

News Release

Funding priorities announced for community projects

By Elizabeth Tollefson on Thursday, September 1, 2016

The Northwest Regional Sustainable Development Partnerships (NW RSDP) has announced its 2016 funding priorities for community-based projects. Seed funding is available to support projects that leverage community participation and create a robust partnership with the University of Minnesota. Individuals, organizations, and groups in northwestern Minnesota are encouraged to apply.

The NW RSDP is interested in innovative ideas to advance agriculture and food systems, tourism and resilient communities, natural resources, and clean energy. "We're excited to develop community-led projects that address these sustainability priorities for the region, and engage both local partners and University resources," said NW RSDP Executive Director Linda Kingery. Priorities include:

Sustainable agriculture and food systems

- Supporting local food assets such as food policy councils, community gardens and rural groceries.
- Connecting farmers to rural food places.
- Encouraging farming practices that promote climate adaptation and mitigation.
- Investing in systems for season extension and food preservation.

Natural resources

- Engaging people in nature.
- Promoting practices that maintains or restores natural processes.
- Supporting efforts that respond to environmental hazards.

Tourism and resilient communities

- Creating a positive narrative for rural communities.
- Developing tourism projects that preserve natural resources and promote cultural assets.
- Advancing community economic development, quality of life, health, and safety.
- Developing community leaders, youth entrepreneurs, and natural resource scientists.

In recent years, NW RSDP has supported a variety of successful community projects including nature-based play areas for children, farmers markets and community gardens, and tourism initiatives that help communities tell their stories.

The Regional Sustainable Development Partnerships (RSDP) bring together local talent and resources with University knowledge and seed funding to drive sustainability in the four areas. RSDP is composed of a statewide office and five regional partnerships and is part of University of Minnesota Extension.

For more information and to submit a project idea, visit www.extension.umn.edu/rsdp/northwest/nwrsdp-invites-your-ideas or contact Linda Kingery at kinge002@umn.edu or 218-281-8697.

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