

MINNESOTA ENERGY ALLEY

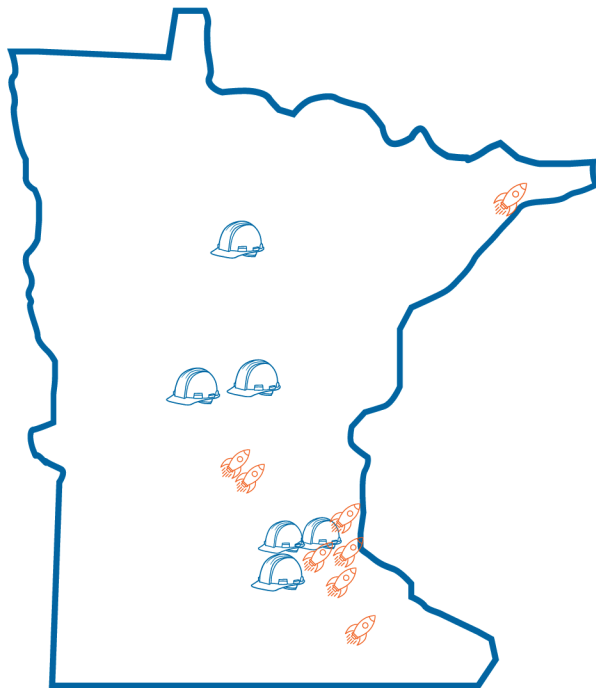
Making our state a global hub for energy innovation, cleantech, and advanced manufacturing.

Minnesota Energy Alley is a public-private partnership that drives innovation to secure our state's energy and economic development future. This initiative leverages our region's technological expertise and industry leadership to help energy entrepreneurs and startups to grow and scale their businesses.

This initiative follows the successful model for partnership and innovation established by Medical Alley, recognized as one of the world's most dynamic and successful technology clusters. Minnesotans have expertise as a "deep tech" and advanced manufacturing region, with a proven track record in big ideas, industry partnerships, attracting private investment, and building exceptional and innovative products and services.

The Mission

- Promote Innovation
- Catalyze Economic Growth
- Support Small Businesses Across the State
- Create Family Supporting Careers
- Achieve State Energy Laws and Goals



Minnesota Startups Supported by MN Energy Alley (headquartered in 11 cities across the state)



Demonstration Cohort Project Locations 2024 & 2025 (10 projects in 6 cities)

Successes To Date

10

Pilot Projects

Five are substantially complete. Five in progress.

13

Minnesota Companies Supported

Five in the Demonstration Cohort. Eight in the PowerNorth Incubator.

3

Department of Energy

Startups selected for over \$9 million in Department of Energy grants in 2024.

12

Networking Events

Hosted twelve ecosystem-building and education events.

31

Innovators Network

Expanded our network with five new industry partners/future pilot hosts.



Pilot Funds

\$1,042,667 in committed pilot funds.



Attracting Investments

Cohort companies secured over \$11 million in public/private funding since program participation. Over \$9 million for MN-based companies.

Technologies Advanced Through Our Demonstration Program

Energy Efficiency



Electrostatic Motors



Heat Pumps

Energy Storage



Batteries

Renewable Energy



Ammonia-Powered Engines



Hydrogen Electrolysis



Solar Thermal

Software and Controls



EV Charging



Solar Energy Management



Turbine Monitoring



Virtual Power Plant



AI-Enabled 3D Mapping

Material Science



IT Cooling Systems



Carbon Sequestration

Why Demonstrations Catalyze Businesses

Demonstration projects are a critical step in the commercialization process for startups. Proving out their technology in real-world applications with established and trustworthy Minnesota-based partners will attract investors and new customers, with long-term potential for manufacturing and regional job growth.

Demonstration projects provide opportunities for learning through a living lab and collaboration and business development opportunities with international business leaders.

Accelerated energy ventures access nearly **twice as much financing**, earn **50% higher revenue growth**, and average **16% more full-time hires**.

