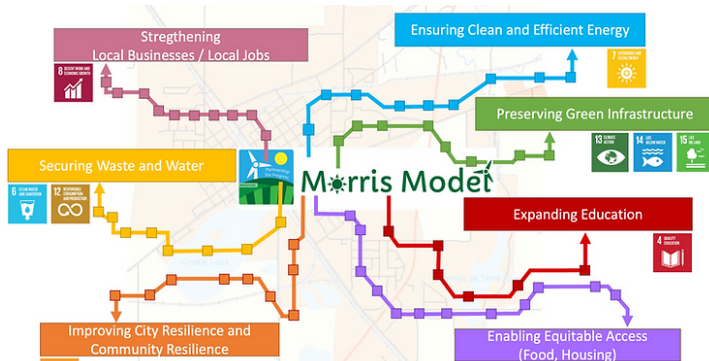


MORRIS MODEL NEWSLETTER

Unveiling the Morris Model Strategic Plan 2.0

by Griffin Peck, City of Morris



In November of 2023, the Morris Model partnership worked with local stakeholders, a Saerbeck community planner, and regional leaders to update and expand the Morris Model Sustainability Strategic plan. This update used the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals as a framework to address environmental, economic, and social sustainability in the Morris community. The update was prompted by immense project progress over the past 5 years along with dramatically expanded federal funding. In addition to continuing work on renewable energy, waste reduction, electrified transportation and education, the scope has been expanded to include equitable access to food, housing, and health services, increasing our investments in green infrastructure, and cultivating green businesses and jobs. The full report is available on morrismodel.org/reports.



WHAT IS THE MORRIS MODEL?

The Morris Model is a nationally recognized community partnership working to advance sustainability in rural Minnesota. Some model partners include City of Morris, UMN Morris, Stevens County, UMN West Central Research and Outreach Center, Morris Area School District, and the Stevens Community Medical Center. Together these partners work to make Morris a model sustainable community in West Central Minnesota. This newsletter serves as a method of sharing the work of the Morris Model with the wider community.



Climate Justice Summit

by Britney House, Morris Area Public Schools

Morris Area High School hosted an impactful Climate Justice Summit for 9th grade students on January 3rd! This summit aimed to raise awareness about our evolving climate, its effects on our community, and those most impacted by these changes. During the summit, students engaged in enlightening sessions, envisioning their ideal future environment, and delving into environmental policies within our legislative bodies. They were given the opportunity to craft letters to local representatives about policies close to their hearts. Plus, they had the invaluable opportunity to interact with Representative Anderson and Senator Westrom, asking questions and gaining insights!

Electric Tractor in Morris

by Eric Buchanan, WCROC

The West Central Research and Outreach Center (WCROC) must have been on Santa's nice list because an electric tractor was delivered right before the holidays. It is a Monarch MK-V tractor designed by a new start-up in California and built in the US. It is a small to midsize tractor producing a power output equivalent to a 40 hp tractor. It has a standard Cat. 2 hitch and produces 540 rpm at its PTO. It also has the capability to work autonomously! We will be buying implements for it to see what it can do. This is part of our research into farm electrification to reduce fossil fuel use in agriculture. Stay tuned for more updates!



WEST-CENTRAL MN CLIMATE NETWORK

This newsletter is put together by the **West-Central MN Climate Network**, a group of neighbors promoting individual and group action toward a resilient, equitable and sustainable community through modelling behavioral change, conversation and education. To join in the conversation visit westcentralmnclimate.network