

ANNUAL REPORT

2014–15



**GREAT PLAINS
INSTITUTE**

Better Energy. Better World.

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ROLF NORDSTROM

*President & CEO
Great Plains Institute*

This past year marked unprecedented global momentum toward a better energy future – momentum you can actually see and feel as we transition to an energy system that is economically and environmentally sustainable.

Not only did the world come together for the first time to forge an historic agreement to reduce greenhouse gas emissions right on the heels of a powerful Encyclical from the Pope, but we also witnessed solar and wind prices continue to fall and a growing number of cities and businesses pursue ambitious clean energy goals.

The Great Plains Institute's (GPI) unique, consensus-based approach is needed now more than ever to take advantage of this growing momentum and make the transition to a truly sustainable energy system a reality - and do so in a meaningful timeframe. Reinventing our energy system cannot be the province of a few.

At GPI, we know the power of bringing diverse interests together to create lasting energy and climate solutions - it is what we've done for nearly two decades.

In the last year, we worked with our network of partners to pass world-class bioenergy legislation, reduce the implementation costs of solar, and support deployment of other game-changing energy technologies. We produced insightful analysis and shared best practices; we fostered all-too-rare cross-sector dialogue on critical energy and climate issues and did it in ways that led to new solutions that no single interest would come to on their own.

As we head into 2016, we look forward to working with our incredible network of partners and supporters to build on the growing momentum and achieve a better energy future together.

Our work is made possible entirely by our partners and funders. From all of us at GPI, thank you for putting your shoulder to the wheel with us!

Cheers,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rolf Nordstrom'.

Rolf Nordstrom



Your Support is Making a Difference



2015 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

COMMERCIALIZING NEXT GENERATION FUELS AND CHEMICALS

After three years of work by the [*Bioeconomy Coalition of Minnesota*](#), the [*Bioeconomy Production Incentive*](#), passed by the Minnesota state legislature in 2015, makes Minnesota one of the best places in the world to grow biobased industries.

ELECTRIFYING TRANSPORTATION

GPI was selected to take over the facilitation of [*Drive Electric Minnesota*](#), a multi-sector electric vehicle partnership working to electrify the state's transportation system since 2008, and led a team that organized Minnesota's largest [*Drive Electric Week event*](#) to date.

IMPROVING THE 'GREET' MODEL

Through a contract with Argonne National Lab, [*GPI made the "GREET" model*](#), the world's premier tool for calculating lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions for transportation fuels, a more robust and user-friendly tool.

EXPANDING EDUCATION, DIALOGUE & OUTREACH ON FEDERAL CARBON REGULATION IMPLEMENTATION

GPI played a major role in the national discourse surrounding the Clean Power Plan (CPP), the U.S. EPA's rule to reduce carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions from existing power plants, convening nearly half of U.S. states to help regulators determine the best CPP compliance options for their states should the rule survive legal challenges.

GPI co-facilitated the [*Midcontinent States Environmental and Energy Regulators*](#) and [*PJM States Energy & Environmental Regulators*](#) initiatives and coordinated the [*Midcontinent Power Sector Collaborative*](#).

INCREASING RENEWABLES ON THE GRID

GPI worked with the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO, the regional grid operator), to increase deployment of renewable electricity, including transmission infrastructure, energy storage and demand response technologies.

SUPPORTING DEPLOYMENT OF CARBON CAPTURE AND SEQUESTRATION WITH ENHANCED OIL RECOVERY (CCS-EOR) THROUGH INCENTIVES & EDUCATION

GPI co-convened the [*National Enhanced Oil Recovery Initiative*](#), the leading national coalition supporting federal incentives for the capture and use of CO₂ from power plants and industrial facilities for use in enhanced oil recovery and permanent storage of the CO₂. GPI also began staffing the [*State CO₂-EOR Deployment Work Group*](#) that is convened by the Governors of Wyoming and Montana and brings together state officials from 14 oil and gas-producing states and key stakeholders.

ADVANCING THE FRAMEWORK FOR MOVING TOWARD 'UTILITIES OF THE FUTURE'

GPI prepared a [*workbook*](#) with [*Madison Gas and Electric \(MGE\)*](#) to use in their 'community energy conversations' about the company's future energy plan.

