

2015 MINNESOTA CLIMATE ADAPTATION AWARDS

The MN Climate Adaptation Awards

are designed to recognize and celebrate leadership, education, research policies, or practices that develop, advance, or implement climate adaptation strategies in Minnesota. 2014 was the inaugural year for the awards and they were presented in the categories of organization, institution, and individual. The awards are created from recycled glass by Michael Tonder of Blue Sky Glassworks in Two Harbors, MN.

Award Recipient - Institution

Macalester College's Ready and Resilient Climate Adaptation Research Team (RRCART)

In 2013, Macalester College's RRCART initiated a multi-year project to address barriers to participation in local climate adaptation preparation and planning. This team is being recognized for successfully raising awareness of local climate change impacts while at the same time increasing the capacity of Saint Paul residents to take part in adaptation actions at the individual and the community level. Outcomes of this project include

- a guide for residents containing information about the impacts of climate change in Saint Paul and how residents can best be prepared,
- a series of Community Climate Change Conversation meetings,
- a meeting with representatives from the Saint Paul neighborhoods and key public officials including agency heads and Saint Paul Mayor Chris Coleman, and
- a community action fund to support local residents in carrying out their own neighborhood-based climate adaptation projects or event available in all 17 districts of the city.

www.macalester.edu/readyandresilient/

Award Nominees - Institution

University of Minnesota, Morris

The University of Minnesota, Morris Office of Sustainability collaborated with the Jefferson Center, the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy, and the City of Morris to host a number of public meetings on climate adaptation strategies, including the development of an Extreme Weather Action Plan and deployment of more clean energy resources and energy conservation measures.



Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Section of Fisheries

The DNR has identified 176 "refuge" lakes in Minnesota that are deep, cool and clear enough to sustain coldwater fish as the climate warms. Using research collected by a DNR team led by Peter Jacobson and Michael Duval, the DNR promoted aquatic habitat planning and policy development that led to the climate adaptation strategy for Minnesota's cold water fisheries. This strategy was developed in collaboration with the University of Minnesota, government agencies, conservation organization, lake associations and engaged citizens. To facilitate implementation of the climate adaptation strategy, DNR has initiated a number of conservation programs and advocated to a broad spectrum of audiences using a clear, consistent and achievable message. More information on this work can be found on the web at

www.dnr.state.mn.us/fisheries/slice/investigations.html

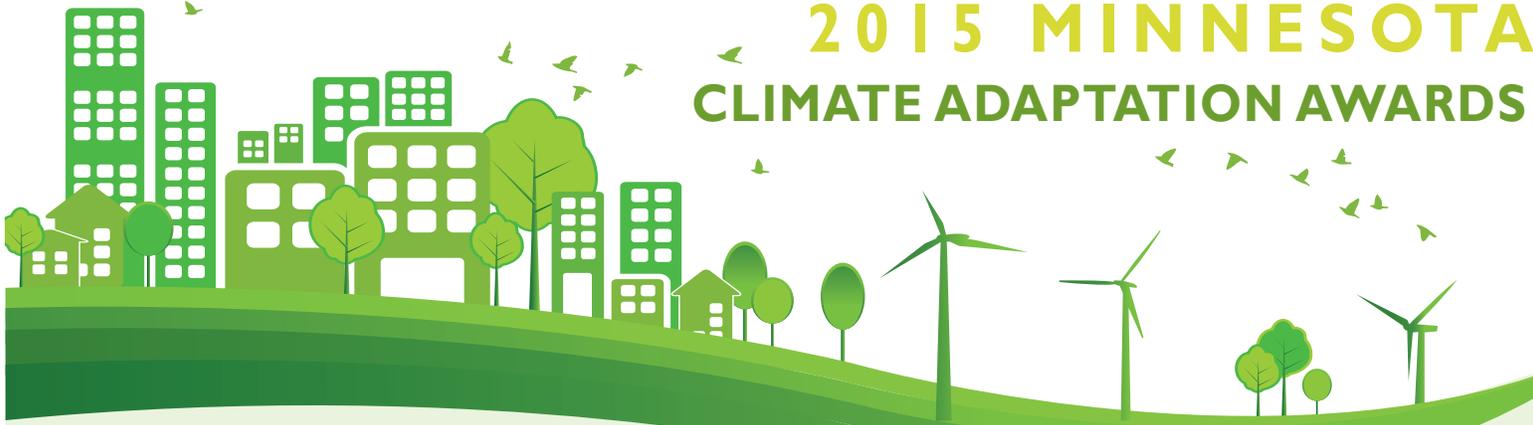
Metropolitan Council

The Metropolitan Council adopted the "Thrive MSP 2040" a 30-year regional plan that considers climate adaptation strategies in the context of sustainability and resilience in community infrastructure and natural resources.



MN Climate Adaptation Awards are Presented by the Climate Adaptation Partnership

The 2016 awards are sponsored by Emmons & Olivier Resources, Inc., the Insurance Federation of Minnesota, the Minnesota Dept. of Health, Minnesota Dept. of Natural Resources, and Aeris Weather.



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Congratulations to all of our Award Recipients!

Award Recipient - Individual

**Sunny Ruthchild, Merryweather Farms
Walnut Grove, MN**

Sunny Ruthchild is a champion of climate adaptation in southwestern Minnesota. Since 2002 she has developed Merryweather Farms to demonstrate how to raise high quality food for local markets using agricultural Best Management Practices which support soil health, ecology and biodiversity. She uses the climate change resilient practices evident on her farm as the backdrop to discuss ecology, the interplay of changing weather systems and their impact on local hydrology and atmospheric conditions. She hosts students from the University of Minnesota, is engaged in community outreach advancing the message of the need for climate adaptation and resiliency and serves on the board of the Southwest Regional Sustainable Development Partnership where she chairs the Resilient Communities and Tourism Committee. You can find her on Facebook at

www.facebook.com/merryweatherfarmandorchard/

**Jason Edens, Director of RREAL
(Rural Renewable Energy Alliance)**

Jason Edens started RREAL (a 501c(3) non-profit) in 2000 as a volunteer organization that focused on the unique mission to provide solar technology to all income levels. It is through Jason's leadership and advocacy in advancing social and systems infrastructure change that communities throughout Minnesota are becoming less vulnerable and more resilient in the face of climate change. His work with individual residents and community-based organizations like Habitat for Humanity has been exemplary. You can find him on the web at

www.rreal.org/

Award Nominees - Individual

Kathy Draeger

Kathy Draeger has served as the statewide director of the University of Minnesota Extension Regional Sustainable Development Partnerships (RSDP) since 2005. The RSDP is an organization concerned with promoting sustainability in agriculture and food systems, tourism, natural resource management, and deployment of clean energy.

Jerry Untiedt

Jerry Untiedt manages Untiedt Farms where he has applied sound management principles to his agricultural production practices to adjust for a changing climate, especially the incidents of severe weather.



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