

Feel the Power!

A Minnesota Laborers - Employers Cooperation & Education Trust Publication

XCEL ENERGY'S 460-MW SOLAR PROJECT GAINS APPROVAL

Project will be Minnesota's largest solar project in history and will create nearly 900 union construction jobs.

On Sept 15, the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC) unanimously approved Xcel Energy's



plan to build and operate their proposed \$575 million 460 MW solar construction project at the Becker Sherco Power Plant. The announcement is great news for LIUNA Minnesota & North Dakota and the fellow Union trades by creating an estimated 900 Union construction jobs and generating \$240 million in local wages and benefits over the estimated 3 year project life.

The project is easily considered Minnesota's largest renewable energy solar project and works to replace part of the 1,780 MW coal fired Xcel Energy Sherco Power Plant, which is being phased out by 2030 as part of Xcel's commitment to clean energy. Xcel has previously announced plans to retire all of its

coal-fired power plants by 2030 and replace them with thousands of megawatts of renewable energy and storage systems on their way to a carbon-free electric system.

"By investing in this huge solar energy project now, Minnesotans will see the benefits of a cost-effective resource that will reduce pollution and provide reliable service in the future," said Katie Sieben, Minnesota PUC Chair, in a statement.

"Sherco Solar is one of the most important renewable energy projects in Minnesota's history and I'm proud of the collaborative work by so many."

LIUNA Minnesota has been a strong supporter of the project plan recognizing that an all-of-the-above

energy strategy, one that encompasses traditional energy production and clean energy production are needed to help support and stabilize Minnesota's energy future. In addition, LIUNA has long been an integral part of building and maintaining energy systems and the addition of clean energy in the

mix creates opportunities for Union members and Signatory contractor employers.

"Sherco Solar will create hundreds of good, family-supporting jobs and economic opportunities for LIUNA members," said Joel Smith, President and Business Manager of LIUNA MN & ND. "As we reach the finish line, we are grateful to the PUC, the Walz Administration and Xcel Energy for their leadership. We are ready to get to work building a cleaner future."

In addition, the Sherco solar project will create opportunities for 75 participants in Xcel's Power Up Apprenticeship Readiness Program, which helps create opportunities for underserved workers and communities.



Xcel Energy's Sherco Project is planned to be completed in 2025. Xcel Energy file photo.

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LECET

LABORERS-EMPLOYERS
COOPERATION & EDUCATION TRUST
MINNESOTA & NORTH DAKOTA

LIUNA!

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MINNESOTA LECET CELEBRATES 30 YEARS

On May 1 1992, the Minnesota Laborers – Employers Cooperation & Education Trust (LECET) was established through a Declaration of Trust sponsored by the Laborers International Union of North America (LIUNA), the Laborers District Council of Minnesota and North Dakota and the Associated General Contractors of Minnesota. Founding Trustees were Al Arens (LIUNA Local 563), Jordan Richardson (Laborers District Council), Roger Raaum (Bor-Son Construction), Richard Maki (Laborers District Council), Scott Weicht (Adolfson & Peterson Construction) and Ron Hockin (Tower Asphalt Co.)

The main goal of the fund was to create a forum to improve labor-management relations by regularly meeting on neutral grounds to work on issues that were of mutual benefit and concern for both LIUNA members and Union Signatory contractors.

Some of LECET's early success involved the adoption of the Pipelayer Certification Card to allow LIUNA members and their signatory Union contractor employers to work on exterior underground pipe, sewer and water projects. The Pipelayer



card training is offered through the Laborers Training Center to train and certify members and contractors to work on these systems in lieu of having a formal plumber's license.

Through the years, LECET has developed strong communication and outreach programs to meet certain joint labor-management goals in advocating for the Union construction industry. Some key initiatives include:

- Regular and strategic communications around current events and opportunities that matter to both LIUNA Members and Signatory contractors.
- Promoting the Laborers Construction Craft Career, so new workers have an opportunity to succeed and have a long career earning living wages and benefits.
- Track large construction developments and monitor new markets for Union Construction opportunities.
- Development of the Safety Driven program to include a recognition based program and offering educations sessions to support Union Contractors in the area of work place safety.
- Promoting good member health through flu clinics, health fairs, the popular Pick 3 program and access to the new Laborers Health Clinics.
- Raise visibility of the LIUNA brand through various media outlets as the leading organization that builds and maintains our most important infrastructure.
- Advocate for Union Apprenticeship and Training, so everyone can join in, despite lack of construction experience.
- Protect the Union Construction model by supporting sound Davis-Bacon (Prevailing Wage) measures and the importance of collective bargaining.

