



BRIDGES

A newsletter for Southeast businesses who care about their neighbors

Hello!

I'm the Environmental Coordinator for SouthEast Minneapolis working for the Como, Prospect Park, and Marcy-Holmes neighborhoods to help them focus on improving local air quality. You may or may not be aware of where these neighborhoods are; they basically border the University of Minnesota and are bounded by Hwy 280 to the east, and the Mississippi River to the south and west, and Hennepin Avenue to the north. Centrally located, these neighborhoods have easy access to the city's numerous resources. Most residents live in this area because of that access and for some of the same reasons attracting businesses to locate here.

Southeast is one of the oldest parts of the city and contains a lot of industry that was initially attracted to this area due to the railway access and its proximity to downtown Minneapolis. It is still a major center for industry today and the neighborhoods are adjacent to much of this industry.

The residents that live in Southeast come from all walks of life and are fairly diverse. There are University professors and staff, there are small business owners who run the local shops and restaurants serving the community. There are teachers and students, factory workers and public service employees. There are children and parents, young and old, all of which live in the neighborhood.

The point is that these are your business neighbors, not unlike the people in your own personal neighborhood. They have lives similar to yours and different than yours, and they have concerns about preserving the quality of their neighborhood. They care about property values and park access. They care about air quality and clean drinking water. The residents want Southeast to be a good place to live and raise a family, and they want to have good neighbors—both in the residences and businesses.

I'm here to listen to the concerns of businesses and residents regarding air quality and waste issues. I'd like to be someone that you feel you can speak with about resources available to your business. We are not associated with regulatory agencies and are not interested in proprietary information, only in improving air quality and reducing waste where possible.

As a start to getting to know you better, I'd like to ask: **Are you working on implementing process improvements or pollution control technology which will make the air cleaner or reduce waste?** I like to pass on good news to the neighborhood. For you, small steps in reduction can often add up to big savings in waste disposal/ pollution control costs. For your neighbors, they love to hear about neighboring facilities that are conscientious and care about their impact on the community.

Give me a call, and we can talk more about these or other topics.



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