

Title - PowerUp

Team Name - Minnesota PowerUp

Short Description

Our team of community partners believes in the power of innovators and innovation to address climate change and inequities in our energy systems. The challenges we face cannot be solved by technology alone. They require the existing processes to shift to allow more ideas, more people, and more perspectives to be at the table. This is essential to creating a more equitable, community-driven, and sustainable future.

Through the PowerUp program, we will work with community partners to build partnerships and programming to create pathways for innovators and changemakers through 5 program mechanisms:

- 1) Workshops and convenings to build community connections, engage in dialogue about climate and energy impacts and opportunities, facilitate ideation sessions, and identify potential innovators to participate in programming.
- 2) Coaching and mentorship – Our team includes some of the region’s most expert partners in supporting community-led programming, entrepreneurship, and innovation. They will provide mentoring and resources to support innovators and ideas launched from the workshops.
- 3) Pitch program – We will develop a pitch program to create visibility and support idea refinement, with all participants receiving coaching, eight participants receiving seed funding, and one final winner receiving an investment to bring their idea to fruition.
- 4) Fellowships - To ensure our program is creating lasting impact, we will create two fellowships for budding innovators within our energy accelerator platform. We will offer a paid experience to learn more about energy systems, career opportunities, supporting other entrepreneurial and community programming, and building their pathway as an energy innovator.
- 5) Pathways partnerships – Our team will leverage this program development to bring together the partners supporting STEM career pathways to create a more impactful network and collaborative program offerings, particularly for women, and individuals identifying as Asian, Pacific Islander, Black, Hispanic, or Native American.

Link to Our Video - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cLiZ6Rt_pLg

Key Project Members – names include hyperlinks to LinkedIn profiles

Program Lead - [Nina Axelson](#), Founder, Grid Catalyst – nina@gridcatalyst.org

Lead Organization – Clean Energy Economy Minnesota, Executive Director – [Gregg Mast](#)

Community Facilitation Lead – [Zam Zam Musse](#)

Other Collaborating Partners

Center for Economic Inclusion, Clean Energy Resource Teams, Climate Generation, Forge North/Greater MSP, Junior Achievement, LaunchMN, Ramsey County, Science Museum of Minnesota, Smart North

Location - Minneapolis, Minnesota