The [*e21 \(energy system for the 21st century\) Initiative*](#) developed a set of white papers, scheduled for release in Spring 2016, to inform policymakers and regulators as they consider implementation of e21's [*recommendations*](#).



2015 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

INCREASING ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND SUPPORTING SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

Minnesota GreenStep Cities significantly increased participation in the last year (representing over 36% of the state's population). Cities also increasingly completed voluntary best practices that help them achieve their own sustainability and quality-of-life goals.

Metro Clean Energy Resource Team (CERT), part of the statewide CERTs Partnership, launched the Clean Energy Accelerator, a program that identified over 10 community projects to receive in-depth assistance with deploying clean energy at the local level.

Through Metro CERT, GPI worked with the Lake Street Council and Energy Smart to develop Small Business Energy Coaching, a new model for how small and minority-owned business owners hear about and implement energy efficiency, resulting in significant, first-time implementation of efficiency measures.

GPI led the RE-AMP Energy Efficiency Working Group, helping Midwestern energy efficiency advocates learn together and coordinate their work across the region.

GPI spearheaded the launch of a new RE-AMP Local Solutions Working Group, leading a strategic planning process to develop an effective coordinated strategy for engaging local governments on energy and climate.

INCREASING DEPLOYMENT OF SOLAR ENERGY & TRANSFORMING LOCAL SOLAR ENERGY MARKETS

Through Metro CERT, GPI worked on projects to successfully deploy solar gardens in the greater Twin Cities metro.

The Grow Solar Partnership reduced barriers to solar energy development at the local and regional level with a market transformation assistance program covering four states. The Partnership worked with over two dozen communities preparing for solar energy development.

IMPROVING LOCAL PLANNING PRACTICES TO SUPPORT CLEAN ENERGY DEPLOYMENT

Local Planning Practice. GPI started a local planning practice area to help cities incorporate energy planning, climate change mitigation planning, and climate adaptation and resilience into their portfolio of planning and implementation tools as they increasingly take on leadership roles in creating a clean energy future.

ENERGY INNOVATION CELEBRATION

GPI hosted our first ever annual event, the Energy Innovation Celebration. This inaugural event brought together an incredible diversity of people, from industry and entrepreneurs to government and non-profits, all joining together in the spirit of celebrating advancement of positive change on energy and climate from the local to international level. We aspire to make this event a platform to celebrate not only our work, but that of other innovators.

Our 2015 Accomplishments Were Made Possible by You

Thank You for Your Support!

Donors & other sources of support, for fiscal year ending June 30th, 2015

ORGANIZATIONS

\$100,000 OR GREATER

Bipartisan Policy Center
Crown Foundation
Energy Foundation
Heising Simons Foundation
Hewlett Foundation
Joyce Foundation
McKnight Foundation

\$50,000 TO \$99,999

Minneapolis Foundation
Rockefeller Brothers Fund
Wind on the Wires

\$10,000 TO \$49,999

Blandin Foundation
Center for Energy and Environment
Great River Energy
Holthues Trust
Madison Gas and Electric Company
McGough Construction
Waste Management
Xcel Energy

UP TO \$9,999

Augsburg College
Amazon Smile Foundation
Anonymous

DuPont Industrial Biosciences
EarthTech Energy
Faegre Baker Daniels
Faegre Baker Daniels Foundation
Fredrikson & Byron
Green Biologics
GoodSearch
Gray Plant Mooty
Green Biologics
Iberdrola Renewables
iGive.com
Institute on the Environment
Leighty Foundation
LHB Engineers and Architects
Meadow Lark Farm

Minnesota Community Solar
Minnesota Power
NatureWorks
Otter Tail Power Company
Perkins + Will
Poet-DSM Advanced Biofuels
Solution Blue
Stability Consulting
Stark Rainwater Harvesting
Stoel Rives
SunShare
Transit for Livable Communities
Ulteig Engineering
Waste Not Want Not
Weidt Group

