Minnesota Pollution Control Agency | Agency Profile

https://www.pca.state.mn.us/

**AT A GLANCE**

- 875 employees in FY18: 635 in Saint Paul and 240 in seven regional offices; 29 are student workers or seasonal employees
- Protect human health by issuing more than 16,700 permits that include environmental standards to limit pollution
- Monitor the condition of air, ground and surface water, and land at more than 2,320 sites
- Inspect and license more than 40,000 sites that involve hazardous waste, feedlots, and storage tanks
- 2013 Eco Experience exhibit received “People’s Choice Award for Best Attraction” at the Minnesota State Fair
- Offer 20 online services with more launching soon

**PURPOSE**

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) monitors environmental quality, offers technical and financial assistance, and enforces environmental regulations. MPCA finds and cleans up spills or leaks that can affect health and environment. MPCA develops statewide policy, supports environmental education, and helps ensure pollution does not have a disproportionate impact on any group of citizens. MPCA’s mission is to protect and improve the environment and human health. The agency plays a key role in contributing to the following statewide outcome: **A clean, healthy environment with sustainable uses of natural resources.**

**BUDGET**

MPCA’s budget is funded from multiple state government funds and federal grants. The funding MPCA has received from the general fund has decreased over this 12-year timeframe from 9 percent in FY12-13 to 4 percent in FY16-FY17.
In the last biennium, MPCA expenses by fund included environmental (38 percent), remediation (15 percent), clean water (14 percent), and federal (11 percent). All other state funds make up the remaining 18 percent. The clean water fund is one of the legacy funds created when voters passed a constitutional amendment in November 2008.

**STRATEGIES**

Limiting pollution caused by businesses, organizations, and individuals is fundamental to MPCA’s mission. The MPCA develops and enforces regulations and provides education and technical assistance to help meet these regulations. Increasingly, MPCA’s focus is on preventing pollution rather than just controlling or cleaning it up.

MPCA works with many partners—citizens, communities, businesses, government, environmental groups, and educators—to prevent pollution and conserve resources. These partnerships allow MPCA to:

- Foster greater commitment and personal responsibility for the environment.
- Work to minimize the use and generation of toxic chemicals in products and materials.
- Protect, restore, and preserve the quality of our waters.
- Develop solutions to Minnesota’s climate change challenges.

As a result, Minnesota is a national model for environmental protection. The state’s air, land, and water are cleaner now than 40 years ago, even with a growing population and rising industrialization.

MPCA’s range of activities includes:

- Testing and researching to identify environmental problems.
- Setting priorities and operating strategies.
- Setting standards and developing rules that protect people and the environment.
- Writing permits to regulate activities that affect the environment (air emissions, toxic, or hazardous materials, water discharges, landfills, etc.).
- Ensuring compliance with and enforcing regulatory requirements to ensure equitable treatment and a level playing field for Minnesota businesses.
- Integrating environmental justice principles into the agency’s processes to ensure pollution does not disproportionately impact the health of low income populations or people of color.
- Providing technical assistance, training, outreach, and education to schools, facility operators, permit holders, and the general public.
- Providing access to environmental data and regulatory services through data requests and online systems.
- Publicizing and demonstrating pollution prevention techniques.
- Responding to environmental spills, releases, and other environmental emergencies.

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Minnesota Statutes, Chapter, 114D (https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=114D), Chapter 115 (https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=115), Chapter 115A (https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=115A), and Chapter 116 (https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=116) provide the agency with its main authorities to provide regulatory, monitoring, and assistance services.
**Program: Environmental Analysis and Outcomes Division**

https://www.pca.state.mn.us/

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**AT A GLANCE**

- Develop water quality standards and evaluate 80 major watersheds for whether water quality meets those standards
- Monitor and track air quality, surface water quality, and ambient groundwater conditions
- Provide resources to local water management organizations for lake and streams monitoring
- Provide air quality forecasts for the state and five tribes, to inform public of unhealthy air quality days
- Estimate and track pollutant emissions to air and discharges to water

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**PURPOSE & CONTEXT**

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency’s (MPCA) Environmental Analysis and Outcomes (EAO) Division monitors and evaluates the physical, chemical, and biological conditions of Minnesota’s environment; identifies environmental threats and impacts to human and ecosystem health; establishes environmental goals and measure progress in achieving them; supports regulatory programs (such as permitting); and makes environmental data broadly accessible. EAO’s efforts support human health, aquatic life, and a strong economy.

