

Regions Connecting
for Rural Innovation



North Central Region



**Implementation Plan and
Management Chart**

Work Area: Energy

Strategic Outcome	Action Steps	Who is working on it?	Benchmarks
Increased farm based energy production	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop straw proposal for anaerobic digester collaborative / cooperative business model (Rich Hackner) • Federal policy aligns with farm-level innovations to grow bio mass and possibly use conservation crop (Anne H. Silvis) • Set up training program for operation & maintenance of anaerobic digesters (Rich Hackner) 	Rich Hackner, Anne Silvis	

Work Area: Local Foods and Tourism			
Strategic Outcome	Action Steps	Who is working on it?	Benchmarks
Cultivate regional networks that utilize local food production to foster tourism and economic opportunity	Develop and nurture a 4-state regional network in Missouri, Iowa, Nebraska and Kansas (MINK) based on food/culture/history/arts that fosters tourism and economic opportunity.	Missouri, Iowa and Nebraska SRDCs Volunteer team created at North Central Summit: Mary Leuci, Linda Fettig, Sharon Gulick	<p>Meeting scheduled for October 5, 2010 with invited representatives of 4-state region. Conduct at least one regional meeting to discuss regional network plan</p> <p>By 11/30/10 Contact potential participants (wineries, B&B's, food producers) to build interest and plant seeds for a regional meeting within a year</p> <p>By 11/30/10 Develop list of attractions/points of interest in four-state region to begin telling their unique story</p>
	Create a robust learning community promoting and educating on the richness and diversity of our bio-regions	Volunteer team created at North Central Summit: Mary Leuci, Linda Fettig	<p>Accomplished June 2010: There are currently 30 members in the group "Cultural Heritage, Food, and Tourism Regions". Set up LinkedIn space for networking on regional initiatives: food and beverages, tourism, culture, history and arts Set up LinkedIn space for networking on regional initiatives: food and beverages, tourism, culture, history and arts</p>

<i>Work Area: Small Business and Entrepreneurship</i>			
Strategic Outcome	Action Steps	Who is working on it?	Benchmarks
Form a network of Community Development Technical Assistance for professionals and community leaders to have easy access to and gain information, education, mentoring and training on promising best practices and innovative approaches to community economic development	<p>Hold face-to-face meeting to determine action steps to develop this network</p> <p>Produce a special issue of Community Development Society Journal focused on Innovative Approaches to Community Change</p> <p>Survey existing programs that have been successful in Community Change Initiatives</p> <p>Seek organizations/coalitions having interest and capacity to host website/social network</p> <p>Procure funding</p>	<p>Illinois Center for Rural Affairs</p> <p>Univ. of Wisconsin Center for Community and Economic Development</p> <p>Community Development Society members</p> <p>Volunteer team created at North Central Summit: Norm Walzer-contact, David Ivan, Connie Loden, Dick Senese, Sharon Gulick, Bonnie Peterson, John Gulick, Greg Wise</p>	<p>July, 2010 – Face-to-face meeting</p> <p>August 2010 – Request for abstracts for Journal of CDS distributed.</p> <p>Sept 2011 – Special issue of CDS Journal Published</p> <p>March 2011– Survey complete</p> <p>March 2011 – Host for website and social media identified</p> <p>March 2011 – funding procured</p>
Develop an informational network for sharing of best practice stories that relate to building on existing assets, civic engagement and collaborative leadership	<p>Compile examples of local stories that describe networking, collaboration & results</p> <p>Compile information on learning opportunities (about what’s worked, engagement strategies, leadership & civic development, cultural interests). Concentrate on asset building.</p> <p>Develop a prototype(s) of the kind(s) of stories we want.</p> <p>Disseminate stories through the Community Development TA network (mentioned above)</p>	<p>Wisconsin Rural Partners</p> <p>Council for Rural Initiatives</p> <p>USDA – Wisconsin</p> <p>University of Minnesota, Extension</p> <p>Volunteer team created at North Central Summit: Ann Hennen, Joyce Hoelting, Wilda Nilsestuen, Carol Wetuski , Rick Rolfsmeyer</p>	<p>3/31/2011 - Information and success stories compiled</p> <p>5/1/2011 – Prototype and info template developed</p> <p>7/1/2011 – Begin disseminating success stories. Use PRA web site as well as other networks.</p>

