

Minnesota Project

Clean Energy Policy Position

Job Announcement

The Minnesota Project

The Minnesota Project is a nonprofit organization, founded in 1979, that connects people with policy to nurture collaborations that build strong local economies, vibrant communities, and a healthy environment. With offices in St. Paul, New Ulm, and Southeastern Minnesota, the twelve person staff works on clean energy, conservation agriculture, water protection and advancing strong rural communities through research, public policy, and coalition organizing.

Background

This primary responsibility of this position will be to staff the Midwest Agriculture Energy Network. The Network is a collaboration of farm leaders and organizations from Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Iowa, Illinois and Wisconsin. The Network is built around the vision of Midwest energy independence in the context of a national goal of 25% renewables by 2025. Local ownership of these new and emerging industries that retain wealth in rural communities is the other key element of the vision. The key goals of the Network are:

- Act as a vehicle for farm groups and key partners to share information and perspectives and jointly develop and evaluate policy options to advance renewable energy from agricultural lands.
- Provide leadership within Midwestern agricultural organizations and constituencies regarding policy goals and tools needed to achieve those goals.
- Be a policy incubator, where policy options are surfaced, researched, debated and shared widely with participating groups.

Other responsibilities will include being the Minnesota Project's liaison to other related state, regional, and national energy partnerships. This full time policy, organizing, and technical position will be a member of the Energy Program Team and will work in closely with the Agriculture Team. Some travel is required.

Specifics of the Job

- Staff the Midwest Ag Energy Network, in specific:
 - Enhance and expand participation in the Network
 - Work with Network members to research state and federal policy options and develop discussion white papers or model policies
 - Coordinate communication, learning and sharing within the Network
 - Assist with coordination of the Network annual Summit
 - Assist with communications to the public and media
- Work with Midwest Ag Energy Network, Minnesota coalition partners, and other Minnesota Project staff to develop and advance state and federal policy options or legislative proposals to encourage cellulosic biofuels and other sustainable energy production from biomass materials
- Educate coalition partners, other allies, and policy makers about biomass energy opportunities and policies that will make it a reality
- Act as Minnesota Project's liaison to other agriculture and clean energy coalitions
- Speak to groups about energy and agriculture and biomass energy production
- Provide occasional technical assistance on biomass and biofuels community groups interested in developing community energy projects

- Assist with media and communication work
- Assist in Minnesota Project energy and ag program development and fundraising
- Other energy program responsibilities as needed

Skills and Qualifications

Must have experience working on energy, agriculture, and or rural development policy. The ideal candidate will have experience working with agriculture leaders and organizations. Good understanding of technical aspects of renewable energy is a plus. Must be able to bridge the interests and concerns of production agriculture, sustainable agriculture, and rural economic development. Masters degree preferred. The job requires excellent verbal and written communication. Must be able to work both independently and as a part of a team.

Location and Hours

This is a full time position. Could be housed either in the St. Paul office or in Greater Minnesota.

Compensation

Compensation depending on experience, plus full employee benefits.

To Apply

Send, email or mail resume and writing sample to Lola Schoenrich, Energy Program Director, at The Minnesota Project.

Questions

Contact Lola Schoenrich or Diane Jensen, Executive Director

Application deadline: March 8, 2007

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