

# CURRENT LEARNING

*Workshops & Activities for Teachers & Students*

Spark interest, generate enthusiasm and energize your classroom curriculum with Minnesota Power's **CURRENT LEARNING** educational resources and services. We offer teacher workshops for continuing credit, educational materials, scholarship programs, school-based fundraising events, facility tours, online resources and career information. Our goal is to raise energy awareness, encourage environmental responsibility, reward personal achievement and advance opportunities in our region. To receive updates on the latest educational resources by e-mail, simply complete the online form at [www.mnpower.com/community](http://www.mnpower.com/community).



## TEACHER WORKSHOPS

### *Boulder Lake Environmental Learning Center*

Boulder Lake Environmental Learning Center is an ideal outdoor classroom for teachers, students and lifelong learners. Located in the 18,000-acre Boulder Lake Management Area, its comprehensive environmental education programs encourage understanding and appreciation of natural resource management practices and hydropower generation in a working forest. Find current listings of professional development workshops, K-12 classes, college courses, public programs and self-guided nature tours at [www.nrri.umn.edu/boulder](http://www.nrri.umn.edu/boulder).

### *Mississippi Headwaters Watershed Workshop*

Immerse yourself in the history of the Mississippi River Headwaters watershed during this two-day workshop for K-12 teachers. This unforgettable journey will teach you how Minnesota's watersheds were formed, their glacial features and the history of early inhabitants, trade, exploration, logging, forestry and power generation near the Mississippi River Headwaters. Take-home materials will help you create an integrated watershed unit for your classroom. Register early. Free for the first 20 teachers.

[www.mnpower.com/community](http://www.mnpower.com/community)



# MORE TEACHER WORKSHOPS

## *Lignite — Our Regional Resource*

Learn how lignite coal is mined and converted into energy for use by millions of consumers and businesses in the Upper Midwest. This three-day workshop, sponsored by the Lignite Energy Council, is held at Bismarck State College in Bismarck, N.D. Each summer, Minnesota Power funds tuition and ground transportation expenses for up to 10 area teachers to attend. Preference is given to educators who teach earth science, social studies, environmental education or related subjects. One semester graduate credit is available.

## *Economics of Energy and the Environment Camp*

Get a lesson in environmental economics as you weigh the balance between consuming and conserving resources. This free, four-day course, held at the University of Minnesota Duluth (UMD), includes classroom instruction and site visits to facilities that may include a hydroelectric plant, taconite mine and paper mill. All participants receive curriculum materials, lunches and refreshments. The first 15 registrants who live more than 30 miles from UMD also receive dorm accommodations and a \$75 travel stipend. Enrollment is limited.

# SCHOOL PROGRAMS

## *Community Wind Power Project*

Is your school or organization committed to wind power technology, energy conservation and renewable energy education? Submit a detailed proposal to Minnesota Power for matching funds to install a small-scale, onsite wind turbine demonstration project. Competitive applications must clearly articulate the proposed project's goals, objectives, equipment and technical requirements, as well as a plan for integrating wind power education into school curricula and community outreach. A 100% funding match is required, along with proof of committed resources.

## *Learn & Earn*

Teach your students about energy conservation and earn money for school programs at the same time. Learn & Earn challenges students to explore and promote the economic and environmental benefits of home energy conservation, specifically the use of energy-efficient lighting. Schools partner with Minnesota Power and local retailers to promote the sale of compact fluorescent light (CFL) bulbs, fixtures and lamps. They can earn between \$1 and \$5 for every qualifying product sold. Schools are selected through a competitive process.

Sign up for email updates: [www.mnpower.com/community](http://www.mnpower.com/community)



# EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS

## Power of One - Energy Conservation Program

The Power of One...it begins with you. Every person, business, school, group or community has the power to make responsible energy choices. They all add up to dramatic, positive change. The new Web site for Minnesota Power's Conservation Improvement Program at [mnpower.com](http://mnpower.com) offers compelling, practical energy education resources for teachers and students. The site contains energy calculators, energy libraries, an interactive "house as a system" tool and a special section called Learning Center, with lesson plans, handouts and an electric energy primer for students of all ages.

