



Minnesota Environmental Partnership

Member Benefits

Who We Are

Minnesota Environmental Partnership (MEP) is a coalition working to coordinate and strengthen Minnesota's environmental and conservation community. We believe that by working together and building the capacity of individual organizations, we build the clout and influence of the entire environmental and conservation community.

Our Mission

MEP's mission is to strengthen the effectiveness and build the power of our members to achieve the highest quality natural environment for Minnesota.

What We Do

We provide important outreach, communications and technical assistance; forge new partnerships between a diversity of organizations; create an engaged constituency of environmentally-concerned citizens; build the capacity of our member groups; and utilize the strength of our combined efforts to advance public policies that will protect and restore Minnesota's environment.

Associate and Investing Member Benefits

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As a coalition, we can harness the power of working together toward a shared vision of environmental stewardship. All members receive the following benefits:

Web Based Outreach and Technical Systems

NEWS WATCH

The News Watch is a daily e-mail that contains links to the most up-to-date stories from daily and influential weekly newspapers in Minnesota.

ONLINE REGISTRATION SYSTEM

Members have access to the use of MEP's online registration system for events. The system automatically puts registrants and their information into an Excel database for easy use.

SIGN-ON LETTERS

Members may use MEP's online sign-on letter system to create letters and solicit sign-ons from other member organizations to demonstrate support for an issue.

MEP BLOG

MEP's blog, Loon Commons (www.LoonCommons.org), provides a forum for discussion and information sharing on emerging and current environmental and conservation issues in Minnesota. It also gives members the opportunity to blog on their own topics.

WEEKLY UPDATE

The Update is a weekly e-mail newsletter that contains information about upcoming events, announcements, action opportunities, capacity building opportunities and job listings. Member organizations have the opportunity to not only receive this newsletter but to contribute to it as well.

LISTSERVS

MEP hosts government relations and communications listservs for our members to keep them informed and to provide a quick and easy way to exchange information.

WEB-BASED COMMUNICATIONS CENTER

This website is interactive and has many features available to our member organizations including the capability to post events, news items, press releases and job openings. Another feature is easily accessible, members-only area where information of interest to other member organizations may be posted or downloaded.

Networking and Communication

COMMUNICATIONS GROUP

This group provides a forum for sharing information and discussing emerging communications strategies. Meetings of this group are open to all MEP members.

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Via meetings and listserv, this committee provides the forum for all member groups and clusters to strategize, coordinate and share information on legislative initiatives.

ISSUE CLUSTERS

All member groups are encouraged to be a part of these working groups (see next page).

MEMBER MEETINGS

MEP offers a forum where member organizations may present or learn about environmental issues of interest.

MEDIA GUIDE

A comprehensive guide to Minnesota's conservation and environmental media outlets.

Additional Member Benefits

VOTING RIGHTS

All members are eligible to vote on by-laws changes and in Board elections.

LIVING GREEN EXPO PARTICIPATION

The Living Green Expo is a free event that inspires people to lead healthier and more sustainable lives. Members receive a discount on exhibitor registration.

CONTRACT OPPORTUNITIES

Associate members are eligible to submit proposals for contract opportunities with MEP that are under \$3,000. Investing members may submit for all contraction opportunities.

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES AND SCHOLARSHIPS

MEP offers our members a range of training opportunities each year. We hire the experts to present trainings on messaging, lobbying, and more. In addition, members may be eligible to receive partial scholarships to attend trainings offered by other organizations that they might not otherwise be able to attend.

FREE USE OF CONFERENCE ROOM

All member groups may schedule the use of MEP's conference room free of charge.

Investing Member Premium Benefits

Power and productivity comes from joining forces and working together toward a common vision. Together we are stronger. Investing members receive all of the benefits of associate membership, plus the following additional benefits:

ISSUE CLUSTERS

Member organizations have the opportunity to start or join working groups around a particular issue area. Clusters help facilitate working together and are eligible to apply for special funding opportunities as well as propose topics for the collaborative legislative agenda. MEP can help with convening meetings and hosting listservs and websites for clusters. Cluster groups must be led by an investing member.

