

# **Summer & Fall Events**

From Cooperative Energy Futures and the U.S. Department of Energy Community Solar Partnership per MNCERTs:

**Tuesday, July 30, 2024, 2-5pm CT**

## **Solar and Economic Development: A National Conversation**



“This three-hour event will focus on a landscape analysis and recommendations from a community of practice on how distributed solar can best achieve community-led economic development. The event includes focused breakout rooms to dive deep into barriers and solutions, with the last hour reserved for questions and discussion.

Feel free to invite partners who can offer expertise to the conversation. A recording will be shared afterward for those unable to attend or who prefer to watch and learn without actively contributing.”

To register, visit: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/solar-and-economic-development-a-national-conversation-hosted-by-us-doe-x-cef-tickets-925408560917>

From MNCERTs:

**Tuesday, July 30, 2024, 7-8pm CT**

## **Understanding Solar Permitting: A Public Info Session**

“This informative session is designed to equip homeowners with the knowledge to navigate the permitting process efficiently. We will provide a clear overview of the bureaucratic steps involved in securing solar approval from your local city or county.

Furthermore, this session will introduce SolarAPP+, a free public tool that streamlines solar permitting. Learn how SolarAPP+ benefits the public by simplifying the application process, expediting approvals, and fostering a smoother transition to solar energy.”

To register, visit: <https://www.mobilize.us/solarunitedneighbors/event/644274/>

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**Wednesday, July 31, 2024, 9:30am – 3:30pm**  
**Cannon River Watershed Soil Health Bus Tour (Regen. Ag.)**

Join farmers, industry representatives, and elected officials on a free bus tour of three farms in the Cannon River Watershed, hosted by Clean River Partners.

Experienced farmers will teach you about profitable conservation practices in our region, including strip-till, no-till, cover crops, and winter camelina. You will also gain valuable information about the Carbon Intensity Score, carbon credit programs, and market opportunities. The tour includes morning snacks and lunch.

Tour the Twin Oaks Farm in Northfield, Honken Farms in Faribault and TJ Kartes Farm in Blooming Prairie.

To learn more and register, visit: <https://www.cleanriverpartners.org/events/soil-health-bus-tour> . Space is limited.

**Wednesday, July 31, 2024, 6:30pm-7:30pm**  
**MN 350 Clean Transportation Team Meeting**

Join us to support Minnesotans in equitably transitioning our state to a Clean Transportation future. Together, we will save money on fuel, end toxic air pollution, and combat climate change for everyone. All are welcome! Both in-person and virtual attending options are available! Location: MN350 Office, 4407 E Lake Street, Mpls. Sign up at: <https://mn350.org/events/>

**Thursday, August 1, 6:30-8:00pm: West Suburbs Vegan Potluck**

Location: The Base Camp coffee shop area of Unmapped Brewing Co., 14625 Excelsior Blvd, Minnetonka, MN 55345, USA (<https://unmappedbrewing.com/>)

Join us for another Vegan Potluck in the West Suburbs! On Thursday we'll eat delicious plant-based food, share recipes and get new cooking ideas. For further details, visit: <https://www.exploreveg.org/events/west-suburbs-vegan-potluck-5/>

**Tuesday, August 6, 2024, Noon-1pm CT: Changing the Conversation: Intro to Effective Climate Change Communication**



Trying to communicate climate change, but people just don't seem to respond to your facts and science? As important as knowing the climate science, social science provides evidence-based practices that allow us to communicate climate science more effectively. Please join us to be introduced to the work of the National Network for Ocean and Climate Change Interpretation

(NNOCCI), a collective of over 800 climate communicators. In this free webinar, learn how specific values and metaphors make your audience more receptive to climate change messaging and join a community of communicators changing the national discourse to be more positive, civic-minded, and solutions-focused.

