

***Wisconsin Office of Energy Independence  
2010 Energy Independent Communities:  
25 X 25 Planning Grant RFA***

**Submitted by:**

***Polk County, Wisconsin***

**December 15, 2009**

## **Energy Independent Communities: 25 X 25 Planning Grant Proposal**

In pursuit of Polk County becoming the premier model for “sustainable community development” in the state of Wisconsin, the following is a formal application to the Office of Energy Independence for \$50,000 to support the following objectives to be realized by December 2010.

### **Objectives:**

- 1) Formalize the organizational structure and function of the ad hoc Polk County Renewable Energy Committee into an Energy Independent Team with Coordinator’s position for on-going achievement of the phased conceptualization, implementation, and assessment of energy independence in the community, grounded in the 25 X 25 Resolution and EIC program;
- 2) Work with EIC staff and partners to build upon the energy audits already initiated in order to complete the full benchmarking of all county buildings and transportation systems;
- 3) Work with EIC staff and partners to fully develop an Energy Independent Community, Educational, and Assessment Plan for Polk County that meets and exceeds the criteria and expectations of the RFA; and to
- 4) Establish the foundation for an already conceptualized 2009-2010 Polk County Renewable Energy Committee Strategic Plan for Polk County. (Appendix B)

The following is a “Phasing Plan” that Polk County elected officials, leaders, and citizens have been and intend to continue following as a community. It begins with the historical efforts already made for energy independence, the current planning and projects, and the eventual achievement of energy independence.

- **Phase One:** Historical – Phase one represents the “sweat equity” the community has already invested. There is already significant momentum in pre-conceiving and conceptualizing energy independence starting in mid-90’s with discussion groups of local elected officials for managing growth. This culminated in 2006 with establishment of Polk County Renewable Energy ad hoc advisory committee. Polk County has since taken dramatic steps in conservation, as well as exploring and assessing renewable energy technologies for county facilities. Polk County has also become a regional leader in the number of Natural Step Study Circles. This effort represents at least \$50,000 of sweat equity value on the part of the community and its contributing partners.
- **Phase Two:** Polk County Comprehensive Land Use Plan / Renewable Energy Committee Strategic Plan – This represents the on-going development and parallel track of optimized land use planning and economic development for energy efficiency that was completed in October 2009 in line with state legislation. It also represents the on-going strategic planning of the advisory Renewable Energy Committee.
- **Phase Three:** OEI Energy Independent Community RFA - Audit & Plan for Public Buildings & Systems – This represents the serendipitous timing and synergistic capacity of the OEI EIC RFA integrated with the strong planning and foundation that already exists. This brings the opportunity to provide a replicable model for the public regarding rural County scale projects.

- **Phase Four:** Feasibility Studies & Refinement of Conceptualized Models – This represents the phase of testing the cost-benefit of various holistic models that emerge from the comprehensive land use and strategic planning.
- **Phase Five:** Implementation, Assessment, & Fine Tuning – While extremely ambitious, this represents the 15+ years beyond completion of the comprehensive plan that maximizes economic development and quality of life within the carrying capacity of native systems. It is the tangible infrastructure development phase of living out the model with real time adjustment and incremental improvement based on continuous tracking of data and trends in performance of systems, and changes in external circumstances.

### **Energy Conservation, Efficiency and Renewable Energy Capabilities**

The individuals, organizations, and communities of rural NW Wisconsin continue to face compelling challenges in their desire to create viable and sustainable communities. A recent spike in energy prices, uncertainty over future supply and concerns about the environment, however, have created insecurity throughout our region and have brought energy issues to the forefront of policy debates and individual decision making. The deleterious effects of these issues prompted local leaders, in conjunction with Polk County, to search for new ways to assess the opportunities of our current energy situation by creating a Renewable Energy Committee. As communities and individuals struggle to understand energy conservation, efficiency and renewable energy resources, the Polk County Renewable Energy Committee and its project partners are working to address rising costs of conventional energy and associated environmental degradation by providing leadership, sharing information, and creating economic opportunities for rural Wisconsin.