EAO provides leadership to implement the federal Clean Air Act, monitor and evaluate air quality conditions, support air quality permitting and environmental review, and assist sister agencies with energy and transportation projects.

EAO helps to implement the Clean Water Act and portions of Minnesota’s Clean Water Legacy Act by monitoring surface water and groundwater resources; evaluating water quality data; communicating lake, stream, wetland, and groundwater conditions; and, developing water quality standards that protect the health of water resources. Water data and assessment results support the development of permit limits to protect water quality and inform local planning, restoration, and protection activities.

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**SERVICES PROVIDED**

**Air Assessment**

- Monitors the air and collect information about pollution releases from large and small sources
- Monitors for the air quality index and compliance with air quality standards and health benchmarks using 162 monitors located at 53 sites statewide
- Provides technical assistance and quality assurance for 30 monitors at seven industrial locations, and six monitors at five locations operated by tribal governments
- Collects and analyzes annual emission inventories for more than 2200 companies
- Develops greenhouse gas emission estimates for comparison to Next Generation Energy Act goals
- Analyzes for public health risks from air pollution, with a focus on the most vulnerable Minnesotans

**Water Assessment**

- Develops water quality standards and uses other tools to protect human health and aquatic life
- Monitors lakes, streams and rivers, and groundwater to identify water quality trends
- Gathers and reviews data to understand water condition and identify causes of stress on a water body
- Tracks the effectiveness of protection and restoration activities
- Provides information and assistance to regulated facilities, communities, local governments, and citizens
- Conducts monitoring and studies of contaminants in Minnesota’s water and fish—including well-known accumulative contaminants like mercury and newer issues like pharmaceuticals and consumer products
RESULTS PERFORMANCE MEASURE

AIR EMISSIONS FROM DIFFERENT TYPES OF SOURCES

Air emissions are the quantity of air pollutants that are released from an air pollution source.
- On-road vehicles (cars, trucks) 24 percent
- Non-permitted sources (small businesses, heating, wood smoke) 35 percent
- Off-road vehicles (construction and agriculture) 20 percent
- Permitted sources (power plants, factories) 21 percent

Aggregate emissions: Nitrogen oxides (NOx), sulphur dioxide (SO2), Volatile organic compounds (VOC), Particulate matter (PM2.5)

GREENHOUSE EMISSIONS IN MINNESOTA

The EAO Division estimates the greenhouse gas emissions from all sources in Minnesota to track progress against the Next Generation Energy Act reduction targets. The analysis allows the EAO Division to work effectively with sister agencies and external stakeholders to identify effective and cost efficient emission reduction strategies.

SURFACE WATER PROTECTION AND RESTORATION

During the last 10 years, MPCA has increased water monitoring efforts. To date, 86 percent of Minnesota’s major watersheds have been assessed. The information is used to determine if watersheds are meeting water quality standards to protect public health, recreational use, and aquatic life.

In general, 60 percent of state lakes and streams meet statewide standards. By 2019, MPCA expects to meet the statutory requirement to monitor all watersheds within 10 years. In 2019, the monitoring cycle begins again to determine improvements in water quality.

PERCENT OF LAKES GETTING CLEARER

Clarity is improving or holding steady in over 80 percent of lakes. Hundreds of volunteers help the MPCA measure water clarity to detect signs of degradation to a lake.

Minnesota Statutes, Chapters, 115 (https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=115), 115A (https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=115A), and 116 (https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=116) provide the agency with its main authorities to provide regulatory, monitoring, and assistance services.
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
Program Narrative

Program: Industrial Division

https://www.pca.state.mn.us/

AT A GLANCE

Provide regulatory services (permitting, technical assistance, training, compliance determination, enforcement, licensing and certification) for:

- 2,000 industrial wastewater and stormwater sources
- 2,000 air emission sources
- 4,500 underground fuel storage tank facilities
- 21,960 hazardous waste generators

PURPOSE & CONTEXT

The primary goal of the Industrial Division at the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) is to ensure industrial emissions, discharges, and wastes are managed to minimize impacts to human health and the environment. This goal is accomplished through implementation of core regulatory programs that ensure Minnesota’s outdoor air is healthy for all to breathe, and waters are swimmable, fishable and safe to drink. The Industrial Division enforces state and federal environmental regulations so that Minnesota reduces its contribution to regional, national, and global pollution. Compliance assistance is provided to pollution sources and citizen complaints are followed up and responded to. Our efforts support human health and contribute to strong economies in Minnesota communities.