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## **Intro to Effective Climate Change Communication ... CONTINUED:**

With nearly 15 years of success, NNOCCI is widely recognized as the United States' leading climate change interpretation training program, and recently expanded its work into Canada. NNOCCI has partnered on dozens of peer-reviewed publications that describe its unique combination of elements for training and highlighting the network's outcomes. NNOCCI is supported through a fiscal sponsorship with The Marine Mammal Center

To learn more and/or register, visit: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/changing-the-conversation-intro-to-effective-climate-change-communication-registration-921068700277?aff=ebdssbdestsearch>

Per MNCERTS:

## **Tuesday, August 6, 2024, 5-6pm CT Home Energy Office Hours (Virtual)**

**Host:** The Residential IRA Education Working Group

**Intended Audience:** Homeowners and Renters with questions on how to take home energy action.

**Description:** With the rollout of the Inflation Reduction Act, there are more energy incentives and programs than ever for homeowners and renters to take advantage of. Whether you're interested in reducing your energy bills, improving the air quality and comfort of your home, or reducing your environmental impact, we're

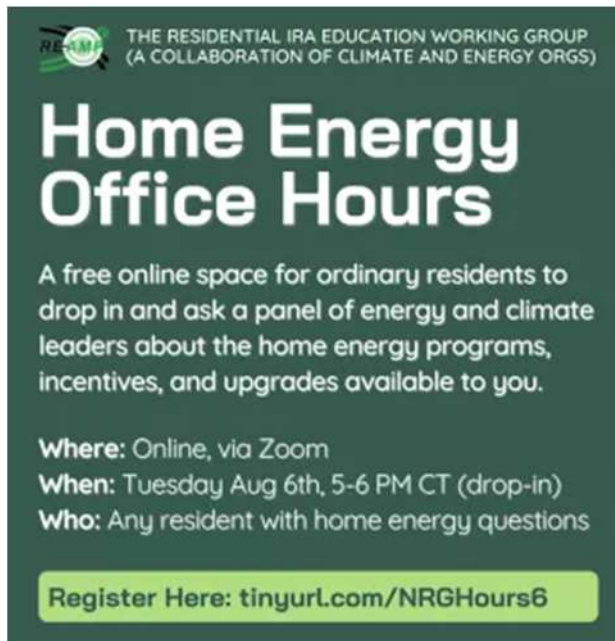
here to listen to your concerns and share any information, resources, and personal insights we can to help you take your next steps. These free Home Energy Office Hours are a collaboration between many climate and energy organizations from the RE-AMP Network and Energy Democracy Project.

**Accessibility:** This event is free. Drop in at any time during the hour. AI Translated Captions available. This event will not be recorded, but a transcript will be saved to track frequently asked questions.

### **Example Questions:**

- What home energy tax credits and rebates do I qualify for? How do I claim them?
- Where should I begin? What order should I try to complete my home energy upgrades in?
- Is an energy audit really worth the cost? How can I find an energy auditor?
- A contractor is telling me \_\_\_\_\_... Does this sound reasonable?
- What energy improvements can help me improve the air quality of my home?
- I have an old home... should I be worried about the wiring / insulation / panel before upgrading"

To register, visit: <https://www.cleanenergyresourceteams.org/home-energy-office-hours-virtual-0>



THE RESIDENTIAL IRA EDUCATION WORKING GROUP  
(A COLLABORATION OF CLIMATE AND ENERGY ORGS)

# Home Energy Office Hours

A free online space for ordinary residents to drop in and ask a panel of energy and climate leaders about the home energy programs, incentives, and upgrades available to you.

**Where:** Online, via Zoom  
**When:** Tuesday Aug 6th, 5-6 PM CT (drop-in)  
**Who:** Any resident with home energy questions

**Register Here:** [tinyurl.com/NRGHours6](https://tinyurl.com/NRGHours6)



Part of the MN Interfaith Summer Policy Series:

**Thursday, August 8, 2024 Noon-1pm CT**  
**Better Bonding for Better Buildings**

Innovation in building materials techniques is on the rise – from carbon-free cement and steel to fossil-fuel-free heating. Can we use our state bonding investments to start to build better? Please join us for a webinar about how we can use state bonding investments to build better now while spurring industry advancements!

