

## West Central Telephone

308 Frontage Road  
Sebeka, MN 56477

West Central Telephone to participate in the largest national solar energy event in the world on October 3<sup>rd</sup>

### ***For Immediate Release***

**Monday, September 28, 2009**

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Sebeka— Zenergy by West Central is proud to be participating in what is said to be **the largest solar event in the world**—the American Solar Energy Society's (ASES) National Solar Tour. Now in its 14<sup>th</sup> year, the tour offers people the opportunity to visit any one of thousands of solar-powered homes and businesses across the nation in a free, self-guided tour. The Minnesota Renewable Energy Society, the Minnesota branch of ASES, is sponsoring the event for our state, and details on the participating sites, pictures, and maps of the locations can be found on the MRES website: [www.MNSolarTour.org](http://www.MNSolarTour.org).

The tour runs from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, October 3. A Zenergy team member will be on site throughout the day at the West Central Telephone's main headquarters in Sebeka to show you their wind/solar hybrid system, which is one of the \*Xcel RDF grant research sites. This off-grid system uses a 1 kW wind turbine and 1 kW of solar power to completely independently power a telecom equipment cabinet. You can see live real-time data of the power being produced, as well as historical graphs and charts, from the on-site Energy Traker™ monitoring system. You can also obtain a map leading you to other renewable energy sites in the area.

The main event occurs at 12:00 noon, when guest speakers will discuss some of the promising ways Minnesota is embracing "the future of energy, now." Speakers include Tim Edman of Xcel Energy, and Minnesota Senator Dan Skogen representing District 10. Light refreshments will be served 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Solar is not only a time-tested and proven power source, but is now even more affordable because of recent funding and incentives provided by the federal and state government and local utilities. "The state has \$3.4 million for solar energy rebates for the biennium," said Stacy Miller of the Minnesota Office of Energy Security. "Minnesotans who install solar energy systems may also be eligible for federal and utility incentives." More information on Minnesota Office of Energy Security programs is available at [www.energy.mn.gov](http://www.energy.mn.gov). Additional information on state, federal, and utility incentives is available at [www.dsireusa.org](http://www.dsireusa.org).

\*Project funding provided by customers of Xcel Energy through a grant from the Renewable Development Fund.

***About the Minnesota Renewable Energy Society***

The Minnesota Renewable Energy Society is a member-run, 501(c)(3) non-profit organization founded in Minneapolis in 1978 to promote the use of and advocacy for renewable energies in Minnesota through education and demonstration of practical applications. The Society is involved with education, awareness, and advocacy efforts for all forms of renewable energy technologies, with a particular emphasis on solar energy technologies. For more information about MRES and the Minnesota Solar Home Tour, go to [www.mnRenewables.org](http://www.mnRenewables.org).

***About the American Solar Energy Society***

For more than 50 years the American Solar Energy Society (ASES) has been leading the renewable energy revolution to advance the use of solar and renewable energy. ASES leads national efforts to promote solar energy education, public outreach, and advocacy. [www.ases.org](http://www.ases.org) The National Solar Tour is expected to run in all 50 states this year. A complete list of scheduled events may be found at [www.NationalSolarTour.org](http://www.NationalSolarTour.org).

***About West Central Telephone Association***

West Central Telephone Association is a full service telecommunications company providing local and long distance services, advanced telephone, broadband Internet services, IPTV, business phone systems, complete telecommunications wiring services and much more.

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