**Technology Assistance**


Minnesota Technology, Inc. [www.minnesotatechnology.org](http://www.minnesotatechnology.org) (800)325-3037. Regional offices are listed on the web site. Minnesota Inventors Congress [http://www.minnesotainventorscongress.org/](http://www.minnesotainventorscongress.org/) (800) 468-3681 Inventors can use MIC to develop ideas, patent and manufacture their products, and as an outlet for information and services University of Minnesota, Department of Bio-Based Products, [http://www.forestry.umn.edu/index.html](http://www.forestry.umn.edu/index.html) (612)625-5200. Educational programs, research and technology transfer.

Extension Wood Products Specialist:
Short courses on wood-moisture relationships, lumber grading and dry kiln operation.

**USDA Forest Service**

State and Private Forestry Cooperative programs, North Central Experiment Station, [http://www.na.fs.fed.us/index.shtm](http://www.na.fs.fed.us/index.shtm) The office provides a variety of marketing and technical services and referrals.

**Wood Industry Prices and Trends**


**Environmental Assistance**

Hazardous waste
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency [www.pca.state.mn.us](http://www.pca.state.mn.us) (800)657-3864, for general information. Local county environmental officers have specific information for your county.

Solid Waste
Local county environmental officer or solid waste officer, Minnesota DNR Utilization and Marketing Staff (see back cover) for help in finding alternatives to land-filling wood waste

Minnesota Technical Assistance Program (MNTAP), a coordinated program between the University of Minnesota and the Office of Environmental Assistance providing assistance to prevent pollution of the state’s air, land and water, [www.mntap.umn.edu](http://www.mntap.umn.edu) (800)247-0015 or [www.mnexchange.org](http://www.mnexchange.org)

**Copyright and Patent Assistance**


This brief directory is published by the Utilization and Marketing staff of Minnesota DNR as a way of helping small- to medium-sized wood product businesses in Minnesota find assistance. Much of the information in this guide is taken from the “Guide to Starting a Business in Minnesota” published by the Minnesota Small Business Assistance within the Department of Employment and Economic Development.

This brochure is not intended to be an exhaustive resource but a guide to where you can find more detailed help and further information.

**Minnesota DNR Utilization & Marketing Staff**
Keith Jacobson – Program Leader (651)259-5270
Lance Sorensen – Southern Region (507)206-2837
Steve Vongroven – Northern Minnesota (218)372-3082

Updated May 2010
**State Government**

State Government office links and phone numbers can be found at [www.state.mn.us](http://www.state.mn.us).

**Secretary of State** [www.sos.state.mn.us](http://www.sos.state.mn.us) web site has downloadable forms for registering and starting a business in Minnesota.

Department of Labor and Industry [www.doli.state.mn.us](http://www.doli.state.mn.us) web site has apprenticeship, labor standards, wage standards, safety compliance, workers compensation, and other important information for business in Minnesota. Phone (800)342-5354

**General Management Assistance**


SCORE® is a nationwide organization of active and retired business men and women who volunteer their services to assist small businesses and entrepreneurs. They provide free business counseling and offer low-cost workshops on a variety of business topics. Experienced SCORE counselors offer free, one-on-one, personal confidential counseling on all aspects of small business management from financing to manufacturing and marketing [www.score.org](http://www.score.org). Minnesota SCORE District Office (612)370-2324.

**Legal Assistance**

Minnesota State Bar Association Attorney referral service (800) 292-4152. [www.mnbar.org](http://www.mnbar.org)

**Law libraries**

There are county law libraries in each county, the management of which is usually assigned to courthouse employees. A complete list can be found at [http://www.lawlibrary.state.mn.us/](http://www.lawlibrary.state.mn.us/).

**Financing Assistance – federal sources**

**Certified Development Companies** – Regional Development Corporations lend money to qualified business ventures

Central Minnesota Development Co [www.cmdcbusinessloans.com](http://www.cmdcbusinessloans.com) (763)784-3337 specializes in all markets located within north central communities. 

Prairieland Economic Development Corp. [www.prairielandedc.com](http://www.prairielandedc.com) (800) 507-9003

South Central Minn Business Finance EDC (800) 749-9015

St. Paul Metro East Development Corp (SPEDCO) [www.spedco.com](http://www.spedco.com) (651)631-4900.

Twin Cities Metro Certified Development Co. [www.504lending.com](http://www.504lending.com) (651)481-8081

**Small Business Administration** – Small Business Centers; financing assistance and guidance [www.sba.gov/mn](http://www.sba.gov/mn) (612)370-2324

**Small Business Pre-qualification Loan Intermediaries** Central Minnesota Development Co. (see above).

**Small Business Investment Companies (SBICs)**

SBICs are Small Business Administration-licensed entities providing equity financing to small businesses. Specialized SBICs serve small businesses owned by socially or economically disadvantaged individuals. A complete list of SBICs in Minnesota can be found online at [http://www.sba.gov/aboutsba/sbaprograms/inv/index.html](http://www.sba.gov/aboutsba/sbaprograms/inv/index.html)

**Financing Assistance – state sources**

Minnesota Office of Environmental Assistance (MOEA) [www.mpea.state.mn.us](http://www.mpea.state.mn.us) (800)657-3843

MOEA is a non-regulatory agency that works to improve Minnesota’s environment through partnerships, technology transfer, technical assistance, education, research, and matching grants.

**Minnesota Research Fund**

Funding for development and commercialization of new technology from Minnesota education institutions. This may include forestry or wood products processes and products. Contact: Phone: (651) 486-7041

**Iron Range Resources**


**Marketing Assistance**

The Marketplace Bulletin is a quarterly publication of the Minnesota DNR Utilization and Marketing team. Free classified ads for wood businesses.

**Business incubators**

Three Minnesota organizations are members of the [National Business Incubation Association](http://www.nbia.org). They are:

- Owatonna Business Incubator (rental facilities, one-on-one consulting, free and confidential marketing help) [ebl@owatonnaincubator.com](mailto:ebl@owatonnaincubator.com) (507)451-0517.

- Genesis Business Center, LTD (763)782-8576

- Greater Mankato Economic Development Corp. (507)385-3212 or (800)647-0652.

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