



2022 Solar for Schools Update

Kevin Lee, Deputy Commissioner – Department of Commerce

Commerce Solar for Schools Program

- Schools outside Xcel Territory
- 216C.375 enacted in 2021
- Funding for public K-12 schools, colleges, and universities
- Based on school's financial need

TIMELINE

- July 1 – December 31, 2022: Program design, public hearing, and outreach
- January 5, 2022: Program launched
- January 31, 2022: Round 1 RFP deadline
- February 28, 2022: Notification to schools that applied
- May 31, 2022: Full application deadline for selected schools
- July 1, 2022: Round 2 opens (currently for Colleges/Universities only)

Commerce Solar for Schools Program



40 kW PV
System =
55,000 kWh



8.5
Passenger
Vehicles



7.1 Homes'
Electrical
Use



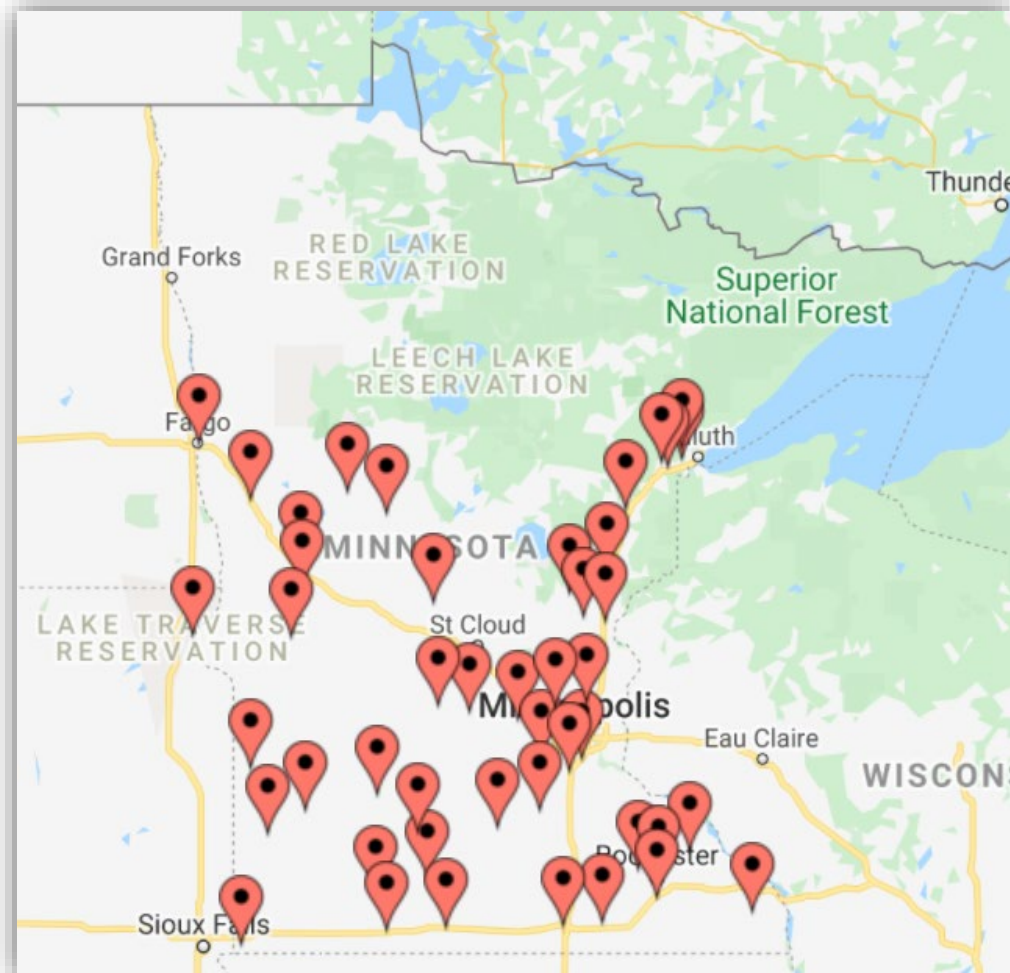
= 1,477
Lights
Switched to
LEDs



Commerce Solar for Schools: Funding

MAXIMUM ALLOWABLE GRANT		
Public School ANTC/APU	% System Cost	Not to Exceed
under \$5,000	95%	\$114,000
> \$5,000	85%	\$102,000
> \$9,250	70%	\$84,000
> \$13,500	55%	\$66,000
> \$17,750	40%	\$48,000
over \$22,000	25%	\$30,000
Colleges & Universities	40%	\$48,000

Commerce Solar for Schools: ROUND 1 RESULTS



- 45 K-12 districts applied
- 122 grant applications =
 - 4.9MW solar
 - \$11.8 funds requested (exceeds available funding)
 - \$96,836 average request

Commerce Solar for Schools Program

Solar for Schools Grant Program



About the Grant

wards grants up to
tion cost for solar
n Minnesota public
nesota Department
managing the grant
ols outside of Xcel
Energy territory.

Schools are encouraged to visit
Commerce to learn about the grant,
eligibility, and application process.



Free Technical Assistance

Commerce has partnered with Clean Energy Resource Teams (CERTs) to help schools develop projects and meet the grant's [Readiness Assessment requirements](#) (.pdf).

Schools desiring assistance are encouraged to reach out to CERTs for unbiased technical and general guidance.



Apply for a Grant

There will be at least two funding rounds annually. The 2022 rounds are as follows:

Round 1

Readiness Assessment: Jan. 5 – Jan 31
Full Grant Application: due May 31

Round 2

Readiness Assessment: July 1–July 31
Full Grant Application: due Nov. 30

This program is for schools located **outside of Xcel Energy territory only. Xcel Energy has developed their own program for schools and colleges. [Contact Xcel](#) to learn more.*

Updates on website:
Mn.gov/Solar4Schools

QUESTIONS?

Commerce Government Affairs

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