In April of 2006, the Polk County Board established an ad hoc Renewable Energy Committee. This committee is best positioned to implement the grant, if awarded. Comprised of three county supervisors and six citizen members, this committee has been meeting monthly since its inception and has assumed a leadership role by creating active dialogue regarding local renewable energy capabilities. Since its inception, the committee has educated itself and the Polk County community as to the feasibility and practicality of various renewable energy technologies and energy efficiency measures by way of committee member investigation, reports, field trips, press releases and guest speakers. Representatives from the Polk County Board of Supervisors, River Country Resource Conservation and Development Council, Inc., Polk County Economic Development Corporation, and Polk County Recycling Department are some key partners who have all served on the committee. Through education, the solicitation of ideas and ongoing discussions with various stakeholders throughout the county, the Polk County Renewable Energy Committee has become a leader in thinking strategically about solutions to the energy challenges that rural communities in Wisconsin face. The committee has also collaborated with the University of Wisconsin Extension – Polk County, Wisconsin’s Focus on Energy, Xcel Energy, Northwestern Wisconsin Electric, and Polk-Burnett Electric Cooperative on several projects. There is also a developing relationship between the committee and the local communities as well as the universities and technical colleges in the region. In addition, Polk County has contacted Dr. Tim Donohue of the University of Wisconsin – Great Lakes Bio-Energy Research Center regarding a potential pilot program for the county.

The Polk County Renewable Energy Committee has also been an energy information clearinghouse for residents and local communities, as well as a resource for various departments of county government. For example, the committee recently developed a *Wisconsin Energy Assistance and Conservation Resource Guide* (Appendix C) which is a comprehensive list of resources for area residents interested in energy conservation, renewables, bio-energy and local vendors. The guide was distributed to key stakeholders and is available on the County home page at: <http://www.co.polk.wi.us/>. In addition, the University of Wisconsin Cooperative Extension has elicited opinions regarding emerging energy issues from the Committee as well as requested sponsorship of one of their four regional Bio-Energy Forums. The Renewable Energy Committee sponsored a luncheon in February 2008, at which 35 local elected officials had a chance to meet Secretary of Agriculture Rod Nilsestuen and David Jenkins, Director of Commercialization & Market Development, Office of Energy Independence. The committee also co-sponsored a tri-county 'Bio-Energy in Northwest Wisconsin' forum at the New Richmond WITC campus in May 2008 (Appendix D) as well as a Barron/Polk County Renewable Energy Bus Tour in September 2008 (Appendix E).

The Polk County Renewable Energy Committee has also served an 'advisory' role to the Polk County Board of Supervisors as well as a resource for various departments of county government. For example, the Polk County Land Information Department requested feedback from the committee on a recently adopted Small Wind Energy Ordinance for Polk County. In October of 2007, following a yearlong process of soliciting and synthesizing feedback from a variety of stakeholders, including members of the Renewable Energy Committee, the Polk County Board adopted its first-ever strategic plan. One of the fourteen goals contained therein relates directly to the 25x25 initiative: "Investigate alternative fuels". (Appendix F) This goal has been expanded upon with Resolution 67-09, "Establishing Transportation Fuel Reduction Goals." (Appendix G) On June 17 of 2008, the Polk County Board of Supervisors adopted Resolution 46-08, "Support of Governor Doyle's '25x25' Goals for Energy Independence." (Appendix H) Subsequently, Polk County became the first Wisconsin county to adopt such a resolution and has become a partner with the Wisconsin Office of Energy Independence's Energy Independent Communities initiative. Other efforts include the submission of a USDA-Rural Development Rural Business Opportunity Grant application soliciting resources to fund a study that would analyze the amount of biomass in the county and provide a comprehensive overview of the availability of all biomass feedstock in and around Polk County. Polk County is also considering updating the county purchasing policy that would require all bids to include the energy costs of all purchases. This would allow the county flexibility to consider higher bids if the purchase demonstrates energy savings over the life of that purchase. (Appendix I)

Directly resulting from the efforts of the Polk County Renewable Energy Committee and other local sustainability advocates, Polk County adopted a comprehensive land use plan that goes beyond the nine state-required elements to include a 10th element regarding energy and sustainability. (Appendix J) The comprehensive plan is to be a guiding document for Polk County's future to provide a basis for future policy decisions.

The plan lists five main Energy & Sustainability goals:

- 1) Promote energy efficiency and conservation for the county, including county government.

- 2) Adopt renewable energy policies and practices as part of a strategy to meet future energy needs.
- 3) Encourage food and energy independence.
- 4) Promote land uses that do not negatively impact water resources.
- 5) Utilize sustainability and local food/energy independence as tools to improve economic stability and quality of life throughout the county. The plan states Polk County should be promoted “as a place that welcomes, promotes and encourages green businesses and green jobs.”

