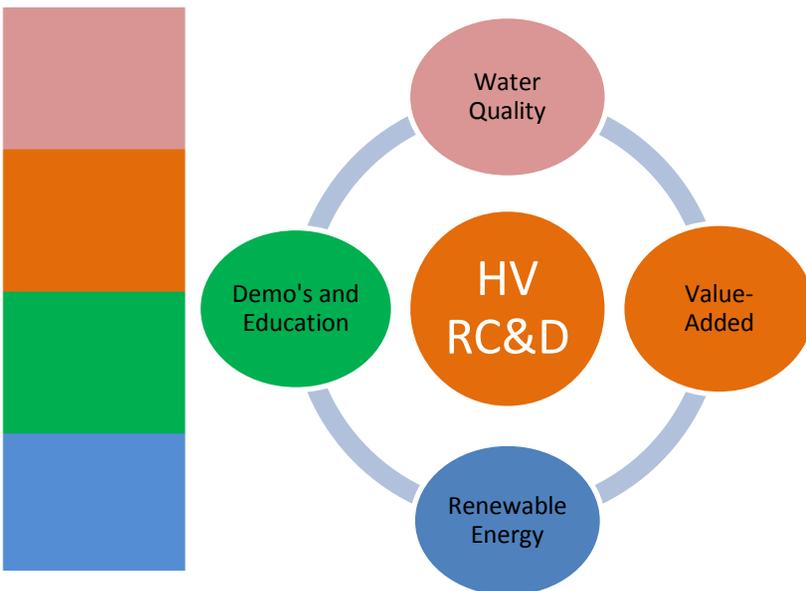


HIAWATHA VALLEY RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Strategic Plan Summary 2010 - 2015

Organization Summary:

Hiawatha Valley Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D), Inc. is incorporated and a recognized 501(c)3 organization. **Its mission is “to provide a regional framework to empower people to balance environmental and economic needs through leadership, collaboration, communication and project development”.** Governed by a board of directors representing the eleven county area including Dodge, Fillmore, Freeborn Goodhue, Houston, Mower, Olmsted, Rice, Steele, Wabasha and Winona Counties. **It accomplishes its vision of “a productive economy and good standard of living in balance with a quality environment”** through a great deal of collaboration with local, state and federal agencies along with other non-government and individual partnerships. Key sponsors and partners include the area’s County Commissioners, County Soil and Water Conservation Districts, State natural resource agencies, and agencies of the United States Department of Agriculture.



WATER QUALITY	Without duplicating the efforts of others involved in water quality improvements, Hiawatha Valley will work to improve collaboration of all others involved, offer new and innovative solutions, and assist others with project/program administration.
VALUE ADDED BUSINESSES	Hiawatha Valley is rich in diverse and highly valued natural resources. This diversity of resources opens the door for diversity in business opportunity as well. Local foods; forest products; and alternative ag products are a few of the opportunities of the area.
DEMONSTRATIONS AND EDUCATION	The eleven county area of Hiawatha Valley has a tradition of working together, sharing experiences and knowledge. Whether a pasture walk, invasive species control, or well sealing demonstrations, the RC&D program supports area-wide information sharing.
RENEWABLE ENERGY	Promotion of renewable alternative energy sources such as small scale wind, bio-diesel, solar technologies, geothermal and perennial biomass are a priority of Hiawatha Valley, as well as encouraging energy conservation practices throughout the area.