The Division’s work to regulate air pollution from facilities that need an air quality permit has resulted in a significant reduction in emissions from these sources. Its activities to regulate and reduce pollution ensure that the state’s lakes, rivers, streams, and groundwater are clean, healthy and sustainable.

MPCA is authorized by the Environmental Protection Agency to administer the wastewater regulatory program under the federal Clean Water Act. Over 800 industrial wastewater dischargers are managed in the program in addition to approximately 1,500 businesses that are addressed by the industrial stormwater program. These programs use best management practices, technology, and site-based standards to protect water resources.

The Division works with a large and diverse group of private businesses, industry consultants, local, state and federal partners, environmental groups, and citizens.

SERVICES PROVIDED

The services the Division provides fall into three categories:

Permitting

- Issue air and water permits to operate or expand existing facilities and to build new industrial facilities
- Better connect the public, industry, and local governments by providing input opportunities on permits through public notices and local meetings
- Reduce the regulatory burden on industry by providing assistance, flexibility, and permitting options

Compliance determination, assistance and enforcement

- Conduct inspections and determine compliance with air quality, water quality, hazardous waste, stormwater, and underground fuel storage tank rules, regulations, and permits
- Provide technical assistance and training to regulated facilities
• Take enforcement action when warranted

**Licensing and certification**

• Issue licenses for hazardous waste treatment, storage, and disposal facilities
• License hazardous waste haulers and monitor the movement of hazardous waste
• Certify over 15,000 underground fuel tanks

**RESULTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Compliance rates of inspected facilities</th>
<th>Percentage of inspections where no major non-compliance was discovered (2017)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Issuing permits is only part of what the MPCA does to protect our environment. We also provide assistance, conduct inspections, and enforce standards to improve compliance.</td>
<td>93% 93% 92%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Speeding up permits**

The MPCA has worked hard to speed up our permitting process without compromising our environment. We meet our 90-day and 150-day permitting timeliness goals 97% of the time for the priority permits which are construction-focused and have the most bearing on jobs and growth.

Total new permits in 2017: 2,491

- Water 1,338
- Air 79
- Land 26

87% of all permits issued on time (within 90 or 150 days, depending on permit type)

97% of priority permits issued on time (Construction-focused permits that have the most bearing on jobs and growth)

Minnesota Statutes, Chapters, 115 [https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=115], 115A [https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=115A], and 116 [https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=116] provide the agency with its main authorities to provide regulatory, monitoring, and assistance services.
The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency’s Municipal Division works to ensure that Minnesota has clean water to support aquatic life, clean drinking water, healthy communities, and a strong economy. Components of the program include:

- Reducing and preventing water pollution from wastewater, stormwater, and sub-surface sewage treatment systems (SSTS).
- Working cooperatively with stakeholders to implement activities that protect Minnesota waters.
- Providing financial assistance to local government and other partners to achieve and accelerate water quality improvements.

### AT A GLANCE

- 132 wastewater permits issued in FY18
- 2,014 construction stormwater permits issued during FY18
- 252 municipalities operated under municipal stormwater permit coverage in FY18
- 143 sub-surface sewage treatment systems compliance and enforcement actions taken in FY18
- 185 construction stormwater compliance and enforcement actions taken in FY18
- 25 municipal stormwater compliance and enforcement actions taken in FY18
- 151 municipal wastewater compliance and enforcement actions taken in 2017 and 2018
- 23 grants and contracts totaling $6.9 million awarded to local partners in FY17-18

### PURPOSE & CONTEXT

The Municipal Division conducts activities to ensure that the state’s lakes, rivers, streams, and groundwater are clean, healthy, and sustainable.

- Issue construction and operation permits to Minnesota businesses and municipalities
- Implement the biosolids land application program
- Assist in flood and spill response
- Inspect, assist, and enforce wastewater, stormwater, and SSTS
- Educate, license, and certify wastewater and SSTS professionals
- Address imminent health threats from septic systems, particularly for low-income households
- Provide grants and contracts for water quality improvement projects
- Conduct technical reviews for the Public Facilities Authority funding program

### RESULTS

**Municipal Wastewater**
Since 2000, pollutant load discharges from municipal wastewater plants have decreased. This decrease is due to MPCA developing permit limits that achieve water quality goals.
Municipal Stormwater
Since 2015, cities have used best management practices (BMP) to help to achieve reductions in pollutants.