Implementation recommendations for Energy & Sustainability include:

- Renewable Energy Committee investigate and apply for appropriate grants
- Renewable Energy Committee work with the University of Wisconsin Extension office to consider developing a county sustainability plan
- Renewable Energy Committee work with the county planner and the county economic development corporation to partner with other agencies and groups on sustainability, energy and local food initiatives
- Renewable Energy Committee and the county board develop goals for the “25 X 25” resolution passed by the county board.
- Development of a countywide plan for non-vehicular/alternative transportation, in the short term (within five years).
- Evaluation of options for alternatively-fueled vehicles when purchasing county vehicles.
- Providing for the proper disposal of medical waste, household hazardous waste and electronic waste.
- Evaluating options for elder care facilities.
- Evaluating and participating in the state’s Working Lands Initiative, or similar programs, to protect agricultural resources.
- Evaluating regulations to ensure water resources are protected.
- Encouraging future development to locate near existing downtowns and along main corridors and available utilities.
- Rewriting and codifying Polk County land use ordinances.

The Polk County Renewable Energy Committee also developed a 2009-2010 strategic plan facilitated by UW-Cooperative Extension. This process, which encourages organizational learning, has enabled the committee to focus on some key challenges as well as develop some viable goals and objectives in which many have been initiated or implemented in 2009. The committee has also examined its mandates, values, and identified its key stakeholders. In addition, a clearly defined action-oriented mission statement has been adopted. It reads:

**Mission Statement:** *The mission of the Polk County Renewable Energy Committee is to research, evaluate, and promote sustainability with a focus on renewable energy systems for Polk County residents, businesses, and public agencies.*

Polk County has also had a longstanding relationship with Johnson Controls. For over ten years, the Milwaukee-based company has been a service provider of mechanical equipment as well as systems that automatically control heating, ventilating, air conditioning (HVAC), lighting,

security and fire management for Polk County facilities. The performance contract between Polk County and Johnson Controls has resulted in significant energy savings for the county (over \$600,000) and demonstrates energy efficiency and conservation efforts. In fact, Polk County is currently into its second 10-year Guaranteed Savings Contract with Johnson Controls. In addition, Mr. Darrell Beeksma of Focus on Energy conducted energy audits in 2006 of the County Fairgrounds, Recycling Center, Adult Development Center, Highway Shop, Government Center, Special Ed School, and Justice Center. Many recommendations were implemented in conjunction with Focus on Energy and Johnson Controls, including:

- New dampers at Government Center
- Adjusting air handlers to pre-cool all buildings-using outside summer air in mornings
- Group re-lamping for the entire Justice Center; replaced all 32 Watt bulbs to 25 Watt bulbs
- Currently use one boiler instead of two or three in Government Center and Justice Center; vary the boiler temp on warmer winter days
- Water conservation on bathrooms and sinks-entire County Campus-reduction of water flow in all urinals, toilets and sinks
- Booster heater for dishwasher; converted from electric to natural gas unit
- Run 1 chiller stack instead of 3 or 4
- Light sensors on all hall lights and entryway lights
- Utilization of natural light where applicable
- New, more efficient cooling tower
- New energy efficient boiler and AC at Special Ed School
- Re-lamping at the Recycling Center with compact fluorescents
- the highway department trucks and recycling center recently adopted a “no idle” policy for county trucks and other county non-emergency vehicles.

Lastly, a foundation for this grant also exists at the grassroots level following the *Natural Step for Communities* paradigm. Following presentations by from the University of Wisconsin Cooperative Extension and UW-River Falls professor Kelly Cain in Amery, Osceola and Saint Croix Falls in the fall of 2007, six Natural Step Study Circles developed throughout the county. Because of those study circles, two local governments are in the process of becoming eco-municipalities. Several hundred people have attended meetings. The education process of the study circles has cultivated a local citizenry that supports and advocates for an increased attention to energy usage in general and efforts to develop baseline data such as measured in the energy audits.

### **Project Description**

The Polk County Renewable Energy Committee is working diligently on building relationships among a variety of stakeholders, which includes the private, public, and the education sectors. Representatives from each sector will make up the Energy Independence Team. This diverse group will work with the Wisconsin Office of Energy Independence to complete an energy audit of buildings, infrastructure and vehicles for three units of government with an emphasis on collecting information on local biomass resources. The completion of this research will provide Polk County the ability to prioritize projects, and further develop and adhere to the 25% by 2025 Plan. Named the “Polk County Energy Independence Team (PCEIT)”, this collaboration of

communities has the institutional knowledge and working environment to ensure the successful completion of the program.

