



## MPCA Closed Landfill Program Solar Initiative

The Minnesota Legislature established a solar photovoltaic (PV) and solar thermal incentive program for consumers who install PV and solar thermal systems using solar modules and collectors certified as manufactured in Minnesota (Minn.Stat. 174.186). This program began in January 2014 and is administered by the Minnesota Department of Commerce (DOC).

To qualify as a manufacturer for the Made in Minnesota (MiM) Solar Energy Production Incentive, the PV module must be manufactured at a facility in Minnesota that is registered and authorized for use by the DOC.

There are three incentive levels, with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) Closed Landfill Program (CLP) qualifying under the Non-Profit/Public level, which allows for a system with a capacity up to 40kW-DC (40 kiloWatt-Direct Current).

Applications for this incentive program must be submitted annually and are selected by lottery.

In 2014, the CLP submitted applications for four landfills. The CLP chose these landfills based upon electrical usage, whether the electricity used was provided by one of Minnesota's four investor-owned utilities, amount of sun exposure, and CLP ownership of the property.

The DOC chose Lindenfelser Landfill and Washington County Landfill in the lottery pick.

Lindenfelser Landfill, located in St. Michael, has an active gas collection system. It used 14,492kWh of electricity in Fiscal Year 2013 (FY13), for which the MPCA paid Xcel Energy \$1,739.04.

Washington County Landfill, located in Lake Elmo, has an active gas collection system and a leachate collection system. In FY13, Washington County Landfill used 54,467kWh of electricity, for which the MPCA paid Xcel Energy \$4,357.36.

The DOC established the incentive amounts for the 2014 calendar year for Non-Profit/Public of \$.20/kWh for solar panels manufactured by TenKSolar, headquartered in Burnsville, and \$.29/kWh for panels manufactured by Silicon Energy, headquartered in Hibbing.

The CLP has 23 landfills where active remediation systems are in operation and electricity is consumed. The majority of these landfills are not located in the four investor-owned utility service areas. The CLP may submit applications for additional MiM-qualified sites in the future. The CLP will continue to evaluate solar generation at sites where remediation systems are in operation to develop renewable energy where its use is economically attractive. Solar electricity is becoming more economically feasible and reduces the environmental impacts associated with burning coal, including reduced mercury and carbon dioxide emissions, which is a goal of the governor of Minnesota and the MPCA.

Additional information can be found at:

<http://www.mn.gov/commerce/energy/topics/resources/energy-legislation-initiatives/made-in-minnesota/what-is-made-in-minnesota.jsp>

[http://dsireusa.org/incentives/incentive.cfm?Incentive\\_Code=MN175F&re=0&ee=0](http://dsireusa.org/incentives/incentive.cfm?Incentive_Code=MN175F&re=0&ee=0)