Sub-surface Sewage Treatment System (SSTS)
Compliance rates have gone up over the last 10 years and have remained steady for the past four years.

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Minnesota Pollution Control Agency Program Narrative

Program: Operations Division

https://www.pca.state.mn.us/

AT A GLANCE

- Provide access to environmental data through “What’s in My Neighborhood” web application
- 1.1 million visits to Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) website with 3.4 million page views in 2017
- 6,309 information or data practices requests processed in FY18
- 20 online e-services currently and projected to have 70 by end of FY19
- Nearly 11,000 online users have submitted over 69,000 permit applications
- Achieved performance excellence through the Baldrige Performance Excellence framework
- 2017 Governor’s Better Government Award for the “Minnesota’s Watershed Approach to Clean Water” project
- MPCA offices in Brainerd, Detroit Lakes, Duluth, Mankato, Marshall, Rochester, and Saint Paul

PURPOSE & CONTEXT

The Operations Division manages the agency's business services that align with the MPCA’s mission and values. The Operations Division:

- Supports performance excellence by seeking new ways to provide data, information, and transactional assistance.
- Manages of fiscal services, internal controls and risk assessment, human resources, communications, organizational improvement, facilities, fleet, safety, data systems and online services, data analysis, document and records management, continuity planning, and legal services.
- Follows cost effective, diverse, inclusive, and sustainable business practices by leasing electric or hybrid vehicles, purchasing recycled and environmentally preferred products, supporting agency-wide recycling efforts, and using web conferencing technology to reduce travel.
- Is inclusive and diverse in its staffing needs, vendor solicitation, and methods.

SERVICES PROVIDED

- Provides leadership and guidance on financial matters and performs accounting, budgeting, contracting, internal controls, and procurement business functions
- Manages agency data and records (paper and electronic), and ensures effective, secure, and efficient data and document management systems and tools
- Ensures public access to environmental information and decision-making processes through its website, social media channels, public meetings, outreach, rule hearings, video conferencing, and training events
- Provides location-specific environmental information and data is available via the “What’s in My Neighborhood” feature at https://www.pca.state.mn.us/data/whats-my-neighborhood
- Manages human resources through workforce planning, job design and analysis, recruitment and selection, employee relations, compliance with employment law and collective bargaining agreements, employee benefits, training and development
- Supports performance excellence with the use of the Malcolm Baldrige National Performance Excellence System framework and by providing learning and development, continuous improvement, and organization development activities
• Manages agency-wide services including safety, continuity of operations planning, lease administration, space planning, copy and print services, facilities management, security access system, non-litigation legal support, and fleet management
• Improves management of user-friendly electronic web-based services to create process efficiencies, data accessibility, and usability across agency programs, better response times, reduced paper transactions, improved data quality, and easier public and regulated party access

RESULTS
Data practices and information requests allow for timely redevelopment or construction. From July 2016 to June 2018, the Operations Division processed 12,536 requests.

![Data requests chart](image)

**E-services:** MPCA’s number of online services have doubled since FY14-15 and are expected to grow by the end of FY19. MPCA’s e-Services feature allows users to apply for permits, submit regulatory data and information for compliance requirements, and pay fees and invoices.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>FY14/15</th>
<th>FY16/17</th>
<th>FY18/19</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of online services</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Communication:** On average, the MPCA website receives about 95,000 visits each month; about two-thirds are visitors who have not been to the site in the previous 30 days.


The number of MPCA’s Twitter and Facebook followers is increasing, with marked peaks during times of public concern such as air quality alerts or emergency response management issues. In July 2018, MPCA had 6909 Twitter followers and 3995 Facebook followers.

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

Program: Remediation Division

https://www.pca.state.mn.us/

AT A GLANCE

- Assesses 2,800 potentially contaminated sites for risk to public health and the environment annually
- Cleaned up and returned to productive use approximately 86,154 acres of contaminated land since 2003
- Responds to an average of 3,000 environmental emergencies every year
- Maintains safe operations at 110 closed landfills and 240 superfund sites

PURPOSE & CONTEXT

The Remediation Division protects the environment and public health by managing risks at contaminated sites through site assessment, site cleanup, ongoing operation and maintenance of protection systems, responding to environmental emergencies and restoring contaminated land to productive use.