## **Energy Independence Team Leader/Coordinator**

### Name/Title:

**Tim Anderson/Polk County Planner, Land Information Department/EIC**

### Experience:

- Administered \$380,000 Wisconsin Department of Administration (DOA) multi-jurisdictional Comprehensive planning grant (2008-09)
- Provided quarterly reports and coordinated reimbursements for DOA
- Primary contact for DOA and grant participants regarding fiscal and programmatic issues
- Coordinated meetings to elicit public input and community forums/hearings
- Developed planning process, educational materials and authored 2009 Polk County Comprehensive Plan. In concert to this program, provided leadership, processes, and facilitation services for nine municipal Comprehensive Plans
- Worked on projects primarily dealing with energy efficiency, such as energy audits, greening the municipal vehicle fleet with hybrids and all electric vehicles, using bio-diesel in all diesel –powered trucks, municipal buses, and school buses, installation of motion sensors for lighting.
- Worked on developing an energy efficiency requirement for all new facilities built by the City of Lacrosse, Lacrosse County, the school district, Gundersen Lutheran Hospital, Honda Motorwerks, City Brewery, several churches, and other private entities.
- Recently went on a land use study tour to New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Maryland, primarily to study how to preserve farmland or working lands
- Sustainable Dunn member
- Led a study circle group on The Natural Step-Coulee Partners for Sustainability

### Work Duties/Responsibilities:

- The single point of contact for all Energy Independence Community (EIC) activities for the Wisconsin Office of Energy Independence (OEI) and the Polk County Energy Independence Team;
- Single point of contact for contract related activities
- Primary contact for all EIC communications with the OEI, UW-Extension staff, Local Government Institute staff, Focus on Energy staff, and any other government, non-profit, or commercial partners on behalf of the PCEIT and the community;
- scheduling of all PCEIT meetings and community education programs;
- record keeping of activities of the PCEIT, as well as records of assessment of effectiveness of its activities;
- scheduling and securing of training for himself and all PCEIT members and other pertinent members of the community during and after grant award.
- Responsible for monthly and quarterly updates of Energy Independence processes including written updates as well as oral presentations; and
- Engagement with Polk County UW-Extension

### Polk County Energy Independence Team

Polk County, Wisconsin  
Grant Narrative

## **Energy Independence Team**

### Work Duties/Responsibilities (applicable to all Energy Independence Team Members):

Responsible for all Energy Independence Activities including:

- Attending all monthly meetings
- Receive appropriate energy related training prior to, during and after grant award
- Coordinating the 12 month, 25% by 2025 Plan process
- Data collection
- Presentations to key stakeholders
- Facilitating outreach education to the community
- Completion of baseline data templates

### Name/Title:

**Marlin Baillargeon/Polk County Renewable Energy Committee Member**

### Experience:

- Served one term on Polk County Board of Supervisors
- Town of Garfield Town Board member
- Polk County Fair Board
- River Country Resource and Development (RC&D) Board
- Treasurer of RC& D
- State FFA Vice-President
- Founder of Polk County Renewable Energy Committee
- Production Engineer
- Assessor
- Farmer

### Name/Title:

**Tom Engel/Polk County Renewable Energy Committee Secretary**

### Experience:

- Forty-two (42) years of manufacturing and business operation experiences capable of performing many business operations, including project management, product engineering design and detail, manufacturing operations and supervision, purchasing, vendor and labor relations, and international business sales, production and administration
- 1997 – present, International Business Executive with Strategic Services Corporation; built a successful international equipment brokerage business selling a variety of capital equipment and supplies to customers in Africa, Europe and United States
- Consulted on a \$250 million garbage to Cold Catalytic Conversion crude oil project/plant in Germany; presently working on a garbage, municipal sludge, agriculture waste to crude oil process and plant in Germany
- 1986 to 1997, Manufacturing Engineering Manager; provided ongoing technical and manufacturing support for a large-size capital goods machine builder.

