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To: [Vita, Carla K \(She/Her/Hers\) \(DEED\)](#)
Subject: RE: ETAC Memos due COB Mar 19
Date: Thursday, March 20, 2025 5:13:07 PM

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The MPCA has a number of grants and available for communities and facilities operating in Minnesota. All available grant and loan opportunities can be reviewed at <https://www.pca.state.mn.us/business-with-us/grants-loans-and-contracts>.

The following specific grants may of interest to energy transition communities.

Solid Waste Processing Facilities Capital Assistance Program

The Solid Waste Processing Facilities Capital Assistance Program (CAP) provides financial and technical assistance to local governments to encourage investment in the proper management of solid waste. The objective of CAP is recovering materials and energy from waste and to minimize land disposal of municipal solid waste (MSW) through waste reduction, reuse, recycling, composting source-separated materials or yard waste, resource recovery, waste separation, and waste processing. In preparation for future state bonding sessions, MPCA asks local government to identify funding needs for the development of integrated solid waste management systems and infrastructure in Minnesota. Grant recipients must demonstrate to the MPCA that they have an ability and plan to fund the program intended for the facility. Eligible applicants are Minnesota cities, counties, solid waste management districts, and sanitary districts. Eligible projects are facilities that advance efforts to reduce waste, reuse materials, and recover resources. For fiscal year 2026 bonding consideration, CAP interest forms are due on or before April 17, 2025.

School bus replacement grant

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) requests proposals from eligible applicants from private, public, and nonprofit sectors to partially fund new diesel, propane and natural gas school bus replacements in the Minnesota. The grant aims to reduce diesel emissions and improve air quality and public health by removing older diesel buses from operation and replacing them with new, cleaner buses. Projects will reduce diesel emissions in Minnesota and help fund new school buses with a mixture of fuel technologies across Minnesota. For-profit, nonprofit, and public entities, including state, local, and Tribal governments that own or operate 1998 through 2009 model year diesel school buses in Minnesota are eligible applicants. Applicants must be based in Minnesota, have a branch office in Minnesota, or be located in Indian Country within Minnesota. Application deadline: 4 p.m. on May 14, 2025

Statewide waste reduction and reuse grants

The MPCA has approximately \$820,000 available to support waste reduction and reuse projects across the state. MPCA programming is focused on investing in projects that continue to offer benefits to Minnesotans well into the future. For this grant round, applications will be scored more

favorably if they involve education/outreach, infrastructure and supplies, and/or technical assistance (including “micro grants”) to: implement systems that transition Minnesota organizations and communities to reusables (i.e., food ware, packaging, etc.) in place of single-use options, (including necessary cleaning and maintenance equipment such as dishwashers); or provide community repair training, curriculum development, and/or apprenticeship opportunities that help build a sustainable repair workforce statewide, since these careers are inherently local and repair services can offer cost savings to Minnesotans. Eligible applicants include Minnesota not-for-profit and nonprofit organizations, for-profit businesses, institutions, political subdivisions of the state (including counties, cities, towns, etc.), state agencies, and tribal governments. Multi-organizational collaboration is encouraged. Application deadline: 4 p.m. on March 27, 2025

Drinking water planning and design funds for PFAS treatment

This \$22 million opportunity provides funding for planning and design of PFAS treatment systems for owners and operators of community drinking water supply systems in Minnesota. Eligible applicants include owners or operators of community drinking water supply systems in Minnesota. Applicants must have a minimum of four quarters of samples taken from entry points using applicable EPA methods and a rolling average that exceeds the EPA final maximum contaminant level (MCL) values for PFOS, PFOA, PFNA, PFHxS, GenX, or the Hazard Index MCL. Applications will be accepted on a rolling, "first come, first serve" basis until all dedicated funds have been dispersed or June 30, 2025 (4 p.m. Central Time), whichever occurs first.

Funding for brownfield investigation

Brownfields are abandoned, idled, or underused properties where reuse is complicated by actual or suspected contamination. The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) has grant money from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) available to pay for assessment of contaminated properties to support redevelopment and reuse. The work is overseen by the MPCA Brownfield Program and performed by MPCA contractors at no cost to the recipients. Eligible sites in Minnesota can be publicly or privately owned with known or suspected contamination. Applicants cannot be responsible for the contamination. Preferred projects for funding are those that have community support; enhance the neighborhood without resulting in gentrification; provide essential services such as affordable housing, social services, or youth enrichment; or support small business owners. Target applicants are typically those with limited financial resources. Typical funding requests range from \$10,000-50,000 but any request is considered provided it meets eligibility requirements.

Small business environmental improvement loans

The MPCA provides loans at zero-percent interest to small businesses for capital equipment purchases that help the company meet or exceed environmental regulations, and covering costs associated with the investigation and cleanup of contaminated sites. The loan program can be used for clean-ups for contaminated sites or projects that reduce on-site air emissions or waste generation. It's not intended for projects where energy efficiency is the sole environmental benefit, such as the purchase of vehicles or upgrades of lighting or HVAC systems. Loan terms and conditions: loan amount between \$1,000 and \$75,000; interest rate: Zero percent (0%); repayment term up to seven years; flexibility in the types of collateral accepted; awarded throughout the year

Environmental assistance loans

Financial assistance to accelerate the application and/or improvement of environmental processes and technologies in Minnesota by providing assistance for the capital costs (machinery and equipment) of eligible projects. MPCA partners with private financial institutions to offer loans resulting in substantially reduced interest rates for projects that will improve the environmental and economic quality of Minnesota. Priority eligible projects: green chemistry, pollution prevention, source reduction, recycling, and source-separated compostable materials. Eligible loan costs are limited to the capital costs of implementing waste or pollution prevention technologies in Minnesota — the costs of acquisition of machinery and equipment, including freight and installation, and related improvements.

Climate-Smart Food System Grant from EPA:

In late January 2025, EPA removed Minnesota's access to this \$200 million federal grant, under the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Program. To comply with federal court orders, EPA finally restored Minnesota's access to the awarded funds in mid-February 2025. The MPCA has begun to draw down funds from the grant. The MPCA has signed, or is close to signing, agreements with the four partner state agencies (MDH, DNR, MDA, and BWSR) named in the federal grants. Once the agreements are in place, these agencies can begin work to make the funds available to Minnesotans. The first round of grants should be available in summer of 2025.

Electric School Bus Grant from EPA:

The MPCA received approximately \$5 million from EPA under the Inflation Reduction Act's Clean Heavy Duty Vehicle program to deploy 19 electric school busses throughout the state. In late January 2025, EPA removed Minnesota's access to this federal grant. To comply with federal court orders, EPA finally restored Minnesota's access to the awarded funds in mid-February 2025. The MPCA has begun to draw down funds from the grant. The MPCA is now working with school districts named in the grant to finalize agreements that will allow the school districts to begin the purchase process.

Climate Action Framework Update:

The Climate Subcabinet is seeking public comments on the update for Minnesota's Climate Action Framework, which was released in September 2022. Minnesotans can provide their input at the following webpage: <https://engage.eqb.state.mn.us/climate-action-framework-update>. The Climate Subcabinet intends to release the updated Climate Action Framework in September 2025.

-----END UPDATE-----

Thanks,
Frank

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Help Minnesota take action on climate change at mn.gov/climate

Host a climate conversation to help protect Minnesota's future:

https://climate.state.mn.us/sites/climate-action/files/2021-09/ClimateConvoGuide_0.pdf

Stay on top of Minnesota's Air Quality Index at www.pca.state.mn.us/air/current-air-quality-index



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