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>.

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

Electric vehicle fast chargers grant

Application deadline: December 9, 2025

The MPCA has approximately $1.89 million available to install EV direct current fast-charging stations in public places in select Minnesota locations along key charging corridors. For the purpose of this request for proposal, roadways have been assigned into “EV corridors.” These fast-charging corridors along major roadways will allow eventual travel by EV drivers over long distances throughout the state, making it feasible for more Minnesotans to drive electric vehicles. Eligible entities are for-profit, nonprofit, and public entities, including state, local, and Tribal governments.

Greater MN waste reduction, reuse, recycling, and composting grants

Application deadline: October 7, 2025

MPCA has approximately $1 million for projects that increase the efficiency or effectiveness of waste reduction, reuse, recycling, or composting programs in Greater Minnesota. Reducing the amount of materials entering landfills in Greater Minnesota communities benefits the environment as well as local economies. Minnesota counties, cities, townships, and Tribal Nations located outside of the Twin Cities metro area may apply.

Statewide organics recycling for multifamily buildings

Application deadline: September 25, 2025

The MPCA anticipates awarding approximately $563,000 for increasing access to or expanding participation in organics recycling for residents of multifamily buildings. This grant program aims to reduce the amount of organic material being disposed of through landfilling or incineration while providing more opportunities for residents of multifamily buildings to participate in organics recycling programming. Eligible entities are 501(c)(3) not-for-profit and non-profit organizations located in Minnesota or serving Minnesota, political subdivisions of the state (including counties, cities, towns, etc.), an owner of a multifamily building(s) in Minnesota, a for-profit business that owns a multifamily building(s) in Minnesota, and applicants located in, serving, or who are members of Tribal communities are eligible and encouraged to apply. However, Tribal governments are not eligible applicants.

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:

EPA approved Minnesota’s work plan for this $200 million federal grant, under the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Program. The MPCA is now working to transfer the funds to the partner state agencies (MDH, DNR, MDA, and BWSR) so those agencies can begin building their capacity to grant the funds to Minnesotans. The first round of grants became available in late spring to summer of 2025.

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> and a final public comment period is scheduled for mid-to-late October. The Climate Subcabinet intends to release the updated Climate Action Framework in January 2026.

----END UPDATE-----

Thanks,

Frank