- 1982 to 1986, business owner, established a custom urethane molding business, built a new 15,000 sq. ft. factory, managed all aspects of a small business that employed 5 people
- Pioneered filter paper recycling in 1974 with Donaldson Company, Inc.
- Installed a home solar panel in 1979
- 'Time of Use' electricity customer since 1979
- Education: Stout State University, Menomonie, Wisconsin, BS: Industrial Technology
- 6 years – Councilman – City of St. Croix Falls
- 22 years – Charter member, past president and current treasurer of the Rotary Club of St. Croix Falls/Taylors Falls
- Original member of the Polk County Renewable Energy Committee

Name/Title:

**Bob Kazmierski/ Polk County Community, Natural Resource and Economic Development (CNRED) Agent, UW-Cooperative Extension**

Experience:

- Lead facilitator for **2009 Energy Independent Pilot Community: 25 X 25 Plan-Village and School District of Osceola I**
- Co-author of: Dane, A., Kane, T., Kazmierski, B., Kling, P., Resick, J., Seaman, C., Simon, D., Wojciechowski, T., (2009) *Municipal Energy Planning-An Energy Efficiency Workbook*
- Skilled in diverse areas of organizational development, group leadership, program planning, implementation and evaluation.
- Successful experience in community development, land use planning, economic development, local government education and adult education.
- to balance short-term priorities against primary mission and long-term goals.
- Proficient at building partnerships and community relations.
- Group and educational facilitation skills.
- A pragmatist with acute analytical skills and the ability to quickly identify operational realities.

Name/Title:

**Kathryn M. Kienholz / Polk County Board of Supervisors/Polk County Renewable Energy Committee Member**

Experience:

- Certified Public Accountant
- Interested in environmental issues, particularly clean water, gardening with native plants, and energy conservation.
- Remodeled our present home in 2001 and converted the heating/cooling system from baseboard electric heating and window air conditioners to geothermal forced air.
- Member of the St. Croix Valley Green Party since 2003.

Name/Title:

**Jay Luke/Polk County Board of Supervisors/Polk County Renewable Energy Committee Member**

Experience:

- Past Polk County Sheriff
- Town of Lincoln-Chairman
- Town of Lincoln Plan Commission
- County Board of Supervisors, +2 terms
- Territory manager of Eco Lab, St. Paul, MN
- Property Manager
- Gerard Steel, Inc. commercial and residential heating/AC conservation
- Interested in a wide variety of renewable processes and opportunities

Name/Title:

**Kathleen Dawn Melin/ Polk County Renewable Energy Committee Member**

Experience:

- Executive Director, Lamar- A Historic Center for Progressive Community since Oct. 2008.
- Volunteer director and grant writer for Lamar August 1998-October 2008. Secured and oversaw installation and demonstration grants for Lamar's solar high mass heating system, state accredited installation seminars for trades people, and public tours of the system.
- Secured grants for architectural planning and the Historic Structures Report that guide Lamar's commitment to a renovation/restoration project with sustainable building materials and renewable energy systems.
- Hands on construction experience with three straw bale homes, P.V. and radiant solar install experience
- Natural Step study circle coordinator
- Past instructor at UW-Barron County and the University of Minnesota
- Writer, author, conference presenter
- Member of Midwest Renewable Energy Association (MREA)

Name/Title:

**Debbie Peterson/ Polk County Parks, Buildings and Solid Waste Director**

Experience:

- Over 15 years experience in maintaining county buildings and parks as well as water and recycling programs

Name/Title:

**Jeffrey L. Peterson/ Polk County Renewable Energy Committee Chair**

Experience:

**Polk County Energy Independence Team**

Polk County, Wisconsin  
Grant Narrative

- Title 1 Reading Teacher, Unity Schools since 1986
- Served one term on Polk County Board of Supervisors
- Member of mid- '90s Polk County Recycling Committee
- Current member of Board of Adjustment
- District 5 Director, Polk-Burnett Electric Cooperative
- Past experience as certified energy auditor, solar- and wood-energy systems installer
- Natural Step presenter and study circle convener
- Co-founder of Western Wisconsin Initiative for Sustainable Communities
- Former newspaper columnist
- Member of Midwest Renewable Energy Association (MREA)

Name/Title:

**Kim O'Connell/ Polk County Board of Supervisors/Polk County Renewable Energy Committee Member**

Experience:

- Provide educational resources for farmers and agribusinesses to manage the three dimensions of agriculture production: economic, social, and environmental.
- Efforts in this area regarding renewable energy include oil seed and biomass crop production, utilization of bio-diesel and ethanol production co-products as feed for livestock, methane digesters for livestock operations, and work with youth to introduce them to renewable energy and environmental stewardship.