WELCOME NEW CONTRACTORS!

- Engelsma Construction
- Lambert Engineering and Construction Serv Inc
- Michels Trenchless Inc

- Queens Trucking and Construction
- Tip Top Chimney LLC
- Triangle Electric Inc

LECET Mission

The Minnesota Laborers-Employers Cooperation & Education Trust (LECET) fund was created in 1992 as a non-profit joint Labor/Management cooperation effort affiliated with the Minnesota Laborers Union. LECET aims to promote the many benefits of Union construction while addressing a number of initiatives that are of mutual benefit to both signatory Union Contractors and LIUNA members.

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LIUNA RECEIVES ‘FRIEND OF THE CGMC’ AWARD

LIUNA Minnesota and North Dakota received the “Friend of the CGMC” award from the Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities (CGMC) on July 28 during the Coalition’s three-day summer conference in Red Wing. The award recognizes individuals and organizations that have helped advance the interests of Greater Minnesota.

This legislative session, LIUNA joined together with the CGMC and other labor and environmental organizations to urge the Legislature to pass an ambitious and transformational package of water

and wastewater infrastructure funding. More than 200 cities are currently planning for upcoming water and wastewater projects to address aging infrastructure and new pollutant limits set by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA). The MPCA estimates it will cost \$12.3 billion statewide over the next 20 years to keep up with the need, and this growing demand equates to more cities vying for a limited pool of state dollars. Without state help, local ratepayers will bear the full cost burden of these projects. Throughout the session,

LIUNA stood side-by-side with the CGMC to share this message at numerous press conference, interviews, and meetings with legislators.

“LIUNA clearly takes pride in working to help communities address water infrastructure needs statewide,” said Pat Baustian, Mayor of Luverne and President of the CGMC. “We look forward to continuing our partnership as we continue our fight to protect the financial and physical health of our communities.”

CGMC is a nonprofit, nonpartisan advocacy organization representing over 100 cities outside of the Twin Cities metropolitan area. The Coalition educates legislators about issues important to Greater Minnesota.



Kris Fredson (LIUNA MN), Liz Xiong (LIUNA MN), Kevin Pranis (LIUNA MN), Charles Sutton (Consultant), Brian Holmer (Mayor, Thief River Falls MN), John Thorson (LIUNA MN), Lucas Franco (LIUNA MN), Paul Austin (Conservation Minnesota) and Nels Paulsen (Conservation Minnesota).

UNION CONSTRUCTION WORKERS’ COMPENSATION PROGRAM CELEBRATES 25TH ANNIVERSARY

The Union Construction Workers’ Compensation Program (UCWCP), an alternative dispute workers’ compensation system, celebrates 25 years in operation this year. The program, administered by Wilson-McShane Corporation began with the participation of four trade unions, including LIUNA MN & ND, two employer associations and four employers within the union construction industry. Today, the program has all basic and specialty trade unions participating and more than 375 Union construction contractors employing over 22,000 Union workers.

The UCWCP was built on a labor-management partnership to create a better system to eliminate the adversarial culture of workers compensation. The program also requires the support of the workers’ compensation insurance industry to ensure success. UCWCP remains focused on a proven method of assisting Union members in returning to their pre-injury job as soon as safely possible, so they continue making Union wages and supporting their fringe benefits.

Kevin Gregerson, Wilson-McShane 3rd party Administrator shared why the program has become so success-

ful. “In addition to the trust given by labor and management trustees and individual employers and union locals, the success of the UCWCP is due to the support of everyone in the workers’ compensation community: governmental regulators; insurance providers; third-party administrators; insurance agencies and health care providers. The program is time and again proving to be a win-win for both the Union member and the employer.”



LIUNA 'PROUD MEMBER' PROGRAM ROLLS ON

By Adam Hutchens, LIUNA Representative

This has been a big year for the LIUNA MN & ND **PROUD MEMBER** program. We offered eight training sessions around the state of Minnesota including our first training in Spanish. Over 185 LIUNA members took the time to learn more about their Union and how to ensure future high quality construction standards and securing more work opportunities, in addition to the powerful impact of volunteerism.

