



Energy & Sustainability News

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In the Media

[For clean-energy jobs, sky's the limit](#)

[Will going green leave some taxpayers in the red?](#)

[Sustainable: Energy storage could bolster electric grid](#)

Two Minnesota State Colleges Tie for Best of B3 Award for Benchmarking

Minnesota is leading the nation in requiring 70% more energy efficient State buildings in an effort to have all State construction carbon neutral by 2030. Designed to increase energy efficiency and sustainability, the State of Minnesota's Buildings, Benchmarks, and Beyond (B3) programs were developed for and are required on State-funded projects in Minnesota. On October 26, 2017, the third annual Best of B3 Recognition Luncheon was held at International Market Square in Minneapolis to recognize the achievements of B3 program participants. Up to three finalists were recognized in each of eight Best of B3 categories.

Lake Superior College and Minnesota West Community & Technical College – Worthington campus tied for the Best of B3 Award in the B3 Benchmarking – Higher Education category.

Lake Superior College tracks energy use for 15 buildings and nearly 400,000 sf. Through a recent effort to more actively monitor and manage energy



use, they were able to achieve an energy use intensity that is 16% lower than the code-based benchmark, a 10% reduction from the previous year.

Minnesota West Community & Technical College – Worthington Campus tracks energy use for 12 buildings and nearly 170,000 sf. With insight from a 6-month long Building Operator's Certification program, the campus was able to achieve an energy use intensity that is 18% lower than the code-based benchmark, a 9% reduction from the previous year.



Congratulations to all of our nominees and winners. Visit <https://minnstate.b3benchmarking.com> to see where your campus ranks.

Minnesota State University, Mankato Achieves Bicycle Friendly University Bronze Status

The League of American Bicyclists' Bicycle Friendly University (BFU) program recognizes institutions of higher education for promoting and providing a more bikeable campus for students, staff and visitors. The program provides the roadmap and technical assistance to create suitable campuses for cycling. The League recently announced 46 new and



Dam Bike Ride 2017

renewing BFUs, including the first campus within the Minnesota State system to receive the designation: Minnesota State University, Mankato.

MSU Mankato was awarded Bronze status for its promotion of bicycling in five primary areas: engineering, encouragement, education, enforcement and evaluation/planning. Congratulations to all involved!

There are now 182 BFUs all across the United States. For more information, visit <https://bikeleague.org/university>.

Meet the Challenges of a Changing Climate with the U.S. Climate Resilience Toolkit

Looking to compare historic climate data to future projections in order to better design your facilities or plan for the impact of future natural hazards? Is your campus drafting a Climate Adaptation Plan? Want to see what other colleges and universities are doing to prepare for a changing climate? The U.S. Climate Resilience Toolkit is a website designed to help people find and use tools, information, and subject matter expertise to build climate resilience. The Toolkit offers information from all across the U.S. federal government in one easy-to-use location.

The goal is to improve people's ability to understand and manage their climate-related risks and opportunities, and to help them make their communities and businesses more resilient to extreme events.

Visit <https://toolkit.climate.gov/> to explore the site and check out the tools.

AASHE Releases 'Beyond the Right Thing to Do: The Value of Sustainability in Higher Education'

The Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) recently released a new publication aimed at helping sustainability practitioners better articulate the many benefits that sustainability programs and practices offer to their institutions.

The publication is available at no cost by visiting <http://www.aashe.org/publications>.

Watch for VW Settlement Funds

Volkswagen has agreed to settle allegations that it violated the federal Clean Air Act by selling vehicles that emit air pollution over the legal limit, and by cheating on federal emission tests to hide the excess pollution. The affected vehicles exceed federal emission limits for nitrogen oxide (NOx), a pollutant that harms public health and contributes to ozone or smog formation.

As part of the settlement, states are eligible to receive funds to pay part of the cost of projects to reduce diesel emissions from vehicles and to install electric vehicle infrastructure. The MPCA is developing Minnesota's plan for using these funds to improve air quality in our state.

Minnesota will be receiving \$47 million, and up to 15% of that may be spent on electric vehicle charging stations. The Request for Proposals for funding specific projects will likely be released March or April 2018. Please watch for news of the release next spring.

Bottle Bins (Still!) Available

The Recycling Association of Minnesota has used



bottle-shaped recycling bins available for purchase for \$55-65. Green rectangular room bins are also available. Bins are clean and in good condition and ready to ship (or pick up in St. Paul). To order, contact Beth at

beth@recycleminnesota.org or call 651-641-4589.

Learn About AASHE 2017 Sustainability Award Winners

At the 2017 Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) Conference, AASHE announced the 2017 winners of its annual Sustainability Awards for their outstanding achievements and progress toward sustainability.

Winners were named in three categories:

- The Campus Achievement Sustainability Award honors higher education institutions for successful implementation of projects that advance sustainability.
- The Student Sustainability Leadership Award honors students and/or student teams from higher education who have demonstrated outstanding leadership in promoting sustainability on campus.
- The Campus Sustainability Research Award recognizes research that contributes to the advancement of higher education sustainability.

Visit <http://www.aashe.org/news/2017-award-winners-announced/> to learn about the award-winning research and innovative projects at these campuses and be inspired.

Webinar Series: Climate and Health Issues in Minnesota

The Minnesota Department of Health Climate and Health Program is hosting a six-part series focused on climate and health issues in Minnesota. Register for upcoming webinars:

- **Air Quality** – November 22, 2017
from 12:00pm-1:00pm
[Register here!](#)
- **Wellbeing** – December 13, 2017
from 12:00pm-1:00pm
[Register here!](#)
- **Water Quality & Quantity** – January 24, 2018
from 12:00pm-1:00pm
[Register here!](#)

Events & Webinars

The Center for Energy & Environment (CEE) hosts low-cost and no-cost webinars every month on a variety of topics. To register for these events, visit their [website](#).

The Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) newsletter provides lots of valuable information about campus sustainability around the country and internationally. Webinars, seminars and conferences—including many available at no cost—are advertised here as well. To register for these events, visit their [website](#).

News Tips?

Got a story idea or something you'd like to share in the next Energy & Sustainability Newsletter? Let Emily know.