Name/Title:

**Mike Voltz/Director of Polk County Recycling Center/ Polk County Renewable Energy Committee Member**

Experience:

- Recycling Center Director since 1995
- Village of Balsam Lake Trustee
- Founding member of Polk County Renewable Energy Committee
- Use conservation practices, including no-till on dairy farm
- Farm Bureau Board member-Polk County
- Association of Milk Producers, Inc
- President and Officer of Balsam Lake Rod and Gun Club
- Installed solar water heating system in home

Name/Title:

**Gregg Westigard/ Polk County Renewable Energy Committee Member**

Experience:

- Reporter for the Inter-County Leader newspaper; covers county and local government affairs
- Board member of several organizations and businesses and is currently an officer/director for a local mutual insurance company and a local food cooperative

**Polk County Energy Independence Team**

- Active in advocacy work for many years and has experience testifying for issues at the state and federal level.
- Former school board and town board member
- Currently chair of the Luck Plan Commission

### Number of Citizen Served/ Infrastructure Inventory

Polk County, which is located in northwest Wisconsin, has historically had an economy that focused on manufacturing, agriculture, forestry, and natural resources combined with a history of entrepreneurship. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the 2000 population of Polk County was 41,319. The estimated 2007 population of Polk County was 44,265. The majority of new development and employment opportunities in Polk County are located in the southern portion of the county. The county is located directly northeast of the Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), which has a population of approximately 3.2 million. In fact, the entire southern and western borders of Polk County are adjacent to the MSA.

### Demographic Profile

Source: ([http://www.city-data.com/county/Polk\\_County-WI.html](http://www.city-data.com/county/Polk_County-WI.html))

**County population in July 2007: 44,265 (7% urban, 93% rural)**

Males: 20,650  (50.0%)  
 Females: 20,669  (50.0%)

Median resident age:  38.7 years  
 Wisconsin median age:  36.0 years

Race/Ethnicity:

- White Non-Hispanic (97.1%)
- American Indian (1.4%)
- Hispanic (0.8%)
- Two or more races (0.7%)

Estimated median household income in 2007: \$47,565 (\$41,183 in 1999)

Polk County:  \$47,565  
 Wisconsin:  \$50,578

Estimated median house or condo value in 2007: \$159,072 (it was \$100,200 in 2000)

Polk County:  \$159,072  
 Wisconsin:  \$168,800

Lower value quartile - upper value quartile: \$115,082 - \$231,118

Unemployment in May 2009:

Polk County:  9.9%  
 Wisconsin:  8.7%

2008 cost of living index in Polk County: 71.3 (low, U.S. average is 100)

Polk County Energy Independence Team

## Governmental Facilities Inventory

COUNTY BUILDINGS	SQUARE FOOTAGE
Justice Center	144,000 sq ft
Highway Bldgs	100,000 (est.)
Golden Age Manor	72,000
Government Center	45,000
New Additions Human Services/Public Health	43,400
Old Jail	19,200
Adult Development Center	15,380
Museum	15,211
Recycling Center	15,000
Building 31 (cold storage portion)	14,400
Library/Head Start	14,012
Building 32 (heated portion)	9,600
Building # 33 (Blacksmith shop)	6,000
Building # 30 (North shed)	6,000
Government Center Storage Shed	4,120
Steel storage shed	3,000
Government Center Garage	1,728
<b>Total sq ft of 16 community buildings:</b>	<b>528,051 sq ft</b>

COUNTY VEHICLES	2007 FUEL USAGE
113 Vehicles	Used 120,017 gallons of diesel 88,469 gallons of gasoline
<b>Total fuel usage of 113 vehicles (in gallons):</b>	<b>208,486 gallons</b>

## Cost Proposal

Item	Cost
EIC Staff- 'Sole-Source Purchases' Polk County Policy Sec. 912-5-103-Salary and Benefits:	\$ 29,468
Administration (5%)	\$ 2,508
EI Team Travel Expense-4 quarterly meetings X 10 participants @ \$150.00 (The UWEX agent on EI Team will collect travel expenses listed below)	\$ 5,400
EI Team Meetings-12 meetings X 11 participants @ \$40.00 per diems	\$ 5,280
Employee Training/Professional Development for EIC	\$ 5,000
Outreach Education-materials, venues, handouts, etc.	\$ 3,500
UW-Extension Travel and Facilitation Expenses	\$ 1,500
<b>Total Project Cost</b>	<b>\$50,148</b>
Renewable Energy Committee Contribution	-\$148
<b>Total Amount Requested</b>	<b>\$50,000</b>

