








**Amendment Funding Tops List of Conservation Accomplishments;
Too Little Action Taken on Global Warming Solutions**

How'd we do?	
 	<p>Safeguarding Investments for Minnesota's Future <u>Upholding the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Constitutional Amendment</u> The Legislature fulfilled the promise of the Legacy amendment by authorizing one of the most comprehensive efforts to protect and restore Minnesota's Great Outdoors, with more than \$300 million in new projects. The amendment allocations for the Great Outdoors contain:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$151 million for clean water projects including testing of all Minnesota waters in the next 10 years and implementation of clean-up programs. • \$87.5 million to protect land and wildlife habitat, including the state's largest conservation easement of 187,000 acres for the Upper Mississippi Forest. In addition, there is \$63.5 million set aside for further land and wildlife habitat projects to be identified and authorized in 2011. • \$65 million to support Minnesota's state, regional and metro parks. <p><u>Moving Minnesota: Protecting Transit Investments</u> Last year's historic transportation investment, meant to expand transit choices, relieve traffic congestion, and reduce global warming pollution, was safeguarded. In addition, the omnibus transportation finance bill filled the transit operating deficit, although a long-term funding plan for buses is still needed.</p>
	<p>Driving Innovation: Clean Cars for Minnesota Even though the Governor and the Legislature failed to adopt clean car standards in Minnesota for the second year in a row, the Obama administration announced plans on May 19 to enact a federal Clean Cars Standard. This new federal initiative will save Americans money, clean up our air and reduce global warming pollution from tailpipe emissions in all states across the country. The new federal standards will reduce tailpipe emissions by 30 percent by 2016, the same goal as in the proposed Minnesota Clean Car Standard legislation.</p> <p>With the new national clean car standard soon to be in place, we can now focus on other needed reforms to reduce global warming pollution here in Minnesota. We look forward to 2010 and a renewed commitment from the Governor and the Legislature to enact policies that will achieve Minnesota's requirement for an 80 percent reduction in global warming pollution by 2050.</p>
	<p>Building Sensible Communities The Legislature and Governor took several steps to give Minnesotans more options about how they get around, helping to reduce global warming and air pollution, traffic congestion, and driving. These are a good start in changing how we build our communities, but more can and should be done.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At the top of the list of positive steps is a change in school siting rules that gives communities more local control about where new schools are located. No longer will school districts be forced to build schools at the edge of town – sometimes in the middle of cornfields. • Another legislative action will result in the Metropolitan Council helping communities determine how land use and transportation plans affect residents' options about where they live and how they get around.
	<p>Safe Mines to Protect Our Water The Legislature failed to act this session on a proposal to assure that new sulfide mines are operated in a way that protects our lakes, rivers and streams from acid mine drainage. With inadequate laws on the books and sulfide mining proposals looming on the horizon, we cannot afford to delay efforts to protect Minnesotans from the problems that have accompanied sulfide mines in other states, including taxpayers left to pay exorbitant clean-up costs.</p>

KEY:  Good work  Okay  Failed to make progress

Additional Environmental Legislation Enacted in 2009

BPA-Free Baby Products – Minnesota became the first state to prohibit the use of bisphenol A (BPA) and hormone disrupting chemical in baby bottles and “sippy” cups. BPA leaches out of plastics, cans, and various other consumer products threatening public health and our environment. Endocrine disrupting chemicals like BPA have been found to leach out of Minnesota landfills, sometimes 20 years after they have been closed, and contaminate the environment and adversely affect our wildlife and ecosystems. For more information, contact Lindsay Dahl of the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy at 612.870.3458 or ldahl@iatp.org.

Toxic Free Kids Act – The Toxic Free Kids Act takes an important first step to address toxic chemicals used in children’s products, and eventually reduce the use of those chemicals. This law requires the Department of Health to prioritize chemicals used in consumer products, based on their toxicity. The law also calls for the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency to report on mechanisms to reduce the use of toxic chemicals in consumer products, how Minnesota can advance the use of safer alternatives. This legislation takes a visionary approach to addressing chemicals and actively seeks to reduce the unnecessary exposure of toxics in our homes and environment. For more information, contact Lindsay Dahl of the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy at 612.870.3458 or ldahl@iatp.org.

Climate Registry – This law directs the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency to establish a state climate registry and requires Minnesota businesses to report their greenhouse gas emissions to the registry, providing the information for future new laws to curb those gases. For more information, contact Allison Wolf of the Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy at 651.223.5969 or awolf@mncenter.org.

Reduction of “Superwarmers” Emissions: High-Potential Greenhouse Gases – This law fine tunes last year’s bill to cut the amount of high-potential greenhouse gases released to the atmosphere. Nitrogen trifluoride, used in consumer electronics, was added to the list of these “Superwarmers” that manufacturers and big users must report to the state. For more information, contact Allison Wolf of the Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy at 651.223.5969 or awolf@mncenter.org.

Creating Green Jobs – This bill achieved a significant victory in using federal Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) dollars to create jobs that help solve global warming, paving the way for continued investments that will be needed to build the new, clean energy economy. Over \$200 million will be used for energy efficiency retrofits on public buildings, weatherization for low-income families, residential energy efficiency and outreach, industrial energy efficiency, renewable energy projects – including for schools and local governments, and funding for training and workforce development. For more information, contact Margaret Levin of Sierra Club at 612-659-9124 or Margaret.levin@sierraclub.org, or contact Justin Fay at 612-251-1457 or jfay612@gmail.com.

Recommendations of the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources – The Legislature and Governor approved most of the recommendations of the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources to appropriate \$25.7 million of available funds to more than 60 environment and natural resources projects. Several MEP member groups received funding in the bill - visit the LCCMR web site for a list of projects and details: www.lccmr.leg.mn.

Protect Minnesota’s Future

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