

# MINNESOTA

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The Minnesota State Energy Office (SEO) promotes energy efficiency and renewable energy to Minnesota consumers, businesses and policymakers through educational outreach and technical assistance, targeted financial incentives, and demonstrations of market-ready new technologies. SEO staff bring together government, business, non-profit and higher education stakeholders to develop policies and projects beneficial to Minnesota and the nation. Much of the SEO's work is funded by the U.S. Department of Energy (USDOE) State Energy Program (SEP).

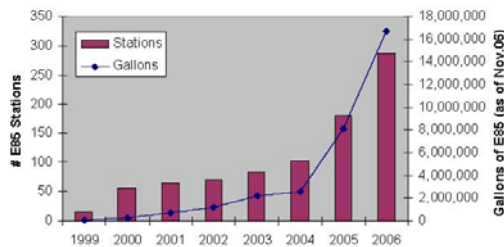


*Minnesota State Energy Office SEP Funding*

Fiscal Year	Allocation	Change from FY 2003
FY 2003	\$916,000	
FY 2004	\$917,000	+ 0.1%
FY 2005	\$903,000	- 1.4%
FY 2006	\$911,000	- 0.5%
FY 2007	\$745,000	-18.7%

## Minnesota and E85

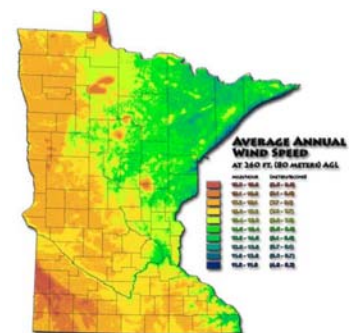
Since 2001, the SEO has partnered with USDOE and the American Lung Association of Minnesota



(ALAMN) to advance the use of homegrown E85 fuel (a mix of 85% ethanol and 15% petroleum) in Minnesota. Over these last six years, the SEO and the ALAMN have used SEP funds to leverage over \$1.5 million dollars in public and private funding to develop E85 fueling stations across Minnesota. Today, Minnesota leads the nation with over 300 E85 stations. In 2006 Minnesota sold over 18 million gallons of E85, a 125% increase over 2005 and 600% increase from 2004. In 2006, the average price for a gallon of E85 was typically 35 to 40 cents lower than regular unleaded gasoline.

## Wind Energy Advancement

Minnesota has long been a leader in the development of wind power. Starting in 1982, Minnesota began investing SEP funds in its Wind Resource Assessment Program, which provided a network of wind monitoring towers to demonstrate and quantify the potential of wind power around the state. This long-term commitment to data collection and analysis has provided valuable support to the state's growing wind industry, and was instrumental in building confidence in the economic viability of wind development within the local financial community, which has enabled large and small scale wind projects to be owned and financed locally.



## Energy Code Advancement Projects

Minnesota is a national leader in advancing energy efficiency through strong and innovative energy codes. USDOE has been an essential partner in the SEO's Energy Code Advancement Projects, providing eight SEP Special Project awards and four Rebuild America awards to implement both the residential and commercial energy codes in Minnesota. The SEO works closely with the state Building Codes Division, the Builders Association of Minnesota, the University of Minnesota, engineer and architect associations and other building trade organizations to improve the understanding of and compliance with energy code

requirements. This is done through formal continuing education, workshops, and the development of case studies and training materials specifically for home builders.

The Minnesota residential energy code was among the first in the nation to mandate strict air tightness standards. As a result, nearly all new single family homes now built in Minnesota are eligible for the federal energy tax credit.

### **Schools for Energy Efficiency**

In 2002 the SEO awarded a \$35,000 grant (from the SEP formula funds) to Hallberg Engineering, Inc. to develop and launch Schools for Energy Efficiency (SEE)—a program to help public schools reduce their energy use while teaching faculty, staff and students ways to be good energy stewards. In 2007, over 250 schools in 14 school districts participated in SEE, saving an average of 11% of total annual energy use. Eleven Minnesota school districts participating in the SEE program have been recognized with the ENERGY STAR® Leader Award—more than 40% of the school districts nationwide receiving ENERGY STAR® Leader Awards.



### **Energy Information**

The SEO promotes energy efficiency and renewable energy to consumers through its telephone information hotline and website, and through presentations, workshops and community events throughout Minnesota—including events such as the Living Green Expo and The Eco-Experience at the Minnesota State Fair, which draw hundreds of thousands visitors each year. The SEO has developed a broad array of consumer education materials, including a series of Home Energy Guides that help consumers make smart energy decisions in their homes and businesses; all publications are available in print, on a CD-ROM, or can be downloaded from the SEO website. In FY 2006, the SEO had nearly 300,000 direct contacts or website visits, and distributed more than 175,000 publications and CDs.



In March 2005 St. Cloud State University surveyed consumers to determine conservation actions resulting from contact with the SEO. Results included:

- ◆ 80% of respondents found the SEO information to be easy to understand, accurate, useful, and reliable.
- ◆ 53% of respondents acted upon information from the SEO and took action to improve the energy efficiency of their home or business.