

Rural Clean Energy Training Pathways

CERTs & WETCC

Clean Energy Resource Teams/Regents of the University of Minnesota

411 Borlaug Hall, 1991 Upper Buford Circle

St. Paul, MN 55108-0010

www.cleanenergyresourceteams.org | 218-866-2338 | mbirch@umn.edu

Team Members

- **Melissa Birch:** CERTs Interim Statewide Co-Director & Rural Energy Development Manager, University of MN Extension–Regional Sustainable Development Partnerships, mbirch@umn.edu, 218-866-2338
- **Bridget Guiza:** Customized Education Coordinator, White Earth Tribal and Community College, bridget.guiza@wetcc.edu, 218-935-0417
- **Jacob McArthur:** Economic Development Director, White Earth Reservation Business Committee, Jacob.Mcarthur@whiteearth-nsn.gov, 218-983-3285
- **Joel Haskard:** CERTs Statewide Co-Director, University of MN Extension–Regional Sustainable Development Partnerships, haska004@umn.edu, 612-625-8759
- **Jason Walker:** CERTs Southwest Regional Coordinator & Development Planner, Southwest Regional Development Commission, jasonW@swrdc.org, 507-836-1642

Project Location

Mahnomen, MN 56557-9302

Short Description

The Clean Energy Resource Teams' (CERTs) mission is to connect individuals and communities in Minnesota to the resources they need to identify and implement community-based clean energy projects. Through this prize, we will build on our past experience, partnerships, and projects with tribal nations in rural Minnesota. Staff at tribal nations and Indigenous-led organizations around the state have expressed a strong interest in connecting workforce development with local clean energy projects. This project proposes to do just that, starting with the innovative solar certification program at White Earth Tribal and Community College (WETCC). Key objectives for phase two of the project include the following:

- Pilot project with WETCC establishing pathways from training to project implementation.
- Conduct asset/needs mapping with both tribal and non-tribal entities in northern Minnesota to identify opportunities for synergies and collaboration.
- Identify the most appropriate organizational form for ongoing collaboration efforts.

Based on lessons learned from phase two activities, the project team will take steps to expand and replicate the training-to-project pathways model with other tribal colleges and communities.

Video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-cLTNRH9r9k>