RETAP Community Sustainability Assistance

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency offers the services, at no charge, of six retired environmental professionals from its **Retiree Environmental Technical Assistance Program** - RETAP. They can work up to approximately 20 hours per community through the state, with a focus on GreenStep cities, other cities, and Indian Nations.

Minnesota GreenStep Cities

www.MnGreenStep.org

If the RETAP consultant expertise summarized below might fit with a need in your community, please contact the GreenStep Cities coordinator at the MPCA, via https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/page/contact, to discuss.

Assistance from four Twin Cities-based consultants and two Greater Minnesota-based (Bemidji and Winona) consultants covers these content areas:

- **Storm water**, green infrastructure, Miminal Impact Design Standards (MIDS)
- **Tribal issues**, permaculture
- **Community solar**, local food, raingarden organizing
- **Emerald Ash Borer planning**, GHG assessments, sustainability indicators
- **Bike/walk/transit**
- **Solar system design**

Other city-defined tasks

- Contact the GreenStep coordinator to discuss a project you have in mind that you feel could be aided by one of the RETAP staff below
- Note that there are about a dozen RETAP consultants who conduct non-regulatory **energy/water efficiency and waste reduction assessments** for public, non-profit and private facilities. To request these free services see https://www.pca.state.mn.us/quick-links/minnesota-retap

RETAP Community Sustainability Consultants

Anne Gelbmann – Former green infrastructure specialist at the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. During Anne's 15-year tenure in the stormwater program, she worked with a group of stakeholders to develop and implement Minimal Impact Design Standards (MIDS). Anne also was actively involved in creating and writing content for the Minnesota Stormwater Manual. Anne enjoys working with communities to implement green infrastructure practices to reduce stormwater runoff in an effort to keep our lakes, rivers and streams clean. Prior to her work in the stormwater program, Anne worked in the solid waste program and implemented household hazardous waste programs at the state and county level.

Diana Kuklinski – Registered Environmental Health Specialist and Permaculturist. Served as the director of a regional environmental health program for the Indian Health Service, where she developed a new program emphasis in sustainability. Completed a degree in Sustainable Environment Technology from Northwest Technical College. Coordinates and teaches Permaculture classes at the Rail River Folk School, participates on several Bemidji sustainability committees, conducts solar site assessments, and provides technical assistance in various areas. She led development of the first commercial photovoltaic project in Bemidji. Whether it's researching energy or efficiency options, funding, conducting solar site assessments, designing renewable

energy systems, writing grant proposals and reports, or crunching data, Diana enjoys working with communities to discover ways to reduce energy and greenhouse gas footprints.

Chris Meyer – Currently the Southeast Clean Energy Resource Teams Coordinator for the University of Minnesota's Regional Sustainable Development Partnerships. In 2017 completed an MAS in Environmental Policy Management with an emphasis on Energy and Sustainability from Denver University. Chris also has a BFA in printmaking from the University of Minnesota and a BS in Economics from Drake University. A personal journey which started with a desire to install solar panels lead to a DIY project for a net-zero-energy home remodel, becoming a residential PV site assessor, community solar organizer, and coordinating the Minnesota Renewable Energy Society's statewide renewable energy tour. Chris is an Extension Master Gardener and helps organize and works in a community garden that donates produce to local food shelves, and is working with the City of Winona to implement a residential rain garden program.

Michael Orange – Served Minneapolis as a city planner and environmental manager (1976–2007) and wrote the first draft of the *Minneapolis Sustainability Plan*. Since leaving the city, he formed his private consulting business, ORANGE Environmental, LLC, and has prepared over twenty analyses primarily for city clients. Studies include a zoning analysis for the City of St. Paul, a recycling study for the City of Farmington, and citywide carbon baseline assessments for 21 cities and Washington County. The sustainability assessment he prepared for the City of West St. Paul formed the basis for his subsequent work to integrate sustainability into the City's zoning ordinance. He has assisted in the preparation of emerald ash borer management plans for the Twin Cities region and for three metro cities. He teaches a graduate-level course, *Sustainable City Planning*, at MSU-Mankato.

Barb Thoman - Twenty years of experience in transportation with a focus on bicycle and pedestrian access and safety, complete streets, public transit, parking policy, transportation finance, and policy and legislative change. Co-founder and Executive Director at Transit for Livable Communities (TLC) until 2015. In Barb's final years at TLC she administered a $28 million federal program to increase safety and access for walking and bicycling in the Twin Cities metro area. Barb also served five years on the Metropolitan Council's Transportation Advisory Board. Previously, she worked ten years in solid waste management for state and county government. Barb has a BA in Financial Administration from Michigan State University.

Larry Weiss - Through 2017 Larry was the Senior PV Systems Designer for Ten K Solar, a Minnesota photovoltaic panel manufacturer that was based in Bloomington. Larry studied mechanical engineering at the University of Detroit and brings his experience to cities, schools and other public/non-profit entities who are exploring renewable energy options. Consulting services Larry can provide through RETAP include reviewing renewable energy goals and options, reviewing draft RFPs and assessing responses, assessing rooftops for PV system designs and production estimates, and help thinking through equipment specs, power purchase agreements and roof warranties.

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