

Biographical Sketches

City of Saint Paul Staff

Russ Stark, Chief Resilience Officer

Project Role: Project Manager

Experience Summary: Russ has over 25 years of experience in climate action and sustainable transportation with a decade of experience in public service. He is currently serving as the Chief Resilience Officer for the City of Saint Paul overseeing the City's climate, energy, sustainability, and transit work with responsibilities for leading and fostering city partnerships and continuing to advance reductions in Saint Paul's greenhouse gas emissions. He led the development of the Saint Paul Climate Action and Resilience Plan (2019) and he is now working on implementing it. Russ also served as a Saint Paul City Councilmember for 10 years including 3 years as Council President during which time he focused on community development, sustainability, and improving public transit. Russ has an MA in Urban Affairs and Public Policy from the University of Delaware and a BA in Political Science from Swarthmore College.

District Energy St. Paul Staff

Ken Smith, President/CEO

Project Role: Project Manager, Technology Liaison

Experience Summary: Ken Smith is the President and CEO of District Energy St. Paul since 2010. A registered professional engineer, Ken has over 35 years of experience in planning, designing, and implementing energy projects for communities, campuses, and mission critical facilities. He regularly reviews innovative technologies for district heating and cooling systems, and tours advanced energy systems, particularly in Europe, to identify opportunities to advance systems in the U.S. Ken was recognized in 2022 with the Person of the Year by the International District Energy Association. Ken has a BS in Electrical Engineering from North Dakota State University and an MBA from the University of St. Thomas and is a registered professional engineer in Minnesota.

Ramsey County Workforce Solutions Staff

Ling Becker, Director of Workforce Solutions,

Project Role: Workforce Partner

Experience Summary: Ling Becker is the Director of Workforce Solutions for Ramsey County and Executive Director of the Workforce Innovation Board of Ramsey County. Ling oversees a department of 80 staff who deliver \$20M dollars annually of workforce services and programs to residents and businesses of Ramsey County in partnership with dozens of community-based organizations. Ling has over 20 years of grant management experience. Since the pandemic, Ling has been overseeing millions of additional federally funded programs to build a more equitable recovery. Prior to her current role, Ling led economic development organizations and won several award-winning workforce partnerships with local school districts, community colleges and employer partners supporting student career pathways. Ling is a graduate of the University of Minnesota Morris and holds a master's degree in public

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administration from Syracuse University where she was a Woodrow Wilson Fellow. In 2018, she was a recipient of Minnesota Business Magazines REAL Power 50 Award. Ling currently serves in a variety of community leadership roles including as member of the Federal Reserve's Ninth District Advisory Council and Achieve Twin Cities.