

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

18 January 2016

ABC SOLAR COMMITTEE LAUNCHES CLEAN ENERGY HUB

Chisago Lakes, MN - A coalition of business, economic development and community organizations announced the launch today of the Chisago Lakes Clean Energy Hub. The Clean Energy Hub is an initiative of the America's Best Communities Economic Development Solar and Energy Efficiency Sub-Committee.

"We identified Solar and Energy Efficiency as an economic development opportunity for the Chisago Lakes communities. The Clean Energy Hub will provide free technical assistance and financing options to make that happen," said Wade Vitalis. "Our goal is economic growth through cost savings and clean energy jobs."

A Made-in-Minnesota incentive provides **a monthly credit** based on electricity generated that month. Combined with a **30% federal tax** credit and positive cash flow to participating owners.

"With the Made-in-Minnesota solar production incentive, I now generate my own electricity from the sun at my house. I have a \$30,000 system with a \$3,000 investment - it makes great economic sense," said Jill Behnke of Center City.

Several entities in the Chisago Lakes region have leveraged the Made-in-Minnesota solar incentives to install solar PV on their buildings, including the City of Lindstrom and the Chisago Lakes School District.

City of Lindstrom administrator John Olinger said, "Solar and energy efficiency has already saved our City a lot of money. We are excited and supportive of the Clean Energy Hub and look forward to saving taxpayers even more."

Homeowners and other building owners must work with a contractor or other qualified professional to ensure a complete application to the State of Minnesota by **February 28, 2016**.

FREE No-Cost, No-Risk Solar Assessments

The Chisago Lakes Clean Energy Hub is offering **FREE no-cost, no-risk assessments** from qualified solar contractors during January and February. To participate, homeowners and building owners must:

- 1) Refer to the Chisago Lakes Clean Energy Hub to receive this special offer
- 2) Be an existing Xcel Energy electric customer

To participate, contact the following solar contractors committed to completing Made-in-Minnesota solar incentive applications for Chisago Lakes-area residential and commercial building owners.

All Energy Solar, 800-620-3370

Cedar Creek Energy, c/o Rob Appelhof, 763-432-5261

Innovative Power Systems, c/o Jamie Borrell, 651-789-5305

No obligation is required from applicants until the State of Minnesota provides notice of a successful Made-in Minnesota application. Successful applicants will be notified in April or May.