INDIVIDUALS

\$500 OR GREATER

Anonymous
John & Catherine Baumgartner
Amy and Paul Biewen
Larry Goode
Todd & Jennifer Graham
Frederick Haas & Sarah Nordstrom
William & Elizabeth Heegaard
Will & Claudia Kaul
Julie & Peter Ketchum
James & Mary Kubiak
Franz Litz
Rolf & Kathy Nordstrom
Winthrop & Barbara Rockwell
Bob & Elinor Williams
Jonathan & Sarah Wilmshurst

\$100 TO \$499

Mark Abbott
Anonymous
Ronnie & Roger Brooks
Candace Campbell
Page & Jay Cowles
John & Laura Crosby
John & Jean Dahlke

Steve Dahlke
Edward & Sherry Ann Dayton
Dawn & Michael Erlandson
Wendell & Sue Fletcher
Bud & Nancy Harbinson
Joe & Marly Harbinson
Eric Schroeder & Kim Harbinson
Stefan Helgeson
John & Thelma James
Virginia & D. Charles Jordan
Charles & Sally B. Jorgensen
Katherine Klink
Patrice Lahlum
Jim & Susan Lenfestey
Dana Lonn
Sarah Lynch
Ann McCabe
Diana McKeown
Chris Neher
Richard & Joan Niemiec
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Tom & Susan Perusse
Marlyn Schroeder
Doug Shoemaker
Mary T'Kach

Paul Toren
Peggy Trezona & Charles Peek
John & Naomi Wells
Linda Wilcox, & Russ Havir
Sara & Douglas Wolff

UP TO \$99

Nicholas Adelman
Anonymous
Ken Bearman & Karla Larsen
David Bergstrom
Cindy Carlsson
Jennifer Christensen
Kim Christianson
Amy Skoczlas Cole
Janet Dray
Klara Droessler
Chris Duffrin
John Dunlop
Alexandra Early
Fritz Ebinger
Amy Fredregill
Daniel & Frances Gilroy
Sara Grace
Garry Hesser

William Knopke
Jukka Kukkonen
Peter Lindstrom
Marilyn Lundberg
Rachel Mann
Stacy Miller
Alan Mitchell
Phillipp Muessig
James & Diane Nelson
Andy Polzin
Dan Rogers
Brian Ross & Jean Coleman
Marvin & Judith Rothfusz
Christine Schultze
Martin Shain
Allison Sharkey
Steven Taff
Alexis Troschinetz
William Weber
Joel Weisberg & Janet Watchman
Jason Willett
Shawn Willy
Alexander Wolsky
Adam Zoet

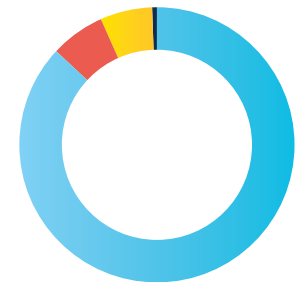


Statement of Activities

For the fiscal year ending June 30th, 2015

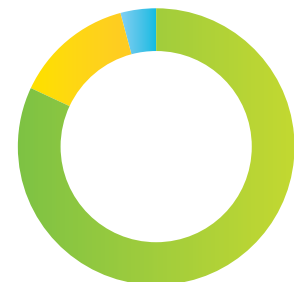
SUPPORT & REVENUE

TYPE	AMOUNT	PERCENTAGE
Contributions	\$3,754,650	87%
Government Contracts	290,340	6.5%
Contracts	254,549	6%
Other Income	17,650	0.5%
Investment Income	1,161	
Total Support & Revenue	\$4,318,350	100.00%



EXPENSES

TYPE	AMOUNT	PERCENTAGE
Program Services	\$2,217,692	82%
Management & General	370,251	14%
Fundraising	96,270	4%
Total Expenses	\$2,684,213	100.00%



Change in Net Assets **\$1,634,137**

OUR MISSION

The mission of the Great Plains Institute is to transform the way we produce, distribute, and consume energy to be both environmentally and economically sustainable.

Through research and analysis, consensus policy development, technology acceleration, and local action, we are leading the transition to clean, efficient, and secure energy.



Great Plains Institute

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