



## AGRICULTURE & WATER

The Minnesota Project works to ensure that fair farm systems reward family farmers for growing diverse crops while protecting soil and water resources. We do this by bringing together agricultural and environmental interests at the state and national level to create policies that benefit family farms and rural communities.

The Minnesota Project is a national leader on the Conservation Security Program, which rewards farmers for implementing conservation practices on working lands. Our goals are to maximize farmer enrollment in CSP, demonstrate its potential to farmers as a support policy, and prove its effectiveness in improving the environment.

**Continual improvements in the Conservation Security Program will provide a blueprint for future farm policy.**

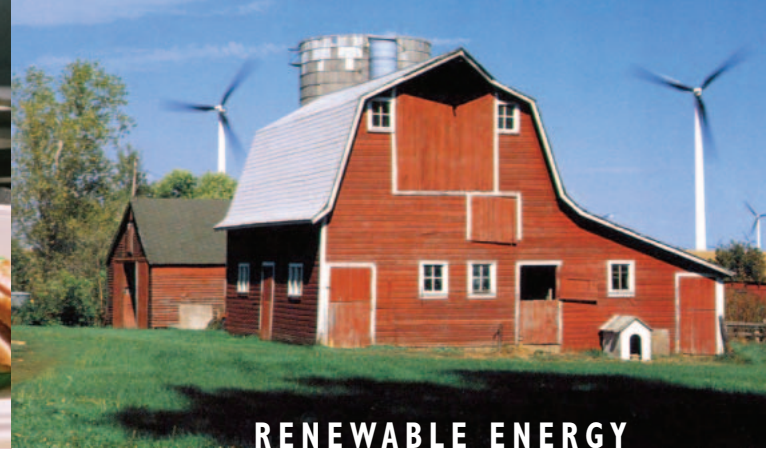


## LOCAL FOOD

**Strong markets for local foods protect rural landscapes and stimulate vital economies that keep dollars circulating locally.**

Great taste, freshness and quality are what we look for in local Minnesota-grown foods – and local foods promote landscape protection and vital rural economies. The Minnesota Project is convening a broad dialogue process to unite efforts to increase the availability of sustainably produced local foods.

The dialogues – the Heartland Food Initiative – are a forum to test innovative ways to create a regional food identity and reward food service and retail purchasers for buying local food. A strong regional food identity will expand consumer awareness of the value and quality of Minnesota foods, generate pride in Minnesota cuisine, and increase sales of local food.



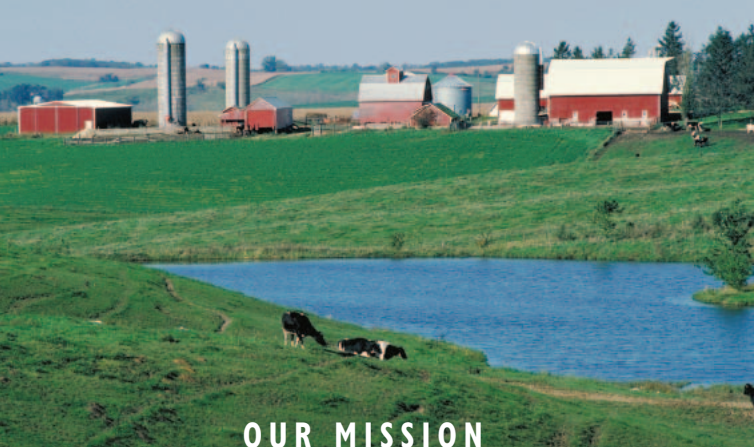
## RENEWABLE ENERGY

**Farmers, rural entrepreneurs and communities profit from local energy development and conservation that protects air and water, and creates jobs.**

We work to greatly expand development of Minnesota's renewable energy resources – wind, biomass, and solar. We also promote policy and practices that result in efficient use of energy. We bring together rural development, agricultural and environmental interests to advance the knowledge, capacity and policies needed for a thriving clean energy industry in the Midwest.

Whether through our Energizing Agriculture program on manure to energy, our Clean Energy Resource Teams (CERTs) community-based energy effort, or our 25-member SEED coalition that advances energy policy, we ensure that rural communities count.





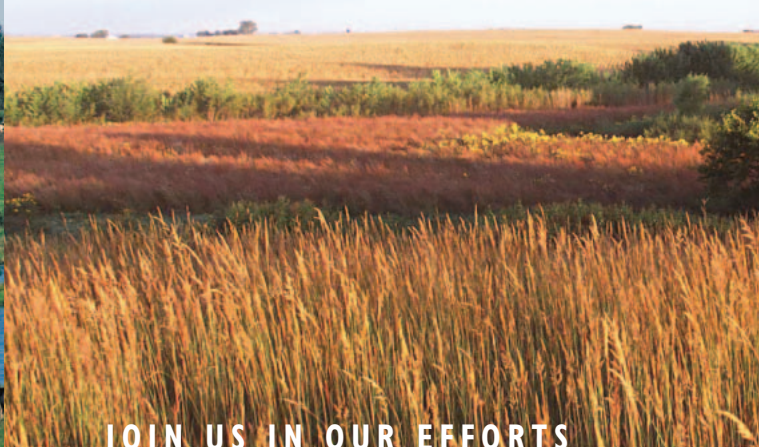
## OUR MISSION

The Minnesota Project achieves success through collaborative dialogue, research, projects and policy.

The Minnesota Project is a nonprofit organization that connects people with policy to nurture collaborations that build strong local economies, vibrant communities and a healthy environment.

Our programs are focused on clean renewable energy and efficient use of energy; farm practice and policy that promote profitable farms that protect the environment; and the production and consumption of local and sustainably-produced foods.

The Minnesota Project works in ways that emphasize collaboration, community building, and capacity building. For over twenty-five years we have fostered local empowerment, bridged diverse interests, encouraged shared values, and initiated working dialogues that create positive action.



## JOIN US IN OUR EFFORTS

The Minnesota Project encourages citizens to get connected, informed and involved in rural communities and issues affecting them. Visit our website to learn more. Support us with a tax-deductible gift directed to our St. Paul office. Sign up for our newsletter, *Community Connections*, or *The Conservation Planner* on CSP. Join our email action alert system when important issues require a stronger citizen voice.

Visit our web site or contact the office nearest you for more information.

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