generally, non-technical types.
- Public/community education- coverage of energy issues is near zero in Rochester.
- Education to each St. Paul District council.
- Education and psychology is key.
- Training- LEED, software, networking.

### **Elderly:**

- Model the transformation – Youth and Elderly valued in the Resource Budget

### **Emergency response and disaster planning:**

- The need for Community Emergency Response Teams Training (by neighborhoods?)
- Support disaster planning
- The Emergency Response Piece of Sustainability was missing.

### **Employment:**

- Economic Development Office- job switchboard. Switch jobs- for one closer to home
- Encourage tele-commuting for 1 day/week and support
- Minnesota 4/10 workweek
- Creating jobs that are solving the problems, not making more
- What are job options and higher education challenges for the future?

### **Energy:**

- Resource and energy efficiency and conservation
- Where does MN's 97% energy consumption/dependence come from?
  - Give us 5 everyday actions to reduce dependence
- UNPLUG!
- Important! Natural gas curve
- Scary. Costs will go up, what is our alternative?
- Energy efficiency in buildings is solution to Global Warming
- Saving energy, low-cost options. Buying items for neighborhood distribution, thus making the changes real: How about all City, County and State support for all homes to have conservation (light bulbs) that come to renters and homeowners as a gift from the city, county and state.

### **Energy assistance:**

- assistance for homeowners and landlords to deal with rising natural gas prices, including energy audits, winterization/insulation/better windows, and active solar heat and hot water

### **Examples are needed:**

- Point to other models, share ideas
- Example Communities
- Where can cities share action items? How can we easily track what other Minnesota cities are doing?
- Sustainable community efforts
  - Mahtomedi (MAGI)
  - Edina
  - Bloomington
  - Dakota Co.
- [www.afors.org](http://www.afors.org)

### **Financial institutions and local investment:**

- Create a Renewable Energy Bank – for all citizens of the State to invest in the transformation and wealth creation
- Create local Community Development Corporations with focus on transformation of energy use of businesses, homes, local institutions
- Cities aren't doing enough to fund conservation investments in their communities – make long term investments

### **Frameworks for change:**

- Natural Step Ecomunicipalities: another education and organization framework, started in Sweden, could be “easy” to transfer to Minnesota

### **Framing:**

- How can we frame the tough steps that are needed so that politicians can do what's right/needed?

### **Funding:**

- Money
- Grants
- Financial assistance for municipalities and other local government.
- we don't want to plan for things that will raise taxes up front, costs and long term benefits info.
  - Loans/cost support
  - Need Energy credits/financial incentives
  - Need Micro-loans to help cover cost of energy improvements
- Micro- grants
- Money- state fund to support certified project- loan
- Reinvest: create a revolving loan fund to assist low income homeowners and landlords to replace furnaces and water heaters, 0% interest and deferred loans

- Support Transit funding at Legislature!
- Inadequate \$ and human resources on local level
- Concentration of money to be used by homeowners, farms and small businesses.
- Grants for specific local projects.
- Grants to start new projects.
- awareness of grants available.
- I work through the faith communities and funding is always a challenge.
- Grants for community projects.
- Grants to assist with solar panels.
- Small, low bureaucratic grants.
- Grants; to help train staff, fund projects in (neighborhoods, events, awareness, education).
- The challenge for agencies with local grants programs is to get serious at evaluating our eligible actives and provide “one stop shopping” for cities.
- state now needs to continue to provide “implementation” assistance- funding and other resources.

### **Government as a leader:**

- Gov’t support – legislation, funding – lead through example
- State leadership- keep going!!

### **Grassroots:**

- Needs to start at grassroots level (e.g. smoking ban- state level)
- Need Questions can ask during local government budgeting and planning
- Policy- farm bill- comment to senators, Land Stewardship Project
- Public money to local block/grassroots- block by block
- Apply principles to mobilize grass roots efforts

### **Green buildings:**

- Green roofs
- LEED certified buildings (USGBC.org)
- Develop and apply expedited permitting for green buildings as an incentive
- Help create lower cost green offices (offer subsidies or other incentives)
- Green buildings, start w/gov’t and also move to citizen/local green building initiative
- Energy efficiency in buildings is solution to Global Warming
- Eco-affordable housing – mandate green buildings!

