

NORTH DAKOTA

<http://www.nd.gov/dcs/energy/>

The North Dakota State Energy Program (NDSEP) and North Dakota State University (NDSU) have established a long lasting working relationship, sharing energy efficiency information with farmers, ranchers and urban residents since 1976. Located in Fargo, ND, NDSU is a land grant college, and is charged with moving agriculture forward in the state through research, development and information dispersion through its extension service.

In the early days NDSU was a perfect fit for the energy conservation effort. It had experience informing residents of more efficient ways to operate their farms, ranches and homes. It was a more of a step than a leap to have NDSU include energy information and guidance with the efficiency they advocated for farms, ranches and homes in the state. NDSEP partnered with NDSU which had spent its first seventy-five years bringing together living system knowledge, engineering technologies and a social conscience to investigate the tough energy problems facing state residents.

Initially, under the auspices of the former Energy Extension Service, NDSU developed a series of brochures, describing ways to save energy ranging from the proper ballast (fluid) in tractor tires, to energy conservation measures for houses of worship, to experimenting with alternative fuels long before alternative fuels were viable commodities in the marketplace.

Today NDSU continues its energy conservation work by advising all state residents of the opportunities to include efficiency in their homes, farms and ranches. NDSU conducts no-till farming practice seminars, holds natural air grain drying training sessions, presents irrigation demonstrations, writes residential energy efficiency improvement brochures, prepares news releases, develops farm and home show displays, and engages in individual telephone and electronic consultations.

NDSU has been involved in spreading the energy conservation word from the beginning, and has displayed a thirty-year commitment to the long haul. Without its help, NDSEP would have had a much more difficult information dissemination task, and would have had to invent something very similar to what NDSU already had in place.

(The North Dakota State Energy Program annually contracts with NDSU for a variety of energy efficiency and renewable energy activities, mainly involving education and outreach. It is a highly effective and mutually beneficial working partnership.)