

Project 11-182 Energize Nebraska – The Hamilton Community Foundation

Project Legend:

The Solar Clean Air Initiative will educate and establish a new generation of solar instructors, installers and entrepreneurs throughout Nebraska, energizing community demand for solar applications. The Solar Clean Air Initiative will provide Nebraska industry and community college faculty with statewide training on solar hot water and solar warm air systems, building competencies for next day applications.

Proposal Context: Multiple Communities

Duration: 05/01/2011 – 06/29/2012

Cost: \$35,200 Awarded from NET

NET Funding Objective: Air Quality

Process:

- Selection & development of solar curricula.
- Finalized model for portable training stations. Stations include collectors, mounting rack, pump, controls, and a storage tank.
- Curriculum package was purchased, instructors were announced.
- Conducted multiple solar seminars throughout the state including Norfolk, Central Community College, Southeast Community College, Western Nebraska Community College, Metropolitan Community College, and Loup Basin RC&D.
- Increased number of community colleges with future plans to include solar in their programs.
- Metropolitan Community College built a dedicated solar lab which is the first of its class in the state. It offers regular solar workshops at the Fort Omaha campus.
- Central Community College began large solar panel array which will be used to showcase “real time installation” and additional training on campus.

Domains: This project falls under the Technological domain because of the development of curricula and workshops centered around solar powered installations. The Socio-Cultural domain is also represented because of the multiple solar seminars held around the state.

Transferability: The curriculum developed throughout the course of this grant could be used by nearly any community/college campus wanting to increase solar education and solar power production.