PROUD MEMBER volunteers participate in a wide range of activities to help ensure LIUNA's success and build on the visibility and powerhouse that LIUNA is. As the program grows, the visible LIUNA army of Orange Crush volunteers and activists has become widely recognized in hearings and events. Some of those activities include:

- Volunteerism at LIUNA Events – LIUNA Family Fun-Raiser Picnic, Health Fair & more
- Testifying in hearings in support of job-creating infrastructure projects
- Phoning fellow members to support Union endorsed candidates
- Door knocking in support of Union endorsed candidates
- Volunteering for Media opportunities – Social media spotlights, Radio & TV ads

The **PROUD MEMBER** program is always looking for more Union activists. The program is open to current and retired members of all five LIUNA Minnesota and North Dakota locals and offers a great way to get

involved and even earn LIUNA swag. LIUNA members are encouraged to check out LiunaMinnesota.org/ProudMember to learn more and see upcoming 2023 training dates and opportunities.



LIUNA Open House

at the Minnesota Laborers Training Center



Join us at the newly expanded Minnesota Laborers' Training Center to learn about the work LIUNA members do and to discuss critical issues in the construction industry.

Featured Discussions

Workforce, Federal Infrastructure Funding,
Energy Transition, Responsible Mining

LIUNA Open House

Friday October 14, 2022 from 8:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Minnesota Laborers Training Center

2350 Main Street, Lino Lakes, MN 55038

Please **REGISTER** by calling (651) 653-6710,
email council@liunaminnesota.org,
or scan the QR Code:



**OPEN TO: Union contractor representatives, public officials,
local, state and municipal leaders and invited guests only.**

(This event is not intended for LIUNA members)

**Enjoy facility tours of the newly expanded 77,000 sq. ft. Minnesota
Laborers Training Center and Tinnucis catered lunch.**

LIUNA!
**MINNESOTA &
NORTH DAKOTA**
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THE IMPORTANCE OF UNDERSTANDING YOUR EAP

By: Dave Danley, Executive Director MN Laborers Fringe Benefit Funds

One of our most underutilized benefits is our Employee Assistance Program (“EAP”). We are not unique, however. Nationally, EAP utilization is a dismal 4%, while we are slightly better at 4.70%. The truth is many people do not fully understand the value their EAP brings or even by definition of what an EAP does. At its core, our EAP provides participants with free, short-term, counseling sessions in a variety of areas as described below. In addition, our EAP’s have many more resources available.

The Minnesota Laborers Fringe Benefit Funds have made some changes to our EAP Assistance Providers and Network to help LIUNA members connect in times of need.

Who is my EAP? The answer depends on your home Local Union.

- If you are a member of either Local 405 or 563, then SandCreek still remains as your EAP.
- If you are a member of either Local 1091 or 1097, then TEAM is your EAP (effective immediately).

What services does my EAP provide? The answer will surprise you. The core services provided through both SandCreek and TEAM is counseling and support including; anxiety and depression, alcohol or drug problems, behavioral concerns, family and parenting issues, relationship challenges, grief and loss, and stress management. Additionally, both providers offer legal consultations, financial counseling, childcare questions, eldercare resources (i.e. trust and will planning, estate planning, assisted living), and tobacco cessation.

Who is eligible to use the EAP?

Your health fund has contracts with both SandCreek and TEAM to provide all eligible participants (including spouses and children) as well as anyone else living in your house, access to the EAP. Each eligible person generally has 4-6 free sessions with the EAP per event per year.

How do I contact my EAP?



To contact SandCreek:

Phone: (888) 243-5744

Website: Allonehealth.com



To contact TEAM:

Phone: (218) 727-8589

Website: startwithteam.com

We encourage everyone to utilize the EAP benefits provided to you and your eligible family members. These confidential, free visits are a valuable benefit and can make a difference in your life. For general questions regarding your health plan, please contact the Fund Office c/o Zenith American Solutions, Inc. at (651) 256-1900.

