



# Climate-Smart Municipalities: Modeling Integrated Energy Communities for the 21st Century

A cooperation between Minnesota & NRW

**June 8 – June 15, 2019**

Duluth, Elk River, Minneapolis,  
Morris, Rochester, Warren, White Bear Lake

## NRW DELEGATION:

- Hans-Juergen Badziura** head, department of environmental protection & green space, City of Lüdenscheid
- Ulrike Badziura** head, department of environmental and climate protection, City of Iserlohn
- Editha Bongartz** senior civil servant, International Relations and Networks division, NRW State Ministry for Environment, Agriculture, Nature Conservation and Consumer Protection
- Johannes Dierker** director, Youth Education Center Saerbeck
- Sven Gotthal** city council member, City of Münster
- Paul Hartmann** climate protection officer, City of Siegen
- Gerhard Joksch** honorary mayor of the City of Münster; member of the Münster City Council
- Ralph Kensmann** managing partner, Start.Design
- Marcus Müller** climate protection and sustainability lead, department of environmental protection & green space, City of Lüdenscheid
- Michael Müller** senior consultant, Energy Agency.NRW
- Carsten Peters** energy efficiency consultant, City of Arnsberg
- Andrea Preiss** deputy head, department of energy efficiency, sustainable buildings and neighborhoods, net-zero state administration, NRW State Ministry of Economic Affairs, Innovation, Digitalization, Energy
- Wilfried Roos** mayor, City of Saerbeck
- Markus Schumacher** resource efficiency advisor, Efficiency Agency NRW
- Max Schüssler** research associate, mechanical engineering, University of Siegen
- Guido Wallraven** technical director, City of Saerbeck
- Thomas Werner** head, department of facilities management, City of Münster
- Dr. Christof Wetter** professor of environmental technology, faculty of energy, facilities management and environmental engineering, FH Münster University of Applied Sciences
- Sebastian Witte** project manager, climate action & sustainable urban development, City of Arnsberg



## Welcome!

Welcome to another round of exchange and learning in the Climate-Smart Municipalities program—this time once again in Minnesota! The program is a unique multi-partner collaboration between Minnesota and Germany, and part of the German government's renowned Transatlantikprogramm. "Climate-Smart Municipalities: Modeling Integrated Energy Communities for the 21st Century" brings together stakeholders and leaders in local and state government, politics, business, the nonprofit sector, academia, and the public to learn from each other and to accelerate the transition to a more sustainable, efficient and climate-friendly future at the local level.

Our program tag line reads "Together, we are smarter!" It captures the experience over the past three years of everyone involved in this remarkable undertaking. Together, we command deeper expertise, are able to look at things from a much broader range of perspectives, and create better and more imaginative solutions. Having the opportunity to discuss approaches in a binational group is invaluable. Turning those conversations into inclusive projects at multiple levels and witnessing how quickly and reliably such parallel diversity produces measurable results is inspiring. And it builds additional momentum.

A few days ago, the first binational Climate-Smart Municipalities video contest "Energy Savings and Energy Waste in the World Around Me" concluded. Fifteen teams of students from eight CSM cities competed. Student teams in White Bear Lake, Duluth, and Saerbeck won the top three honors. Their families and teachers are all in. Submissions were judged by a nine-member binational intergenerational panel that included college students, Minnesota's Commissioners of Commerce and Veterans Affairs Steve Kelley and Larry Herke and the vice-president of the state legislature of North Rhine-Westphalia. Another group that's all in. Meanwhile, the Minnesota Legislature approved funding for innovative research and community energy projects in Morris. In Germany, the CSM cohort keeps raising the bar: three of our six are part of a competitive fifteen cities Global Sustainable Municipality NRW project group. They seek to model strategies for sustainable development at the municipal level. Everyone is all in.

What a great time to reconvene in Minnesota and spend a full week working and learning together!

The week's agenda pursues two goals. We want to move to a deeper joint international project stage. Hence an emphasis on



the five work group focus areas we identified last summer. We also want to add momentum and expertise by inviting additional Minnesota communities and partners to join CSM. Some will be participating in Monday's workshop.

Building momentum and expanding the network of engaged leaders is also at heart of Friday's exciting conference. "Pathways to A Clean Energy Future: From Global to Local" will gather 200+ influential energy leaders: statewide legislators and city officials, practitioners from around the world, corporate and nonprofit decision-makers, and the Institute on the Environment's impressive network of researchers and academic experts. With CSM co-hosting this conference and several CSM partners on stage, we are well positioned to learn and share.

The week's program again is a massive collective effort. I thank all partners for helping create an inspiring series of activities that demonstrate how much the public and private sectors can do in partnership.

Finally, a big shout-out to our Minnesota and German funders. Your joint support enables the University of Minnesota Institute on the Environment to provide this amazing opportunity to Minnesotans and Germans.

Wishing all of us an inspiring and productive week,

Dr. Sabine Engel  
director of international partnerships



"Climate-Smart Municipalities" is supported with funding from Germany's Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs and Energy (BMWi) through the European Recovery Program's (ERP) Transatlantik-Programm der Bundesrepublik Deutschland.

Institute on the Environment  
University of Minnesota  
325 LES, 1954 Buford Ave.  
Saint Paul, MN 55108  
tel: +612-624-6973  
email: [ione-int@umn.edu](mailto:ione-int@umn.edu)  
[www.environment.umn.edu](http://www.environment.umn.edu)

—Leading the way toward a future in which people and the environment prosper together—

## A Cooperation between Minnesota and Germany: LIST OF PARTNERS

Germany's Foreign Office  
Germany's Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy  
North Rhine-Westphalia Ministry for Environment, Agriculture,  
Nature and Consumer Protection (MULNV)  
North Rhine-Westphalia Ministry of Economic Affairs,  
Innovation, Digitalization, and Energy (MWIDE)  
Energieagentur.NRW  
Minnesota Environmental Quality Board  
Minnesota Department of Agriculture  
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency  
Minnesota Department of Commerce  
Minnesota Department of Administration

The Great Plains Institute  
Ever-Green Energy  
Minnesota Credit Union Network  
Affinity Plus Federal Credit Union  
Hiway Federal Credit Union  
University of Minnesota, Natural Resources Research Institute

and 12 municipalities:

|                      |                         |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| City of Saerbeck     | City of Morris          |
| City of Siegen       | City of Duluth          |
| City of Münster      | City of Rochester       |
| City of Luedenscheid | City of White Bear Lake |
| City of Iserlohn     | City of Elk River       |
| City of Arnberg      | City of Warren          |



## Profiles of NRW technical exchange partner municipalities

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### Arnsberg

The city of Arnsberg is located in Hochsauerland County and is the seat of government for the administrative region Südwestfalen. The city is on the Ruhr River, covers an area of about 74 square miles, and has a population of about 73,000. The city has several neighborhood centers (poly-centered city) that cluster in a ribbon along the river. Major employers are small and medium sized enterprises in the manufacturing sector: metal processing, electronics, wood and paper-based businesses, printing and polymer processing. An important industry specialty is the development and production of lamps. Neheim-Hüsten was known in former times as “the city of lamps.” The sector currently is gaining new weight because of new lighting technologies and LED. As in other communities, demographic changes are becoming more pronounced. The loss of population requires that future urban development will need to focus on developing existing environments. Arnsberg has a city bus system and three train stations that connect it beyond the region. There are five interstate exits along three major national traffic axes. A small airport accommodates one- and two-engine planes. The city offers cultural and touristic activities. In addition to the Ruhr River, the city is shaped by its relatively large forested area, which covers 62% of the area.

Regarding municipal energy and climate policy: In 2011, the city created a master plan for integrated climate protection, which provides a comprehensive city-wide frame for additional climate policy-making. The city has its own municipal utilities which, together with the municipal utilities of the neighboring city of Soest, also provide energy services. In 2013, a thermal aerial mapping of the city’s built environment was done to help homeowners identify heat leaks on roofs that can be remedied through better insulation. In 2017, the thermal imaging project was resumed as a “multicopter imaging project” in collaboration with the consumer agency NRW. Solar and a geothermal potential cadasters for Hochsauerland County allow home owners to assess the potential benefits of roof top solar panels and shallow ground geothermal heat. Arnsberg is nationally known for its wetlands restauration along rivers. In 2016, Arnsberg received a European Energy Award for its successful energy and climate protection measures. In 2016, as one of the first cities in Germany, the city council committed itself to the “Sustainable Development Goals” of the United Nations’ Agenda 2030. In 2018, the city council passed an ambitious new sustainability strategy. One of the main objectives is to make Arnsberg sustainable, resilient and carbon neutral by 2050.

### Iserlohn

Iserlohn has 94,000 inhabitants. It is a medium-sized center on the eastern edge of the Ruhr area. Geographically, the city is located in southwestern Westphalia and the densely wooded Sauerland, and covers an area of about 48 square miles. Iserlohn has a high share of manufacturing, including metal processing, pharmaceutical and chemical production, and waste management plants. It is also the location of two universities. The city-owned municipal

utilities supply a large part of the city center with district heating through a waste incinerator (MHKW). In 2012, the city, together with many local partners, drew up a climate protection master plan that is currently being implemented. The city has been successfully implementing energy and climate protection measures. Its power-to-heat effort won a NRW state power-to-heat model community award. Iserlohn also was awarded the European Energy Award in Gold. Expanding cogeneration is therefore an important aspect for future climate protection measures. Another focus is electro-mobility. “Emobility Works,” a European-wide project, mobilized a network of partners and developed an action plan for electro-mobility. An innovative charging infrastructure system has created 17 charging points on public land. The city considers expanding renewable energy generation, in particular photovoltaics, key in order to ensure that electricity at the charging stations is CO<sub>2</sub>neutral electricity. The city council is providing an online solar potential cadaster of rooftops to help individuals assess the feasibility of solar energy on their rooftops. The municipal utility evaluates each city-owned property regarding its solar potential. So far, 11 MW of solar energy have been installed. The next phase is to combine all renewable energy generation plants across Iserlohn into a virtual power plant. A Climate Change Adaptation Concept is currently being developed, outlining scenarios for the impact of climate change on the city and precautionary measures that will be needed. The city is also implementing a new project in cooperation with local companies to promote biodiversity on their company premises.

### Lüdenscheid

The City of Lüdenscheid (pop. 75,000) is an economic and cultural center for the South Westphalia region. Lüdenscheid is the largest city in Märkischer Kreis district. Its location along an interstate allows fast connections to all major cities on the Rhine and Ruhr rivers and to the Frankfurt area. The airports in Dortmund, Düsseldorf, Cologne and Frankfurt are in easy reach. The city features a historic circular of town and a large number of cultural institutions and organizations, among them the science center Phänomena, the toy car SIKU//WIKING Model World with over 3,500 models, the Municipal Gallery and the Municipal Music School. 44 daycare facilities for children, 12 primary schools, one secondary modern school, two junior high schools, three grammar schools, one comprehensive school as well as two schools for children with special needs provide good facilities in the education sector. The University of Applied Sciences South Westphalia has a branch in Lüdenscheid since 2012. Together with the Institute for Plastics Technology (KIMW), the German Institute for Applied Light Technology (DIAL), the Institute for Forming Technology (IFU) as well as Institute for Tool design and Construction it is a part of the growing technically oriented education and knowledge center located in Lüdenscheid. There is also a Development and Founders Center (EGC) dedicated to developing new technologies, enabling technology transfer and helping startups. The city’s architecture is becoming increasingly modern. Its new landmark, created with the expansion of the

Phänomena Science Center, is a 225 foot tall tower with a Foucault pendulum that is intriguingly illuminated thanks to an artistic lighting concept. Lüdenscheid is a modern industrial town surrounded by nature: expansive forests, hills, lakes. The first documentation of Lüdenscheid as a settlement was in 1067. In the 15th and 16th centuries Lüdenscheid was a member of the Hanseatic League. The city's small and medium-sized business economy is governed by the manufacturing sector. The focus is on electrical engineering, metal working (including iron and sheet metal), mechanical engineering and plastics processing. The light and luminaire industry in Lüdenscheid also has a good reputation worldwide. The preoccupation with the medium of light is strongly reflected in urban planning and art, education and pedagogy and also in research and industry.

The City of Lüdenscheid has been working on climate protection since the early 1990s and is a member of the Climate Alliance. In 2011, the city council passed its first climate protection strategic plan. The goal is to reduce per capita greenhouse gas emissions by 50% by 2030 (over 1990). The city's strategy is to lead by example by improving the energy efficiency of municipal building stock, adding municipal renewable energy generation, and pursuing a comprehensive approach. The city joined the Climate-Smart Municipalities project in 2018 and is paired for the project with the City of White Bear Lake.

## Münster

Münster is an independent city in the northern part of North Rhine-Westphalia and capital of the local government region Münsterland. The city has a population of nearly 310,000, almost 20% of whom are students, and covers an area of about 302km<sup>2</sup>. With a strong economy, Münster is the largest source of employment in the area. Münster is recognized as an outstanding place to learn, work and live and was issued various awards including Europe's finest park (Aasee) in 2009 and Bicycle Capital of Germany (re-awarded each year since 2009). Münster is one of the most active cities in Germany in regards to climate protection. It was named "Germany's Capital for Climate

Protection" first in 1997 and again in 2006.

In the future, the city of Münster seeks to continue being a leader: in 2008 the city passed ambitious climate goals resolving to reduce CO<sup>2</sup> emissions by 40% by 2020 (based on 1990 levels) and to cover 20% of the city's energy load through renewable energy. A specific set of actions was formulated as part of the city's climate protection plan "Klimaschutzplan 2020." In 2015, the Münsterland region became the first to win EEA designation as an Energy & Climate Protection Region. In 2017, Münster passed its "Masterplan 100% Klimaschutz," extending its goals to 50% energy reduction and 95% reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. With the 2018 European Energy Award, Münster has met gold recognition for 5 continuous cycles.

How will Münster achieve its ambitious climate protection goals? Climate protection is a matter that affects every citizen, whether at home, at work, or in a management role. Everyone can do their part to improve the city's quality of life, e.g through involvement in the project "Bürgerpakt" (citizens' compact) or the project "Alliance for Climate Protection", which supports NRW technical exchange partner municipalities, businesses, institutions, associations and nonprofits that pursue energy efficiency projects. The refurbishment of existing building stock presents large opportunities for saving energy. The program has been financially supported by the municipality since 1997.

In order to further develop the role of municipalities and opportunities to foster sustainable economic development, the state-wide working group Agenda 21 NRW e.V. is engaged in the pilot project "Global Sustainable Municipality." The project is supported by the state of North Rhine-Westphalia and Germany's Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). It provides hands-on support and consulting services to select municipalities in North Rhine-Westphalia as they develop municipal sustainable development strategies with citizen participation in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals. The city of Münster is one of 15 participating partners. In fall 2017, the project resulted in a resolution on municipal sustainability strategies and in 2018 was further developed into



Stadt  
Lüdenscheid



specific city objectives. Currently, these objectives are being linked to individual activities that will be implemented in the near future.