### **Health:**

- Demonstrate the connections between issue i.e. climate change and links to health
- We’re not teaming with Healthcare
- important enviro/health connection
- HealthySchools. State.mn.us

**Honesty:**

- Honesty from officials that there will be some big changes, don't wait until 2040 to say this.
- MN get honest and get real about our ecological footprint

**Incentives:**

- Help create lower cost green offices (offer subsidies or other incentives)
- State levy – more tax advantages (esp. ongoing tax advantages, not just one-time) for installing and buying energy-efficient and alternative energy systems and appliances, etc.
- Incentives: local preference in contracts of all kinds for purchasing – esp. in the case of the new renewable energy standard, for example
- tax incentives
- Saving energy, low-cost options. Buying items for neighborhood distribution, thus making the changes real: How about all City, County and State support for all homes to have conservation (light bulbs) that come to renters and homeowners as a gift from the city, county and state.

**Infrastructure development and assistance:**

- Access to grid through Xcel
- infrastructure assistance
- physical redevelopment and rebuilding is the biggest problem, financing it.

**Inspiration:**

- Be the change you wish to see

**Leadership:**

- Committed elected officials
- Need Leadership at every level of governments
- Visionary leaders needed- run for elected office

**Listening:**

- Do a session on how to talk to each other- listen, speak but not preach.

**Local food:**

- Land Stewardship Project's "Farm Beginnings" program to increase local food sources
- State will make a portion of all parks and urban green spaces (1/2 %, 1%, 10% ?) available for gardens, especially for low income people
- All public agencies should require goods and food to be locally produced in order to increase local manufacturing and food production – same model as preference for minority contractors
- Everybody can have a garden – Mandate it
- community gardens, every city needs a farmers market

## **Local manufacturing:**

- All public agencies should require goods and food to be locally produced in order to increase local manufacturing and food production – same model as preference for minority contractors
- Need to link youth w/local small manufacturing needs to keep youth employed and manufacturers successful
- Need more people in primary production and finished goods – but in the short run, at least, we are losing those jobs (fast) to China, etc. – so, how do we promote primary production and manufacturing finished good here, locally?

## **Models:**

- Model the transformation – Youth and Elderly valued in the Resource Budget

## **Networking:**

- Communication and coordination needed- connecting people
- Sustainable community internet
- Where can cities share action items? How can we easily track what other Minnesota cities are doing?
- Share ideas with one another – this worked for us ---- maybe it will work for you. How? Forums, workshops, conference, web sites, etc.)
- Continued opportunities for education and networking. Current Natural Step Study Circles in St. Croix Valley towns could benefit from a “speakers” pool for brief presentations at circle meetings.
- Public forums; space for sharing actions, ideas and “putting it all together”
- Networking as consistent to organizations/ bureaucracies.
- networking among government agencies.
- Education/networking (like this event).
- Like to have a network for the cities that have signed the U.S M. Climate protection Agreement.

## **Outreach:**

- This conference for all city councils
- More outreach to people who aren't here today (and education)
- Create simple messages, use them consistently (example: storm water info, included in utility bill)
- Media, kids, families, employees, employers, government
- Need to package issue for small towns- tools
- Get message out to the community- make it relevant to them and give them action steps (example: green energy on Xcel bill)
- PowerPoint available
- Examples – P.R. Campaign
- CPR for Minnesota – Conservation, Restoration, Preservation
- Campaign, local Minnesota
- Information:

- Urgent, important, personal, real, motivate to participate
- Need easy access to information - where to go – comprehensive source
- Communicate what tangible things people can do
- Communicate vision for the future
- We need to define BAU (= business as usual) – show it for what it is and show the alternatives
- Bring in resources and create a series of forums to develop the ideas of relocalization of our economies and investments at regional, community, gov't levels (e.g., Jane Jacobs, Daniel Kemmis), What are other cities doing?
- Really need to get message out to the general public – move away from preaching to the choir
- Have an “Inconvenient Truth” movie party and handout list of things to do. Encourage Church to do same.
- [www.earthfusion.org](http://www.earthfusion.org) – August 11, Loring Park
- [www.afors.org](http://www.afors.org)
- [www.globalwarming101.com](http://www.globalwarming101.com)
- Ideas that work for residential energy conservation
- MN Energy Challenge.org
- Big congregations doing the effort
- Basilica of St. Mary, 1,000 families, [www.mary.org](http://www.mary.org)
- Write letter to local papers to talk about what you heard today
- Continued opportunities for education and networking. Current Natural Step Study Circles in St. Croix Valley towns could benefit from a “speakers” pool for brief presentations at circle meetings.
- Public forums; space for sharing actions, ideas and “putting it all together”
- More info disseminated to the public.
- More presentations available as DVD's or PowerPoint downloads to use with member groups or community “home movie” nights.
- How to reach/ educate citizens?
- Resource list- more training out in the “boonies” life beyond the cities. We need to get city staff and councils to these!
- Do it again on another university campus.
- Socially based- real community outreach materials.
- Five minutes talks to give probably makes to help them realize how big an issue this is.
- Public/community education- coverage of energy issues is near zero in Rochester.
- A speaker network of speakers who will come out to greater Minnesota free or at low cost.
- Need this event for all our city councils.
- Can our state have a “Gord Miller” [conference] so city council and county committees can be more aggressive?
- Offers of speakers to come to cities to speak on issues.
- Continue to do more workshops and training for both cities and citizens so we push this issue.
- how can we go beyond preaching to the choir?
- Really need help working with city departments, councils. Citizens are ready. Councils and staff are not.

