

Minnesota GreenCorps

A graphic element to the right of the text, featuring a green hard hat with a blue silhouette of a person's head inside it.

Minnesota Pollution
Control Agency





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, public safety, health, and the environment.



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 13 other AmeriCorps*State programs in Minnesota besides Minnesota GreenCorps.



Green Corps Program Overview

Minnesota GreenCorps is a new program, coordinated by MPCA starting in September 2009. It was initiated in response to a variety of statewide needs:

- Helping to address global climate change
- Responding to higher energy costs by local governments
- Assisting community members to take eco friendly actions
- Transitioning to a green economy
- Training new environmental professionals



Green Corps Program Overview Cont.

- Statewide Minnesota GreenCorps program
- 18 full time members trained, supported & deployed by MPCA
- Strategic first-year partnership with UM-Morris -- they will host an additional 4 half time members
- Host sites to include local governments, school districts and community organizations
- Member projects to be highly focused, aligned with statewide priorities, and grounded in measurable outcomes



MPCA will provide members with:

- Orientation to AmeriCorps policies and procedures
- Basic training on project areas
- Biweekly paychecks
- Reimbursement for approved expenditures (travel, training, etc.)
- Offer of health insurance
- Workers compensation
- Ongoing professional advice as related to Minnesota GreenCorps positions (day-to-day professional supervision and training must be provided by the host site)



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Host Sites

- Host sites to include local governments, school districts and community organizations
- Applications to for host sites will be available soon.
- Approximately 9 host sites will be selected, with teams of two MGC members typically assigned to each host site.
- Members may be assigned to more than one project category for each host site, as requested by the prospective host site.
- Host site applications due July 28th, 2009
- Host sites are expected to be notified if they have been selected the week of August 17, 2009. Members will arrive on site the week of September 14th, 2009.
- Members are required to put in 1700 hours of service to meet program requirements



Host Sites

Host sites are responsible for providing the following for their Minnesota GreenCorps members:

- Day-to-day professional supervision of the Minnesota GreenCorps members
- Office space, computer, internet, telephone, and other needed services
- Supplies (paper, postage, printing, etc.)
- Materials needed for Minnesota GreenCorps member projects
- Accurate ongoing reporting of Minnesota GreenCorps member hours to MPCA
- Attendance at Minnesota GreenCorps regional or statewide trainings and meetings
- On-site training of Minnesota GreenCorps members to be able to carry out their work activities
- Commitment to achieving measurable outcomes through the member projects
- Compliance with all necessary terms and conditions as required by AmeriCorps for a safe, nondiscriminatory workplace

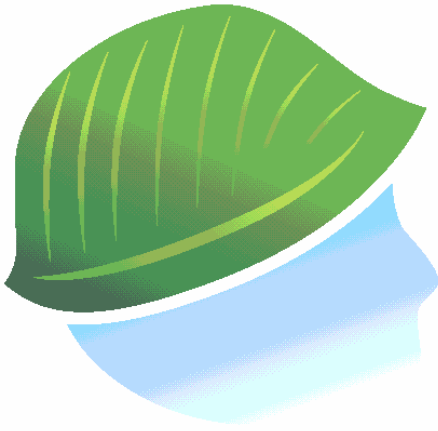


GreenCorps Members

- Applications accepted due by July 31, 2008
- A stipend of \$11,400 will be provided for full-time GreenCorps members
- Also receive education-related award of \$4,725 for those completing their term of full-time service
- Members will be assigned to one of three to five project focus areas
- Preferred qualifications are: 4 year BA/BS degree or higher in environmental-related studies, urban planning/community development, engineering, architecture, social sciences, education or communications.
- Potential applicants should contact greencorps@pca.state.mn.us to receive an application. Applicants who are selected will be notified by August 24th.



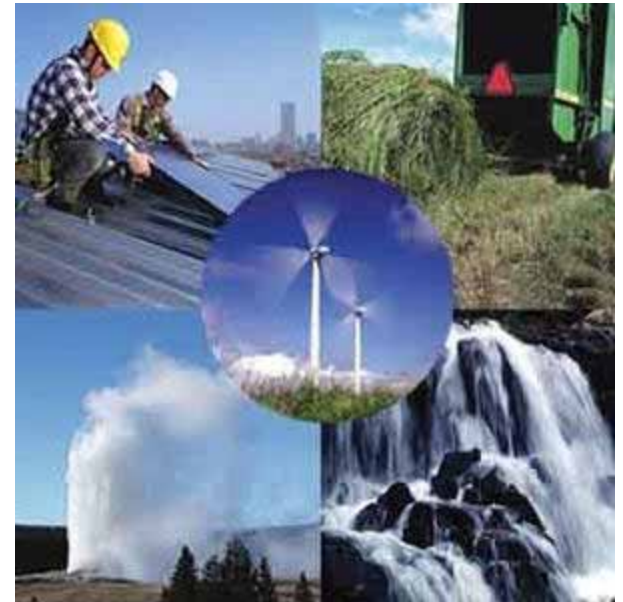
Proposed Member Projects



- Local government climate & energy assistance
- Greening public schools
- Living green outreach and education
- Community-based food production
- Urban forest planning and citizen engagement

Local government climate & energy assistance

- Driver is local government's high cost of energy, as well as low cost and high return solutions
- Using data, members discover opportunities for energy use reduction
- Projects focused on greening public buildings and fleets
- Necessary databases already exist
- Highly measurable: energy savings, cost savings, square feet of improvements
- Opportunities for employee & community engagement



Greening public schools



- Drivers include mixed environmental performance, opportunities for avoided costs, instilling student environmental stewardship ethic
- Member activities include starting cafeteria composting projects, increasing opportunities to recycle, and student service learning
- Measures include # of students involved, waste streams diverted, energy savings, community volunteers

Living green outreach and education

- Drivers are significant negative environmental impacts of collective individual choices, as well as challenges of engaging residents that result in positive change
- Member activities include community implementation of proven education campaigns (e.g., junk mail, phone book, GLTO) and outreach events
- Environmental measures include households reached, waste reduced and estimated GHG emissions avoided



Community-based food production



- Drivers are environmental & economic, and are grounded in community interest and motivated local partners
- Member duties focused on supporting community/backyard gardening or pilot farmers markets
- Citizen engagement through presentations, workshops and earned media
- Practical opportunities for volunteers
- Measures to include new and expanded local food projects, # of citizens engaged, and estimated GHG and other environmental outcomes
- Leverages MDA and NGO resources

Urban forest planning and citizen engagement

- Drivers include overlooked energy, stormwater, and aesthetic benefits of trees
- Leverages DNR resources and NGO capabilities
- Member activities aligned with highly structured national Tree USA program
- Member duties include tree canopy inventories, planning and citizen engagement (Arbor Day events)
- Potential synergies with tree planting programs
- Environmental and activity-based measures



Timeline

- Member applications now being accepted – Due July 31st
- Host Site Applications now being accepted – Due July 28th
- Member training: September 9-11, 2009
- Member placement: Week of September 14, 2009
- All projects will last for approximately 11 months (1700 hours)





For more information

visit: www.nextstep.state.mn.us/greencorps

Or contact greencorps@pca.state.mn.us to
receive the host site and/or member
application forms.

Thank You

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