### Saerbeck

The climate-smart municipality “Klimakommune Saerbeck” has a population of 7,200 and is located in the heart of the Münsterland area in North Rhine-Westphalia. It has been pursuing climate protection measures and the energy transition (*Energiewende*) for ten years. The municipality today generates more electricity from wind, solar, and biomass than it needs (450% in 2018). The goal is to reach CO<sub>2</sub> neutrality by 2030. Saerbeck’s Bioenergy Park, its transparent heating center, and an energy experience trail draw visitors from around the globe. Saerbeck’s citizens support the “Saerbeck Way” through financial and non-financial engagement. Education initiatives such as the Saerbeck Energy Worlds—BioEnergy Park Classroom (*Saerbecker Energiewelten*) transfer the ideas to a young generation. The municipality has received many awards for its engagement, including Germany’s sustainability award “*Deutscher Nachhaltigkeitspreis*.” When the community received the designation “*NRW Klimakommune der Zukunft*” (NRW Climate-Smart Municipality for the Future) in 2009, it gave an important boost to the efforts. In 2018, Saerbeck celebrated the tenth anniversary of its decision to fully embrace renewable energy and sustainability. Current work includes research on battery storage in collaboration with FH Muenster Applied University and research on electro- and hydrogen-mobility.

### Siegen

The city of Siegen is located on the Sieg River. It is the economic and cultural center of Siegerland area in the three-state border region between North Rhine-Westphalia, Hesse, and Rhineland-Palatinate. Siegen has a population of 100,257. Its 44 square miles area features a diverse topography with a valley area that has been a home for steel and metal manufacturing industries and hillsides with large forests (51% forested area with 900 foot differences in elevation). The city’s economic history was shaped by ore mining and production far into the 20th century. Today the city is a university research and education center with close to 18,500 students.

Siegen has been involved with climate protection since the 1990s when it joined the Climate Alliance and created the first municipal climate protection program. When the city’s program was re-endorsed in 2009, climate protection and energy efficiency activities were made a formal part of the administrative structure and appropriate subject matter specialists were hired. In order to reach energy efficiency and quality goals, a 20-year old energy controlling program has been expanded to cover all city administrative departments. In 2011, the nonprofit Energieverein Siegen-Wittgenstein e.V. was founded as a partnership between the public administration and business. It provides information and consulting services on energy and climate protection to the public and has dedicated space and experts. Siegen has created a strong foundation for additional work on climate protection and climate adaptation: two European Energy Awards (2010 and 2014), several studies and plans regarding climate adaptation (2016 and 2017) and an overarching master plan (2016). In 2015, the City of Siegen won the 2015 German Climate Protection Award (*Deutscher Klimaschutzpreis 2015*) for its networking with the Energieverein.



## Profiles of Minnesota technical exchange partner municipalities

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### Duluth

Duluth is a seaport city in Minnesota and the county seat of Saint Louis County. Duluth has a population of 86,110 and is the second-largest city on Lake Superior's shores. Situated at the westernmost point of the Great Lakes on the north shore of Lake Superior, Duluth is accessible to oceangoing vessels from the Atlantic Ocean 2,300 miles (3,700 km) away via the Great Lakes Waterway and the Saint Lawrence Seaway. Lake Superior is the world's largest freshwater lake by surface area. Duluth forms a metropolitan area with Superior, Wisconsin, called the Twin Ports. The cities share the Duluth–Superior Harbor and together are the Great Lakes' largest port transporting coal, iron ore (taconite), and grain. Duluth is also a regional hub for education and health care, serving a large segment of northeastern Minnesota and northwestern Wisconsin. It is a tourist destination for the Midwest. The city is named after Daniel Greysolon, Sieur du Lhut, the first known European explorer of the area.

In 2016, Mayor Emily Larson announced to City of Duluth residents, business and the State as a whole, that Duluth will implement an energy reduction plan to revitalize the City's energy fund and invest in excess of \$1,000,000 over ten years. In 2016, \$500,000 were invested in upgrading different city lighting systems to reduce utility costs by more than \$100,000 annually. The savings are being returned to the energy fund in full for five years and reinvested in additional measures. The reinvestment dollars accompanied by rebates from local utilities allow the city to dive into deep energy retrofits creating additional savings while resetting many building system life cycles. This total investment forms the cornerstone of the corporate municipality's efforts to craft a comprehensive strategy and plan for reducing its carbon footprint over the next 30 years. Through the development of a comprehensive capital plan and implementation strategy and by engaging with local, state and international partners, the City hopes to become a leader in sustainable municipal operations and to serve as an example. As a result of the Climate-Smart Municipalities exchange, the City has partnered with the University of Siegen and the University of Minnesota-Duluth on an intern exchange with Germany.

### Elk River

Elk River is located about 35 miles northwest of the Twin Cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul. The city has a population of 24,000 over 44 square miles. Location and an affinity for nature have played a significant role in the growth of this business-friendly community. As a commuter community, city officials have sought out green industries to grow the local workforce and created a Green Transportation Plan for city fleet vehicles, bike and pedestrian infrastructure, and Complete Streets plans addressing boulevard trees, ADA, and other livability aspects. Elk River was designated "Energy City" by the State of Minnesota to serve as a focal point for renewable and efficient energy demonstration, education, and development. Some of the goals to achieve on the way to a Climate Smart Municipality are outlined in the Energy City

10-year Action Plan, which identifies and promotes renewable energy resources. High priority action tasks include:

1. Explore and promote environmentally sustainable mobility initiatives
2. Improve and grow educational Energy City outreach for sustainability efforts
3. Achieve 15% above State/Federal mandates of renewable energy city-wide by 2024

Inspired by the Climate-Smart Municipalities project, Elk River has partnered with the municipal utility to install three public charging stations and to increase education and outreach within the community. In 2017, Elk River hosted Jonas Schulz from Muenster Applied University, Germany, as an intern to expand and advance the city's environmental education program.

### Morris

Morris has a population of 5,400. It is the county seat of Stevens County. The City Council in Morris recently adopted a Sustainability Strategic Plan setting goals in the area of energy, transportation, waste and education.

The community is surrounded by some of the richest agricultural lands in the country and agribusiness is a major contributor to the local economy. The town is home to the University of Minnesota, Morris (UMM) and U of M West Central Research and Outreach Center—which are part of the University of Minnesota system. The campus has a student population of about 1,550 and is routinely ranked as a "Top 10 Public Liberal Arts College" by U.S. News and World Report and one of "America's Top Colleges" by Forbes. The United States Department of Agriculture's North Central Soil Conservation Research Lab is located on the edge of Morris with research plots throughout the area. Headquartered in Morris, Riverview, LLP is the largest dairy-milking operation in Minnesota and one of the largest in the United States. Also headquartered in Morris is Superior Industries, North America's only combination manufacturer of conveyor systems and related accessories. The company also manufactures storage tanks and products for the fuel and oil industries and concrete products for the road building industries. They employ over 1900 people. Denco II, LLC is an ethanol production plant located in Morris. They produce 95 million liters (25 million gallons) of corn ethanol annually with corn grown in the Morris area. Other large economic contributors include manufacturing, education and healthcare industries.

Electricity is provided to Morris by the local investor-owned utility, Ottetail Power Company. In and around the Morris area, you can visit two 1.65 MW wind turbines, biomass gasification, solar PV systems and solar farms, solar thermal systems, anaerobic digestion, green buildings and more. Recently a \$30 million biogasification plant was approved. 70% of the annual electricity used on the UMM campus is provided by wind. In

2015, Morris signed a Climate Protection Partnership Agreement with Saerbeck, Germany. Ottertail Power recently completed most of the work to convert all the street lights in Morris to LED. The robotics team at the Morris Area High School fundraised and put up a solar PV system on the school grounds. In 2017, the city of Morris was awarded the Minnesota Clean Energy Community Award.

## Rochester

Rochester currently has a population of 116,000 and is the county seat of Olmsted County. It lies in the southeastern corner of Minnesota and is the third-largest city in Minnesota. Rochester has received a number of awards and is continually recognized by Money Magazine as one of the best places to live in the United States. Through the 2018 Community Survey, 96% rate the quality of life in Rochester as excellent or good and 87% believe Rochester is headed in the right direction. The city lies alongside the south fork of the Zumbro River and encompasses approximately 56 square mile area. It has more than 3,500 acres of park land and more than 110 miles of paved trails.

Rochester enjoys a strong economy with health care as a leading industry. Median household income exceeds state and national median income, at \$70,078. The Mayo Clinic is a global destination for medical care and has been ranked number 1 in the world. The Clinic has a strong presence in the downtown and contributes to a dense urban core.

The City of Rochester recently updated its Comprehensive Plan: Planning 2 Succeed. It is intended to guide the growth of the community through 2040. Fueled by Destination Medical Center (DMC), growth projections for the City of Rochester include approximately 30,000 new jobs, 50,000 more residents, and 23,000 more housing units by 2040. The comprehensive plan includes a land use plan that lays out desired timing, location, design, and density for future development, redevelopment, or preservation.

It also includes plans for public or community facilities, parks and open spaces, housing, natural resources, transportation, and infrastructure. Land development ordinances along with transportation planning have a direct impact on community energy use and it will be beneficial to learn how German cities manage their land use along with developing efficient transportation systems to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

The City has developed an Energy Action Plan to reduce energy consumption and GHG emissions and is working with a part-time energy and sustainability director and currently hiring an additional sustainability coordinator to improve efficiency in public buildings and build out a comprehensive sustainability program. The City, through its municipal utility, also has developed a Community Solar Program, offering residents the ability to purchase the output from a large utility grade solar garden and offset their residential use with solar energy. In 2017, 210 residents subscribed to 861 panels. The City is committed to the Minnesota Next Generation Energy Act of 2007 and its goals of reducing annual energy use by 1.5%, expanding renewable energy to 25% by 2025, and reducing state-wide GHG emissions by minus 30% by 2025 and minus 80% by 2050. Rochester was awarded LEED Gold certification in 2018 and is currently working towards a Platinum designation.

## Warren

Warren is a small rural community of 1,586 residents located in the upper northwest corner of Minnesota, on the edge of the Red River Valley in a predominantly agricultural region. The main crops are wheat, sugar beets, and soybeans. A large portion of the residents in Warren commute to work to one of three regional centers about 30 miles away. Warren is seeing a growth in young families moving to the community for a smaller school



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district. The city has adapted to this change in demographics by incorporating pedestrian paths and focusing on recreational offerings. For climate protection measures, Warren has made an effort to install LED street lights with new street projects. Warren encourages residents to install LED light bulbs and participates in a rebate program. There have also been a number of projects in which insulation was boosted in buildings to cut natural gas usage for heating. Currently, a recreational center is being built that will also be a Renewable Energy Education Module. The city of Warren is pursuing financing to install PV panels on the facility. The city of Warren is a Step 3 GreenStep City. The city continues to strive to become more climate conscious in its everyday delivery of services to residents. In 2017, Warren City Hall removed all plastic and styrofoam from the building to become a role model for other entities to reduce waste. Inspired by their Climate-Smart Municipalities partners in Arnsberg, the City of Warren is currently completing a project that uses drone technology to produce infrared scans of all the buildings in the city to assist residents in reducing their energy consumption. Coupled with this project is an effort to develop a finance program that will help residents complete energy saving projects in their homes using the anticipated energy savings. The city of Warren received a 2018 Clean Energy Community Award for its planning efforts.

### White Bear Lake

The City of White Bear Lake, population just over 25,000, is one of the oldest and most quaint suburbs in the Minneapolis/St. Paul area. Permanent settlement of White Bear Lake began in the 1840's and the City was incorporated in 1881. The City is known for its historic downtown and its many community festivals including Manitou Days, Marketfest, sailing regattas, bicycle and running races, and other special events held throughout the year. Its vibrant Arts District includes the regionally renowned

White Bear Lake Center for the Arts and the Hanifl Performing Arts Center. White Bear Lake is also home to Century College, Minnesota's largest 2-year community college. The City proudly embraces its tradition of offering residents and visitors a full range of municipal services, housing, educational and employment opportunities, along with beautiful lakes, parks and recreational facilities.

Through implementation of LED lighting in public buildings and in the downtown, significant energy savings have been realized. The City is exploring options for solar panels on its municipal buildings, planning for placement of electric vehicle charging stations throughout the community, and developing a plan for procurement of electric vehicles for its municipal fleet. Through its partnerships with the School District and White Bear Lake Area Chamber of Commerce, planning for an electric autonomous vehicle pilot project is also underway; this would be the first of its kind in Minnesota.

As a participant in the Climate Smart Municipalities program, the City has partnered with the German City of Lüdenscheid and the University of Applied Sciences in Münster to create an intern exchange program to assist with the implementation of the above-mentioned initiatives, and more. Inspired by the City of Saerbeck, Mayor Emerson is forming a steering committee that will include representatives from the business and non-profit sectors to accelerate community-wide progress toward a cleaner and more efficient energy footprint.



# AGENDA

## Saturday, June 8, 2019 – Arrival Day

*individual arrivals to Minneapolis*

*take light rail to downtown Minneapolis*

check into TownPlace Suites Minneapolis Downtown/North Loop. Hotel group name: Travel Destinations

TownPlace Suites Downtown Minneapolis/North Loop

525 N 2nd St, Minneapolis, MN 55401

Phone: +1 (612)340-1000

6:00-8:00 PM      informal group dinner/snack at Freehouse brewpub (*meet in hotel lobby at 5:45, or proceed to pub individually*)

The Freehouse

701 Washington Ave N #101, Minneapolis, MN 55401

Phone: (612) 339-7011

## Sunday, June 9, 2019 – Cultural Day: Amazing Minnesota

Day's Hosts:

**Dr. Sabine Engel**, director of international partnerships, Institute on the Environment, U of MN

[mobile: +1-612-501-6504]

**David Senjem**, MN State Senator

8:50 AM

*meet in hotel lobby*

9:00 AM

*van pool to Bde Maka Ska*

9:30-12:15 PM

Outdoor City Adventure: Canoeing on Chain of Lakes + local info

“Minnesota Outdoor Culture”

**Barrett Colombo**, lead education & communications platform development, IonE, U of MN

“City Planning and Green Space: Sustainability Challenges and Solutions”

**Beth Mercer-Taylor**, sustainability education coordinator, IonE, U of MN

Wheel Fun Rentals at Bde Maka Ska

3000 Calhoun Parkway East, Minneapolis, MN 55408

Phone: (877) 273-2453

9:30

introductions and canoeing safety instructions

9:45-11:15

canoe trip

11:15-11:45

boxed lunch at starting point

11:45-12:15

return canoes to rental

12:15 PM

*vans depart for Eden Prairie Pax Christi Catholic Community*

Pax Christi Catholic Community

12100 Pioneer Trail, Eden Prairie, MN 55347

Phone: +1 (952) 941-3150

1:15-3:15 PM

“Religion & Sustainability: Conversation and Site Visit”

speakers:

**Dr. Julia Nerbonne**, executive director, MN Interfaith Power & Light

**Timothy DenHerder-Thomas**, general manager, Cooperative Energy Futures

**Jeff Schuh**, Pax Christi Catholic Community

3:30 PM

*vans depart Eden Prairie Pax Christi Catholic Community for downtown Minneapolis*

4:15 PM *group returns to hotel/downtown Minneapolis*

6:30-8:30 PM informal group dinner with guests at Wilde Café & Spirits (*meet at restaurant*)