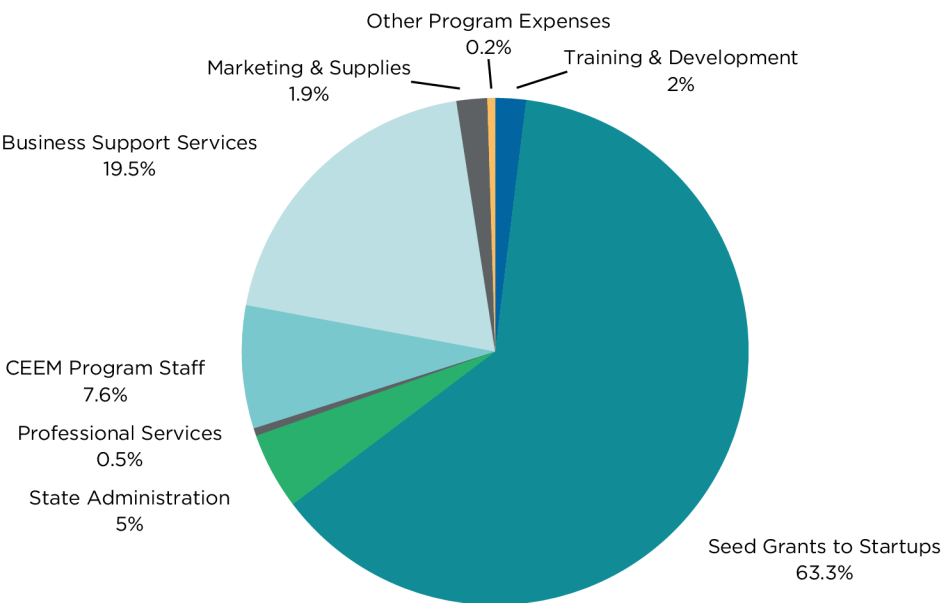
Making an Impact for Minnesota

The program is on track to be self-sustaining through private investment after 2028, with over \$600,000 secured for programming and two dedicated Minnesota funding mechanisms launching in 2025.

We have already doubled our goal for follow-on funding. Of the \$11 million in public and private investment that cohort startups have attracted since program participation, \$9 million has gone to Minnesota-based companies.

By 2028, we aim to support over **20 projects**, assist **hundreds of startups and entrepreneurs**, expand **student innovation** pathways, connect statewide programming, and double industry participation.

Minnesota Energy Alley Fund Allocation



More Information



Contact:
gdamian@cleanenergyeconomymn.org



March 17, 2025

Minnesota House of Representatives
Energy, Finance, and Policy Committee
Capitol 123
Saint Paul, MN 55155

RE: House File 1013 Minnesota Energy Alley Bill

Dear Chairs Acomb and Swedzinski and Committee Members,

On behalf of the Area Partnership for Economic Expansion (APEX), I am writing to express my strong support for HF1013, the Minnesota Energy Alley legislation. APEX is a private sector-led business development engine established to promote sustainable growth in Northeast Minnesota and Northwest Wisconsin. APEX Investor-Members represent many of the largest and most influential organizations with a vested interest in driving progress and economic vitality.

This important bill builds on the impressive progress and impact the initiative delivers as it serves our region and state's energy entrepreneurs and startup businesses. Already, this strategic investment by Minnesota's Legislature has elevated Minnesota's competitiveness and attractiveness to energy startups and new businesses, elevating our reputation as a go-to region for energy innovation, emerging technologies, and long-term partnerships. On average, energy accelerators catalyze \$6 of private investment for programmatic dollars spent.

In our region, we are well-positioned to help achieve Minnesota's ambitious energy transformation goals, with Minnesota Power, Great River Energy, Duluth-Superior Port infrastructure, critical raw materials, and nearly 22,000 students across academic institutions and technical colleges. We are regularly in discussion with a wide variety of project leaders looking to capitalize on these regional assets to build the technologies of the future.

Investing in Minnesota Energy Alley is a commitment to our state's energy and economic development future. Minnesota is home to over 62,000 clean energy jobs. Those jobs are growing at a rate nearly five times faster than overall state job growth. Notably, 1 in 3 of these jobs are in Greater Minnesota. To sustain this growth, we must have mechanisms to attract, integrate, and build new technologies in our state.

It is a competitive landscape, and strategic initiatives like Minnesota Energy Alley are making a difference in delivering solutions that ensure our energy system is more reliable, affordable, and resilient. Minnesota must act now to maintain momentum and leadership in energy, innovation, and entrepreneurship. Supporting HF1013, the Minnesota Energy Alley bill, is a critical step.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rachel A. Johnson".

