

# Things Are Happening!

Mahtomedi area residents can be proud of the many things that are happening in our community to reduce use of nonrenewable, carbon-emitting fuels, pursue renewable energy, and encourage an enduring community commitment to sustainability. Among them:

## MAHTOMEDI SCHOOL DISTRICT

- Increased recycling
- SEE program saved some \$350,000 and 6 millions pounds of greenhouse gas not released over the past four years
- Winner of EPA Energy Star Award
- Community Education cosponsored the RITE of Spring, collecting 18 tons of e-waste collected for recycling at the 2008 event
- Improved turf management, smarter & greener use of water and nutrients
- Involved 650 students in restoring a three-acre prairie at O.H. Anderson Elementary; 10 students helped plant a prairie garden at the entrance of Mahtomedi High School
- Community Education is offering community garden plots behind the District Center building
- Community Education is creating "Edible Gardens" with and for area children
- Middle School and High School have active environmental clubs

## CITY OF MAHTOMEDI

- Mayor Jud Marshall and city council signed onto the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement
- Has established an Environmental Commission to advise the city council
- Joined ICLEI, an international resource for reducing carbon emissions at the local level
- Held a Natural Step workshop
- Erected a new maintenance building incorporating green building design
- Is currently measuring the carbon footprint of city operations to establish a baseline for emission reductions
- Has a "Green Talks" insert in its newsletter and an Environment link on its website, providing sustainability information and tips
- Received Tread Lightly Mahtomedi MPCA technical assistance grant to assess municipal carbon footprint in collaboration with Century College and MAGI
- Established a new water conservation ordinance and is developing a wind turbine ordinance.

## **CHURCHES**

- At least three local churches have active environmental stewardship teams
- Actions include waste reduction and recycling, using reusable cups and dishes instead of throwaways, putting green tips into the church bulletin, improving energy efficiency, controlling parking lot runoff through settling basins and pervious pavement, installing rooftop solar electricity panels, installing rain gardens, installing bike racks, hosting climate change speakers

## **CENTURY COLLEGE**

- Signed American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment
- Helping to train a green energy workforce with degree programs in renewable energy
- Currently forming a committee to measure and reduce greenhouse gas emissions on campus
- Providing renewable energy continuing education courses

## **AREA BUSINESSES**

- White Bear Racquet and Swim (now Lifetime Fitness) has numerous energy and environment-friendly building features
- Festival Foods sells locally grown and organic foods, composts food waste, and offers drop-off for recycling plastic bags
- Local coffee shops offer choice of washable mugs or throw-away cups
- Several area merchants sell reusable shopping bags
- What else? Please let us know what your business is doing to promote sustainability!

## **YOU AND YOUR NEIGHBORS**

- Mahtomedi Area Green Initiative established in 2006
- Energy for Now and the Future (2007) and Focus: Mahtomedi (2008) community forums
- RITE of Spring 2007, 2008, 2009
- Working to bring wind and solar energy installations to our community
- What else? Let us know!