Wilde Cafe & Spirits  
65 SE Main St, Minneapolis, MN 55414  
Phone: (612) 331-4544

## Monday, June 10, 2019 – Together We Are Smarter Full Cohort Day

Day's Host: University of Minnesota, Institute on the Environment  
**Dr. Sabine Engel**, director of international partnerships, IonE, U of MN [mobile: +1-612-501-6504]  
**Kristi Kremers**, director of graduate & faculty leadership programs, IonE, U of MN

8:10 AM *leave hotel to take GREEN LINE public transit to the U of M- St. Paul Campus; get off at Stadium Village stop and board Campus Connector Bus 121 to St. Paul campus (see map in your folder); get off at corner of Gortner Ave. and Buford. Learning and Environmental Sciences Building is on south-east corner.*

Institute on the Environment  
University of Minnesota  
Learning and Environmental Sciences Building  
1954 Buford Ave., room LES-R380  
Falcon Heights, MN  
Phone: +1-612-501-6504

9:00 AM-12:00 PM CSM Minnesota and NRW Partners Workshop, Part I

- |             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|-------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 9:00-9:15   | Welcome, introductions, plans for day                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 9:15-9:30   | shameless self-promotion, round #1<br>60-second plugs on exciting things to share (professional/personal/informational)                                                                                                                 |
| 9:45-10:15  | CSM Education Work Group Update & Discussion<br><b>Kristin Mroz</b> , local government coordinator, Minnesota Environmental Quality Board<br><b>Max Schuessler</b> , research associate in mechanical engineering, University of Siegen |
| 10:15-10:45 | Accelerate CSM Project Activities Phase 1 Report (April-May 2019)<br><b>Guido Wallraven</b> , city planning consultancy Stadt-Land-Fluss-Büro für Städtebau und Umweltplanung                                                           |
| 10:45-11:00 | <i>coffee break</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 11:00-12:00 | “The 10% Threshold: How Do We Get From 6 to 85 CSM Cities Across MN?”                                                                                                                                                                   |

12:15 *car pool transfer to A-Mill Artists Lofts*

A-Mill Artists Lofts  
315 Main St SE, Minneapolis, MN 55414  
Phone: (612) 339-1034

- 12:45-5:00 PM continued CSM and NRW workshop
- 12:45-1:30 lunch at A-Mill Lofts on the roof top patio/lounge
- 1:30-2:30 tech talk  
 “Energy Efficient Buildings: How to Turn Existing Building Stock into Efficiency Leaders – The Minneapolis A-Mill project”
- Neal Route**, senior development associate, Dominion  
**John Stark**, managing architect, BKV Group
- State Input: “Looking for Efficiency Opportunities in State-Owned Buildings”  
**Jordan Wente**, enterprise sustainability program administrator at the State of Minnesota’s Office of Enterprise Sustainability
- 2:45-3:45 parallel group workshops at first floor level
- Workgroup Education & Outreach** (first floor lounge)  
 Facilitator: Kristin Mroz, Local Government Coordinator  
 Minnesota Environmental Quality Board
- Workgroup Efficient Buildings** (first floor Performance Hall)  
 Facilitators: **Carsten Peters**, energy advisor, consumers organization  
 Verbraucherzentrale Nordrheinwestfalen  
**Thomas Werner**, head, department of facilities management,  
 City of Münster
- 3:45-4:00 plenary: reports on results (first floor Performance Hall)
- 4:00-4:30 First Step Towards Establishing Workgroup Climate Adaptation, Sustainability,  
 Resilient Communities: climate adaptation brainstorm  
 Facilitator: **Sebastian Witte**, project manager, climate action & sustainable urban  
 development, City of Arnsberg
- 4:30 PM walk back to hotel
- 5:30 PM *leave hotel to take GREEN LINE public transit to the U of M- St. Paul Campus; get off at East Bank station stop  
 and walk back west to Coffman Memorial Union. Take elevator to fourth floor to get to Campus Club*
- Campus Club of the University of Minnesota  
 Coffman Memorial Union building  
 300 Washington Avenue Southeast  
 Minneapolis, MN 55455  
 Phone: +1 (612) 625-1967
- 6:00-9:30 PM **“Success Stories & Next Steps: A bi-national conversation on energy and climate leadership”** dinner  
 discussion with 100 guests in honor of NRW Delegation (*see pages 18-20 for list of attendees*)
- speakers include: **Dr. Jessica Hellmann**, director and the Ecolab Chair in Environmental  
 Leadership, Institute on the Environment, University of Minnesota  
**Commissioner Alice Roberts-Davis**, MN Department of Administration  
**Mayor Gerhard Joksch**, City of Münster  
**Mayor Wilfried Roos**, City of Saerbeck  
**Johannes Dierker**, director, Youth Education Center Saerbeck  
**Guido Wallraven**, technical director, City of Saerbeck  
**Blaine Hill**, city manager, City of Morris
- 9:45 *take public transit GREEN LINE back to hotel*

## Tuesday, June 11, 2019 – Travel & Individual Partner City Day 1

Morning: Delegation members depart to partner cities to work on their specific joint city projects

City of Duluth *hosts* City of Siegen  
City of Morris *hosts* City of Saerbeck  
City of Rochester *hosts* Stadt Münster  
City of Warren *hosts* Stadt Arnsberg  
City of White Bear Lake *hosts* Stadt Lüdenscheid, City of Elk River, City of Iserlohn and NRW state government representatives

Hotel Duluth Group:  
Park Point Marina Inn  
1033 Minnesota Ave., Duluth, MN 55802  
Phone: +1 (218) 491-7111

Hotel Morris Group:  
GrandStay Hotel  
East 5, MN-28, Morris, MN  
Phone: +1 (320) 585-4000

Hotel Rochester Group:  
Comfort Inn & Suites West - Medical Center  
2005 Commerce Drive, NW,  
Rochester, MN 55901  
Phone: +1 (507) 281-6850

## Wednesday, June 12, 2019 – Individual Partner City Day 2

Delegation members work on their specific city projects

City of Duluth *hosts* City of Siegen  
City of Elk River *hosts* City of Iserlohn  
City of Morris *hosts* City of Saerbeck  
City of Rochester *hosts* Stadt Münster  
City of Warren *hosts* Stadt Arnsberg  
City of White Bear Lake *hosts* Stadt Lüdenscheid

## Wednesday, June 12, 2019 – Agency Partners Program

Day's Hosts: **Dr. Sabine Engel**, director of international partnerships, IonE, U of MN [mobile: +1-612-501-6504]  
**Alice Roberts-Davis**, Commissioner of Administration, Minnesota Department of Administration  
**Erin Campbell**, assistant commissioner, facilities and enterprise services, Minnesota Department of Administration  
**Joe Sullivan**, deputy commissioner, Minnesota Department of Commerce  
**Jessica Burdette**, state energy office manager, efficiency, assurance & operations, Minnesota Department of Commerce  
**Michelle Gransee**, state energy office manager, clean energy & programs, Minnesota Department of Commerce  
**Will Seuffert**, executive director, Minnesota Environmental Quality Board  
**Laura Millberg**, climate change adaptation coordinator, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency  
**Rob Davis**, Director of the Center for Pollinators in Energy, Fresh Energy  
**Kristin Mroz**, local government coordinator, Minnesota Environmental Quality Board

NRW state agency representatives:

**Editha Bongartz**, senior civil servant, international relations and networks division, NRW State Ministry for the Environment MULNV  
**Michael Mueller**, senior consultant, EnergyAgency.NRW

**Andrea Preiss**, senior civil servant, dept for energy efficiency, sustainable building and neighborhood, net-zero state administration, and heating NRW State Ministry for Economic Affairs, Innovation, Digitalization, and Energy MWIDE

8:30 AM *group meets Sabine in hotel lobby; transfer by car to St. Paul*

Minnesota Department of Administration  
200 Administration Building  
50 Sherburne Avenue  
Saint Paul, MN 55155  
Phone: +1 (651) 201-2561

9:30-10:30 AM conversation with **Commissioner Alice Roberts-Davis** and assistant commissioner **Erin Campbell**, Minnesota Department of Administration

Minnesota Department of Commerce  
85 7th Place East, Suite 280  
Saint Paul, MN 55101  
Phone: +1 (651) 539-1445

11:15 AM-12:15 PM conversation with Minnesota Department of Commerce deputy commissioner **Joe Sullivan**, **Jessica Burdette**, and **Michelle Gransee**

12: 30-1:30 *lunch at St. Paul restaurant*

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency  
520 Lafayette Road N  
St. Paul, MN 55155  
Phone: +1 (651) 296-6300  
(MPCA room 101)

2:00-3:00 PM conversation with MN Pollution Control Agency and EQB on sustainability and climate adaptation policy & goals  
**Will Seuffert**, executive director, Minnesota Environmental Quality Board  
**Laura Millberg**, climate change adaptation coordinator, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

56 Brewing  
3055 NE Columbia Ave., Suite 102  
Minneapolis, MN 55418  
Phone: +1 (612) 404-0056

3:30-4:30 PM "Pollinators and Energy"—conversation with **Rob Davis**, director of the Center for Pollinators in Energy, Fresh Energy

5:00 PM back at hotel

*evening open for individual activities*

## Thursday, June 13, 2019 – Individual Partner City Day 3 + Work Groups Day 2

morning: Delegation members work on their specific joint city project

City of Duluth *hosts* City of Siegen  
City of Morris *hosts* City of Saerbeck  
City of Rochester *hosts* City of Münster  
City of Warren *hosts* City of Arnsberg  
City of White Bear Lake *hosts* City of Luedenscheid

morning open for additional adhoc meetings for NRW ministry representatives

all delegation members travel back to Twin Cities area

City of White Bear Lake  
City Hall  
4701 US-61  
White Bear Lake, MN 55110  
Phone: +1 (651) 429-8526

2:45 PM all NRW & MN work group members meet in White Bear Lake at City Hall

3:00-5:30 Work Group Sessions and Sharing of Results from City Visits

NOTE: White Bear Press will be present for short interview

### **Workgroup Education & Outreach**

Facilitator: Max Schuessler

### **Workgroup Efficient Buildings**

Facilitators: Carsten Peters  
Thomas Werner

### **Workgroup E-Mobility**

Facilitator: Connie Taillon

### **Workgroup Renewable Energy**

Facilitator: Bryan Herrmann

### **Workgroup Climate Adaptation, Sustainability, Resilient Communities**

Facilitators: Sebastian Witte  
Shannon Mortenson

4:30-5:15 Results & Next Steps

6:00-8:30 PM NRW and CSM delegation at Marketfest in White Bear Lake  
opportunity for CSM spotlight on Gazebo Stage

*car pools back to hotel in Minneapolis*

## Friday, June 14, 2019 – Conference

**7:30 AM**      *leave hotel to take GREEN LINE public transit to the U of M- St. Paul Campus; get off at East Bank station stop and walk to McNamara Alumni Center*

McNamara Alumni Center, Memorial Hall  
200 SE Oak St, Minneapolis, MN 55455  
Phone: (651) 624-9831

### **8:00 AM-4:30 PM** “Minnesota’s Clean Energy Future: Case Studies from Global to Local”

8:00 AM light breakfast

8:30      welcome  
**Dr. Jessica Hellmann**, director, Institute on the Environment, U of MN  
**Kate Wolford**, president, McKnight Foundation

8:45      opening keynote  
**Ben Fowke**, chairman, president, and CEO, Xcel Energy

9:10      “Around the World in 70 Minutes”  
speakers from Denmark, Germany, and the UK  
Expert on China  
[CSM delegation panelist: **Gerhard Joksch**]

10:20      *coffee break*

10:35      state case studies  
speakers from Hawaii, Illinois, Puerto Rico, and Vermont

11:45 AM facilitated table discussion [active roles for CSM delegation members]

12:15      lunch  
Theater of Public Policy on Minnesota’s Emissions Trajectory

1:15      corporate leadership

2:10      city leadership  
[CSM panelists: **Blaine Hill, Guido Wallraven, Kim Norton**]

3:10      facilitated table discussion [active roles for CSM delegation members]

3:45      Minnesota Legislators  
**Sen. David Senjem, Rep. Melissa Hortman, Sen. Nick Frentz**  
Moderator: **Lori Sturdevant**, columnist, Star Tribune

4:10      closing keynote  
**Tim Walz**, Governor of Minnesota

4:30-6:00 reception (optional)

*open evening for individual activities*

7:00-9:30 PM *optional:* join Sabine in Minnehaha Park at Sea Salt Eatery for relaxing evening in the park with free live music band and people watching.  
Music: Famous Volcanoes original Americana string band (plays at 7:00)

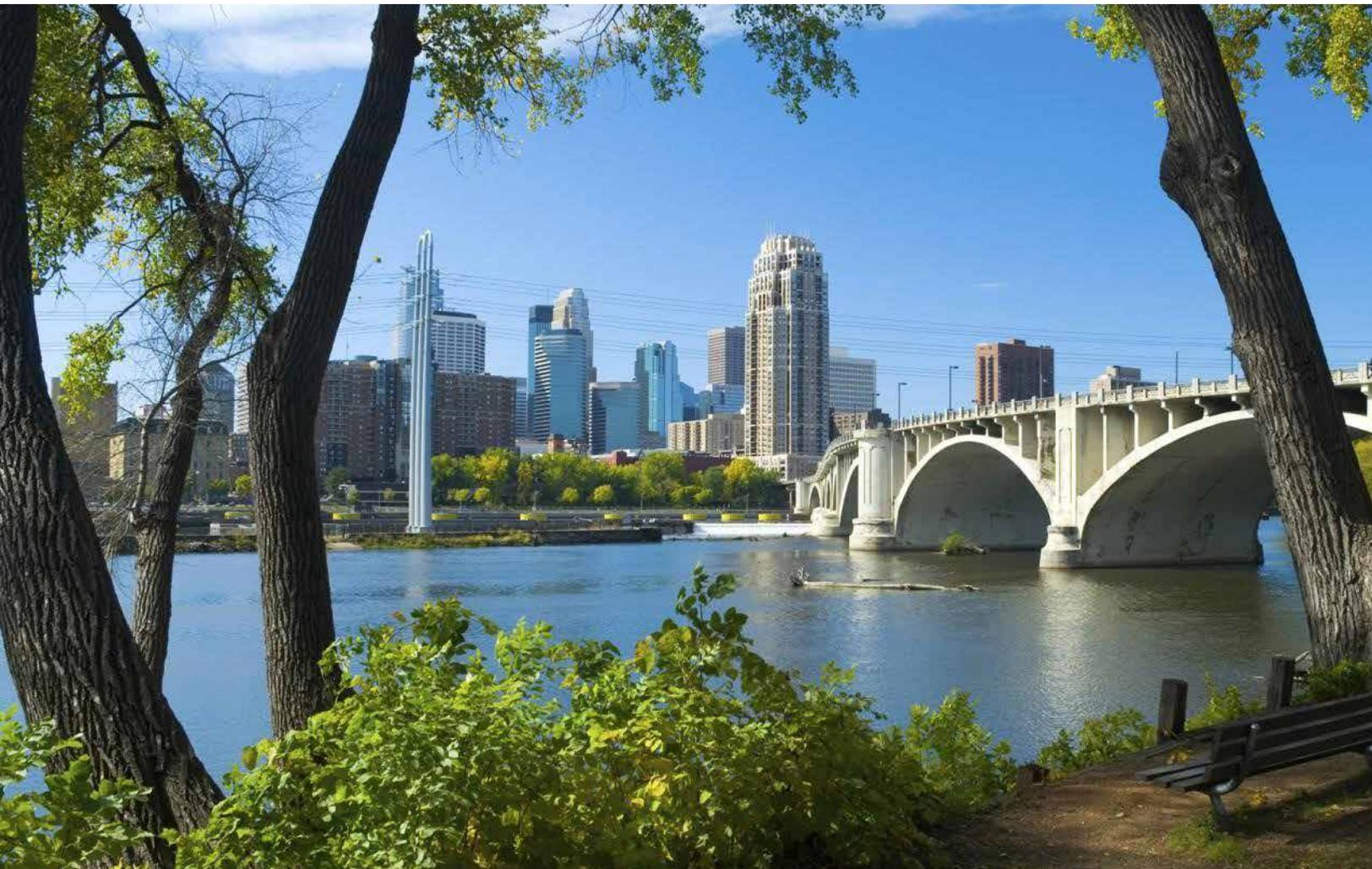
take BLUE LINE to 50th Street station

Sea Salt Eatery  
4825 Minnehaha Ave.  
Minneapolis, MN 55417  
Phone: +1 (651) 721-8990