Rachel Johnson
President & CEO, APEX
apexgetsbusiness.com



March 18, 2025

Minnesota House of Representatives
Energy, Finance, and Policy Committee
Capitol 123
Saint Paul, MN 55155

RE: House File 1013 Minnesota Energy Alley Bill

Dear Chairs Acomb and Swedzinski and Committee Members,

The Center for Rural Affairs is a private non-profit organization that advocates for policies that strengthen rural communities in order to create a more vibrant future. We connect rural citizens with opportunities to engage in the decisions that affect their lives. Investments in energy initiatives can help ensure that rural communities will continue to thrive.

The Center supports House File 1013, which appropriates \$5 million to Minnesota Energy Alley, an initiative to secure the state's energy and economic development future. This strategic investment elevates Minnesota's attractiveness for new energy business opportunities, supports local job growth, and strengthens the state's transition to a clean energy economy.

Investing in Minnesota Energy Alley is a commitment to supporting homegrown jobs. As of 2023, Minnesota is home to over 62,000 clean energy jobs. Those jobs are growing at a rate nearly five times faster than overall state job growth. Notably, 1 in 3 of these jobs are in Greater Minnesota. To sustain this growth, we must have mechanisms to attract, integrate, and build new technologies in our state. It is a competitive landscape, and strategic initiatives like Minnesota Energy Alley are making a difference in delivering solutions through entrepreneur education, demonstration cohorts, and network building. These efforts help ensure our energy system is more reliable, affordable, and resilient. Beyond this energy initiative, additional investments may help broaden the scope of projects across greater Minnesota that can contribute to advancing Minnesota's clean energy economy while supporting small businesses and creating family supporting careers.

This legislation is a cost-effective investment, with program startups having attracted over \$9 million in investments for MN-based companies, while also providing immediate and future benefits to our regional economy. Minnesota must act now to maintain momentum and leadership in energy, innovation, and entrepreneurship.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Cora Hoffer, Senior Policy Associate
Chaska, MN



408 Saint Peter Street, Suite 350
Saint Paul, MN 55102

PHONE 651 225 0878

EMAIL info@fresh-energy.org

WEBSITE fresh-energy.org

March 18, 2025

The Honorable Patty Acomb and Chris Swedzinski
Chair, Energy Finance and Policy Committee
Minnesota House of Representatives
Centennial Office Building, 2nd Floor
St. Paul, MN 55155

Co-Chairs Acomb, Swedzinski, and Committee Members,

Fresh Energy is a 30-year-old, Minnesota-based nonpartisan, not-for-profit organization. We work to shape and drive bold policy solutions to achieve equitable carbon-neutral economies. We appreciate the opportunity to share our thoughts in support of House File 1013.

As Minnesota continues its energy transition, investment in emerging, clean technologies is essential to meeting our state's 100% by 2040 and net-zero goals. Support for the Minnesota Energy Alley through House File 1013 is an opportunity to leverage the technological expertise and innovation of Minnesota's energy entrepreneurs through seed funding, industry-wide collaborating, and training to more quickly commercialize new clean energy technologies.

House File 1013 provides a forward-thinking solution to onramp new businesses and develop strong market competitiveness during a period of unprecedented global investment in clean energy technology. Supporting Minnesota's clean energy businesses will spur job creation, strengthen our state's economy, and establish Minnesota as a dynamic and innovative leader in clean energy technology at a regional, national, and global level.

For these reasons, we encourage members to support House File 1013.

Sincerely,

Allen Gleckner
Chief Policy Officer, Fresh Energy
gleckner@fresh-energy.org



March 17, 2025

Minnesota House of Representatives
Energy, Finance, and Policy Committee
Capitol 123
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chairs Acomb and Swedzinski and Committee Members,

Center for Energy and Environment (“CEE”) respectfully submits this letter to express our support for HF 1013, a bill providing additional funding for Minnesota Energy Alley legislation.

This bill will provide additional funds to support Clean Energy Economy Minnesota and Grid Catalyst’s important initiative to support Minnesota’s energy entrepreneurs and startup businesses. Over the past two years, they have funded seven pilot projects and three startups that were then chosen by the Department of Energy for major DOE grants. These successes, along with many other opportunities for Minnesota’s entrepreneurs to connect and grow, suggest that Minnesota Energy Alley shows great promise as an economic development tool for Minnesota’s clean energy economy.