### **Personal responsibility:**

- Need to tap into a sense of personal responsibility

## **Planning**

- sustainability plans for communities
- Met Council mandate changes in comprehensive plan.
- Regional growth boundary
  - Incentives for developments around transition.
- Long-range planning with payback time frames
- Questions can ask during local government budgeting and planning
- Prevent sprawl- promote consistent development
  - organize strategic planning
- towns templates

## **Policy:**

- Policy development: planning and development (sample ordinances)
- MN climate change action plan- needs input from community
- Policy- farm bill- comment to senators, Land Stewardship Project
- Develop and adopt energy policies – model ordinances?
- Use land use policies – e.g., density – regulations and incentives
- All public agencies should require goods and food to be locally produced in order to increase local manufacturing and food production – same model as preference for minority contractors
- Deal with Transportation and Land Use policy (increased density, housing, jobs balance....) “or might as well stop right now”
- Governor’s Climate Group – [www.mnclimate.us](http://www.mnclimate.us) – aiming to pass stricter global warming mandates
- State – local transit, Met Council to help with sprawl
- Energy prices: institute carbon tax (redistribute in economy)
- Planting trees is good but the first step should be to protect healthy, natural plant communities – better planning, more density, etc.
- MPCA should advocate for higher miles/gallon vehicle for MN\_ like California has legislated.

## **Public involvement:**

- Need Public involvement and choices by community (empowers and builds support)
- Needs to start at grassroots level (e.g. smoking ban- state level)
- MN climate change action plan- needs input from community

## **Regulatory/ordinances/legislative changes:**

- “Change code to be 30% better than code”
- Legislature: need to help regional groups do better- change rules/limits that bound them.
- State level- approvals to include all sustainability efforts- city/community/regional- enable the efforts.
- Tax shift- takes off individual on to resource use.
- Gas tax- local governments can use for local mass transit.
- Too much time spent on getting permits, etc.

- Need more regulation from the state.
- Policy development: planning and development (sample ordinances)
- Develop and adopt energy policies – model ordinances?
- Support Transit funding at Legislature!
- Develop and apply expedited permitting for green buildings as an incentive
- Need to recognize the need for regulation to achieve goals
- State levy – more tax advantages (esp. ongoing tax advantages, not just one-time) for installing and buying energy-efficient and alternative energy systems and appliances, etc.
- EPA/Supreme Court Ruling on CO2/greenhouse gases. Opportunities for input as EPA undertakes rulemaking and has public comment input
- Governor’s Climate Group – [www.mnclimate.us](http://www.mnclimate.us) – aiming to pass stricter global warming mandates
- Increased federal CAFÉ
- Met Council appointed by Gov. – approve comprehensive plans, efforts
- Needs to be elected, and others to attend Met Council meetings
- Energy prices: institute carbon tax (redistribute in economy)
- Legislations forcing clean building/infrastructure carbon tax to fund local efforts.
- MPCA should advocate for higher miles/gallon vehicle for MN\_ like California has legislated.
- Legislation to advocate for change.
- Legislative, state rules, mandates for comp plans- we need to move fast.

### **Re-localization:**

- rural community need to use local resources to maximize.
- Challenge people to spend locally as economic development
- Re-localization of energy generation.
- Moving forward to a local, craft- oriented society.
- Strategies for Relocalization
- neighborhood inventories
- towns templates
- support placed based education
- Bring in resources and create a series of forums to develop the ideas of relocalization of our economies and investments at regional, community, gov’t levels (e.g., Jane Jacobs, Daniel Kemmis), What are other cities doing?