The Division works with a large and diverse group of public and private entities, including developers, counties and cities, industry consultants, state and federal partners, and citizens.

SERVICES PROVIDED

The Remediation Division works with public and private partners to protect Minnesota’s environment, public health, and quality of life through the proper management of contaminated sites, which includes underground and above ground petroleum storage tanks, superfund sites and closed landfills. Cleaning up contaminated land and groundwater, while costly and time consuming, is the core activity of this division.

The services the Division provides fall into three categories: assessment of risk, cleanup of contaminated land and/or groundwater and long-term maintenance of implemented remedies and/or installed protection systems.

Assessment of risk

- Identify and investigate environmental releases of hazardous substances to determine extent, magnitude and risk to public health and the environment
- Provide technical support to hazardous waste enforcement, permitting and corrective action efforts
- Work with railroads, industry, and local fire and police to develop plans to prevent and respond to spills
- Assist other agencies with assessment of natural resource damages

Cleanup

- Oversee land cleanup at contaminated sites and recover costs from responsible parties
- Conduct cleanups, design and install protection systems at state funded Superfund sites
- Help developers return contaminated sites to productive use
- In the event of a spill, assist local responders and oversee cleanup

Long-term maintenance

- Monitor and manage operation and maintenance activities at 110 closed landfills and 240 federally designated Superfund toxic waste sites
- Work with local units of government on land use restrictions near Superfund sites
RESULTS

How much polluted land is being returned to productive use?

Putting abandoned, idle, or underused industrial and commercial properties back into productive use can be complicated by actual or suspected environmental contamination. The MPCA helps make this land available for redevelopment by investigating and cleaning up these sites.

Minnesota Statutes, Chapters, 114D (https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=114D), 115 (https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=115), 115A (https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=115A), and 116 (https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=116) provide the agency with its main authorities to provide regulatory, monitoring, and assistance services.
AT A GLANCE

- Provides over $2 million in grants and loans each biennium to promote environmentally innovative projects that reduce, reuse, and recycle waste and prevent pollution.
- Enables Minnesota companies to save money, prevent pollution, prevent waste, recover resources, and conserve water through its small business assistance program, funding the Minnesota Technical Assistance Program (MnTAP), and providing other business technical assistance.
- Every $1 granted to MnTAP results in $3 of annual savings to businesses.
- More than 250,000 people annually visit MPCA’s EcoExperience exhibit at the Minnesota State Fair.

PURPOSE & CONTEXT

The Division provides support for agency land, water, and air regulatory and assistance programs. The land program protects the environment and public health by permitting solid and hazardous waste facilities and large tank sites. The water activities include work with a diverse group of public and private entities and citizens to reduce the impacts from wastewater and stormwater, and the impacts products or production activities have on water. Because nearly 75 percent of air pollution is released from sources not traditionally regulated by the MPCA, such as cars, trucks, construction equipment, and some commercial operations. The MPCA works with many partners to reduce pollution to improve air quality.

SERVICES PROVIDED

In order to accomplish its purpose, the Resource Management and Assistance Division:
- Conducts environmental review to reduce potentially negative impacts from proposed projects.
- Writes administrative and technical rules with engagement from stakeholders.
- Works collaboratively with communities in Environmental Justice areas to reduce environmental impacts.
- Trains and certifies businesses and individuals engaged in wastewater, solid waste, and septic systems.
- Works with local government to develop effective solid waste management plans and provides financial assistance to counties for waste management efforts.
- Conducts solid and hazardous waste and large tanks permitting, inspections, and enforcement.
- Oversees disposal of debris from natural disasters and other incidents.
- Provides communities and businesses with technical and financial assistance with regulatory compliance, pollution and waste prevention, air quality improvements, and sustainability efforts.
- Provides grants and loans to reduce diesel emissions from trucks and boats and other engines.
- Partners with other organizations to host the EcoExperience at the Minnesota State Fair.
- Provides assistance to communities through GreenStep Cities and Minnesota GreenCorps programs.
- Works with businesses to develop alternative products that are free of toxic chemicals, particularly children’s products.
- Collaborates with other state agencies to increase procurement of environmentally preferable products and services.
RESULTS

MPCA annually collects data on waste management that includes organics management, recycling, waste-to-energy, and landfiling. What appears to be a substantial drop in recycling from 2014 to 2015 is actually a change in the reporting for recycling; estimates for commercial recycling were eliminated and only measured or documented values were accepted. Estimates resulted in inflated recycling rates prior to 2014.