Investing in Minnesota Energy Alley is a commitment to our state’s energy and economic development future. Minnesota is home to over 62,000 clean energy jobs. Those jobs are growing at a rate nearly five times faster than overall state job growth. Notably, 1 in 3 of these jobs are in Greater Minnesota. To sustain this growth, we must have mechanisms to attract, integrate, and build new technologies in our state. It is a competitive landscape, and strategic initiatives like Minnesota Energy Alley are making a difference in delivering solutions that ensure our energy system is more reliable, affordable, and resilient.

Through this initiative, Minnesota established itself as a go-to region for energy innovation, emerging technologies, and long-term partnerships. We encourage the committee to continue its support of Minnesota Energy Alley by passing HF 1013.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

/s/ Aly Eilers
Manager of Legislative Affairs
Center for Energy and Environment

Rewiring America Testimony
House Energy Finance and Policy Committee
March 18, 2025

Dear Chairs Acomb and Swedzinski and Committee Members,

I am writing today on behalf of Rewiring America in support of HF 1013, the MN Energy Alley legislation.

Rewiring America develops accessible data and tools and builds coalitions and partnerships to make going electric easier for households and communities. Rewiring America helps Americans save money, tackle nationwide emissions goals, improve health, and build the next generation of the clean energy workforce.

The continued investment proposed in this bill builds on the impressive progress and impact the Energy Alley initiative delivers as it serves our region and state's energy entrepreneurs and startup businesses. The initial investment by Minnesota's legislature has already paid dividends in creating a supportive environment for energy startups. As we modernize the way we move and use energy, it is imperative to support the burgeoning technologies that have the potential to make the way we use energy more efficient, more affordable, and cleaner.

Cleantech startups stimulate local economies by partnering with small businesses, contractors, and suppliers. This successful initiative has already spurred business growth and workforce development while attracting private investment. Energy accelerators are not only economic-engines, but also serve to attract other development and increased infrastructure investment. An investment into cleantech startups is an investment in Minnesota's future.

I ask you to support HF1013, the Minnesota Energy Alley bill. Minnesota must maintain its leadership role in securing the long term growth and sustainability of these burgeoning companies.

Thank you for your time,

Jenna Warmuth

Sr. Manager, Midwest Regional Policy

218.969.5976 | rewiringamerica.org



March 18, 2025

Minnesota House of Representatives
Energy, Finance, and Policy Committee
Capitol 123
Saint Paul, MN 55155

RE: House File 1013, Minnesota Energy Alleys

Dear Chairs Acomb, Chair Swedzinski, and Members of the House Energy, Finance, and Policy Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity for Ceres to provide testimony in support of HF1013, an act concerning investments in the Minnesota Energy Alleys initiative.

Ceres is a nonprofit organization working with some of the largest businesses and investors in Minnesota and across the country to advance market-friendly solutions to energy and other sustainability challenges.

Ceres organizes several influential business networks including the [Business for Innovative Climate and Energy Policy Network](#) (BICEP) - a coalition of over 80 major businesses - all committed to driving sustainability throughout the economy. **Many of the companies in this network have substantial operations or business interests in Minnesota such as Adobe, DSM-Firmenich, Daikin, Eaton, Franklin Energy, Stonyfield Organic, Trane, and more.**

HF1013 offers a pathway to build on the important progress and impact that the Minnesota Energy Alleys initiative delivers as it serves Minnesota's region and the state's energy entrepreneurs and startup businesses. Already, this strategic investment by Minnesota's Legislature has elevated Minnesota's competitiveness and attractiveness to energy startups and new businesses, elevating our reputation as a go-to region for energy innovation, emerging technologies, and long-term partnerships.

Investing in Minnesota Energy Alley is a commitment to Minnesota's energy and economic development future. Minnesota is home to over 62,000 clean energy jobs. Those jobs are growing at a rate nearly five times faster than overall state job growth. Notably, 1 in 3 of these jobs are in Greater Minnesota. To sustain this growth, Minnesota must have mechanisms to attract, integrate, and build new technologies in our state. It is a competitive landscape, and strategic initiatives like Minnesota Energy Alley are making a difference in advancing solutions that aim to ensure that Minnesota's energy system is more reliable, affordable, and resilient.