## **Saturday, June 15, 2018 – Wrap-Up & Next Steps**

8:00-10:00 AM debrief & next steps at group hotel (billiard room)

10:00-end of day *open for individual activities and individual departures*



## Success Stories & Next Steps—

*a bi-national conversation on energy and climate leadership*

**Monday, June 10, 2019, 6:00-9:30 PM**

Coffman Memorial Union, Campus Club  
300 Washington Ave SE, Minneapolis, MN 55455

### Attendees:

**Hannes Badziura**, head,  
Department of Environmental  
Protection and Green Space,  
City of Lüdenscheid

**Ulrike Badziura**, head,  
Department of Environmental  
and Climate Protection, City  
of Iserlohn

**Fran Bator**, chair and board  
member, Connexus Energy

**Amanda Bednar**,  
environmental coordinator,  
City of Elk River

**UJ Bhowmik**, international  
energy partnerships project  
assistant, Institute on the  
Environment, U of M

**Doug Biehn**, city council  
member, City of White Bear  
Lake

**Erik Birkeland**, properties  
and facilities manager, City of  
Duluth

**Katherine Blauvelt**, assistant  
commissioner, Minnesota  
Department of Commerce

**Clay Van De Bogart**, board  
of directors, Dakota Electric  
Association

**Editha Bongartz**, senior  
civil servant, International  
Relations and Networks  
division, MULNV

**Kevin Bright**, sustainability  
director, City of Rochester

**Marc Brosius**, CSM intern,  
City of Morris, Münster

Applied University

**Erin Campbell**, assistant  
commissioner, Minnesota  
Dept. of Administration

**Zack Carlton**, planning  
manager, City of Elk River

**Garrett Christianson**, city  
council member, City of Elk  
River

**Mary Jo Cristofaro**, member,  
Northfield Climate Action  
Advisory Board

**Trish Curtis**, energy  
commission member, City of  
Elk River

**Johannes Dierker**, managing  
director, Youth Education  
Center Saerbeck

**Jo Emerson**, mayor, City of  
White Bear Lake

**Dr. Sabine Engel**, director  
of international energy  
partnerships, Institute on the  
Environment

**Ben Erickson**, Green Corps  
member, City of Morris

**Abby Finis**, senior energy  
planner, Great Plains Institute

**Jared Finnerty**, CSM 2019  
student delegate, U of M

**Elena Fischer**, CSM intern, City  
of Rochester, Münster Applied  
University

**Divya Ghosh**, international  
energy partnerships project

assistant, Institute on the  
Environment, U of M

**Dave Goebel**, CEO & Founder,  
enVerde LLC

**Troy Goodnough**, sustainabil-  
ity director, U of M Morris

**Sven Gotthal**, city council  
member, City of Münster

**Marcus Grubbs**, enterprise  
sustainability planner,  
Minnesota Office of  
Enterprise Sustainability

**Patrick Hanlon**, director of  
environmental programs,  
Health Department, City of  
Minneapolis

**Paul Hartmann**, climate  
protection officer, City of  
Siegen

**Jessica Hellmann**, director,  
Institute on the Environment,  
U of M

**Ryan Hentges**, CEO,  
Minnesota Valley Electric  
Cooperative

**Larry Herke**, commissioner,  
Minnesota Department of  
Veterans Affairs

**Bryan Herrmann**, vice-  
chancellor finance and  
facilities, U of M Morris

**Blaine Hill**, city administrator,  
City of Morris

**Ellen Hiniker**, city manager,  
City of White Bear Lake

**Jack Hoschouer**, president,  
jdHosch Associates

**Gerhard Joksch**, honorary  
mayor, City of Münster

**Dan Jones**, city council  
member, City of White Bear  
Lake

**Cathy Jordan**, associate  
director for leadership &  
education, Institute on the  
Environment, U of M

**Ralph Kaehler**, partner, Novel  
Energy Solutions

**Jeremy Kalin**, president, Kalin  
LLC

**Beth Kallestad**, program  
coordinator, City of Northfield

**Mos Kaveh**, dean, College of  
Science & Engineering, U of M

**Ralph Kensmann**, managing  
director, Start.design GmbH

**Julian Klaus**, CSM intern, City  
of White Bear Lake, Münster  
Applied University

**Suzan Klein**, business support  
associate, Minnesota Solar  
Energy Industry Association

**Kristi Kremers**, director of  
graduate & faculty leadership  
programs, Institute on the  
Environment, U of M

**Tom Link**, CEO, Spatial Key

**Rachel Linzbach**, 2019 CSM  
student delegate, U of M



above: A panel of CSM champions at a preview party for "Climate Smart: Cities Working Together" (dir. Leya Hale, TPT, 2018)

**Kimberly Long**, event strategist and project manager, Institute on the Environment, U of M

**Liz Lucente**, program director and general counsel, Minnesota Solar Energy Industries Association

**Laura Malwitz**, account executive, Siemens

**Craig McDonnell**, assistant commissioner for air and climate policy, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

**Brent McMillan**, facilities management, City of Warren

**Michelle Medina**, director of programming, Minnesota Farmers Union

**Beth Mercer-Taylor**, sustainability education coordinator, Institute on the Environment, U of M

**Paige Mortenson**, civil graduate engineer, Westwood Engineering

**Shannon Mortenson**, city administrator/clerk-treasurer, City of Warren

**Kristin Mroz**, local government coordinator, Minnesota Environmental Quality Board

**Marcus Müller**, deputy head, dept of municipal and regional climate protection, EnergyAgency.NRW

**Michael Müller**, energy practices, Regional and Municipal Climate Protection

**Philipp Muessig**, coordinator, MN GreenStep Cities Program, MN Pollution Control Agency

**Lissa Pawlisch**, CERTs director, Regional Sustainable Development Partnerships & Extension, U of M

**Carsten Peters**, energy advisor, Verbraucherzentrale Nordrheinwestfalen  
**Cal Portner**, city administrator, City of Elk River

**Rhonda Pownell**, mayor, City of Northfield

**Jayme Ratliff**, CSM 2019 student delegate, U of M

**Mike Reese**, director of renewable energy, West Central Research and

Outreach Center, U of M  
Morris

**Greg Ridderbusch**, CEO,  
Connexus Energy

**Rosa Ridderbusch**,  
community member

**Alice Roberts-Davis**,  
commissioner, Minnesota  
Dept. of Administration

**Britta Roe**, CSM 2018 student  
delegate, U of M

**Wilfried Roos**, Mayor, City of  
Saerbeck

**Michelle Rosier**, distributed  
energy resources specialist,  
Minnesota Public Utilities  
Commission

**Jerome Samuelson**, retired  
Hennepin County Public  
Defender

**Rob Scarlett**, Minnesota  
liaison, Madison River Group

**Max Schüssler**, research  
associate, mechanical  
engineering, U of Siegen

**Markus Schumacher**, staff  
consultant, NRW State  
Efficiency Agency

**Jeffrey Seewald**, senior energy  
engineer, Trane – Great  
Northern Plains District

**Senator David Senjem**, chair,  
capital investment committee

**Julie Smith**, community  
member, Minneapolis

**Ken Smith**, CEO and  
president, Ever-Green Energy

**Shane Stennes**, director of  
sustainability, U of M

**Lori Sturdevant**, columnist,  
Star Tribune

**Brent Svenby**,  
senior administrative analyst,  
City of Rochester

**Connie Tailon**, environmental  
specialist, City of White Bear  
Lake

**Lauren Walburg**, CSM 2019  
student delegate, U of M

**Guido Wallraven**, technical  
director, Klimakommune  
Saerbeck

**Rolf Weberg**, executive  
director, Natural Resources  
Research Institute

**Thomas Werner**, director of  
building management, City of  
Münster

**Gary Wertish**, president,  
Minnesota Farmers Union

**Christof Wetter**, professor of  
environmental technology,  
FH Münster University of  
Applied Sciences

**Sebastian Witte**, project  
manager for climate action  
and sustainable urban  
development, City of  
Arnsberg



below: A panel of CSM student delegates to NRW share their insights from Germany with each others' families and Minnesota leaders



Hans Juergen Badziura



Ulrike Badziura



Editha Bongartz



Johannes Dierker



Sven Gotthal

## BIOGRAPHIES: NRW DELEGATION

**Hans Jürgen Badziura** heads the specialist service for environmental protection and green space at the City of Lüdenscheid. He holds a degree in biology. The duties of his specialist service department include general environmental protection tasks such as contaminated site investigation and clean-up, noise action planning, open space planning, habitat and species protection, water conservation, and climate protection. The city of Lüdenscheid has a climate protection strategy that includes a catalog of measures for the sustainable design of the city. Lüdenscheid committed to cutting in half the per capita emissions of greenhouse gases by 2030 when it joined the Climate Alliance. At the moment, the main climate protection activities are focused on the areas of energy efficiency in existing buildings and the development of an e-mobility plan. In the future, it is intended to implement measures to prevent damage caused by climate change. The further expansion of regenerative energy generation in cooperation with Stadtwerke Lüdenscheid will also remain an important element of municipal services going forward. In May 2019, the City of Lüdenscheid was selected as one of 15 NRW municipalities to participate in the Global Sustainable Municipality NRW project. The goal is to model strategies for sustainable development at the municipal level. The project is part of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and the Global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). CSM partner cities Arnsberg and Muenster are also among the group of 15 selected NRW communities.

**Ulrike Badziura** is head of the department of environmental and climate protection at the City of Iserlohn. Her portfolio of tasks includes issues of municipal waste, technological aspects of environmental protection, climate protection, and energy efficiency projects. In 2008, she was named to the post of climate protection officer (Klimaschutzbeauftragte) for the City of Iserlohn. Working with local partners she has implemented many projects in her city. The City was recognized for its municipal climate protection efforts with the European Energy Award in Gold. By 2030, the city seeks to reduce its energy use by 35% and reduce its CO2 emissions by 50% over 1990 values.

**Editha Bongartz** is a senior civil servant in the department International Relations and Networks at the Ministry for Environment, Agriculture, Nature Conservation and Consumer Protection of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia (MULNV NRW). She serves as the Ministry's point person for the Climate-Smart Municipalities exchange with Minnesota. Sustainability is a guiding principle at the Ministry. North

Rhine-Westphalia is the biggest supplier of environmental products and services in Germany. The Ministry is an active partner in a strong international network and cooperates and exchanges ideas with states, regions, and communities across the globe. Before moving into her current position in 2011, Ms. Bongartz worked for over a decade at the NRW Ministry for Economy, and Technology, Energy and Transport in the department "Energy, Mining, and Nuclear Energy."

**Johannes Dierker** is director of Jugendbildungsstätte-Saerbeck/CAJ Werkstatt, a youth education center in Saerbeck that focuses on climate protection and resource efficiency. Youth education—in schools and in extracurricular settings—is a key part of Saerbeck's long-term strategy. With about 14,000 annual overnight guests, JBS-Saerbeck is one of the region's most successful centers for youth education. Established in 1983, the center is part of the association of Catholic public service organizations of Muenster diocese.

**Sven Gotthal** is a member of the city council at the City of Münster for the conservative party CDU and serves on the committee for environmental protection, construction, and climate protection. He was elected in 2010. He has been involved in environmental policy since then and has worked on recycling facilities, building insulation standards, and the city's Clean Münster Campaign. Gotthal is a member of the volunteer fire fighters brigade.

**Paul Hartmann** is the climate protection officer ("Klimaschutzbeauftragter") for the city of Siegen. He is a staff member in the office of the mayor and responsible for all climate protection and climate adaptation issues in Siegen's municipal government. Much of his work focuses on providing residents of Siegen with information on saving energy, energy efficiency, e-mobility, and environmentally friendly consumer behavior. In 2011, he partnered with private sector allies from the financial services sector, industry, and the trades to found the nonprofit organization Energieverein Siegen. Operated on the platform of the municipal government, it highlights the importance of climate protection to the city. Energieverein Siegen provides free consulting services four days a week and hosts over 30 events each year on topics such as how to create more vibrant neighborhoods through energy savings measures. Hartmann holds a degree in geography and geology from the University of Münster. From 1992- 2009, he worked as an environmental planner, first in a private sector planning office, then for the city of Gütersloh. In 2009, he became a specialist for climate protection and adaptation.



Paul Hartmann



Gerhard Joksch



Ralph Kensmann



Marcus Müller



Michael Müller

**Gerhard Joksch** is a member of the Münster City Council and serves as honorary third Mayor of the City of Münster. In his role as mayor, Joksch represents Münster's Lord Mayor Markus Lewe in public affairs. Joksch studied regional and spatial planning (UNIDO) and for over 27 years has been working at municipal environmental and building authorities. From 1991 to 1998, he was technical alderman in Beckum, a town in Westphalia. From 1998 to 2006, he directed the urban development department at the City of Münster. Since 2006, he has been working as a freelance planner and advisor ([www.gerhard-joksch.de](http://www.gerhard-joksch.de)). His professional life focuses on: urban development, city planning, municipal traffic development, municipal climate protection and municipal housing policies. In 1983, in his early thirties Gerhard Joksch joined the new Green Party, which was formally established in 1980. Since 2009, he has been representing the Green Party on the Münster City Council. On the City Council he also serves as his caucus' spokesperson on energy policy, climate protection, building policy and waste economy. From 2014 to 2017, Joksch served as chairman of the supervisory board of Stadtwerke Münster, the city's public utility company. In 2016, the City of Münster decided to participate in the Global Sustainable Municipality NRW project. The goal is to model strategies for sustainable development at the municipal level. The project is part of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and the Global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). CSM partner cities Arnsberg and Luedenscheid are also among the group of 15 selected NRW communities.