SAFETY DRIVEN | THE POWER OF PARTNERSHIP

2nd Quarter 2022 Safety Driven Quarterly Award Winners

LABORER	CONTRACTOR	LABORER	CONTRACTOR
Nataneal Lemus Mata	Bituminous Roadways Inc	Thomas Poulley	Lakehead Constructors Inc
Nicholas Onofre	Carl Bolander & Sons	Mitch Pelzer	Landwehr Construction Inc
Shane Dahlgren	Environmental Plant Services Inc	Shaun Gibson	Maverick Cutting & Breaking
Travis Samuelson	J M F Construction Inc	Steve Haskamp	Northwest Asphalt Inc
Tyler Biermaier	Johnson-Nelson Masonry	David Epsen	Olympic Companies Inc
Michael Gilles	Jorgenson Construction Inc	Jordan Kadlec	PCL Construction Services Inc
Wayne Skoog	Kiffmeyer Inc	Devin Stuntebeck	Ryan Companies US Inc
Morris Sveen	Knutson Construction Services	Keith Wanderscheid	S R Weidema Inc
Christian Lens	Kraus Anderson	Tommy Morris	Ulland Brothers
Eric Guse	Kuechle Underground Inc	Jarrold Foss	Xcel Energy, Special Construction

All winners receive their choice of a Quarterly Award prize and have been nominated by Union Contractors in accordance with the LECET Safety Driven Program rules.

APPRENTICE OF THE MONTH AWARDS

July

Lucas Anderson

September

Trevor Tuenge

Note: Students are reminded that all day classes begin at 7:00 am at the LTC. Trainees must come to class dressed as if they were reporting to work at a construction site. This includes appropriate work boots, long pants and shirt. Failure to do so can result in being asked to leave and to reschedule the class at a later date.

CONSTRUCTION LABORERS TRAINING CENTER

2350 Main Street
Lino Lakes, MN 55038
(651) 653-6710
www.Ltcmn.org

October 17, 2022

CPR/First Aid	Oct 17
General Construction/Flagging/Pro-10	Oct 17-21
Hazardous Waste Initial	Oct 17-21
Line & Grade II	Oct 17-21
Mason Tending	Oct 17-21
Rigging & Signaling Qualified - 24 Hr	Oct 17-20
Excavation Confined Space	Oct 18
Hazardous Waste Refresher	Oct 19
Fall Protection	Oct 20
Intro to Union & Apprenticeship Program	Oct 20
Intro to Union & Apprenticeship Program - Online	Oct 20
Asbestos Supervisor Refresher WI/MN	Oct 21
Aerial Lift Training	Oct 21

October 24, 2022

Asbestos Supervisor Initial	Oct 24-28
General Construction/Flagging/Pro-10	Oct 24-28
Pipeline Technology/MnDOT Flagging	Oct 24-28
Remote Camera Inspection	Oct 24-27
Safety Week/OSHA 30/CPR First Aid	Oct 24-28
Torch Cutting Demo Safety	Oct 24-25
Rigging & Signaling Qualified - 24 Hr	Oct 26-28
Asbestos Supervisor Refresher WI/MN	Oct 28

October 31, 2022

General Construction/Flagging/Pro-10	Oct 31-Nov 04
Hazardous Waste Initial - Duluth	Oct 31-Nov 04
Heavy Highway Skills/MnDOT Flag	Oct 31-Nov 04
Lead Supervisor Initial	Oct 31-Nov 03
Pipelaying 1	Oct 31-Nov 04
Safety Week/OSHA 30/CPR First Aid	Oct 31-Nov 04
Lead Supervisor Refresher	Nov 04

November 7, 2022

Blueprint Reading	Nov 07-11
Concrete Practices/Insulated Forms	Nov 07-11

Line & Grade I	Nov 07-11
Pipelaying 1	Nov 07-17
Plaster Tending	Nov 07-11
Safety Week/OSHA 30/CPR First Aid	Nov 07-11
Scaffold Erecting Competent Person	Nov 07-11

November 14, 2022

Blueprint Reading - Rochester	Nov 14-18
General Construction/Flagging/Pro-10	Nov 14-18
Hazardous Waste Initial	Nov 14-18
Line & Grade I - Fargo	Nov 14-18
Mason Tending	Nov 14-18
Safety Week/OSHA 30/CPR First Aid	Nov 14-18
Welding/Torch Cutting Air Arc	Nov 14-Dec 20
Intro to Union & Apprenticeship Program - Online	Nov 17
Intro to Union & Apprenticeship Program - Rochester	Nov 17
Intro to Union & Apprenticeship Program	Nov 17
Intro to Union & Apprenticeship Program - Fargo	Nov 17
Asbestos Worker Refresher	Nov 18
Mine Safety & Health Admin - Virginia	Nov 19