CONTRACT OPPORTUNITIES

MEP often contracts with member groups for work that benefits the coalition and our members. Organizing special events and outreach are recent examples. Investing Members are eligible to submit proposals for all MEP contract opportunities.

ANNUAL COLLABORATIVE LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVE

To help create unity and build power for the environmental community, MEP facilitates the selection of an annual state policy initiative. Investing Members nominate and select the legislative issues to be included. Issues that are considered for the collaborative agenda must have an investing member as the lead group. In addition, a total of at least three sponsoring organizations must be investing members. There is a substantial set of benefits associated with being part of the annual collaborative legislative initiative.

These benefits may include:

- Direct lobbying by MEP consultants
- Public opinion research and polling
- Message development
- Messaging training
- Communications training
- Design and production of factsheets and other educational materials
- Media relations assistance including editorial board meetings, opinion pieces and letters to the editor
- Assistance from MEP staff and consultants on legislative strategy and coordination
- Free listing in the environmental briefing packet
- Issues featured at district meetings, the MEP Legislative Forum, the Living Green Expo and elsewhere
- Phoning to mobilize citizens in targeted districts when needed
- E-mail alerts to mobilize activists around the state or in targeted areas
- Use of MEP imprimatur
- Paid media
- Citizen outreach organizing in targeted regions of the state

Fee-Based Services

As a coalition, we can harness the power of working together toward a shared vision of environmental stewardship. All members receive the following benefits:

ACTION ALERT NETWORK

The email action alert network is a web-based tool MEP provides to our members which allows constituents to be contacted via email to send alerts to elected officials, state agency staff or others. Members of the action network may initiate an alert to their members and invite other participating organizations to join in at any time.

Any MEP member organization may join the action alert network by uploading their email action lists into the system. The system is set up so that only the administrator of a given organization is able to see or edit that organization's member data. No other organization has access to your member data.

Member organizations are charged a data upload fee that ranges from \$50-\$200 depending on the amount and idiosyncrasies of the data provided. Member organizations are also charged for any faxes generated by an alert they initiate. In the past, there was a charge to associate members for hosting. This means they were charged based on the volume of names they had in the system. This year, there will be no charge to associate members.

In exchange for free hosting and unlimited use of this service to member groups, it is MEP's hope that members of the action alert network will participate in group action alerts, including opt-in and opt-out alerts initiated by MEP on our collaborative agenda issues.

CAPACITY BUILDING OPPORTUNITIES

MEP sponsors trainings on several different topics throughout the year. Trainings have included sessions on effective messaging, advocacy, fundraising, and technology. We also offer scholarships to our members to attend various other trainings deemed appropriate. Fees or rates to be determined.

BLAST FAX AND E-MAIL

MEP offers the capability to send press releases or other items of interest to news media throughout Minnesota. All members are charged \$25 per use. This fee may be waived if the issue is part of MEP's collaborative agenda.

BRIEFING PACKET

Members can have their legislative issues published in the annual publication MEP creates and distributes. This information is distributed to all state legislators and their staff, media outlets and the public. Fees to be determined.

WEBSITE ASSISTANCE

MEP staff assists members in creating websites using a template similar to the main MEP web page for a one-time set up charge of \$100 and a \$15 monthly fee for hosting. These fees may be waived if the issue in question is part of MEP's collaborative agenda.

Investing and Associate Member Dues

Refer to the following schedule to determine your annual dues. MEP member contribution scale for fiscal year 2010 (July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2010) based on your organization's previous year budget. Dues will remain the same for fiscal year 2011 (July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2011):

ORGANIZATION'S BUDGET	INVESTING MEMBER DUES	ASSOCIATE MEMBER DUES
Up to \$200,000	\$625	\$115
\$200,00 - \$500,000	\$1,250	\$225
\$500,000 - \$800,00	\$1,875	\$350
\$800,000 - \$1,000,00	\$2,500	\$500
Over \$1,000,000	\$3,500	\$625

All benefits described in this packet are subject to change without notice. For additional information please contact Shannon Brumbaugh at 651.789.0656 or shannonbrumbaugh@MEPartnership.org.