

## Energy Efficiency Working Group Summary March 16, 6 pm Community Center

Present: Randy Roberts, Karen Blackburn, Stephan Holz, Michael O'Phelan, Jan Smith (PUC)

After introductions, Jan Smith from Grand Marais PUC opened the meeting with a discussion about information that can and cannot be shared on customer's bills. The current bill structure for the PUC will not be changed. The group felt that the information reflected on the Arrowhead Electric bills is good information, but would not significantly change behavior.

Discussion then turned to the May 4th meeting with Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency and Keith Butcher and Arrowhead Electric and Joe Buttweiler. This meeting is tentatively scheduled for May 4<sup>th</sup> (set) from 6-8 pm. The meeting will begin with Mr. Butcher describing the structure of SMMPA, its mandates and the conservation programs available and necessary for them to perform. His presentation, including questions and answers will be from 6-7. From 7-8 Joe Buttweiler will present the same sort of information for the Arrowhead Electric customers. The 2 events will occur on the same day so that customers of both organizations only have to attend one night.

Gunflint Greenup – Karen has organized some of the Gunflint Green Up Green Living Fair – see next page. It is May 1<sup>st</sup> – 1-5 pm at Gunflint Lodge Conference Center.

Other Future Projects – Two possible future projects were presented:

### **City of White Bear Lake, MN** (pop. 24,723)

" Develop a model for neighborhood gatherings to promote the incorporation of sustainable practices in the home. A "home party host" would receive a free energy audit, and participants a bag of largely donated items/coupons for local sustainable products and services. Work with the WBL Commission on Environmental and Sustainable Practices.

" Pilot the 90-minute model in 10 homes. City staff will attend the gatherings to learn what issues, concerns and questions residents have, and thus to help the city to focus its educational efforts.

" Use the input from the gatherings and the results from the home energy audits to conduct a public education campaign centered around local newspaper articles.

" Evaluate the gatherings and finalize a low-cost template that other cities can use. Present the template at a meeting of other cities in the metro area.

### **CFL and Food Shelf**

*I had an interesting conversation with my brother a couple of nights ago. He works for Seattle Power and Light and his job is to come up with innovative ideas to decrease electricity use in Seattle. He mentioned one program which he has implemented which has been a huge success in Seattle and could work in Cook County : to get CF bulbs and low flow shower heads into the homes of those who may not have the resources to get them, they gave these away in each box of food distributed at the food shelf. This could be a perfect match with Operation Round-Up funds. What do you think?*

Other – Michael O'Phelan was interested in trying to get an energy efficiency project – something that will engage the students like the current robot project – into the schools for next year.

Next Meeting Date is set for April 27<sup>th</sup> at 6 PM at the Community Center conference room.