## Falcon Cam

Falcon Cam offers real-time video of Bandit and WindSong, two Peregrine Falcons that return to a nesting platform on a stack at Boswell Energy Center in Grand Rapids each year to raise their chicks. Learn more about these amazing raptors with online fact sheets, puzzles, and educational materials.

## Energy Education Online Resources

Want to teach your students about energy efficiency? Find a tool to calculate carbon footprint? Develop a course on green living practices? You'll find links to valuable, online energy education resources at [www.mnpower.com/community](http://www.mnpower.com/community). Access ENERGY STAR®-approved classroom activities, Wisconsin's K-12 Energy Education Program, the National Energy Education Development (NEED) project, Living Green and more with a click of your mouse.

## Electric Universe

Electric Universe is an out-of-this-world Internet resource for students and teachers. It is designed to entertain as well as educate students about electricity, with activities appropriate for elementary, middle school and high school levels. There is even a "Teachers' Lounge" with lesson plans, resources and experiments. Blast off at [www.mp.electricuniverse.com](http://www.mp.electricuniverse.com).

## Windy Classroom-Curriculum

Hold onto your hats. The Windy Classroom provides a full curriculum to educate students about electrical energy, the benefits and limitations of wind power generation, the connection between energy supply and demand, and tips for home energy conservation. A limited number of free CD-ROMs are available.

## Louie Safety Materials

Louie the Lightning Bug has been sparking curiosity in energy safety for years with interesting materials and fun activities for kids in grades K-5. Easy-to-read stories, coloring books and experiment workbooks will enlighten students and brighten their days in the classroom.

## Electricity 101

This informational booklet provides a brief history of the power industry in the United States, along with a current look at electric generation, transmission and distribution systems; an industry overview; a review of fuel sources; and lessons in how supply and demand influence rates.

# TOURS & FIELD TRIPS

Take your class on an energizing field trip to one of Minnesota Power's facilities. Teachers and students are fascinated by what goes on behind the scenes at our thermal generating plants, renewable energy centers and the Boulder Lake Environmental Learning Center. Group size and age requirements vary. Tours are available at the following sites:

## Thermal Energy Centers

- Boswell Energy Center, Cohasset
- Laskin Energy Center, Hoyt Lakes
- Taconite Harbor Energy Center, Schroeder

## Environmental Learning Center

- Boulder Lake Management Area/Boulder Lake Environmental Learning Center

## Renewable Energy Centers

- Thomson Energy Center, Jay Cooke State Park (hydroelectric)
- M.L. Hibbard Facility, West Duluth (biomass)
- Rapids Energy Center, Grand Rapids (biomass/coal)





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# CAREER EXPLORATION AND SCHOLARSHIPS

## *Career Exploration*

High school graduates have outstanding opportunities to earn postsecondary degrees and find rewarding jobs right here in the Northland. Minnesota Power is committed to helping our region retain its best and brightest young people. We work with area high schools and postsecondary educational institutions to help students assess career options through job shadowing, power plant and business office tours, speaking engagements and career fairs. If you are interested in learning more, please contact Nicole Johnson in Minnesota Power/ALLETE's Human Resources department at (218) 722-5642, ext. 3467, or e-mail nrjohnson@allete.com.

## *Community Involvement Scholarships*

Good deeds should be rewarded. Minnesota Power honors 25 outstanding high school seniors each year with \$2,000 Community Involvement Scholarships. A prime criterion for eligibility is a student's involvement in the community through volunteerism. Application forms and detailed information are available online and must be submitted to the Duluth Superior Area Community Foundation by mid-January. Remind your students to apply in the fall.

## *New Generation Scholarships*

The New Generation Scholarship program helps area colleges and universities graduate well-educated people with the skills needed to live and prosper in our region. Minnesota Power awards these scholarships to existing college students at qualifying institutions. Successful applicants must be enrolled in degree programs that align with regional workforce needs. Specified fields of study include business, computer science, economics, engineering and related programs, information systems and management. Application forms are available online and must be submitted to the Duluth Superior Area Community Foundation by mid-March.



Courtesy: Sarah New Nikles