



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Local Solar Manufacturing Facility Expands

Pine River, Minnesota – September 14, 2010 - The Rural Renewable Energy Alliance (RREAL) is doubling the size of their manufacturing facility in Pine River, Minnesota thanks to a \$336,000 grant from the Minnesota Department of Commerce, Office of Energy Security along with a generous matching donation of \$233,000 from the Hunt Utilities Group, a center for the research and development of sustainable technologies. RREAL manufactures the industry's leading solar air heating technology, the Solar Powered Furnace (SPF), and this expansion will allow RREAL to produce a greater volume of panels at a lower cost while providing additional green-collar jobs to rural Minnesota.

RREAL began developing the SPF in 2006 in an effort to make higher quality, lower cost solar air heating technology more widely available through their Solar Heat for Low-income Families program. Since then, RREAL's technology has been widely adopted for residential and commercial applications and their solar assistance program is being replicated in communities across the nation. This expanded manufacturing facility will be a highly safe, efficient, and effective template which RREAL can share with communities interested in developing solar thermal manufacturing capacity. With this opportunity, RREAL is also helping to elevate solar air heat to its rightful place as a key technology among the suite of appropriate and effective solar technologies available today.

When asked what this grant means for RREAL "With this opportunity, we are one step closer to realizing RREAL's mission of reducing fuel poverty with the power of the sun."

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

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