**Ralph Kensmann**, Dipl.-Ing., is managing partner at Start.Design in Essen, Germany. His company is considered among Germany's leading consultants for lighting planning and design using both artificial and natural light. Start.Design develops tailored solutions for office spaces, public spaces, retail, art exhibits, trade fairs, and televised or live cultural events. In 2012, the company won Germany's lighting design award for energy efficiency for a project with ALDI Sued, one of Germany's largest supermarket chains. In cooperation with Germany's renowned applied research organization Fraunhofer Institute for Solar Energy Systems, Start.Design created a solution that reduces primary energy at a new ALDI supermarket by 50%. Using natural light was a core element. 28 day light openings in the roof equipped with specialized mirror technology that blocks all aspects of light that would spoil food were combined with LED technology. Kensmann is an electronics technician and holds a degree in electrical engineering, specializing in lighting design. Prior to his career with Start.Design, Kensmann worked at BMW Research Center (FIZ) Munich and Proline Innovation Park Dortmund. He works closely with universities and other research organizations. One cooperation involves the physics department at Dortmund University and focuses

on intelligent, networked street lighting. He is connected to the CSM project through his work with the City of Luedenscheid.

**Marcus Müller** works at the City of Lüdenscheid in the department of environmental protection and green space and is responsible for climate protection and sustainability. Before moving into his current role with the City of Luedenscheid in January 2019, he worked for six years in different roles at Energy Agency.NRW, most recently as deputy head of the agency's department of municipal and regional climate protection. He was responsible for the European Energy Award, the ECORegion program, mobile energy consulting, and other efforts that foster climate protection efforts across the region. Before his promotion within EnergyAgency.NRW, Müller spent five years working as a "climate networker" in the rural Arnsberg region. He was the first person in that role and focused on the local energy transition. He connected municipalities, administrations, companies, and other entities. Müller's consistent work won him and the agency strong support among local partners. One measure of his success was a new klimanetzwerk.südwestfalen association of municipalities and counties devoted to regional exchange on effective climate protection measures ([www.klimanetzwerk.nrw](http://www.klimanetzwerk.nrw)). Mueller has been a crucial partner for the Climate-Smart Municipalities from its start: four of the five NRW partner cities in the Climate-Smart Municipalities program with Minnesota are located in or adjacent to the rural Arnsberg region. He helped recruit them.

**Michael Müller** is a senior consultant with Energy Agency.NRW in the department energy use, climate protection in municipalities and regions. He is responsible for the Carbon Footprint program for cities and municipalities, the education and qualification of climate protection managers and the advising service for green and carbon neutral sports events. Energy Agency.NRW works on behalf of the state government of North Rhine-Westphalia to provide an expert staffed operative platform for all things related to energy. Its 140 staff members have expertise that ranges from energy research, technical development, demonstration, market launch and basic energy consulting all the way to continuous professional training and development. Many of the agency's activities focus on energy efficiency and climate protection. Given Germany's high cost of energy, innovative energy technologies need to be developed continuously. As an impartial entity, Energy Agency.NRW highlights how business, local authorities and private individuals can handle energy more economically or make appropriate use of renewables. The agency receives funding also from the European Regional Development Fund. Müller has worked for Energy Agency.NRW for 19 years and has collaborated on various projects with municipalities



Carsten Peters



Andrea Preiss



Wilfried Roos



Markus Schumacher



Max Schüssler

and companies. He also supported the NRW Ministry of Economic Affairs in introducing the EU emissions trading scheme for companies. Furthermore, he was responsible for the pilot project JIM.NRW which supports to bring GHG reduction from the local level to the emissions trading market. He joined the CSM project earlier this year.

**Carsten Peters** is an energy advisor with the state-wide consumer organization Verbraucherzentrale Nordrheinwestfalen at its Arnsberg location. He serves both private property owners and renters. Counseling for private property owners focuses on how to save energy through building modernization and on ways to add renewable energy to their properties. Counseling for renters centers on generating savings by increasing power and heat efficiency. Peters regularly gives public talks and invites residents to participate in community activities that promote sustainability. He also works on developing new ways to assess the performance and potential of existing buildings. Peters studied environmental engineering. After graduation he led a team at a national logistics company and later was promoted to serve as one of his company's internal consultants on sustainable energy and facilities management. From 2011 to 2015, he ran his own consulting office. The consumer organization Verbraucherzentrale Nordrheinwestfalen became a regular clients and in 2015 invited him to join the organization as a full-time staff member.

**Andrea Preiss** is a senior officer and deputy head of the department of energy efficiency, heat and carbon-neutral government at the Ministry of Economic Affairs, Innovation, Digitalization and Energy of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia. She coordinates the process of achieving carbon neutrality of the 539 North Rhine-Westphalian state agencies by 2030.

**Wilfried Roos** is mayor of the City of Saerbeck (pop. 7,200), which is located in a rural area in the state of North-Rhine Westphalia. Before moving to Saerbeck as the city's new administrator in 1994, Roos held a number of administrative positions at county and city levels. In 1999, the citizens of Saerbeck elected him mayor. He was reelected in September 2015 for the fourth time. Since 2008 and supported by a broad electoral mandate, his daily set of tasks includes implementing an ambitious municipal agenda: by 2030, the City of Saerbeck wants to secure full energy self-sufficiency through renewable energies. A comprehensive blueprint for local climate protection that was generated by the city in partnership with multiple other stakeholders guides the effort. Based on that blueprint, the City of Saerbeck won a state-wide contest and was designated "Climate Community of the Future" (Klimakommune der Zukunft) for modeling sustainability at

the municipal level. Today, the City features about 150 concurrent initiatives and projects. The most important among them is "Bio-Energy Park Saerbeck" on the site of a former federal ammunition storage facility. The 250 acre site combines wind, solar, and biogas energy generation. Individual citizens play a crucial role in the energy transformation. 450 citizen small investors invested between \$1,300 (min.) and \$25,000 (max.) in the Saerbeck bio-energy cooperative. In October 2015, Saerbeck and the City of Morris signed a three-year memorandum of agreement for the two communities to work together on municipal energy and climate protection initiatives. In fall 2018, the agreement was renewed with no end date. The exchange is helping transform Morris, MN.

**Markus Schumacher**, Dipl.-Ing. Agr., is a staff consultant at North Rhine-Westphalia's efficiency agency Effizienz-Agentur NRW (EFA) and an expert on resource efficiency. Created in 1998 by the state's Ministry for the Environment, the organization has a staff of thirty full-time employees who deliver expert services to small and medium sized companies located in North Rhine-Westphalia state. Services are designed to help companies develop comprehensive strategic and technical improvements that are the backbone of a sustainable economy. EFA coordinates services from developers, providers, funding bodies and users of futuristic innovations.

**Max Schüssler** is a research associate in mechanical engineering at the University of Siegen and working on his Ph.D. He holds a competitive scholarship from the German business foundation Stiftung der deutschen Wirtschaft for his current research. During summer and fall 2017, Max had the opportunity to do an internship in Siegen's partner-city Duluth, coordinated through the Climate Smart Municipalities cooperation. There he developed a hybrid energy system concept for the city's water treatment center and main pump house. He holds a master's degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Siegen, where he specialized in energy plant engineering and machine learning, and a bachelor's degree in industrial engineering from TH Mittelhessen, Giessen. He also serves as a co-lead on the CSM education work group.

**Guido Wallraven** has been serving as technical director for the City of Saerbeck since 2009. He is in charge of implementing about 150 individual initiatives that promote and implement local climate protection. Wallraven has been working on municipal climate protection issues for over 15 years. Together with local stakeholders, he develops plans for adapting to climate change. He serves as a consultant to municipalities and cities on local measures that support sustainability. He also manages the implementation of



Guido Wallraven



Thomas Werner



Dr. Christof Wetter



Sebastian Witte



Amanda Bednar

large and small projects that focus on renewable energy, energy use reduction, energy efficiency, climate-friendly transportation, and community education. Wallraven (pronounced "VAL-raav-n") holds an engineering degree in architecture with a specialization on city planning. He owns the city planning consultancy Stadt-Land-Fluss-Büro für Städtebau und Umweltplanung. The office focuses on energy-efficient city planning, sustainable city development, the use of solar energy in cities, and sustainable master planning. He has taught at Siegen University and frequently speaks at public forums as an expert architect affiliated with the Chamber of Architects in North-Rhine Westphalia. To support the efforts of the Minnesota-based Climate-Smart Municipalities cohort, Wallraven was invited to spend extended time in Minnesota over the course of 2019. His spring visit included working with CSM partners in Morris, Warren, Rochester, White Bear Lake and the State of Minnesota's Office of Enterprise Sustainability. A similar visit is planned for fall. If you or your organization are interested in participating in this opportunity, please contact the CSM group.

**Thomas Werner** is director of infrastructure in the facilities department of the City of Münster. He is in charge of all aspects of facilities management but focuses especially on energy efficiency and sustainable construction measures. He holds a degree in building systems engineering from Applied University FH Münster. In 1989, he started working for the City of Münster. First projects included larger HVAC construction and the technical management of the city's pools. In 1992, he started a systematic rollout and expansion of energy management measures for the city's 350 facilities. Since 2001, he has been a member of the energy management task force of Germany's league of cities Deutscher Städtetag. He is a member of the CSM workgroup on efficient buildings. In his spare time, he loves to sail on the Baltic Sea.

**Dr. Christof Wetter** is a professor at FH Münster University of Applied Sciences in the faculty of Energy, Buildings Services and Environmental Engineering, which he headed as dean from 2008 to 2012. Over the past 30 years, Dr. Wetter has been involved in many environmental technology projects, especially in municipal and industrial wastewater technology and renewable energy. He has served as project engineer, project manager, consultant and adviser. He joined the faculty at FH Münster University of Applied Sciences in 1999. He has been responsible for wastewater technology and water pollution control, and has successfully carried out many research and development projects and a variety of third party projects. For many years, he has been involved with biogas technology, renewable energy and electro-mobility and developed a number of new concepts. He publishes widely and is active in many working groups

and expert committees: founding member and member of the board of the Institute for Energy and Process (IEP) (since 01/2014), founding member and member of the board of the Institute for Water · Resources · Environment (IWARU) (since 05/2011), founding member and member of the Institute for Sustainable Food and Food Industry (iSun) (since 02/2009). Dr. Wetter serves on the steering committee for the City of Saerbeck's climate-smart effort, is a key research and technology partner and adviser for the City of Saerbeck, and uses space at Saerbeck's Bio-Energy Park for research, including analyses of different battery storage technologies. Since 2017, seven of his students have served as CSM interns with the cities of Elk River, Morris, Rochester, and White Bear Lake.

**Sebastian Marcel Witte**, Dipl.-Ing., is project manager for climate action and sustainable development at the City of Arnsberg and responsible for the implementation of the city's sustainability strategy. The strategy focuses on implementing the Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) of the United Nations. One of the main objectives is a sustainable, resilient and carbon neutral Arnsberg 2050. Witte works as an urban planner at the city's office for the future ("Zukunftsagentur"), which deals with core aspects of sustainable urban development such as climate change, changing demographics, new types of mobility and healthy & sustainable lifestyles. Witte studied spatial planning with a focus on urban design at Technical University of Dortmund. He holds a degree in engineering. Since 2008, he has been serving as a research associate at Karlsruhe Institute of Technology. In 2016, the City of Arnsberg embraced the United Nations Agenda 2030 sustainable development goals. The city participates in the Global Sustainable Municipality NRW project. The goal is to model strategies for sustainable development at the municipal level. CSM partner cities Münster and Luedenscheid are also among the group of 15 selected NRW communities.



Dr. Michelle Behr



Jim Benning



Erik Birkeland



Kevin Bright



Erin Campbell

## BIOGRAPHIES: MINNESOTA CSM CHAMPIONS

**Amanda Bednar** is the environmental coordinator for the City of Elk River. Elk River has been known as the “Energy City” since 1997 after being chosen by the Minnesota Environmental Initiative to act as a geographical focal point for the demonstration of efficient and renewable energy products, services, and technologies. Amanda is responsible for various city initiatives related to energy including serving as the staff liaison to the Energy City Commission, which promotes Elk River as a center of energy technology, energy manufacturing, demonstrations, recycling, and education. A major portion of Amanda’s time is spent on education and outreach to the community, including providing tours of demonstration sites and connecting with local residents and businesses. Her role at Elk River also includes work in waste reduction, recycling, and natural resources management. Amanda holds a B.A. in Environmental Studies and Communication from the College of Saint Benedict.

**Dr. Michelle Behr** is the sixth chancellor of the University of Minnesota Morris, a position she has held since February 2017. She is committed to working with campus constituents and partners to continue the University of Minnesota-Morris’ deep and comprehensive engagement with environmental sustainability. The Morris campus is the University of Minnesota’s sustainability campus. Dr. Behr earned a bachelor’s degree in anthropology with honors from the University of California, Santa Cruz, and her master’s and doctoral degrees from Arizona State University in anthropology and geography, respectively. Behr is a three-time Fulbright Scholar and was selected as an American Council on Education Fellow in 2005-2006.

**Jim Benning** is the director of public works and utilities for the City of Duluth and is responsible for all aspects of the city’s street lights, roads, bridges, street maintenance, and municipal utilities. Public Works and Utilities is the largest department in the City of Duluth, with an annual budget over \$90 million and 250 employees. The municipal utilities under his direction are: water, natural gas, sanitary sewer, storm sewer, and street lighting. Benning is also the representative for the City on the downtown district heating system. These utilities are some of the largest users of energy and can potentially see the most cost savings from new energy initiatives. Duluth’s gas utility is the largest municipally owned natural gas utility in the state, and 27th in the United States. His department is responsible for implementing various energy loan and grant programs for residential and commercial customers to promote natural gas conservation. Jim holds a B.S. degree in civil and environmental engineering from the University of Wisconsin, Madison. He is also a registered professional

engineer in the State of Minnesota.

**Doug Biehn** is a member of the White Bear Lake city council. He represents Ward 2. He will be joining the MN CSM delegation for the workshop seminar in NRW in September.

**Erik Birkeland** is the property and facilities manager for the City of Duluth and responsible for the overall operation, maintenance, and capital improvement of 148 buildings comprising of 1,200,000 square feet. Additionally, he is responsible for all city property, including over 12,000 acres of public park spaces and hundreds of parcels of non-park property. Property and facilities management is the primary driver of energy efficiency, conservation, and land resource management initiatives within the city organization. It has been charged with leading these sustainability efforts through implementing the Mayor’s energy plan and building the Environmental Advisory Council, which is made up of key stakeholders from the community and region. Since 2003, the City of Duluth has been actively investing in energy efficiency projects, and since 2013 it has been implementing an asset management system and streamlining its energy resource management capabilities to effectively track and manage its energy consumption while aligning its capital planning and maintenance activities with the latest advances in building science, energy conservation, practice, and technology. The City’s primary focus for the last few years has been on its own infrastructure and core community service deliverables. Prior to working for the City of Duluth, Birkeland spent five years as the business improvement manager and capital planning manager (respectively) for St. Louis County, and 10 years in the private sector leading preconstruction and organizational planning efforts in support of over 60 public school district construction projects throughout the State of Minnesota. He holds a master’s degree in education from the University of Minnesota, and an English degree from Concordia College in Moorhead, Minnesota.