Minnesota GreenStep Cities is a voluntary challenge, assistance, and recognition program to help cities achieve their sustainability and quality-of-life goals. To date, 123 Minnesota cities (encompassing 45 percent of the state’s population) are implementing best practice actions at a good, better, or best level.

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

Program: Watershed Division

https://www.pca.state.mn.us/

AT A GLANCE

- Develops watershed restoration and protection strategies for 80 Minnesota major watersheds with local water resource managers to ensure most efficient implementation action
- In partnership with counties, registers or permits, assists, and inspects the state’s 18,500 feedlot operations
- The Clean Water Partnership Loan Program provided $7.9 million in loans to 13 counties and watershed districts for local improvement projects in FY17/FY18
- Clean Water Act Section 319 federal funding provides $2.5 million per year to local partners to implement waterbody restoration and protection actions

PURPOSE & CONTEXT

The Watershed Division at the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) works with local partners to ensure that Minnesota has clean water to support aquatic life, healthy communities, and a strong economy.

- Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy (WRAPS) reports use watershed science to identify water pollution problems and sources, and strategies. WRAPS help local water planning and state permitting activity and ensure the most efficient use of funding to reduce and prevent water pollution.
- Minnesota’s vibrant animal agriculture industry provides significant economic benefits to the state, and properly managed manure contributes to soil health. The Division permits 1,300 larger operations to ensure their feedlots and manure application do not harm the state’s waters. The 50 delegated county feedlot programs register and work with 17,000 smaller livestock operations to meet the same goals.
- The Clean Water Partnership Loan Program provides about $4 million per year for projects focused on restoring and protecting waters, with most funding used for addressing septic systems. Federal Clean Water Act Section 319 grants provide $2.5 million per year for this purpose.

SERVICES PROVIDED

The Watershed Division conducts activities to ensure that the state’s lakes, rivers, streams, and groundwater are clean, healthy, and sustainable. These activities include:

- Investigating the causes and sources of water pollution problems, including stream sampling and providing training on monitoring for local partners.
- Developing and using comprehensive watershed computer models to fill in data gaps and to run scenarios of options for addressing pollution issues. Providing a user-friendly interface to allow local partners to run modeling scenarios.
- Working with local partners, and providing them funding, to develop Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategies reports for all 80 major watersheds. These reports are a blueprint for local water resource managers to use in their local water plans, half of which are complete across the state.
- Tracking progress of watershed activities in achieving water quality goals.
- Coordinating the use of and updating the statewide Nutrient Reduction Strategy to address the effects of excess nutrients in our waters and as far away as the “dead zone” in the Gulf of Mexico.
- Facilitating and overseeing grant, contract, and loan awards of state and federal funds to local partners for water quality projects, including clean water fund WRAPS development, Clean Water Partnership Loans, and federal Clean Water Act Section 319 implementation projects.
• Issuing feedlot permits, overseeing delegated county programs, providing compliance assistance, conducting inspections, and when necessary taking enforcement action. The program has moved to a more risk-based inspection approach in coordination with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency over the last few years.

RESULTS

WATER RESTORATION AND PROTECTION STRATEGY REPORTS COMPLETED OR PUBLICLY NOTICED

MPCA AND COUNTY FEEDLOT PROGRAMS’ ACTIVITIES

Approximately 18,500 feedlots are required to be registered statewide.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>MPCA</th>
<th>County</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) and State Disposal System (SDS) Permitted Facilities</td>
<td>1300 NPDES &amp; SDS  - 82 Individual Permits  - 1,218 General Permits</td>
<td>Counties are not authorized to issue NPDES and SDS permits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inspections:  • Compliance  • Construction  • Land application  • Complaint</td>
<td>256  - 63  - 84  - 27</td>
<td>2053  - 406  - 280  - 63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Owner Assistance Activities</td>
<td>12 outreach events plus monthly newsletters.</td>
<td>40 training workshops  - 50 news articles published.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Inspection stats are from 10/1/2016 – 9/30/2017; Permits issued is current status; Registration numbers are from 2014 (most current); Owner assistance activities are from 2017 (most recent).

