

# Legislative Outcomes against MEP Collaborative Priorities 2021

*Building forward at the scale and timeline our communities need: Climate Change • Racial Justice • Economic Recovery*

## The Following MEP Priorities Became Law in 2021

### Protecting Dedicated Funds

- Over \$130 million in Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund allocations for 2020 and 2021 were passed, including projects originally recommended by the LCCMR, additional projects, and no projects that violate the constitutional dedication of these funds.
- Clean Water Fund appropriations highlights included \$4 million to incentivize farmers who own and rent land to implement cover crops on the landscape and \$4 million for the Forever Green Initiative at the University of Minnesota to develop and promote continuous living cover cropping systems. Unfortunately, the legislature also allocated \$24 million in base operational funding for Soil and Water Conservation Districts. This is inconsistent with voter intent and constitutional language of the Legacy Amendment which does not allow these funds to be used as a substitute for traditional sources of funding.

### Agriculture

- Incentivizing 100% Soil-Healthy Farming
  - \$4 m. from Clean Water Fund to incentivize farmers who own and rent land to implement cover crops
  - \$1.35 m. from General Fund to administer a cost-share program for implementing farming practices that build soil health and improve water quality
- Fully funding Forever Green (\$10 million) through General Fund and Clean Water Fund appropriations
  - \$4 m. from Clean Water Fund for Forever Green research into next generation cropping systems like Kernza

### Climate

- Investing in natural carbon solutions: forests, prairies, and regenerative agriculture practices.
  - DNR is to set goals for carbon sequestration for state forests

### Energy

- Allowing utilities to encourage “fuel-switching” and increasing CIP energy efficiency savings goals.
  - *ECO Act: Energy Conservation & Optimization* was enacted as a stand-alone bill.

## The Following Policies Receiving MEP Support Did Not Become Law in 2021

### Agriculture

- Enacting a moratorium on mega-dairies (over 1000 animal units) (Land Stewardship Project)
- Expanding local and regional food markets and processing facilities (Land Stewardship Project)

## The Following Policies Receiving MEP Support Did Not Become Law in 2021 (cont.)

### Energy

- Updating MN's 2007 emissions reduction goals and benchmarks to meet needs outlined by current science. *Next Generation Energy Act Revision* (MN Center for Environmental Advocacy)
- Requiring MPCA to evaluate cumulative impacts on communities that will be impacted by a project seeking a permit. *MN Frontline Communities Protection Act, also known as Cumulative Impacts Bill* (COPAL, Community Members for Environmental Justice)

### Revenue

- Passing new revenue sources to meet the needs of our communities across the state.

### Transportation

- Passing a funding mechanism to build-out and support a first-class Bus Rapid Transit and auxiliary transit system over the next 10 years. (Move Minnesota, Sierra Club)
- Increasing the dedicated portion of flexible federal funds to support active transportation and enacting other dedicated funding for transit, biking and walking.  
*Omnibus Active Transportation Improvements Bill* (Bicycle Alliance of Minnesota)

### Waste

- Enabling repair of electronics by local professionals who might otherwise be blocked from proprietary software information -- from phones to tractors. *Right to Repair* (Environment Minnesota)
- Requiring the accuracy of labels on compostable products to protect the quality of compost (Minnesota Composting Council -- Eureka Recycling, MEP member)

### Water, Lands and Wildlife

- Requiring that industry show a successful example of a copper nickel sulfide mine that has operated for 10 years and been closed for 10 years without polluting before building such a mine in Minnesota.  
*Prove it First* (Friends of Boundary Water Wilderness)
- Enacting a ban on sulfide-ore copper mining on state lands and prohibiting the issuance of state permits, licenses or leases anywhere within the Rainy River Headwaters.  
*Boundary Waters Permanent Protection Bill* (Northeastern Minnesotans for Wilderness)
- Repealing an exemption to MN Endangered Species Law (Friends of MN Scientific and Natural Areas)
- Banning lead fishing tackle and ammunition (Friends of MN Scientific and Natural Areas)
- Requiring water testing at time of property sale (MN Well Owners Organization)
- Replacing 100,000+ lead drinking water service lines across Minnesota.

## Pollinators

- Reversing a state pesticide preemption rule to give local communities more control over pesticide use on public and private property. (Pollinator FriendlyAlliance)
- Providing state incentives to farmers to voluntarily transition from neonicotinoid-treated corn or soybean seed to neonic-free seed. (Pollinator FriendlyAlliance)
- Labeling and regulating insecticide-treated seed as a pesticide (Pollinator FriendlyAlliance)
- Prohibiting use of neonicotinoid insecticides in more protected wildlife areas including parks (local, regional, state), state forest land, aquatic management areas, DNR scientific and nature areas, nature preserves and wildlife management areas. (Pollinator FriendlyAlliance)
- Increasing through state incentives pesticide-free habitat corridors in urban and rural communities on public and private lands including public building property, residential yards, schools, parks, and campuses. (Pollinator FriendlyAlliance)

## The Following Rollbacks Were Successfully Defended Against

- Bills to roll back free speech around critical infrastructure.
- Bills to roll back water quality and water supply standards.

## These Rollbacks Became Law

- A bill to relax manure regulations for feedlots.

