



Ironworld Development Corporation PROFILE

Business Energy Audits • Project Design Assistance • Conservation Rebates • Grants

Energy efficiency is on display at Ironworld.

Minnesota Discovery Center (formerly Ironworld) in Chisholm is Minnesota’s largest museum outside the Twin Cities metropolitan area. Created to preserve and share the history and heritage of the Iron Range, the property features multiple buildings with historical and traveling exhibits, interactive displays, archive collections and research facilities, plus a restaurant, theater and festival park.

Visitors are immersed in the tale of hearty immigrants who traveled great distances to settle in Northeast Minnesota, staking their future on the region’s rich ore deposits. These pioneering people brought few material goods on their journey, learning to use their resources wisely in order to survive.

Analogies could be drawn between these early settlers and Ironworld Development Corporation DBA Minnesota Discovery Center. The nonprofit was formed in 2007 to manage Ironworld and reduce its dependence on public financing. Prior to 2007, the facility was owned and operated

by Iron Range Resources, a state economic development agency, which still provides operating support. The goal is to make the organization self-supporting over five years.

In order to accomplish this, Minnesota Discovery Center is examining every aspect of operations, looking for ways to use limited resources more efficiently. Energy is one key area being explored. Minnesota Power’s energy consultant, Energy Management Solutions (EMS), is working with museum personnel to identify potential savings.

“We are looking at the entire complex, trying to assess needs and prioritize projects for the greatest payback,” said Darol Del Grande, director of buildings and grounds. Minnesota Power is updating a previous energy audit of the facility, building upon energy-saving strategies it identified in the 2002 assessment.

Recommendations from that earlier audit continue to be implemented. Lights in several areas have been upgraded to energy-efficient T8 fluorescents and compact fluorescent



New energy-efficient air conditioning units and economizers are saving Minnesota Discovery Center nearly \$5,000 in annual electric costs, providing comfort in public places, and maintaining climate conditions necessary for valuable library, archive and exhibit collections.

Learn more about *POWER Grant*.

Minnesota Power’s Conservation Improvement Program
218-722-5642 or toll-free at 800-228-4966, ext. 2909

www.mnpower.com/powergrant/



POWER *Grants*

“Energizing Our Region” through Conservation Improvement



Minnesota Power’s Conservation Improvement Program (CIP) works with local leaders, businesses, community groups, other energy providers and government entities to help customers reap the economic and environmental benefits of sustainable energy savings. Minnesota Power and its partners accomplish this through research, education, evaluation and direct impact initiatives.

Find out how POWER *Grant* can help you.

Minnesota Power awards grants to commercial/industrial customers who use innovative technologies, improve manufacturing processes, undertake renewable electric energy projects, or who need project design assistance. *POWER Grant* is available for a wide variety of projects employing diverse technologies.

Here are some examples of activities or products that could qualify for Minnesota Power funding under the *POWER Grant* Program:

- New electro-technologies that lower energy costs per unit of production in a manufacturing process
- Innovative technologies that are new and underutilized in our regional marketplace
- Inclusion of energy-efficient options in the design phase of a project

Maximum annual grants are determined by a customer’s average billing demand:

Customer Demand	Maximum Grant
Less than 100 kW	\$10,000
100 to 300 kW	\$25,000
Over 300 kW	\$50,000

Minnesota Power may consider higher rebate levels.

Other Minnesota Power Products and Services

In addition to *POWER Grants*, Minnesota Power offers commercial, industrial and agricultural customers other energy efficiency products and services. These include energy audits, rebates, dual fuel, storage/off-peak services, outdoor and area lighting, and economic development assistance.



(Left to right) Minnesota Power Energy Consultant Gary Olson discusses potential energy savings with Minnesota Discovery Center Buildings and Grounds Director Darol Del Grande; Gary Olson in the archives, a key area cooled by new energy-efficient air conditioning units.

lamps. In 2008, heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) improvements at Minnesota Discovery Center qualified for a \$4,277 *POWER Grant* rebate from Minnesota Power. The new air conditioning units and economizers are

“Payback is very important. We look for projects with paybacks of five years or less. The money we save goes right back into the operating budget and straight to the bottom line.”

Darol Del Grande, Minnesota Discovery Center

expected to save 65,016 kWh per year, reduce monthly electric demand by 13.6 kW and lower Minnesota Discovery Center’s annual energy costs by \$4,877. The upgrades will pay for themselves in less than two-and-a-half years.

Performance also is critical, especially when it comes to lighting and HVAC at Minnesota Discovery Center. As a museum, artifacts must be shown in their best light, and both exhibit areas and archives require precise climate control to avoid damaging valuable collections. Del Grande is pleased those requirements can be met in energy-efficient ways.

“Minnesota Discovery Center is making choices that save energy and reduce costs,” said Gary Olson, of EMS, an energy consultant with Minnesota Power’s *POWER Grant* program. “It is exhibiting a strong commitment to energy conservation and resource efficiency.”

As stewards of Iron Range history, displaying energy resourcefulness is very fitting.