# **Expanding Our Network through Education: Saint Paul EcoDistrict Case Study**

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**Ever-Green Energy** 

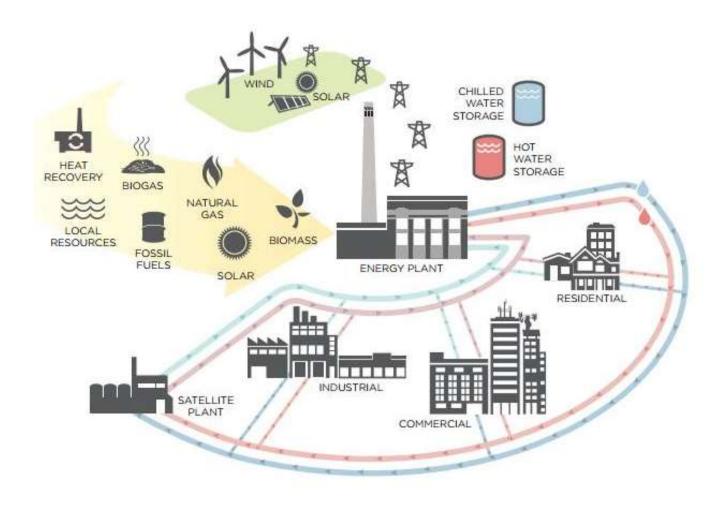
## **Common District System Challenges**

- Low visibility in the market and in the community
- Low comprehension of the technology
- Communicating our value proposition
- Connecting common community goals to the potential of our systems
  - Environmental, economic, efficiency, etc.
- Building a network of champions in local government, academia, community and civic leadership, environmental and business sectors

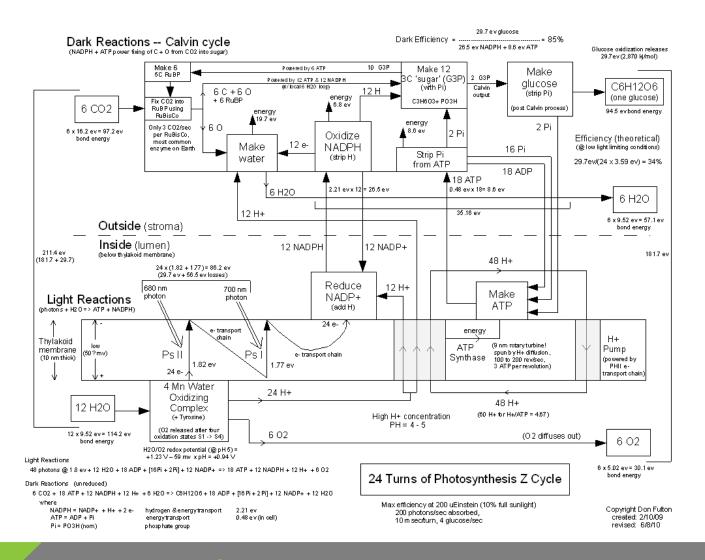
# **Traditional Approach**



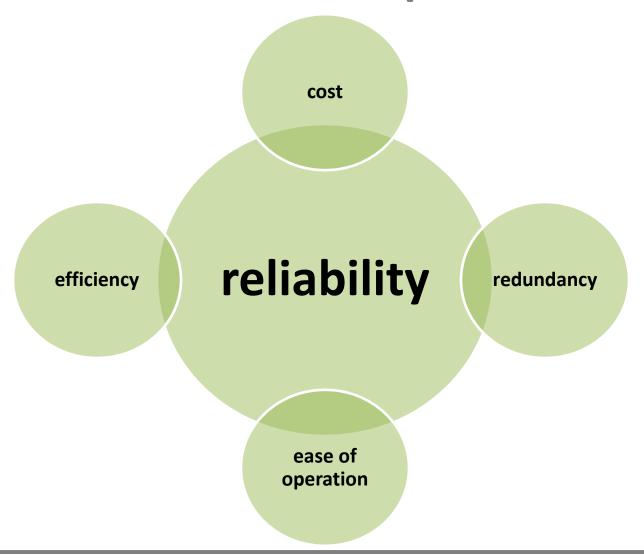
### What we might be trying to communicate...



