



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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RREAL Trains Community Action Agencies for 280 Solar Assistance Installations.

Pine River, Minnesota – April 18, 2011 - RREAL completed trainings with Community Action Agencies (CAA) from across Minnesota last week. Over the coming year, these CAAs will install Solar Powered Furnaces on the homes of 280 low-income families throughout the state; that is more than 8 installations per week! For the next 3-4 decades, these installations will provide a combined annual output of more than 600 MWh of clean, healthy solar energy to families currently struggling with fuel poverty. This project is made possible through a \$2.2 million grant from the Sustainable Energy Resources for Consumers (SERC) program at the U.S. Department of Energy which will benefit numerous Minnesota agencies and organizations throughout the state. RREAL has been anxious to begin working on this project for many months now and is excited to be moving ahead.

The first installs are scheduled to begin this week with Otter Tail-Wadena Community Action Council. Over the coming months this program will promote self-sufficiency by empowering hundreds of Minnesota families with healthy, locally-based heating solutions. As this program proves increasingly successful here in Minnesota, there are more than 1,000 CAAs across the country that could begin installing SPFs for many more of the millions of low-income families currently receiving Low-Income Home Energy Assistance (LIHEAP). The future is looking bright for solar-air heat and for the millions of families that can benefit from the economic and environmental benefits it provides.

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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