<p>Create a culture of and develop a career pathway to Entrepreneurship through the development of a model, pilot charter school with cross county collaboration (Wood & Juneau Counties, WI)</p>	<p>Bring together resources to help develop framework</p> <p>Link Inventors & Entrepreneur networks to charter school concept development</p> <p>Explore & assess charter school structures</p> <p>Identify financing – grants & foundations</p> <p>Documenting the process/communication</p> <p>Educate for and explore entrepreneurship curriculum in schools; research success stories</p> <p>Inventory of existing entrepreneurship programs, curriculum, approaches</p> <p>Explore designs of successful mentoring programs, particularly pending retirees with young entrepreneurs.</p>	<p>Heart of Wisconsin Business Alliance</p> <p>Juneau County Economic Development Corp.</p> <p>Volunteer team created at North Central Summit: Terry Whipple co-contact, Connie Loden co-contact, Dennis Deery, Bonnie Peterson, Steve Hilgenberg, Sharon Gulick, Denise Spanjer, Joe Folsom, Norm Walzer, Cheryl Zimmy</p>	<p>Sept 2010 – Financing obtained through NURV for literature review on successful programs</p> <p>December 2010– School framework and structure developed</p> <p>March 2011 – Gather information on successful mentoring programs, existing entrepreneurship school curriculum and success stories.</p> <p>March 2011 – Financing indentified for Charter School pilot project</p>
<p>Establish a Network of Rural & Urban Young Professional’s that collaborate and have a voice. Establish NEYP group. Bring SD into conversation</p>	<p>Hold Great Plains Young Professionals Summit – June 2010 – invite YPs from North Dakota, Montana, South Dakota, Wyoming, Minnesota, Nebraska and California</p> <p>Host 1st Nebraska summit in the fall</p> <p>Hold regional Young Professionals Summit – invite YPs from North Dakota, Montana, Wyoming, Minnesota, Nebraska and California</p>	<p>Denise Spanjer – Contact, NDYP Catherine Dalzell, Kayla Schnuelle</p>	<p>June 3-5, 2010 – Held Great Plains Young Professionals Summit in Bismarck, ND - attendance 112. States represented: Minnesota, Wyoming, Montana, California and North Dakota.</p> <p>October 28 and 29 – Connecting Young Nebraskans Summit</p> <p>June, 2011 – Hold Great Plains Young Professionals Summit</p>

<i>Work Area: Broadband</i>			
Strategic Outcome	Action Steps	Who is working on it?	Benchmarks
Build a strong North Central Region network of broadband information and support.	<p>Facilitate educational process to understand and overcome the barriers in public policy that prevent universal broadband service to rural areas.</p> <p>Assist in identifying un- or underserved areas by monitoring broadband mapping projects in NC Region states and providing information and feedback regarding affordability and adequacy of service.</p> <p>Establish a communications network through which information on successful strategies in broadband deployment can be shared throughout the region (e.g., Community Area Networks). Focus on both supply and demand as well as how services can be used at the community and regional level.</p>	<p>Center for Rural Policy & Development, MN</p> <p>University of Minnesota</p> <p>University of Wisconsin Extension Center for Community and Economic Development</p> <p>State Rural Development Councils</p> <p>Link America and state affiliates, Connecting Illinois, Connecting Wisconsin and other non-profit organizations and government broadband groups.</p> <p>Volunteer team created at North Central Summit: Marnie Werner, Brenda Matherly, Diane Handley, Dick Senese, Jerry Townsend, Arlene Scalzo, Max Dulberger , Rick Rolfsmeyer</p>	<p>By 11/1/2010 - Prepare a list of involved parties (providers, state agencies, NFP's, others)</p> <p>By 12/1/2010 - Develop list of public policies that either impede or advance rural broadband deployment</p> <p>By 1/31/2011 - Determine the best approach to establish a collaboration network</p> <p>2/1/2010 - Develop list of successful strategies/projects</p> <p>By 4/1/2011 - Develop communication system and provide a regular stream of information throughout the network – include USDA RD Directors</p> <p>Beginning 4/1/2011 - Post applicable information on PRA website</p> <p>By 5/1/2011 - Assemble broadband service maps by state</p> <p>9/30/2011 - Feedback provided to USDA</p>