November 14, 2022

CPR/First Aid	Nov 21
Infection Control Risk Assessment (ICRA)	Nov 21-22
Lead Worker Initial	Nov 21-23
Mine Safety & Health Admin/CPRFA	Nov 21-23
Rigging & Signaling Qualified - 24 Hr	Nov 21-23
Suspended Scaffold Preparedness	Nov 21-23
Torch Cutting Demo Safety	Nov 21-22
Excavation Confined Space	Nov 22
Asbestos Supervisor Refresher	Nov 23
Aerial Lift Training	Nov 23
Hazardous Waste Refresher	Nov 23
Lead Worker Refresher	Nov 23
Mine Safety & Health Admin	Nov 23

LTC ANNOUNCES SUPERINTENDENT PROGRAM GRADS

The Laborers Training Center in conjunction with AGC of Minnesota and signatory Union Contractors announced their second group of Graduates in the Laborers Superintendent Development Program (LSDP). The program's mission is in preparing LIUNA members for superintendent and leadership roles working with Union Signatory contractors.

LSDP helps formalize a leadership development process that is led by the signatory Union contractors who mentor each LIUNA member candidate through a very specialized training curriculum including the Associated General Contractors of Minnesota's Supervisory Training Program (STP). The Laborers Training Center assists by administering the LSDP program and tracking the progress of each LIUNA member.

LIUNA member graduates were honored at a ceremony on September 29, 2022 at Mancini's Char House in St. Paul with their Union contractor employers in attendance.

2022 LSDP Graduates

James Conn

McGough Construction

Garrett Corrow

McGough Construction

Jonathan Gabrelcik

Adolfson & Peterson Construction

Alan Geisenkoetter

Adolfson & Peterson Construction

Justin LaRoue

Carl Bolander & Sons Inc.

Jason Morris

Adolfson & Peterson Construction

Adam Steen

Adolfson & Peterson Construction

"We are extremely proud and excited about the future of this Superintendent development program," said Joe Fowler, LIUNA Local 563 Business Manager and LSDP Committee member. "Laborers make great leaders because we are pretty much involved in all aspects of the construction cycle. LIUNA is there from the ground up, right until the very end as projects are turned over to the owner. This program creates a great pathway for Laborers to grow and lead others and we know the contractors need great future leaders."

Union contractors interested in placing LIUNA members in the LSDP program, contact Dean Mills at the Laborers Training Center (651) 653-6710.

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Little Canada, MN 55117



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City Administrator
City Of Spring Lake Park
1301 81st Ave NE
Spring Lk Pk MN 55432-2188

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LIUNA GENERATES ANOTHER \$37,000 FOR CHARITIES

The annual Laborers Family FUN-Raiser held recently at Como Regional Park in St. Paul resulted in generating donations for two important LIUNA MN & ND Charities: the Ronald McDonald House Upper Midwest (RMH) and the Laborers (LIUNA) Charitable Foundation of Washington, DC. The event raised over \$37,089 this year and over \$400,000 since 2004.



“Family is the foundation of this LIUNA event and of Ronald McDonald House,” said Jili Evenocheck, President & CEO of Ronald McDonald House Charities, Upper Midwest. “These funds have a direct impact on our ability to provide free lodging, meals, school and other critical services to families facing a child’s medical crisis across our five locations in Minnesota. We are so very grateful for the Laborers continued generosity and spirit of community.”

PLATINUM: Ames Construction Inc, LIUNA – Chicago District Council, LIUNA Great Lakes Region, LIUNA Local 563, LIUNA Minnesota & North Dakota, Minnesota Laborers-Employers Cooperation & Education Trust, Rum River Contracting.

GOLD: Advanced Concrete Sawing Inc, Advanced Masonry Restoration Inc, Atlas Wind Services & Demolition, Hawkinson Construction Co Inc, Mavo Systems Inc, Northland Concrete & Masonry, SGP Contracting Inc, Total Construction & Equipment Inc, Health Partners, PCL Construction Services, LIUNA Local 363, LIUNA Local 405, Minnesota AFL-CIO, Minnesota Cement Masons Local 633, MN State Building and Construction Trades Council, Painters & Allied Trades District Council 82, St Paul Regional Labor Federation, Teamsters Local 120, Union Bank & Trust, Minneapolis Building & Construction Trades Council, Zenith American Solutions and Segal.

SILVER: Bricklayers Local 1, Building Trades Credit Union, Dennis Environmental, Global Specialty Contractors, Heat & Frost Insulators Local 34, LIUNA Local 1091, LIUNA Local 1097, Legacy Professionals, Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation, Otis Eastern Service Inc, Zachman Precast.

