



**CISRR Meeting
December 10, 2009**



**Minnesota Pollution
Control Agency**

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA MORRIS



AmeriCorps is a network of local, state, and national service programs that connects more than 75,000 Americans each year in intensive service to meet our country's critical needs in education, the environment, health, veterans' services, and economic opportunity.



Americorps Program Overview

- The history of national service dates back to 1933 when President Roosevelt created the Civilian Conservation Corps.
- AmeriCorps officially began in 1993.
- AmeriCorps members commit to one year of service to meet the needs in their local community.
- AmeriCorps members earn an education award in exchange for their service.
- AmeriCorps members may typically only serve two years.
- There are 12 other AmeriCorps State programs in Minnesota besides Minnesota GreenCorps.



Minnesota GreenCorps

Minnesota GreenCorps is a **statewide initiative** to help preserve and protect Minnesota's environment while training a new generation of environmental professionals.




Why Minnesota GreenCorps?

Minnesota is facing significant environmental challenges. Minnesota GreenCorps was initiated in response to a variety of statewide needs, aiming to:

- Respond to higher energy costs by local governments
- Assist community members to take eco friendly actions
- Reduce greenhouse gases and other air pollutants
- Transition to a green economy
- Train new environmental professionals

Program Overview

- Minnesota GreenCorps is coordinated by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) 
- Funding for the first year is provided by a one-year formula grant from ServeMinnesota and the Corporation for National Community Service
- Strategic first-year partnership with the University of Minnesota-Morris (UMM)
- Serve as a pilot for other environmentally-focused AmeriCorps programs

Program Design

- 22 AmeriCorps members trained and supported by MPCA
- 18 full time members placed with host sites statewide
- 4 half time members hosted by the UMM
- Host sites include local governments, post secondary academic institutions, school districts, non-profits
- Support from other state agencies – Department of Natural Resources and Department of Agriculture.

Member Focus Areas

Member projects are highly focused, aligned with statewide priorities, and grounded in measurable outcomes:

| Position | Focus area / Activity |
|---|--|
| Local Government Energy Conservation Specialist | Reducing energy use and costs for buildings and fleets for local governments. |
| School Waste Prevention Specialist | Reduce solid waste and increase reuse, recycling and composting at schools. |
| Living Green Outreach Specialist | Reduce waste and encourage environmentally friendly actions by community members. |
| Local Food System Specialist | Encourage marketing of locally-grown food and/or encourage community members to grow their own food. |
| Urban Forestry Specialist | Inventory trees on public lands, assess their benefits, and provide outreach. |

Common elements of member projects

- Projects designed for communities to continue after member involvement
- Measurable outcomes
- Citizen/community participation
- Multi-stakeholder involvement (e.g., local government, educational, civic, business, and nonprofits)

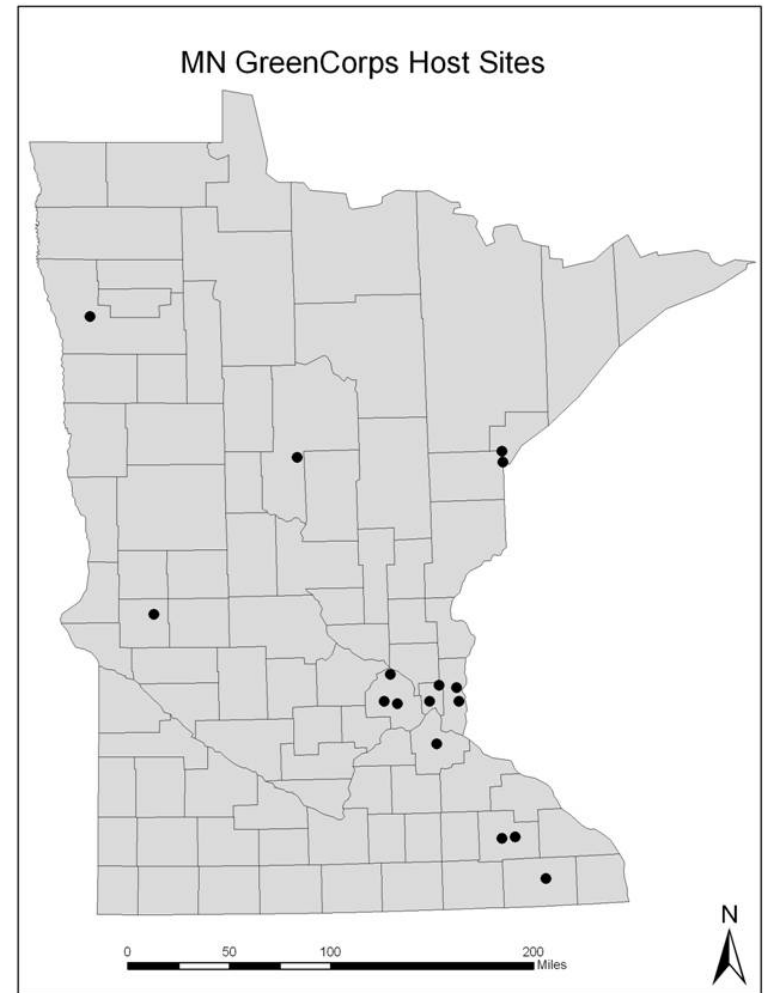


Support for member projects

- Full-time MPCA program administrator
- Technical staff in each focus area engaged at MPCA, DNR, MDA, and UMM
- Assistance with mentoring, member projects, measurement, member training, field support and ongoing technical support

Host Site and Member Selection

- High level of interest from both potential members and potential host sites
- 122 applications for 18 full time member positions statewide
- 19 applications for 4 half-time positions at UMM
- 56 applications for host sites – 15 host sites ultimately selected



Host Sites

- City of Duluth
- City of Rochester
- City of Rogers
- City of Saint Paul
- City of Woodbury
- University of Minnesota – Crookston
- **Three Rivers Park District**
- Eagle Bluff Learning Center
- **Olmsted County**
- **Hennepin County**
- **Washington County/Ramsey County**
- Initiative Foundation
- **Western Lake Superior Sanitary District**
- Gardening Matters
- **ISD 832 – Mahtomedi Public School District**

What's next?

- Focus on member project success
- Track outputs and measure outcomes
- Assess needs and deliver training
- Support networking and sharing of approaches
- Evaluate first year of program
- Begin planning for year two



More Information

www.nextstep.state.mn.us/mngreencorps

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