

Minnesota Schools Cutting **KARBON**

100 schools, 3 years...
How much energy can we save?

Become a Mentor in the Schools Cutting Carbon Program!

Right now, there are 100 student teams in schools across Minnesota working to reduce their carbon footprint, and WE WANT YOU to be a mentor!

What does a mentor do? We would put you in contact with the “coach” working with the students and let them take it from there, but ideally it revolves around (or “involves”) sharing connections, ideas and a bit of your time with these students as they work towards their goals.

The teams consist of students and a faculty “coach” as well as some administration and building operations support. The school teams have all received a \$500 grant to act as seed money for ways in which they can lower their schools carbon footprint. The schools have also participated in an energy walk through done by Environmental Resource Management (ERM) and received a report identifying some short-term and longer-term actions they can take.

In the fall, the teams will be competing for ten \$20,000 grants to be given out to the teams that have the most creative and practical solutions to reduce their carbon emissions. The school teams can use recommendations from the energy walk through report or they can work with their school to create an idea that is best suited to their schools needs. The grants have few restrictions, one of them being that this is a student led project.

The role of the mentor, you, would be to help put the “rubber to the road.” Your involvement might include: Meeting with the students after class, suggesting ideas to give focus, helping them write the grant application, make an introduction to fellow community members, help them prepare presentations for the school board, and many others! Time involvement will depend entirely upon the agreed upon role you will be playing. Some groups may meet once a month after school while others may meet more often.

How to begin: See if your school is participating in the Minnesota Schools Cutting Carbon program by visiting <http://www.schoolscuttingcarbon.org/schools>.

Then, if you are interested in being a mentor, contact Patrick Santelli at schoolscuttingcarbon@cleanenergyresourceteams.org or by phone at 612 625 3759.

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