

EXPAND TO MORE GREATER MN SCHOOLS

Governor Walz' budget proposal will provide solar energy for up to 45 more schools in Greater Minnesota, reducing energy costs for schools, adding local jobs to build solar, and providing lessons and career paths for students in energy technology. This proposal responds to increased demand for the Solar for Schools program in Greater Minnesota, which is on-track to fully exhaust available funds, advances Minnesota's clean energy economy, creates more resilient communities, and provides unique learning opportunities for Minnesota students.

WHAT DOES THIS BILL DO?

This bill expands on the current, successful, Solar for Schools Program that Commerce administers for schools outside of Xcel Energy territory. Establishing additional 40kW systems at schools statewide will allow for more equitable distribution of funding, serving more under-resourced schools as the initial K-12 program funds are all already reserved.

WHY IS THIS BILL IMPORTANT?

Minnesota Statutes § 216C.375 applies to school districts outside of Xcel Energy's service territory. While 45 school districts have successfully accessed the program, there are over 200 eligible school districts and over 400 schools. The current program has more school requests than funds available.

HOW WILL MINNESOTANS BE BETTER OFF IF WE PASS THIS BILL?

This bill will expand the program to an estimated 15 additional schools districts and 30-45 more school schools. Not only will this assist schools in reducing their overall energy costs, but it will provide students with an on-site learning tool related to an in-demand clean energy career path. School districts already participating in the Commerce-administered Solar for Schools Program:

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|-------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Albert Lea Area | 17. Houston | 32. Rosemount - Apple Valley - Eagan |
| 2. Ashby | 18. Jackson County Central | 33. Rothsay |
| 3. Austin | 19. Lakeville | 34. Russell Tyler Ruthton |
| 4. Braham Area | 20. Litchfield | 35. Rush City |
| 5. Browns | 21. Marshall | 36. Saint James |
| 6. Byron | 22. Moorhead Area | 37. Saint Peter |
| 7. Canby | 23. Moose Lake | 38. Sleepy Eye |
| 8. Centennial | 24. Mora | 39. Stewartville |
| 9. Cloquet | 25. Morris Area | 40. Shakopee |
| 10. Dassel Cokato | 26. New York Mills | 41. Tri-City United |
| 11. Delano Public | 27. Osseo Area | 42. Upsala Area |
| 12. Esko Public Schools | 28. Plainview Elgin Millville | 43. Verndale Public |
| 13. Fairmont | 29. Proctor | 44. West Central Area |
| 14. Hermantown | 30. Redwood Area | 45. Windom Public |
| 15. Hills Beaver Creek | 31. Rochester | |
| 16. Hinckley-Finlayson | | |