

# Energy Sciences Newsletter



March 2025

This is the BEST START Monthly Energy Sciences Newsletter. BEST START provides the crucial support businesses need to bring their visionary technologies to life. Whether refining smart grid technologies, enhancing resilient energy applications, or creating sustainable solutions for power generation, BEST START partners with Minnesota companies to move technology forward. This newsletter aids in this mission.

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## General News

### [U.S. Department of Energy Announces Selectees for \\$107 Million Fusion Innovative Research Engine Collaboratives, and Progress in Milestone Program Inspired by NASA](#)

*Press Release, DOE, Jan. 16, 2025*

Excerpt: “The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) today announced \$107 million in funding for six projects in the [Fusion Innovative Research Engine \(FIRE\) Collaboratives](#), and that several privately funded fusion companies have completed early critical-path science and technology (S&T) milestones in the [Milestone-Based Fusion Development Program](#) (“the Milestone Program”).”

### [Pioneering the Future: Federal, State Support Fuels Expansion at Center for Microgrid Research](#)

*Abraham Swee, University of St. Thomas, Winter 2025*

Excerpt: “[T]he Center for Microgrid Research is surging into a new era with a power-up totaling more than \$20 million. The funds are fueling expanded student-focused research, a rapidly growing team of engineers, and soon, the construction of an additional industry-leading facility.”

### [Trump moves to halt \\$5B EV-charging program](#)

*Jeff St. John, Canary Media, Feb. 7, 2025*

Excerpt: “The Trump administration has declared that it is rescinding guidance for a \$5 billion program that funds EV-charging installations nationwide, potentially halting states’ plans to put billions of obligated but as-yet unspent dollars to work.”

## Legislative Updates

### [Senate confirms Chris Wright as Trump’s energy secretary](#)

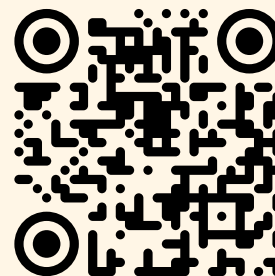
*Kelsey Tamborrino and Josh Siegel, Politico, Feb. 3, 2025*

Excerpt: “During his confirmation hearing last month, Wright detailed three “immediate tasks” he would focus on if confirmed: unleashing American energy at home and abroad to “restore our energy dominance,” pursuing innovation and technology breakthroughs and cutting red tape for energy and infrastructure projects.”

### [Chairman Guthrie Commends the Creation of the National Energy Dominance Council](#)

*Press Release, Committee on Energy and Commerce, Feb. 14, 2025*

Excerpt: ““Energy security is national security. By utilizing our domestic energy resources to create baseload power, we can lower prices, secure our grid, and provide the energy needed to grow manufacturing, heat our homes, and fill our gas tanks,” said Chairman Guthrie. “



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## Solicitations

### [Minnesota’s Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund](#)

*RFP, due March 19, 2025*

Description: “The Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources issued a 2026 request for proposal for the state’s Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund. Approximately \$103 million is available for projects related to the following categories: energy, resiliency, water, education and outdoor recreation, fish and wildlife, land, and other small projects.”

### [Geothermal Planning Grants](#)

*RFP, due March 10, 2025*

Description: “The Department of Commerce will administer \$1.08M in grants to local governments across Minnesota. Eligible applicants for this grant program include counties, cities, townships or the Metropolitan Council (Minn. Stat. § 216C.47, subd. 1).

Grants will be awarded for up to \$150,000 for the planning of a geothermal energy system that heats and cools one or more buildings. Eligible systems include a bored geothermal heat exchanger, a groundwater thermal exchange device, and a submerged closed loop heat exchanger.”

## Upcoming Events

Date	Event	Location
March 6, 2025	<u><a href="#">Clean Energy Business Day 2025</a></u>	Minnesota State Capitol
March 17, 2025	<u><a href="#">Minnestar Happy Hour</a></u>	Minneapolis, MN
April 17, 2025	<u><a href="#">2025 Minnesota Energy Factsheet Launch</a></u>	St. Paul, MN or Virtual
May 3, 2025	<u><a href="#">Minnebar19</a></u>	Minneapolis, MN
June 9-11, 2025	<u><a href="#">2025 Midwest Solar Expo</a></u>	Chicago, IL