**Kevin Bright** is the energy and sustainability director for the Destination Medical Center (DMC) Economic Development Agency. His main functions are to ensure the DMC development projects meet the energy and sustainability goals outlined in the DMC Development Plan, convene the Energy Integration Committee, a collection of energy-focused stakeholders to discuss and implement high-level energy goals for development, and advocate for sustainability, health, and wellness issues throughout the community. Previously, Bright worked in promoting energy efficiency and sustainability in higher education, specifically efforts at Colby College and Harvard University. At Colby, Bright supported all facets of sustainability including: occupant engagement programs, greenhouse gas accounting,



Barrett Colombo



Timothy Den-Herder



Jo Emerson



Pat Farrington



Sheldon Giese

third party certifications, new and existing building performance, renewable project development and demand management activities in the existing building stock. Prior to Colby, Bright worked as the assistant program manager of the Green Building Services program at Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts. The program supported Harvard schools and units in efforts to design, build, and operate their buildings more sustainably. The Green Building Service staff also met with project teams to explain Harvard's Green Building Standards, perform life-cycle costing analyses, facilitate green building trainings, conduct energy audits, commission new construction and commercial interior projects, and manage many of the University's LEED green building certification efforts. Kevin holds a M.A. in energy and environmental analysis from Boston University, and a B.A. from Middlebury College in environmental geology.

**Jessica Burdette** works at the MN Department of Commerce in the division of energy resources. She manages the state energy office for energy efficiency and operations. She is responsible for the regulation of over 180 natural gas and electric utility efficiency programs to ensure achievement of the 1.5% energy efficiency resource standard through the Conservation Improvement Program (CIP). She is accountable for \$200 million in annual natural gas and electric utility CIP spending. She also provides oversight of public sector energy efficiency and conservation programs including B3 Benchmarking, Sustainable Buildings 2030 Guidelines, Guaranteed Energy Savings Program, Local Government Energy Efficiency Program. Responsible for approximately \$25 million in operating costs and programmatic implementation.

**Erin Campbell** is the assistant commissioner for facilities and enterprise services at the Department of Administration. She oversees the work of the facilities management division, fleet and surplus services, real estate and construction, enterprise real property and the Office of Enterprise Sustainability. She has been in this role since 2015. Erin previously served as the deputy chief of staff for legislative and policy affairs for Governor Mark Dayton. In this role she provided senior leadership and strategic guidance to the Governor, advising him on all legislative and policy matters before the state legislature and throughout state agencies. Prior to joining the Department of Administration, Erin worked for two years as a lobbyist with the Messerli & Kramer Government Relations Group and from 2011-2013, Erin served as senior policy advisor to Governor Mark Dayton. Erin was responsible for advancing the Governor's priorities with a focus on public safety, transportation, economic development, labor, housing and capital investment. She worked extensively with state agencies and their commissioners and was the Governor's lead in

assembling the bonding bill and special session emergency relief bills and seeking legislative concurrence. Erin also spent six years working for the Minnesota Senate. Erin graduated from Concordia College in 2004 with majors in social work and Spanish and minors in political science and psychology. She is a licensed social worker. Erin grew up in Willmar, Minnesota. In her free time she enjoys traveling, outdoor adventures, going to concerts, and quality time with friends, family and her beagle Benny.

**Barrett Colombo** is a manager for education and policy initiatives at the Institute on the Environment. He coordinates efforts to translate the Institute's research into action, both within the University and alongside stakeholders in the public and private sector. He is the lead producer for Food Matters, which provides cutting-edge briefings on our global food system. Barrett also coordinates the development of a range of classes and co-curricular efforts for the University's new Grand Challenge Curriculum. Colombo's career has focused on issues at the intersection of sustainability policy and education. Before coming to IonE, he worked as a policy analyst on issues of environmental health and equity, and in a number of secondary and adult education roles in Washington, D.C., and Boston. Barrett has a master's degree in public policy from the University of Minnesota's Hubert H. Humphrey School of Public Affairs. He is an fan of Minnesota's great outdoors.

**Timothy Den-Herder Thomas** is general manager at Cooperative Energy Futures, an energy efficiency and community-owned clean energy cooperative based in South Minneapolis and serving members across Minnesota. CEF develops community solar gardens for their members and offer products and services to help people save energy and money in their home. Clean Energy Futures uses the power of community to create economic opportunity through energy efficiency. Their mission is to empower people to participate in simple climate and energy solutions that work for everyone. The organization grew out of a group of students at Macalester College who in 2006 started a Clean Energy Revolving Fund to finance student-driven campus projects that save energy and money. Timothy has a background in energy democracy organizing and social enterprise. Timothy DenHerder-Thomas grew up in Jersey City NJ, which helped him make the connections between energy usage, pollution, poverty, social fragmentation, and environmental destruction. Timothy also helped found Grand Aspirations, which supports teams of youth innovators in 16 cities to create green economic opportunity for themselves and their communities through innovative energy efficiency, green industry, sustainable food, transit access, and clean energy solutions. Timothy is a co-convenor



Troy Goodnough



Marcus Grubbs



Kim Gullickson



Dr. Jessica Hellmann



Bryan Herrmann

of Minneapolis Energy Options (now Community Power), which has secured the nation's first city-utility Clean Energy Partnership in Minneapolis. Timothy engages in national climate action and energy democracy innovation as an Energy Action Coalition Council member, a participant in the REAMP network, and as a Minneapolis Global Shaper. Timothy is a Young People For Fellow, a Morris K. Udall Scholar, a Goldman Sachs Global Leader, and a recipient of the 2008 Brower Youth Award and the 2009 Mario Savio Award.

**Jo Emerson** is mayor of White Bear Lake and is currently serving her third term. Emerson served as president of the League of Minnesota Cities during the 2017-2018 term. The League of Minnesota Cities is a membership organization dedicated to helping cities throughout Minnesota build quality communities through effective advocacy, expert analysis, trusted guidance, and collective action. Emerson is currently serving on the north and east Groundwater Management Area Policy Advisory Task Force, which is a program that is part of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. Along with this, she is a part of the Ramsey County Historical Society, the National League of Cities-Small Cities council, and she is the chair of the Rush Line Policy Advisory committee. She has also served as vice chairwoman of the White Bear Lake Planning Commission, president of the White Bear Lake Area Historical Society, and the president of the Minnesota Mayors Association. She is excited for her city to have joined the Climate-Smart Municipalities project and to be working with the City of Luedenscheid.

**Dr. Sabine Engel** is director for international partnerships at the University of Minnesota Institute on the Environment (IonE), a multi-disciplinary research entity that is built on the principles of partnership and collaboration. She serves as principal investigator on two international renewable energy and climate projects that bring together a broad group of stakeholders from Germany and the US Upper Midwest. Both projects are co-funded by the German government. "Energy Transition 2.0: Regional Economies & Renewable Energy in the Upper Midwest/Berlin" focuses on renewable energy policy and the linkages between an accelerated energy transition and longer term economic development. "Climate-Smart Municipalities: Modeling Integrated Energy Communities for the 21st Century—NRW and Minnesota" focuses on cities that embrace their role as leaders in envisioning and building more sustainable communities. From 2014 to October 2015, Sabine was program director for economic development in the University of Minnesota's Office of University Economic Development. From 2007 to 2014, she directed the interdisciplinary DAAD Center for German & European Studies at the University of Minnesota. As director, she built unique Minnesota-

Germany exchange programs on health policy, renewable energy policy, and workforce development. She holds a Ph.D. in English from Duke University and a master's degree from the University of Hamburg.

**Ben Erickson** is a Green Corps member with the City of Morris. His service area is air pollutant reduction, with a focus on energy conservation. In Morris, he is working to reduce the energy consumption of the city's buildings, to help facilitate the installation of solar PV systems on public buildings, and to facilitate the reduction of chloride pollution in local waters as Morris opens a new water treatment plant in spring of 2019. He is working with the Morris Model team and the city's Climate Smart Municipality partner (Saerbeck, Germany) to set goals for the sustainable and renewable future of Morris. He grew up in Eyota, a town of 2000 near Rochester, Minn.. After high school, he attended Rochester Community and Technical College and received an associate's degree before getting his bachelor's degree in biology at the University of Minnesota - Morris. The path of his education has led him to a passion for sustainability and a love for biodiversity.

**Patrick J. Farrington** is vice president of business services at Hiway Federal Credit Union, a \$1.1 billion St. Paul credit union. Prior to joining Hiway, Farrington held senior management and sales roles in numerous Twin City community banks, including 7 years as a community bank president and CEO. Farrington holds a B.S. in political science from the University of Wisconsin, Eau Claire, and graduated in 2008 from Stonier Graduate School of Banking from the University of Pennsylvania. His credit union and Affinity Plus are the leads on the new CUGreen solar loan program that was inspired by the Climate-Smart Municipalities Program.

**Sheldon Giese** is mayor of the City of Morris, MN, and currently serving his fourth term. Before being elected mayor in 2006, he served as a member of the Morris City Council. Under his leadership, the City established a technical partnership with Germany's City of Saerbeck to work together on comprehensive energy and sustainability measures for their communities. Since joining the Climate-Smart Municipalities program, the City of Morris has become a GreenStep Cities community and won a Clean Energy Community Award from the Minnesota Department of Commerce. Mayor Giese serves on several boards, including the Stevens County Economic Improvement Commission (SCEIC), West Central Initiative Economic Development District Board, and Morris Public Library Board. He also serves on the Morris Theatre Cooperative Board and is a Morris American Legion officer. Sheldon has been accounting manager at West Central



Blaine Hill



Ellen Hiniker



Anne Hunt



Alex Jackson



Emily Larson

Environmental Consultants in Morris for the past 26+ years. He and his wife, Kim, have been the owner/operator of West Central Screen and Print in Morris since July 2003. Sheldon was born in Morris and grew up on the family farm in Artichoke Township, Big Stone County 25 miles southwest of Morris and is a member of Zion Lutheran Church of Morris.

**Troy Goodnough** serves as the director of the office of sustainability at the University of Minnesota Morris. Troy was the first sustainability coordinator hired in the University of Minnesota-system in 2006 and has also served in the Center for Small Towns. Troy works with students, faculty and staff to develop and implement sustainability initiatives. His work has included creating new educational programs, outreach initiatives, and renewable energy projects. Troy provides leadership with the Upper Midwest Association for Campus Sustainability, the West Central Clean Energy Resource Teams and other sustainability-focused groups. During his tenure as director, Morris has earned AASHE STARS Gold ratings, the Second Nature Climate Leadership Award, and recognition by Sierra Club, Princeton Review, Minnesota Environmental Initiative and other organizations. On the Climate Smart Municipalities project, he serves as an advisor-of-record for student interns from Germany. He also serves as a speaker on the student delegation tours to Germany. Previous to his university service, Troy spent a decade in semiconductor start-up companies leading crystal growth operations for laser development. Michelle Gransee works at the MN Department of Commerce in the division of energy resources. She manages the state's energy office's clean energy programs. She has long been involved with renewable energy.

**Marcus Grubbs** is the Enterprise Sustainability Planner in the Department of Administration at the State of Minnesota, developing sustainability action plans for the operations of the State in the areas of energy, water, procurement, solid waste, fleet, and greenhouse gases, and assisting agencies in developing their sustainability plans. Marcus was formerly the coordinator for the New Agricultural Bioeconomy Project at the University of Minnesota, a community planner for the Headwaters Regional Development Commission, and has consulted on numerous sustainability related projects to help others understand technology, policy, and market forces important to their decision making. Marcus has a Master's of urban and regional planning from the Humphrey School of Public Affairs, a Bachelor's in environmental studies from the University of Minnesota, Morris, has taken Master of business administration coursework at the Carlson School of Management, and is a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners.

**Kim Gullickson** is a member of the Morris City Council and has been serving in that role since 2017. She is a graduate of the University of Minnesota at Morris and has been active in the Morris community for the past 29 years. As a newer member to the City Council, the partnership with the City of Saerbeck, and the opportunity to participate in learning how to transition to a more climate friendly energy future is top priority. She participated in the MN delegation to Germany in July 2018 and is eager to help implement clean energy initiatives for the Morris community.

**Dr. Jessica Hellmann** is the director of the University of Minnesota's Institute on the Environment and the Ecolab Chair in Environmental Leadership. As director, she provides strategic leadership for the Institute, a mission-based organization working to help build a future where people and planet prosper together. From the higher education sector, the institute pursues interdisciplinary research that moves the needle on sustainability and it builds and supports leaders—inside and outside the university—who put sustainability into practice. In its work, the institutes draws upon its 150 affiliates and some 40 staff members. Hellmann also is the Russell M. and Elizabeth M. Bennett Chair in Excellence in the Department of Ecology, Evolution and Behavior in the College of Biological Sciences. Hellmann's research focuses on global change ecology, climate adaptation and the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. She was among the first to propose and study ways to reduce the impact of climate change through new techniques in conservation management. Hellmann led an important paradigm shift in ecology and natural resource management by showing that adaptation — living with climate change — is just as crucial to the future of humanity and Earth's ecosystems as slowing and stopping greenhouse gas emissions. Her research group also has shown that differences in the way populations respond to climate change are key to predicting and managing their future. And her research led to the creation of a private venture, Geofinancial Analytics, that monitors methane emissions for investors in publicly-traded companies. From 2003 to 2015, Hellmann served on the faculty of the University of Notre Dame. Hellmann holds a Ph.D. in biology from Stanford University and served as a postdoctoral fellow at Stanford's Center for International Security and Cooperation and the University of British Columbia's Centre for Biodiversity Research.

**Bryan Herrmann** is the vice chancellor for finance and facilities at the University of Minnesota, Morris. Morris has a broad array of operational and academic initiatives devoted to sustainability. The campus recently was recognized by the U.S. Department of Education as one of nine first-ever ED Green Ribbon Schools Postsecondary Sustainability Awardees and by the U.S. Environmental Protection



Brent McMillan



Beth Mercer-Taylor



Shannon Mortenson



Kristin Mroz



Dr. Julia Nerbonne

Agency for its demonstration-model of renewable energy production. A diverse renewable energy platform is a key part of the campus community's plan to achieve carbon neutrality. Herrmann has extensive experience in strategic planning and financial-aid leveraging as well as results-oriented leadership, primarily as it relates to student enrollment. He has more than a dozen years' experience in enrollment management, which has culminated in his attaining the roles of director of admissions and, ultimately, vice chancellor. Herrmann holds a B.A. in economics and management from the University of Minnesota, Morris and a M.B.A. from the University of Minnesota, Duluth.

**Blaine Hill** is the city manager for the City of Morris (pop. 5,400), a city in which he was born and raised. With him, the city entered into a climate protection partnership agreement with the city of Saerbeck, Germany, and has begun implementing projects to reduce energy use, identify renewable energy sources, and look at ways to protect the environment. Hill served as the president of the League of Minnesota Cities in 1997. Prior to being named city manager in Morris, Hill served as the city clerk-treasurer for the City of Breckenridge, Minnesota, for 17 years. He started his career in government as a city accountant for the City of Morris. He has 39 years of experience in city finance and administration. He holds a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Minnesota, Morris and an associate's degree in accounting from the Willmar Vocational School.