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AT A GLANCE

- Board made up of citizens appointed by the Governor from each of Minnesota's eight Congressional Districts and the heads of nine state agencies
- Oversight of the Environmental Review Program as outlined in the Minnesota Environmental Policy Act (1973)
- Convenes monthly public meetings on the third Wednesday of every month to provide a forum for citizens and state leaders to collaborate on environmental policy
- Leads interagency coordination on emerging environmental issues
- Convenes Environmental Congresses, advisory panels, and other public events to provide avenues for meaningful citizen engagement
- Provides support to Local Governments on environmental review and the implementation of other environmental policies and programs
- Staff and monthly Board meetings located in the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency Building

PURPOSE & CONTEXT

Problems related to the environment often encompass the responsibilities of several state agencies. Developing innovative solutions that meet the diverse needs of Minnesota citizens requires the close interaction of these agencies as well as opportunities for public participation. The Environmental Quality Board facilitates strategic interaction of multiple state agencies, stewards environmental review processes that cross domains and jurisdictions, and provides forums for the public to engage in policy making processes.

The Environmental Quality Board is made up of eight citizens from each Congressional District in the state and the heads of nine state agencies organized under a broad mandate to strategically:

- Ensure adequate review and public understanding of proposed projects that would significantly influence Minnesota’s environment and development.
- Provide a public forum for discussion of state environmental policies and programs.
- Develop and lead an integrated response to environmental issues that are complex and have broad cross-sector impacts.
- Support local partners with guidance and technical resources.
- Foster connections between the environment, economy, health, transportation, and agriculture.
- Enrich the understanding of the ecological systems and natural resources important to the state and nation.

SERVICES PROVIDED

Environmental Review

- Customer Service: Provide technical assistance to project proposers, governmental units and citizens through guidance documents, online resources, technical presentations, and one-on-one assistance as requested.
- Measurement and accountability: Monitor statewide environmental review activities, measure the effectiveness of the program, report on results and trends, and identify areas for future improvement, assistance, and educational opportunities.
Continuous Improvement: Improve effectiveness and create efficiencies for citizens, governmental units, and project proposers through administrative rule revisions, training, and updated program guidance and tools.

Interagency Coordination and Strategic Planning
- Educate and Advise: Provide written reports to the governor, legislature, and state and local agencies on priority environmental issues, including policy considerations and economic analyses.
- Coordinate: Lead and facilitate interagency working groups to establish an integrated response to environmental issues that are complex and have broad cross-sector impacts.
- Outreach: Convene advisory panels to ensure citizen and stakeholder input informs state policies.
- Intergovernmental Partnerships: Provide technical assistance to local governments and facilitate state-local partnerships to advance environmental goals.

Public Engagement
- Engage: Convene public meetings, stakeholder discussions, and congresses to provide a forum for public dialogue with agency leaders to build mutual understanding, foster cross-sector connections, and collaborate on solutions. Plan monthly board meetings to foster citizen participation in decision making processes.
- Inform: Produce public reports on key environmental issues of interest to Minnesota citizens. Distribute via board meeting packets relevant scientific, economic, and policy documents that help citizens be informed on policy making processes.

RESULTS
- Processed 13 citizen petitions, 157 Environmental Assessment Worksheets (EAWs), 19 Alternative Urban Areawide Reviews (AUARs), and five Environmental Impact Statements (EISs).
- Proposed administrative rule revisions to streamline Environmental Review.
- Developed an Enterprise Environmental Review and Technical Services Master Contract Program to improve document quality and achieve efficiency in contracting process.
- Led and facilitated vast interagency efforts on climate planning, pollinator health, water policy development, statewide environmental metric development, and silica sand regulation to better coordinate state efforts.
- As directed by Executive Order 16-07, facilitated the development and publication of a citizen advisory board’s Pollinator Policy Recommendations and the interagency technical team’s Framework for Pollinator Action.
- As directed by Executive Order 18-09, convened a Wild Rice Task Force to develop recommendations to protect the health of wild rice.
- In support of the Governor’s 25 by 2025 initiative, hosted 10 Town Hall meetings across the state, generating over 3,500 suggestions for improving water quality from over 2,000 meeting attendees.
- Assisted 121 cities and through Tribal Nations through the GreenStep Cities program.

M.S. 116C & 116D provide the legal authority for Environmental Quality Board operations and initiatives.