

SOUTHWEST INITIATIVE  
**FOUNDATION**

*A Rural Minnesota Community Foundation*

# **RURAL ENERGY DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE (REDI)**

Scott Marquardt, Senior Program Officer

Cheryl Glaeser, Program Specialist

Southwest Initiative Foundation

# SOUTHWEST INITIATIVE FOUNDATION (SWIF)

- ▲ A rural Minnesota community foundation dedicated to advancing southwest Minnesota through leadership, relationship-building, program development and philanthropy
- ▲ Our mission is to be a catalyst, facilitating opportunities for economic and social growth by developing and challenging leaders to build on the region's assets



# RURAL ENERGY DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE

- ▲ Administered by SWIF
- ▲ Sponsored by the State of Minnesota and the Center for Rural Policy and Development



---

CENTER *for* RURAL POLICY  
*and* DEVELOPMENT

*Seeking Solutions for Greater Minnesota's Future*

## GET “REDI” TO...

Goal of REDI is to maximize rural economic development and stabilize rural economies by building renewable energy capacity, expertise, and leadership throughout the state of Minnesota.

### **Objectives:**

- Provide organizing and technical assistance to rural entities seeking to develop wind energy projects for the purpose of selling the energy to an electric utility
- Raise awareness of the local economic, community and environmental benefits of renewable energy development, energy conservation and efficiency

# HOW DOES REDI WORK?

- ▲ Pre-assessment of potential project sites
- ▲ Organizing of investor groups comprised of local stakeholders
- ▲ Technical assistance for the completion of project-specific feasibility studies, business plans and paperwork for interconnection agreement and transmission study
- ▲ Building of regional capacity and knowledge around community wind energy
- ▲ Education and awareness of local economic, community and environmental benefits of renewable energy development and energy efficiency measures

# GETTING “REDI” FOR WIND

- ▲ Wind resource information
- ▲ Land right availability
- ▲ Project access to transmission
- ▲ Community interest and local support
- ▲ If interested in pre-assessment in your area contact us via:
  - [redi@swifoundation.org](mailto:redi@swifoundation.org)
  - 1-800-594-9480
  - REDI Interest Form

## REDI ORGANIZING ASSISTANCE

- ▲ Consultants as needed
- ▲ Assistance as needed with
  - Project site selection
  - Wind resource information
  - Land right availability
  - Community meetings and targeted conversations
  - Organization of a local investor group
  - Legal structure and business model options

# REDI TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

- Consultants as needed
- Access to revolving loan funds for project-specific feasibility study
- Assistance with project feasibility study
  - Site-specific layout
  - Investigating of permitting
  - Performance and cost analysis
  - Discussions for PPA and turbine supply
  - Preparation for interconnection agreement & transmission study
  - Securing onsite wind resource assessment agreement
- Summary of feasibility findings and recommendations
- Development of business plan and long-term vision

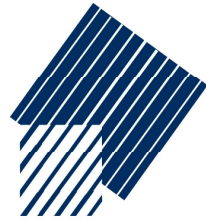
# EXPANDED POTENTIAL FOR REDI

(THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS AND ADDITIONAL FUNDING)

- ▲ Increasing the knowledge of community energy opportunities and issues
- ▲ Ongoing guidance, monitoring and coordination for projects
- ▲ Expanding the awareness beyond wind energy to other energy topics

## REDI OUTCOMES

- At least 12 projects complete all paperwork requisite to entering the MISO queue
- Transfer of specialized expertise to next generation of organizers, developers, investors
- Expanded expertise, leadership and capacity at the regional level
- Increased outreach around community energy opportunities and issues



SOUTHWEST INITIATIVE  
**FOUNDATION**

*A Rural Minnesota Community Foundation*

## **QUESTIONS?**

Scott Marquardt & Cheryl Glaeser - SWIF

George Crocker - North American Water Office

Paul Blackburn - Program Consultant