



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Solar Powered Furnaces Extend Growing Season

Pine River, Minnesota – March 31, 2011 - "By using solar thermal hot air panels purchased from Pine River-based RREAL, [Dallas] Flynn is able to heat soil in a high tunnel of insulated walls to expand the growing season from 90 days to nearly 300 days a year."

This quote comes from a press release covering a recent Sustainable Communities meeting in Detroit Lakes, MN co-hosted by Central Region Clean Energy Resource Team (CERT) and the Becker, Clay, Otter Tail and Wilkin County Statewide Health Improvement Program (SHIP). RREAL worked with Flynn on his first solar-heated high-tunnel back in 2008 and with the growing international support for sustainable local food systems, this highly appropriate use of solar technology is gaining traction.

Minnesota Public Radio covered the story in 2008 and the story can be accessed at <http://minnesota.publicradio.org/display/web/2008/06/26/tunnelveggies/>.

A case study of Flynn's Solar Powered Furnace installation was also published in Minnesota Department of Agriculture in the 2009 Green Book and can be accessed at <http://www.mda.state.mn.us/en/sitecore/content/Global/MDADocs/protecting/sustainable/greenbook2009/gb2009-flynn.aspx>

If you would like to learn more about this project or RREAL's work, please visit their website at www.rreal.org or call 218-587-4753.

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