To register for this Zoom webinar, visit: [https://mnipl.nationbuilder.com/building\\_better](https://mnipl.nationbuilder.com/building_better)

**Thursday, August 8, 2024 3:00-5:30pm CT**  
**2024 MN Cup Energy /CleanTech /Water Division Showcase**

Hear the semifinalist pitches. Location: Carlson School of Management, 321 South 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Minneapolis. For further details and to register for this free event visit: <https://www.eventbrite.com/cc/2024-mn-cup-division-showcases-3483999>

**Wednesday, August 14, 2024, 6:30pm-7:30pm**  
**MN 350 Clean Transportation Team Meeting**

Join us to support Minnesotans in equitably transitioning our state to a Clean Transportation future. Together, we will save money on fuel, end toxic air pollution, and combat climate change for everyone. All are welcome! Both in-person and virtual attending options are available! Location: MN350 Office, 4407 E Lake Street, Mpls. Sign up at: <https://mn350.org/events/>

**Thursday, August 15, 2024 5:15pm-8:00pm CT**  
**Volunteer Training for the Minnesota State Fair**

The Minnesota Renewable Energy Society and numerous partner organizations, including CMC, will provide training for those that have volunteered to staff the MRES exhibits at the State Fair. The training will take place at Mayflower Church, 106 E Diamond Lake Rd, Minneapolis), with about 5 minutes on each exhibit. During the training you will receive your State Fair ticket(s) and t-shirt as well.

To learn more, visit: <https://www.mnrenewables.org/eco-experience-volunteers>

*[This training was originally scheduled for August 14<sup>th</sup>, but MRES had to move it to the 15<sup>th</sup>.]*

**Monday, August 19, 2024 at 6:30pm CT:**  
**Central Minnesota Chapter Zoom Meeting**  
**Focus: An overview of the Tax Incentives for Electrification**

Instead of our usual Thursday meeting, we are meeting on Monday the 19<sup>th</sup> as the MRES training is on the 15<sup>th</sup>. Further details and the Zoom registration link will be published closer to the event.

## August 22 – September 2: The Minnesota State Fair



Photo from <https://www.mnstatefair.org/location/eco-experience>

Stop by the Eco-Experience building to see what is new and chat with our volunteers!

### Thursday, Sept. 5, 6:30-8:00pm: West Suburbs Vegan Potluck

Location: The Base Camp coffee shop area of Unmapped Brewing Co., 14625 Excelsior Blvd, Minnetonka, MN 55345, USA (<https://unmappedbrewing.com/>)

Join us for another Vegan Potluck in the West Suburbs! On Thursday we'll eat delicious plant-based food, share recipes and get new cooking ideas. For further details, visit: <https://www.exploreveg.org/events/west-suburbs-vegan-potluck-6/>

### Saturday, September 7, 10:00am – 4:00pm CT: 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Lake Superior Harvest Festival

Location: Bayfront Festival Park, Duluth



sustainable  
farming  
association

A family-oriented event featuring a huge farmers market, live music all day, expanded **Energy Fair experience**, nonprofit exhibitors' tent, educational demonstrations and much more! Free entry, \$10 to park. Suggested donation: \$5/person, \$10/family.

For detailed information, visit: <https://sfa-mn.org/harvest-festival/> .

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Minnesota Renewable Energy Society – ASES National Solar Tour via MNCERTs

**Friday, October 4 – Sunday, October 6, 2024:**

**Sustainability Tour: From Inspiration to Installation**

The Minnesota Sustainability Tour is a free, self-guided event that is open to the public. The tour is designed to help spread knowledge of sustainable living practices by connecting homeowners to the curious public.

The event consists of numerous locations that have agreed to showcase sustainable features of their homes and buildings. Visit your neighbors and learn about sustainable living practices in your community!

Interested in hosting a stop on the tour? Sign up (follow the link below)! You can join the tour in-person, virtually, or both - it's up to you how you'd like to share! The in-person tour will be held October 4 - 6 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. (but you are not obligated to host your site for this entire duration).

To learn more, visit: <https://www.mnrenewables.org/sustainability-tour>



**Early to mid-October, 2024: **Change in Plans!****  
**The October Climate Reality Leadership Training will be Virtual**

Train with former US Vice President Al Gore and join a community of change-makers working for just climate solutions worldwide.

Instead of the planned in-person training in Detroit, this training will be online, meaning that there will be no cost to attend, no hotel stays, no airplane flights, and room for many participants. This will be the final leadership training this year. To receive details as they are released, sign-up at:

<https://www.climaterealityproject.org/us-virtual>