## **Education and Promotion**

By the end of the 12-month energy audit process, the Polk County Energy Independence Team will complete the necessary data collection, including an inventory of local biomass resources, to create a baseline of information that will organize an estimate of the three communities top priority projects thus further developing each community's individual Energy Independent Community 25% by 2025 Plan. These plans will provide direction for the County of Polk, to move forward with conservation, energy efficiency, and renewable energy efforts and opportunities.

In order to ensure long-term viability of this project, the Polk County Energy Independence Team will design, develop and deliver at least three community Energy Forums throughout Polk County. Collaborating with University of Wisconsin-Cooperative Extension, these forums will individually address several themes that include energy conservation, energy efficiency and renewable energy resources. The forums will provide a venue to explore and discuss ideas and options for local solutions to our growing energy needs. The Energy Forums will be interactive and address local needs by facilitating community and citizen access to the latest ideas and developments from the Polk County Energy Independence Team energy audit. Information from the Wisconsin Office of Energy Independence, Energy Center, Focus on Energy, University of Wisconsin and other institutional and public resources, with an emphasis on practical application and problem solving, will also be delivered. In addition to the Energy Forums, oral presentations and educational packets will be presented to key stakeholders, that include additional information and resources will be distributed. An evaluation following each event will be conducted to measure outcomes.

The Polk County Energy Independence Team will utilize other UW Extension Community Natural Resources & Economic Development (CNRED) agents; the staff of the Local Government Institute, the staff of the UW – River Falls St. Croix Institute for Sustainable Community Development; and related public resource organizations to the fullest extent possible. Please see letter of support from the Barron County CNRED agent, Local Government Institute, UW-River Falls and others in [Appendix A](#).

At the grassroots level, Polk County will utilize extensive support from the St. Croix Institute for Sustainable Community Development to assist in planning, design, implementing, and evaluating the energy independence education program. It will also draw extensively from the time and energy of participants of the six (6) Natural Step Study Circles in reaching out to the community for participation and support. Overall, the educational program development will include, but not be limited to, face-to-face, as well as electronic and print media in support of:

- Adult / community education programs for:
  - The Natural Step and sustainable community development;
  - Energy independence concepts, metrics, and calculations;
  - Climate change and carbon negative systems and other related concepts
- Locally Elected Officials and Staff for:
  - The Natural Step and sustainable community development;
  - Energy independence concepts, metrics, and calculations;
  - Energy Planning processes and other related concepts

The Polk County Energy Independence Team will also work closely with the utility companies, local newspapers, radio stations, public library, and other public media to maximize the message and opportunities this project represents in not only the quality of their personal lives, but the employment and economic future of the community.

Lastly, the Polk County Community Resource Agent, UW-Cooperative Extension will sign an MOU to provide facilitation and education to the Polk County Energy Independence Team for the energy planning process from January-December 2010. He will also provide input into reports and a case study while working with the Local Government Institute. He will also be attending any training, provided by Sherrie Gruder- Energy Program Coordinator-UW-Extension Solid & Hazardous Waste Education Center, to help prepare for comprehensive sustainable energy planning provided by the UW-Madison Sustainability Team.

### **Other Funds Leveraged**

Registration fee revenue from past Polk County Renewable Energy Committee sponsored workshops will be contributed to this effort-\$148.00.

### **Appendix**

- A) Letters of Recommendation
- B) Polk County Renewable Energy Committee Strategic Plan
- C) Energy Assistance and Conservation Resource Guide
- D) Bio-Energy in Northwest Wisconsin' Forum
- E) Barron/Polk County Renewable Energy Bus Tour
- F) Polk County Strategic Plan
- G) Resolution 67-09 Establishing Transportation Fuel Reduction Goals
- H) Polk County 25 X 25 resolution
- I) Memo to update County Purchasing Policy
- J) Polk County '10<sup>th</sup>' Element Comprehensive Land Use Plan
- K) OEI Newsletter (October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2008)
- L) Governor Doyle Letter
- M) Green Opportunities for Entrepreneurs Workshop brochure