#### How we sometimes come across...



## **Our Standard Value Proposition**



# Value Propositions Worth Considering

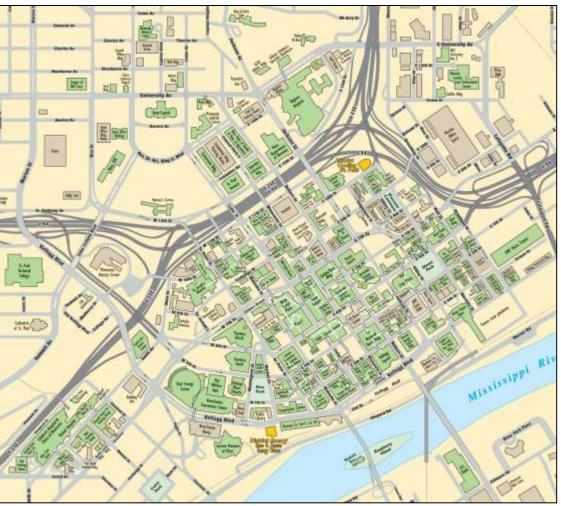


# SAINT PAUL'S EDUCATION FRAMEWORK

# **District Energy St. Paul**







# Saint Paul Tour Program

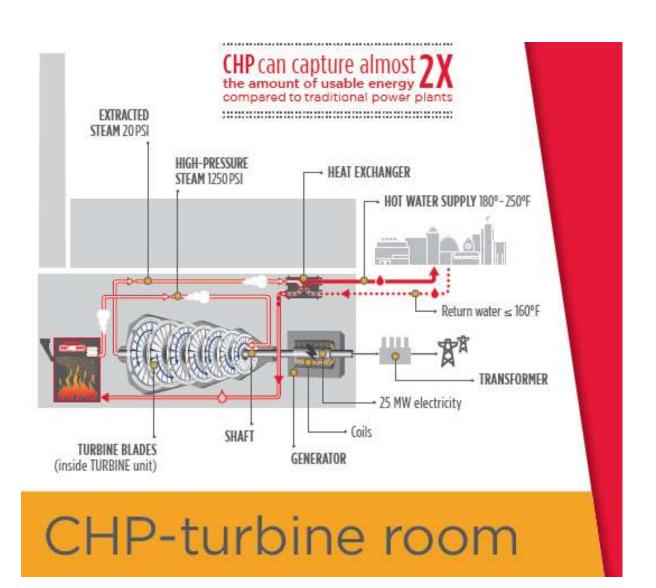








## **Tour Development and Education**



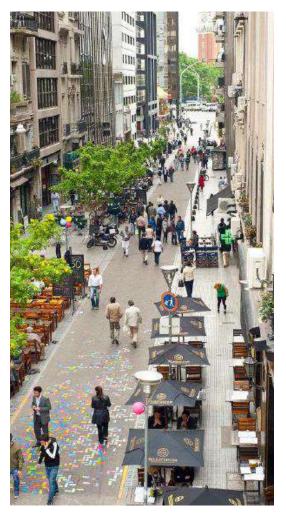
## **Opportunity Constrained by Resources**

- Hundreds of visitors each year
- 30-60 minutes of staff time for every 20 visitors
- Limited staff time
- Visitor experience limited by comprehension before, during, and after visit
- Mismatch of what we teach and what people will apply in the their lives boiler mechanics versus system operation versus making good consumer decisions – or good policy decisions

### What is an ecodistrict?







#### What is the Saint Paul EcoDistrict?



# Saint Paul, MN – Mississippi Riverfront



#### Saint Paul EcoDistrict - Phase 1

- Introduce the concept
- Placemaking
- Web platform
- Walking tour
- Daylighting technology in this district

#### **Developing Sustainability Through Education**



# Saint Paul EcoDistrict Placemaking





#### Saint Paul EcoDistrict Future Phases

- Classroom curriculum: K-12
- Demonstration projects of varying scale
- Interactive projects and on-site education
- Plume Project
- IDEA engagement
- Science festival
- Large-scale daylighting
- Developer engagement Align future development with EcoDistrict Principles

