Getting (Costs) Down in the U.P.

Michigan's Upper Peninsula is subject to some of the highest electricity rates in the nation and we are heavily reliant on propane for daily heating and cooking needs. Transforming our energy supply and demand equation to focus on efficiency and renewables will make our personal lives more sustainable and keep this environment we love so much available for future generations.

Team: Kitchi-Gami Sisu

Our name draws from two of the most influential cultures that shape us today. Kitchi-Gami is the Ojibwe name for Lake Superior, the singular most influential natural feature on our lives here in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. Sisu is a Finnish term we use to describe what it takes to make it up here: kind of a combination of grit, perseverance and stoicism.

Our Super Powers Our teammates bring everything we need to mount up a strong and viable community coalition. We are grassroots organizers, community energy consultants, energy finance experts, and policy wonks.

THE Lively Farm — WE ROOT FOR YOU!

MICHIGAN ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL

UPPER PENINSULA ENVIRONMENTAL COALITION

Michigan Saves® — The Nation's First Nonprofit Green Bank

MICHIGAN ENERGY OPTIONS

WHERE WE'LL WORK

The City of Munising, Michigan and Alger County hug the south shore of Lake Superior on the state's northern border, home to the famed Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore. Alger is a Justice 40 target community, ranking in the 92nd percentile for energy costs and the 74th percentile for poverty.

	Munising	Alger County
Population	1,986	8,842
Mean Household Income	$42,281	$48,822
Employment Rate	45.1%	36.7%

WHAT WE'LL DO

Together our team will build a model community coalition to identify, build support for, and ultimately implement community-centered green power economic initiatives and projects. We will focus on ramping up the the home retrofit architecture, working with the local utility to deploy renewable energy generation, and strengthening relationships among community sectors (e.g. tribal leaders, agricultural and natural resource workers, and tourism and hospitality workers) to ensure there is a shared long-term vision and plan for energy independence and sustainability.