I ask you to support HF1013, the Minnesota Energy Alley bill. This legislation is a cost-



effective investment that will provide immediate and future benefits to Minnesota's regional economies. Minnesota must act now to maintain momentum and leadership in energy, innovation, and entrepreneurship.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Christian Koch
Midwest Policy Manager
Ceres
ckoch@ceres.org

March 17, 2025

Minnesota House of Representatives
Energy, Finance, and Policy Committee
Capitol 123
Saint Paul, MN 55155

RE: House File 1013 Minnesota Energy Alley Bill

Dear Chairs Acomb and Swedzinski and Committee Members,

As a leading economic development organization representing Region Nine in South Central Minnesota, I write today to express my strong support for HF1013, the Minnesota Energy Alley legislation. This important bill builds on the impressive progress and impact the initiative delivers as it serves our region and state's energy entrepreneurs and startup businesses. Already, this strategic investment by Minnesota's Legislature has elevated Minnesota's competitiveness and attractiveness to energy startups and new businesses, elevating our reputation as a go-to region for energy innovation, emerging technologies, and long-term partnerships.

This successful initiative has already spurred business growth and workforce development while attracting private investment, which bolsters our state's economy. On average, energy accelerators catalyze \$6 of private investment for programmatic dollars spent.

Investing in Minnesota Energy Alley is a commitment to our state's energy and economic development future. Minnesota is home to over 62,000 clean energy jobs. Those jobs are growing at a rate nearly five times faster than overall state job growth. Notably, 1 in 3 of these jobs are in Greater Minnesota. To sustain this growth, we must have mechanisms to attract, integrate, and build new technologies in our state. It is a competitive landscape, and strategic initiatives like Minnesota Energy Alley are making a difference in delivering solutions that ensure our energy system is more reliable, affordable, and resilient.

On behalf of our economic development organization, I ask you to support HF1013, the Minnesota Energy Alley bill. This legislation is a cost-effective investment, providing immediate and future benefits to our regional economy. Minnesota must act now to maintain momentum and leadership in energy, innovation, and entrepreneurship.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Jessica Beyer,
Deputy Director,

Region Nine Development Commission

9
Counties

33
School
Districts

www.rndc.org

in·f

72
Cities

147
Townships



March 18, 2025

Chair Patty Acomb, Chair Chris Swedzinski
Minnesota House of Representatives Energy, Finance, and Policy Committee
Centennial Office Building
658 Cedar Street, St. Paul, MN 55155

RE: House File 1013 (Kraft)—Minnesota Energy Alley Bill

Chair Acomb, Chair Swedzinski and Committee Members,

On behalf of the Minnesota Conservative Energy Forum (MnCEF), I am writing to express our support of Rep. Kraft's HF1013. Our organization champions a market-based, all-of-the-above approach to energy policy that enhances energy independence, creates jobs, and drives innovation across Minnesota. The Minnesota Energy Alley (MEA) initiative aligns perfectly with these values by fostering entrepreneurship and accelerating the deployment of diverse energy solutions that benefit our entire state.

The program's success to date demonstrates the power of strategic public investment to attract significant private capital. We're particularly impressed that MEA has already doubled its goal for follow-on funding. Of the \$11 million in public and private investment that cohort startups have attracted since program participation, \$9 million has gone to Minnesota-based companies. This represents a tremendous return on investment for Minnesota taxpayers and showcases how initial government support can catalyze market-driven growth.

As fiscal conservatives, we appreciate that MEA is on track to be self-sustaining through private investment after 2028, with over \$600,000 already secured for programming and two dedicated Minnesota funding mechanisms launching in 2025. This pathway to self-sufficiency exemplifies responsible public investment that transitions to market-supported operations.

The initiative's ambitious goals align with our vision for Minnesota's energy future. By 2028, MEA aims to support over 20 projects, assist hundreds of startups and entrepreneurs, expand student innovation pathways, connect statewide programming, and double industry participation. These achievements will strengthen Minnesota's competitiveness in the broader energy marketplace while creating high-quality jobs throughout our state.

Minnesota's energy sector has created over 62,000 jobs that are growing nearly five times faster than overall state job growth, with one-third located in Greater Minnesota. Minnesota Energy Alley helps ensure these opportunities continue to expand by attracting diverse energy technologies and entrepreneurs throughout our state.

MnCEF asks you to support HF1013, the Minnesota Energy Alley bill. This legislation represents a prudent investment that leverages market forces to develop an all-of-the-above energy portfolio that will benefit Minnesota's economy, create jobs, and enhance our energy security and reliability. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rachel E. Stuckey". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rachel Stuckey
Executive Director
Minnesota Conservative Energy Forum