**Ellen Hiniker** is the city administrator for the City of White Bear Lake. She was appointed city administrator in 2016. Previously she served for three years as the City's assistant city manager and for seven years as assistant to the city administrator. Ellen's career has been dedicated to public administration and community service and she is known as a collaborative leader. In her role as assistant city manager, she directed the solicitation and evaluation of competitive proposals for a comprehensive solid waste management contract with careful consideration given to performance metrics, reporting requirements, and environmental standards and incorporated performance incentives and penalties in anticipation of potential service deficiencies. She led several environmental initiatives including, but not limited to, Green Step Cities program, Class 5 Energy program, Restaurant Energy Conservation project, Natural Steps program, downtown shared enclosure project, and a multi-jurisdictional initiative to increase recycling participation at apartment complexes. She has a bachelor's degree in political science from UW Eau Claire and a master's in public administration from the University of Minnesota. Her volunteer activities include serving as a board member for the White Bear Lake Emergency Food Shelf.

**Anne Hunt** is director of the Office of Enterprise Sustainability for the State of Minnesota. As director, she guides and supports 24 cabinet level agencies as they employ sustainable strategies to save money, conserve resources, and improve the environment. The State of Minnesota, as an enterprise, defines sustainability as meeting the economic, social and environmental needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs. Anne is a recognized leader in public policy, organizational leadership, innovative program design and implementation, fiscal management, strategic planning, stakeholder engagement and coalition building. She moved into her current position in spring 2019. Previously, she had served for 12 years as St. Paul's first sustainability director, leading efforts to combat climate change and to protect the city's air, water and natural resources. Anne was responsible for developing and implementing innovative programs and policies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by improving energy efficiency, increasing the use of renewable energy and improving transportation options as well as reinvigorating recycling, minimizing waste and improving water quality. Before that, Anne coordinated public policy initiatives for the Minnesota Environmental Partnership, a coalition of 80 environmental and conservation organizations.

**Alex Jackson** is the energy coordinator for the City of Duluth. Assigned to the Property and Facilities Management Division of Public Administration, he is responsible for the tracking and reduction of utility consumption within 148 buildings and numerous other park assets and public areas. As a member of the Property and Facilities Management team, Alex is tasked with developing and leading energy efficiency projects throughout the City's infrastructure as well as serving as the primary driver of the City's sustainability initiatives as envisioned in the Mayor's energy plan. A major effort within Alex's purview is consolidating energy tracking within the city's asset management system, streamlining its energy resource management capabilities to more effectively track and manage its energy consumption, and ensuring that reductions are accurately documented so these savings can be credited to the city's energy fund for continued investment in energy efficiency projects. Prior to working for the City of Duluth, Alex spent nearly five years as the air program coordinator for the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa. There, he was responsible for tracking the Band's air emissions and operating their air quality monitoring station. Other responsibilities included leading the band's efforts to be re-designated as a Class 1 air shed, and offering comments to regulatory agencies on behalf of the Band in an effort to protect the Reservation and ceded territories. Alex holds a B.S. degree in biology from the University of Wisconsin.



Kim Norton



Cal Portner



Mike Reese



Alice Roberts-Davis



Neal Route

**Emily Larson** is mayor of Duluth and has been serving in that role since January 2016. Prior to being elected mayor, Emily was president of the Duluth City Council, served as a commissioner on the Duluth Economic Development Authority and was the Council conduit to Parks and Libraries. Currently, Mayor Larson serves as a member of the Young Women's Initiative of Minnesota, and is a seated board member to the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative and the Greater Minnesota Housing Fund. As Mayor, her priorities include sustainable energy, increasing and improving the city's housing stock, addressing the opioid epidemic, developing a stable and reliable long terms streets funding plan, and continuing to grow Duluth's robust and unique economy. Emily earned an undergraduate degree from the College of St. Scholastica, a master's degree from the University of Minnesota Duluth. An active trail runner and full-time admirer of Lake Superior, Emily is married to Doug Zaun and together they have two sons.

**Brent McMillan** is a lineman for the City of Warren. After earning a B.E.E. from the University of Minnesota, he went on a quest to find the perfect job. After stops in Minneapolis, San Diego, Illinois, and North Dakota, who knew it would be in little Warren, MN. The City has allowed him to explore his passion to save the planet, one small utility at a time. Carrying the burden of trying to educate the northwest corner of the state to the perils of climate change has taken a toll. It has taken away time from golfing poorly, not catching fish, slowly completing triathlons, and not finishing a home renovation! But, nonetheless a rewarding experience!

**Beth Mercer-Taylor** is the sustainability education coordinator at the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities. She administers the sustainability studies minor, an interdisciplinary, free-standing program with nearly 200 undergraduates enrolled. Her work involves recruiting and advising students, creating community-building activities, coordinating the efforts of the curriculum committee that oversees the minor's academic program, and leading new initiatives related to sustainability on campus. She also serves as the co-faculty lead for the annual Climate-Smart Municipalities student delegation to NRW.

**Shannon Mortenson** is city administrator and clerk-treasurer for Warren. Mortenson has been the city administrator since 2010. The city operates the electric and gas distribution and sales in the city along with providing sanitation, water and sewer service. Warren has been a participant in the GreenStep Cities program to further encourage residents and city leaders to have a more "green" city. The City of Warren has garnered much new information through the

Climate-Smart Municipalities partnership program and has launched innovative projects for residents on climate protection measures and sustainability. In 2018, Warren won a Clean Energy Community award from the Minnesota Commerce Department for implementing a benchmarking program. The Clean Energy Community Awards are an acknowledgment of the work done by Minnesota communities to further the state's clean energy goals by implementing programs, policies, and technologies that encourage energy efficiency, conservation, and renewable energy generation.

**Kristin Mroz** is the local government coordinator for the Environmental Quality Board, a state board made of 9 state agency heads and 8 citizen members working on emerging and cross-sector environmental issues. Kristin is responsible for providing technical assistance to local governments undergoing the Environmental Review process and also supports the GreenStep Cities program and its many branches into sustainability best practices at the local level. She first participated in the Climate Smart Municipalities program when she worked as the environmental technician at the City of Elk River. Kristin graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point with a B.S. in natural resource management and served two years in the Peace Corps, providing environmental education in Nicaragua.

**Dr. Julia Nerbonne** is executive director and board member of Minnesota Interfaith Power & Light, an interfaith community working to co-create a just and sustainable world. MNIPL works in partnership with faith communities to build the interfaith climate movement in Minnesota by empowering faith communities across the state to take action that is authentic, effective, and energizing in their context. Julia uses her skills as an organizer and academic to build a vibrant movement for climate justice in over 400 Minnesota congregations. She has an undergraduate degree in religion and her Ph.D. in conservation biology. She also serves as an adjunct assistant professor in the conservation biology graduate program at the University of Minnesota. Her research focuses on how to create powerful social movements. Between 2011 and 2014, she was the founding director of MN350—Climate Solutions. She has also spent over 18 years teaching ethics and sustainability studies to college students at the Higher Education Consortium for Urban Affairs and at the University of Minnesota. She is a member of St. Mary's Episcopal Church in St. Paul. When she is not working, Julia enjoys playing the fiddle and reading about history. She doesn't always enjoy large crowds, but when there is a message to deliver, you'll probably find her out on the streets with her kids in tow. You can reach Julia at [julia@mnipl.org](mailto:julia@mnipl.org)



Corey Rupp



David Senjem



Will Seuffert



John Simonsen



Ken Smith

**Kim Norton** is mayor of the City of Rochester. She retired from the Minnesota Legislature in 2016 after ten years where she represented Rochester, home of the Mayo Clinic-Minnesota's largest private employer, and held numerous leadership positions in the House of Representatives for most of her tenure. In the 2013 legislative session, Rep. Norton was the chief House author of the legislation that authorized up to \$327 million from the State of Minnesota for the Mayo Clinic Destination Medical Center (DMC) project in Rochester, a \$585 million economic development and infrastructure project. Norton served on the city's Energy Commission and was a board member of Fresh Energy prior to being elected Mayor. Norton also completed a two-year Bush Foundation Fellowship focusing on policy, leadership and sustainable energy. She is the proud owner of two electric vehicles and purchases solar and hydro power as energy sources for her home. From 1998 to 2006, she served on the Rochester School Board.

**Cal Portner** is the city administrator for the City of Elk River, Minnesota. As Elk River's chief administrative officer, he oversees a municipal staff of 150 and a general operating fund of \$14 million for this full service city. Elk River's Energy City Commission has set a goal to make Elk River "the most energy responsible city in Minnesota." The commission promotes green technologies and seeks to grow green industry in the community. The city owns and operates a municipal power utility, a great benefit for energy policy and sustainability. The city also works with Waste Management, which operates and maintains a landfill gas-to-energy power plant within the city. Prior to his appointment in Elk River, Portner served in municipal leadership positions with the cities of Plymouth and Brooklyn Park. Previous positions include working as district field director for a U.S. Congressional office and nine years for the US Air Force. Portner is an active member and past president of the Elk River Rotary Club, he holds a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Minnesota, a master's degree in public administration from Hamline University and is a credentialed manager through the International City and County Manager's Association.

**Mike Reese** has been the renewable energy program director at the University of Minnesota West Central Research and Outreach Center (WCROC) located near Morris, Minnesota, since 2001. He has overseen the development of the renewable energy program at Morris and has participated as principal investigator or project manager on over \$15 million of research and demonstration projects, including large and small scale wind energy, biomass gasification, renewable hydrogen and ammonia, and solar thermal and photovoltaic energy systems. He has led the development of the

renewable hydrogen and ammonia pilot plant for the University of Minnesota from conceptualization to operation. Reese is currently leading the renewable energy program's new strategy to reduce fossil energy consumption in production agriculture through researching and developing renewable and efficient energy technologies for farms. In addition to working for the University, Mike was appointed in 2018 by the Minnesota Senate to serve as member of the Legislative Citizens Commission on Minnesota Resources. Mike also enjoys operating the family grain and livestock farm located by Lake Emily near Hancock, MN.

**Alice Roberts-Davis** serves as the Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Administration. As Commissioner, Alice leads over a dozen administrative service divisions – including the state's purchasing, real estate property, fleet, risk management, demographic analysis, and continuous improvement services. As a part of Governor Tim Walz and Lt. Governor Peggy Flanagan's cabinet, Alice is focused on her commitment to making Minnesota a more equitable and inclusive state. Prior to her appointment as Commissioner, Alice served the Department of Administration as assistant commissioner overseeing the state's real estate and construction functions. In that role, Alice was responsible for \$2.5 billion in annual procurement, as well as the Office of Equity in Procurement (OEP) and the Procurement Technical Assistance Center (PTAC). These offices are focused on creating opportunities for businesses, particularly small businesses owned by women, minorities, veterans, and persons with disabilities. Before joining the state of Minnesota, Alice worked for Target Corporation for 12 years in different leadership capacities, including real estate management and compliance. She was responsible for the purchase and development of land across the country, and she led the company's \$1 billion supplier diversity initiative. Alice considers Elk Grove Village, Illinois, her hometown. She attended the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign where she earned a degree in communications/journalism, and went on to Florida State University College of Law and earned a Juris Doctor degree.

**Neal Route** is a senior development associate for Dominion, one of the nation's largest and most innovative affordable housing development and management companies. Dominion is focused on real results and long-term value. By 2025, the company expects to be the country's pre-eminent private developer, owner, and property manager of affordable housing. The company is headquartered in Plymouth, MN. Route is responsible for assisting with new project development, acquisition, and financing. His daily responsibilities include working with the project partners in analyzing new projects, and negotiating with lenders, investors, and third party vendors. In



John Stark



Joseph Sullivan



Brent Svenby



Brian Volkmann



Jordan Wentz

addition, he prepares and coordinates financing and equity packages and assists with the construction management and design processes. Mr. Route holds a Bachelor of business administration in real estate and urban land economics from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. His professional affiliations include the University of Wisconsin Real Estate Alumni Association.

**Corey Rupp** is the senior vice president of Lending at Affinity Plus. He joined Affinity Plus in 2004 as a branch manager. In his current capacity, Corey oversees all aspects of lending including consumer, business, student and real estate lending, along with all retail operations which includes the statewide branch network and call centers. During his career, he has led the implementation of new lending platforms, made significant enhancements to mobile lending and completely overhauled the credit union's lending program. Corey is also a dedicated community leader serving on local chamber, foundation and university boards, and coaching youth athletics.

**Senator David Senjem** is a member of the Minnesota State Legislature representing portions of Dodge and Olmsted Counties, including half of the City of Rochester. He was first elected to the Minnesota Senate in 2002, and has served as both the Senate Majority and Minority Leader. He spent 44 years of his professional life with Mayo Clinic, retiring as environmental affairs officer. He also served 11 years on the Rochester City Council. Currently, Senator Senjem is chairman of the Capital Investment Committee and vice chair of the Tax Committee. He also serves as a member of the Energy, Utilities Finance and Policy Committee, the Transportation Committee, the Environment Natural Resources Finance and Policy Committee, and the Legacy Committee, and is a member of the Legislative Pension Commission. Senator Senjem was the Senate author of Mayo Clinic's Destination Medical Center legislation. This innovative economic development initiative is generally regarded as the largest economic development project in Minnesota history. It secures Mayo Clinic's status as a global medical destination and sets into motion the reinvention of the City of Rochester both physically and culturally, including the necessity for the city to take a new look at how it procures and utilizes energy. Senator Senjem has played an active role in the Minnesota/Germany energy policy exchange program. From these experiences he has come to understand the reasons, reality, and importance of looking at energy transformation from an economic perspective. His personal ambition is to take what he has learned and continues to learn from his Germany experiences and work with others towards building a new energy based economy in Southeastern Minnesota. In the 2019 legislative session, he was a lead senate author of a policy proposal designed to accelerate Minnesota's renewable energy transformation.

**Will Seuffert** is executive director of the Environmental Quality Board (EQB) and has served in that role since 2013. EQB is made up of nine agency heads and eight citizen members. The Board provides leadership and coordination across agencies on priority environmental issues that are multi-jurisdictional, and multidimensional. It also provides opportunities for public access and engagement. Before joining the EQB, Seuffert served as a senior policy advisor to Minnesota Governor Dayton, working closely with the cabinet agencies and legislators involved in energy, environment, and agriculture. Prior to his work for Governor Dayton, Seuffert was a committee administrator for the Minnesota Senate Energy, Utilities, Technology and Communications Committee. In that role, Seuffert worked on legislation to advance renewable energy and conservation. He holds a master's in international peace and conflict resolution from American University and a bachelor's degree in political science from Eckerd College.

**John Simonsen** is the director of real estate at Affinity Plus Federal Credit Union in St. Paul. He has been at Affinity Plus for 16 years and has lead the real estate department for over 6 years. They are proud to have recently been named one of the "Top Places to Work" by the Minneapolis Star-Tribune. John has lead the implementation of new products, process improvement, system upgrades, and is a member of several local and National Credit Union Mortgage groups.