### **Renewable energy generation:**

- Cities with landfills or anaerobic wastewater processes should clean and burn methane in microturbines

### **Research:**

- Tap into celebrated state R&D= Minnesota partnership. Have town/city councils work with Mayo and University for referral applied research on obesity- connect it with obesity and sustainable strategies for alternate modes of transportation.

### **Rethinking:**

- City of Minneapolis staff- re-thinking location, car pooling, vacant government buildings.
- Less duplication of services, expand partnerships (example: shared police dispatching between cities)

### **Self-sufficiency:**

- Promote “victory” gardens- de-romanticize grass

### **Sharing:**

- Point to other models, share ideas
- Share ideas with one another – this worked for us ---- maybe it will work for you. How? Forums, workshops, conference, web sites, etc.)

### **Staffing:**

- Inadequate \$ and human resources on local level

### **Start with your own home/facility:**

- Take care of your own house (facility) first (energy audits, geothermal heating, CFLs, etc.)

### **Strategic thinking:**

- All would be useful- but strategically implemented.

### **Systems development:**

- Need for new systems to overcome barriers

### **Technical assistance:**

- how can we educate department wide – staff wear multiple hats – technical support needed from state
- Someone I can call to talk with, ask questions, and perhaps save me some time.
- Training/technical assistance. One-on-one discussion/advice on first steps specific to our community.

### **Technology:**

- Bioengineered bacteria? For better ethanol production (Met Council research into biodiesel algae)
- Auto technologies

### **Tools and Resources:**

- Tools to help predict development on sites- res., manif., mixed use- for whole life cycle.

- More tools (like green communities) for various group groups in the general population)
- Translate expertise to useable lists.
- Have list of best practices
- Full-cost accounting/lifecycle costs by cities
- Need to package issue for small towns- tools
- Sustainable community internet
- Need easy access to information - where to go – comprehensive source
- Web info- a statewide/national website with link.
- Coordination: various methods- website where folks could post links or list addresses by community- would be great!
- Resource lists of people and companies and agencies who can help us.

### **Transportation/transit:**

- Improve access to public transit (increase frequency)
- Improve signage/mapping of public transit
- Change perception of transit- it isn't only for lower SES
- Support funding for transit
- Bicyclist safety efforts
- Mass transit- improved transit and bike lanes.
- Free Light Rail Day – Pollution Agency Party
- Make transit faster
- Supporting increased mass transit – HOURCAR model
- Increased federal CAFÉ
- State – local transit, Met Council to help with sprawl
- alternatives to single occupant vehicles – bicycling, carpooling, transit
- More transit options!

### **Tree planting:**

- Mow less; plant trees
- Tree planting programs statewide for sequestration
- energy savings benefits
- Planting trees is good but the first step should be to protect healthy, natural plant communities – better planning, more density, etc.
- Could take open, dead space in buildings, mitigate, measure it to replace trees – to absorb CO2

### **Urgency:**

- State needs to move quickly to jump this curve- we've done some, but there's so much more to do.
- Honesty from officials that there will be some big changes, don't wait until 2040 to say this.

### **Values:**

- America consciousness return to “common good” not individual gain

**Vision:**

- Communicate vision for the future
- Community Vision – What can I do? What can my profession do?
- List of professions

**Youth:**

- Model the transformation – Youth and Elderly valued in the Resource Budget
- Engage youth in determining their schools' eco-footprint
- Need to link youth w/local small manufacturing needs to keep youth employed and manufacturers successful
- Metro network of high school environmental clubs

**Waste issues:**

- Product take back/ extended stewardship. Help us move cradle to cradle.
- Container deposit policy
- Need state/fed gov't assistance to help with true cradle-to-cradle/life cycle analysis of purchasing and disposal and consumption/production, etc. – local gov't do not often have the resources to do this, Data=education=leverage to make a change

**Water:**

- Stormwater isn't really dealing with the problem of more severe storms coming in. Networking maybe would help.

**Wealth creation:**

- Can MN's competitiveness in renewable energy be based on long term independence vs. private wealth creation?

July 26, 2007 version

Contact:

Paul Moss  
Sustainable Communities Team  
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency  
(651) 215-0243  
paul.moss@state.mn.us