#### **Local Partners**

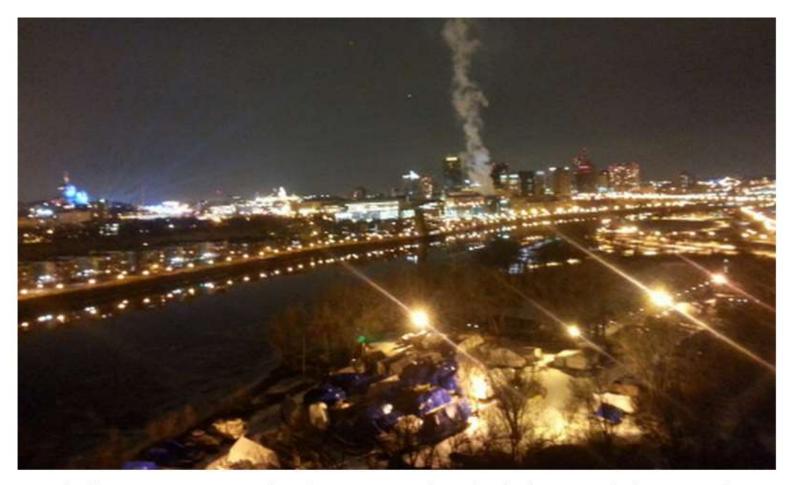
#### Kid Wind



#### **Climate Generation**

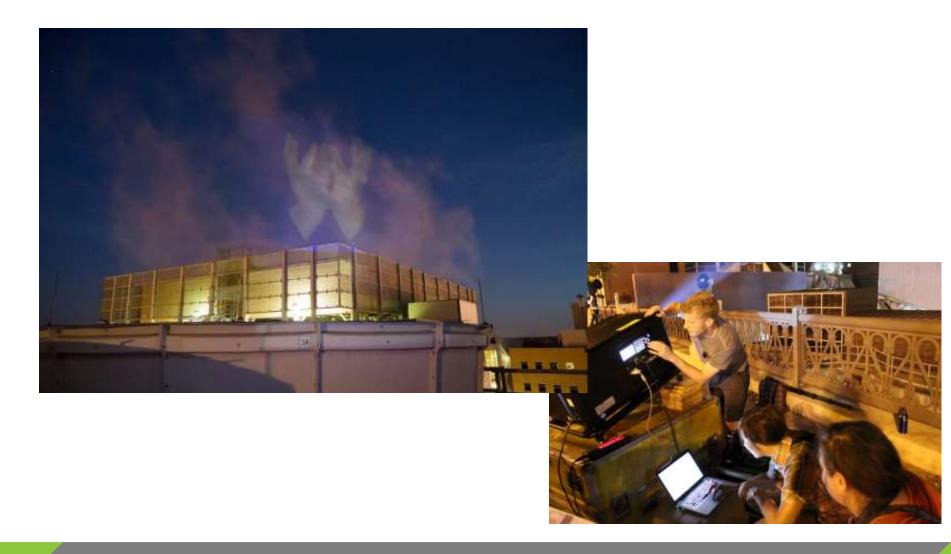


## plumeproject.com



Q: Which is more spectacular, the Saint Paul Cathedral's event lighting, or the plume in winter? A: The plume in winter, whenever it caught the roving spotlights. The Plume Projects this time next year will be phenomenal.

# Plumeproject.com



# OTHER COMMUNITY ENERGY ECODISTRICT OPPORTUNITIES

# University Avenue District Prospect North Neighborhood, Minneapolis, MN









## **Rice Creek Commons**







#### Ford Site Redevelopment Planning



## **Back to the Value Proposition**

- Visibility
- Comprehension
- Essential infrastructure
- Community partner
- Long-term talent pipeline
- An engaged audience our future generations!
- A model to replicate broaden the story, broaden the champions who can support what we do
- Grow the network, grow the business

# Questions?

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