**Ken Smith** has been the president and CEO of District Energy St. Paul and its affiliate Ever-Green Energy since 2010. A recognized leader in community and campus scale energy systems, Ken is actively engaged in industry, policy, and academic forums addressing our energy future. He is a frequent speaker nationally and internationally, and is regularly requested to brief local, state, and federal planners, policy makers, and regulators. For the past eight years, Smith has participated in an energy policy exchange between Germany and the State of Minnesota. Prior to joining District Energy St. Paul and Ever-Green Energy in 2006, Smith worked globally in the engineering and construction industry for over 20 years, planning, designing and implementing highly reliable energy projects, including central plants, microgrids, datacenters, and other mission critical facilities for advanced tech industry, campuses, international airports, and U.S. Department of Defense. Smith currently serves as president of the Midwest Renewable Energy Tracking System Board of Directors (M-RETS), vice chair of the Saint Paul Area Chamber of Commerce, and is a fellow of the University of Minnesota's Institute on the Environment (IonE). From 2014-2015, he served as chair of the International District Energy Association board of directors. He has a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from North Dakota State

University and a master's degree in business administration from the University of St. Thomas in Minneapolis, MN.

**John Stark** is a managing architect at BKV Group. BKV Group is a design firm providing a full complement of architecture, engineering, interior design, landscape architecture, and construction administration services. Since 1978, BKV Group has grown from a sole proprietorship into a diverse partnership with practice sites in Chicago, Dallas, Minneapolis, and Washington, D.C., serving clients locally and nationwide. Stark has been project manager on myriad project types for more than 30 years. He has specialized experience in sustainable design and historic preservation projects. He orchestrates timely communication between owners, architects, engineers, and specialists to make projects successful. His consensus-building management style and mentorship provides everyone an opportunity to contribute.

**Joseph Sullivan** is the deputy commissioner for the division of energy resources at the Minnesota Department of Commerce. In this role, Joe leads the division and supervises the Minnesota State Energy Office and the Energy Planning and Advocacy unit. Prior to coming to Commerce, Joe was the manager of legislative and external affairs for the Center for Energy and Environment where he worked with policy makers, regulators, utilities, energy advocates, and other key stakeholders to advance energy efficiency and clean energy policy in Minnesota. Joe has also worked as the regional policy manager for Wind on the Wires where he worked in Minnesota, Wisconsin, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Iowa to advance policies for wind power and transmission access. Joe started his career by spending six and a half years representing a municipal power agency and Greater Minnesota cities as a senior attorney at Flaherty & Hood P.A. in St. Paul, Minn. At Flaherty & Hood, Joe worked on renewable energy, transmission issues, state conservation goals, greenhouse gas reduction initiatives, net metering, nuclear waste, and utility taxation issues. Prior to joining Flaherty & Hood, Joe worked in Washington, DC at the U.S. House Committee on Science and at the Internal Revenue Service. Joe holds degrees from Marquette University and University of Wisconsin Law School.

**Brent Svenby** is a senior administrative analyst for the City of Rochester within the City Administrator's Office. He oversees the energy & sustainability director for the City which is a shared position with the Destination Medical Center Economic Development Agency. In addition, Svenby is responsible for overseeing the city's targeted business enterprise utilization plan and staffing the heritage preservation commission. Svenby also assists in redevelopment and affordable housing projects requesting tax increment financing. Prior to his role in the City Administrator's Office, he worked as a planner at the Rochester-Olmsted County Department for over 17 years. He holds a bachelor's degree in geography and a master's degree in urban planning from Minnesota State University- Mankato.

**Connie Taillon**, P.E., serves as the environmental specialist for the City of White Bear Lake. She is responsible for ensuring City compliance with stormwater and solid waste regulations and is involved in numerous City initiatives related to energy conservation, renewable energy, water conservation, and pollinator habitat improvement. She also leads the City's GreenStep Cities program and is the staff liaison for the White Bear Lake Environmental Advisory Commission. is the environmental specialist at the City of White Bear Lake.

**Brian Volkmann** is the executive vice president and chief financial officer of Affinity Plus Federal Credit Union, a not-for-profit financial cooperative serving over 200,000 members with 28 locations throughout Minnesota. Affinity Plus is a cooperative that believes in strengthening communities through partnerships with local organizations and improving the financial well-being of consumers. Volkmann currently oversees all aspects of accounting, finance, risk management, information technology, lending, branches, call centers, digital branch and digital banking. He joined Affinity Plus in 2000 as a branch manager, and during his career has held various leadership positions within the credit union. Volkmann spear-headed numerous initiatives at Affinity Plus, including the launch of innovative products, re-launch of our new digital banking platform (now rated 4.8 stars!) and numerous lending products. Volkmann's belief is that credit unions can play a vital role today in bridging the gap in the sustainable energy market by offering financial products to people and communities in order to help achieve their goals. Brian serves on several boards, both within the credit union industry and the community. He is on the Board of Financial Executives International – Twin Cities. Volkmann holds a bachelor's degree in management from Minnesota State University Mankato, and a M.B.A. and Master of Science in Finance from Kelley School of Business.

**Dr. Rolf Weberg** is the executive director of the Natural Resources Research Institute. Dr. Weberg assumed leadership of the University of Minnesota Duluth's Natural Resources Research Institute (NRRI) in 2014. As Executive Director, he is responsible for the operation, integration and performance of the Institute's two research sites and its 120 full time and 40+ part time and student employees. NRRI works to fulfill the University of Minnesota's applied research role in natural resources and economic development as chartered by the Minnesota Legislature in 1983. As an integral part of the University of Minnesota research enterprise, NRRI bridges between the University and state stakeholders to define, develop and deliver research solutions balancing the economy, state resources and the environment to foster resilient communities. NRRI works to build productive relationships with its constituents including government, academia, industry, business, agency partners, environmental leaders and Minnesota communities. Dr. Weberg grew up in Mankato, Minnesota and attended the University of Minnesota Duluth where he graduated with a B.S. degree in Chemistry (1982). He received a PhD in Inorganic/Organometallic Chemistry from the University of Colorado, Boulder (1986). After two post-doctoral appointments, he embarked upon a 25-year career in the R&D division of the DuPont Company. He left DuPont in 2014 as Global Technology Manager for DuPont's Building Innovations Business – Surfaces Division.

**Jordan Wente** is the enterprise sustainability program administrator at the State of Minnesota's Office of Enterprise Sustainability. Jordan's main duties pertain to data management, analysis, and the coordination of sustainability reporting across the 24 cabinet level agencies. In addition, he provides technical assistance and consulting on renewable energy and energy savings to the different state agencies. He is a graduate of the University of Minnesota, Morris and the Technical University of Denmark with degrees in statistics and energy systems modelling. Jordan is a 2014 Truman Scholar. He now lives in St. Paul, Minnesota. In his free time, he enjoys cross country skiing, hunting, and fermenting (sauerkraut, kimchi). The Climate-Smart Municipalities program, hosted by the University

# Climate-Smart Municipalities (“CSM”) in brief

The Climate-Smart Municipalities program, hosted by the University of Minnesota’s Institute on the Environment, is a unique multi-partner collaboration between Minnesota and Germany, and part of the German government’s renowned Transatlantikprogramm.

“Climate-Smart Municipalities: Modeling Integrated Energy Communities for the 21st Century” brings together stakeholders and leaders in local and state government, politics, business, the nonprofit sector, academia, and the public to learn from each other and to accelerate the transition to a more sustainable, efficient and climate friendly future at the local level.

The program tag line “Together, we are smarter!” captures the experience over the past three years of everyone involved. Together, we command deeper expertise, are able to look at things from a much broader range of perspectives, and create better and more imaginative solutions. Witness the new opportunity for consumers across Minnesota to secure reduced-rate loans for solar roof installations through the MN credit unions’ CUGreen program—inspired by CSM. Witness the joy of citizens in our communities at discovering new ways of doing and thinking and becoming part of a larger community that cares for each other. Witness the strategic plan the City of Morris developed in truly collaborative fashion.

In 2019, the program enters its second phase. The shared objective continues to be demonstrating that any city, any size, with any economic micro-structure can reduce greenhouse gas emissions, move forward on climate adaptation, resilience, and sustainability and in the process enhance citizens’ quality of life and generate local economic benefits. Exactly what success means however differs across the group of cities and in the two national contexts. Best solutions are shaped by the specific local context. But they all involve a systems approach that connects renewable energy generation, sustainability, efficient buildings, and low carbon transportation on the technical side with vigorous community education and outreach. Germany’s energy transition and the achievements of the NRW climate-smart communities, the Minnesota partners believe, are tied deeply to a set of social values and a new way of thinking. Technology is only one aspect, albeit an important one.

Over the next two years, the program will provide even more opportunities to the Minnesota and NRW cohort for working together. Five university students from NRW are slated for longterm internships with the Minnesota partners in 2019. This June, another delegation from NRW is in Minnesota for targeted workshops. In September, a large group of Minnesotans will visit NRW for additional face-to-face work. Next January, the Institute on the Environment will bring to NRW a new group of University of Minnesota students who are committed to tackling the climate challenge in their personal life and their future profession.

On January 8, 2019 a new governor took charge in Minnesota. Governor Walz and Lt. Governor Flanagan’s cabinet includes Steve Kelley and Larry Herke, two individuals who have been directly involved in the renewable energy and sustainability exchanges with Germany. They will draw on their Germany experiences as they lead the Minnesota Department of Commerce and the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs. The departments of Agriculture, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, and the Environmental Quality Board are also continuing their participation in Climate-Smart Municipalities. It all speaks to the strong commitment on the part of the State of Minnesota to the Paris Climate Goals and the relationship with Germany.

As this unique collaborative effort and network grows, project leaders hope to add additional partners, especially additional cities in Minnesota and business leaders who want to charge ahead. Perhaps that is you?

***Together, we are smarter!***

Ministerium für Umwelt, Landwirtschaft,  
Natur- und Verbraucherschutz  
des Landes Nordrhein-Westfalen



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Peter Brosius



Elena Fischer



Julian Klaus



Danja Leiers

## MEET THE 2019 CSM INTERNS FROM NORTH RHINE-WESTPHALIA

**My name is Marc Brosius** and I study building services engineering at Muenster University of Applied Sciences in Steinfurt, Germany. I am in my third year of college and am doing a five-month internship at the University of Minnesota, Morris and the City of Morris. I came to Morris in April to learn more about sustainability progress in Minnesota. My role involves supporting carbon neutrality planning on-campus – and in the community. I am also working on a battery storage solution for a “green” residence hall. I am part of the Morris Model team and help implement their strategic plan.

**My name is Elena Fischer** and I study building services engineering at Muenster University of Applied Sciences in Steinfurt, Germany. I am in my third year of college. I am currently interning at the City of Rochester. My role entails working with city staff to optimize buildings and district energy systems for more sustainable energy consumption. In addition to my studies, I am engaged in the work of Engineers Without Borders. Our current project deals with new sanitary facilities at an Ethiopian primary school with 1200 children.

**My name is Julian Klaus** and I am a student at FH Münster University of Applied Sciences in the faculty of energy, buildings services, and environment with a major in environmental engineering. I am 22 years old and in my third year. Personally, I am very interested in renewable energy as well as wastewater treatment. I expect to complete my Bachelor’s degree in September 2019. This year, I have the opportunity to do an extended internship at the City of White Bear Lake, coordinated through the Climate Smart Municipalities program. During this 4-month internship I’ll work on several sustainability and energy efficiency projects. As part of the City’s street and parking lot reconstruction in 2020, I’m assisting with planning charging stations for electric vehicles and adding solar on public rooftops. Our biggest achievement during my stay so far has been creating a steering committee that includes businesses, nonprofits, residents and school districts to work on city-wide energy conservation and renewable energy goals. With this the City is taking a big step forward to a cleaner and more efficient footprint.

What has changed for you because of your internship?

*“I am really happy to learn that most people I meet are excited about the transition to renewable energies.”*

*It has been an amazing experience to be so far from home but still feel at home.”*

-Marc Brosius

*“My biggest takeaway from the internship is definitely the network of people that has grown over time. I learned that working for a city always means working and connecting with new people. I really enjoy the job’s variety and that I’m always confronted with new issues and challenges.”*

-Julian Klaus

*“Working in Morris is giving me a new perspective on how to view things. This impacts not only my work but also my everyday life and how to approach new people.”*

-Danja Leiers

**Danja Leiers** is a graduate student at Münster University of Applied Sciences with a major in environmental engineering. She is currently completing a six-month internship at the University of Minnesota West Central Research and Outreach Center in Morris, MN, where she is working on her master’s thesis. Her project deals with increasing energy efficiency and finding renewable energy solutions for dairy farms. Before she came to the USA, she worked as a research assistant at her University for more than two years. The project she worked on there was about biogas technology collaborating closely with biogas plant operators. Her bachelor thesis in 2016 was about decreasing carbon dioxide emissions of a city district for the municipality of her hometown Neuenkirchen

## Together, we are smarter!

**“Together, we are smarter!”**—That’s one of the core beliefs driving the Climate-Smart Municipalities collaboration. How does it all stack up? What has changed because of it? Here are some comments from the Minnesota partnering cities and the partners in state government and the private sector.

“Warren is a changed community due to the CSM involvement. The experience opened our eyes to the different possibilities that can be implemented in a small Minnesota city. **We approach every project differently in terms of climate protection measures.** We are continually engaged in conversations that center around how can we be more energy efficient. What can be implemented to save residents and the city money? The thermal imaging program would not have been considered if it was not for the CSM opportunity.”

Shannon Mortenson, City Administrator  
City of Warren

**“You have shown us how to take charge of our future** and to live in a responsible way using renewable and sustainable energy. The solutions you have found can be easily implemented here, but will take a cultural change in how we think about what we use and where it comes from. Education is the key to that cultural change and you have given us a great deal of information to share with our citizens. “

Blaine Hill, City Administrator, City of Morris

“The experience with the German project has **sparked a desire to incorporate a sustainability coordinator into the city organization**, promote e-mobility, and further our research into district energy systems.”

Mark Kotschevar, general manager,  
Rochester Public Utilities

“This program has created a relationship that would not have been possible on our own and **has provided information sharing beyond anything we could experience here in Minnesota.** Germany’s energy system and public mindset related to climate protection differs from the US so drastically and that has been very interesting to learn about. We continue to apply what we learned from our Germany partners to our work at the City of Elk River. “

Cal Portner, City Administrator  
City of Elk River

**“This program has inspired the City of Duluth to set a carbon reduction goal** of minus 80% by 2050. We have used this opportunity to develop our municipal energy plan. Inspired by our 2016 visit to Germany, we have developed strategies that have already resulted in a 10% reduction in GHG emissions for the municipality.”

Erik Birkeland, property & facilities manager,  
City of Duluth

“The state’s role is evolving and is becoming more reliant on bottom-up, municipal-led, broad-based leadership. The state has **both increased capacities** in the Green Step Cities program **and has joined multi-state collaboratives** (Under 2 Coalition and US Climate Alliance) to accelerate progress on climate mitigation.”

Will Seuffert, executive director,  
Environmental Quality Board

**“Minnesota has come together as a state**, bridging ideological differences, to implement a clean energy future for cities, rural communities, businesses, industry and individuals. The German experience has catalyzed this effort.”

Mike Reese, director for renewable energy,  
West Central Research and Outreach Center,  
University of Minnesota

“The CSM program has **jump started MN credit unions’ look at ways to encourage MN consumers to go green.** The involvement has led to the creation of several loan products and credit unions doing their own energy improvement upgrades.”

Brian Volkman, chief financial officer, Affinity  
Plus Credit Union

  
clean energy lending platform for Minnesotans