

## Technology Assistance

Natural Resource Research Institute – Univ. Minnesota – Duluth [www.nrri.umn.edu](http://www.nrri.umn.edu) (218)720-4294. Technology transfer, development of new technologies, products and processes for natural resource-based industry

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/> (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> (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> The office provides a variety of marketing and technical services and referrals.

## Wood Industry Prices and Trends

National Hardwood Lumber Association, <http://www.natlhardwood.org/> (901)377-1818.

The Hardwood Review [www.hardwoodreview.com](http://www.hardwoodreview.com) (800) 638-7206. There is a charge for subscription.

## 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

U.S. Patent and Trademark Depository Library is located at the Minneapolis Public Library (612)630-6120. Copyright Office, U.S. [www.copyright.gov](http://www.copyright.gov) (202)707-3000 [MinnesotaInventorsCongress](http://www.MinnesotaInventorsCongress.org/) [www.minnesotainventorscongress.org/](http://www.minnesotainventorscongress.org/) (800) 468-3681

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

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# A Guide to Assistance for Wood Products Businesses In Minnesota



## 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

**Small Business Assistance Office- Minnesota**  
Department of Employment and Economic Development,  
[www.mnsbdc.com](http://www.mnsbdc.com) .

**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 to 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/>

## 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>

## Financing Assistance – state sources

**Minnesota Office of Environmental Assistance (MOEA)**  
[www.moea.state.mn.us](http://www.moea.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**  
**E-mail: [info@mnresearchfund.org](mailto:info@mnresearchfund.org)**

## Iron Range Resources

Assistance in all areas of business development in the Iron Range region. Contact,  
[www.IronRangeResources.org](http://www.IronRangeResources.org)

## Financing Assistance – private sources

**Rural Initiative Organizations:**  
Initiative Foundation [www.ifound.org](http://www.ifound.org) (320)632-9255 (serves central Minnesota counties)  
Northland Foundation [www.northlandfdn.org](http://www.northlandfdn.org) (800)433-4045 (serves northeast Minnesota counties)  
Northwest Minnesota Foundation [www.nwmf.org](http://www.nwmf.org) (800) 659-7859 (serves northwest Minnesota counties)

**Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation** [www.semif.org](http://www.semif.org) (507) 455-3215 (serves southeast and south central Minnesota Counties)  
**West Central Initiative Fund** [www.wcif.org](http://www.wcif.org) (800)735-2239 (serves west central Minnesota counties)  
**Southwest Minnesota Foundation**  
[www.swmnfoundation.org](http://www.swmnfoundation.org) (800)594-9480 (serves southwest Minnesota counties)

## Small Business Administration Microloan Intermediaries

**Northeast Entrepreneur Fund, Inc.** (800)422-0374  
**Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation** [www.semif.org](http://www.semif.org) (507)455-3215  
**Southwest Minnesota Foundation**  
[www.swmnfoundation.org](http://www.swmnfoundation.org) (800)594-9480  
**WomenVenture.** [www.womenventure.org](http://www.womenventure.org) (651)646-3808

## 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 **The National Business Incubation Association (NBIA)** [www.nbia.org](http://www.nbia.org) They are:  
**Owatonna Business Incubator** (rental facilities, one-on-one consulting, free and confidential marketing help) [obi@owatonnaincubator.com](mailto:obi@owatonnaincubator.com) (507)451-0517.

Genesis Business Center, LTD (763)782-8576

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