BLUEPRINT

FOR OUR FUTURE

*Building forward at the **scale and pace** we need for our communities, ecosystems, and climate.*

MEP Policy Priority

Minnesota Environmental Partnership

MEPartnership.org

2022 BRIEFING BOOK

Three interconnected environmental emergencies face our communities, here and around the globe:

> The climate crisis
> The destruction of ecosystems
> Pollution.

People caused these problems. But people can fix them.

As the 2021 United Nations Report said,

"Humanity is waging war on nature. This is senseless and suicidal. The consequences of our recklessness are already apparent in human suffering, towering economic losses and the accelerating erosion of life of Earth.

Making peace with nature is the defining task of the coming decade."

Whether black, white, brown or Indigenous. Whether we live in a skyscraper or where the sky touches the river. We deserve clean water, pure air and land that produces abundance.

We deserve safe communities, strong schools, and time to find joy with our families.

But we also deserve a sense of peace for ourselves. A peace that rests in the knowledge that our way of life did not compromise the future for our children or the other creatures who call this planet home. We didn't destroy the best of this earth.

We evolved our ways and brought it back to life.

Photo: CURE

Climate Plan

We aren't meeting our greenhouse gas reduction goals. In fact, we're going backwards. But we can turn that around.

Youth Climate Strike, September 25, 2020, Minnesota State Capitol.

Required by science: Getting to zero.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), made up of scientists from 195 countries including the United States, agree that to limit the most devastating impacts of climate change, the world must reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions 45% by 2030 while being on a trajectory to zero emissions by 2050.

Getting to zero emissions means that it is not enough to employ technologies that reduce our greenhouse gas emissions, we must build out the infrastructure for technologies that eliminate them.

No Dead End Pathways – No Fake Solutions.

Solutions that make marginal or partial greenhouse gas reductions but can't take us all the way to zero emissions are dead-end pathways. They may make progress towards a particular reduction benchmark, but then whole systems will need to be reconstructed to go the final distance. Dead-end pathways divert our collective time, investment, research and energy – and wastes our window of opportunity to tackle the climate crisis.

Here are some of the fake solutions we must avoid:

- "Clean Coal" or "Renewable Natural Gas" (RNG) from factory farms that poison our water.
- Continued investment in "natural" or fossil gas, which is mostly methane.
- Capturing carbon from fossil fuel plants and "sequestering" it for Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR).
- Expanding highways, which increases total driving, measured as Vehicle Miles Travelled (VMT).
- Incentivizing more corn-based ethanol with subsidies, E-15 mandates, or carbon dioxide pipelines.

We are out of time for the solutions we adopt to address just one problem. We must think holistically.

Corn-based ethanol can't get us to our climate, water or ecosystem goals.

Ethanol was not developed to reduce greenhouse gas pollution – and it's not effective at it.

Corn based ethanol and ethanol-blended gasoline emit nearly as many GHG emissions as gasoline. However, corporate agribusiness, standing to profit from ethanol mandates, have marketed negligible differences in hopes of securing markets for ethanol into the future.

Tail-pipe Emissions Comparison[1]:

> Burning a gallon of gasoline: 19.64 pounds of CO_2[2]
> Burning a gallon of E-10: 18.95 pounds of CO_2
> Burning a gallon of pure ethanol: 12.72 pounds of CO_2
(For demonstrative purposes)

Every mile traveled on ethanol blends adds to the climate crisis, nearly as much as gasoline.

Ethanol promoters, working to rebrand it as climate-friendly, look for advantages over gasoline found in life-cycle emissions, from creation of the ethanol product to its ultimate use. But studies vary widely, some finding that life cycle emissions from corn ethanol is 39 - 43% better than gasoline,[2] others finding that ag practices and land conversion for corn crops mean that ethanol is even worse for the climate than the fossil fuel.[3] Add on the harmful water impacts brought about by corn and ethanol production – from Minnesota to the Gulf of Mississippi – and it becomes clear: our future needs something better.

Right now, rural communities and the corn-based ethanol economy are interdependent. That's why new resources and policy solutions need to be focused, not on furthering that reliance, but on helping rural communities move into regenerative agriculture systems that support family farms. These systems could include other biofuels and renewable energy.

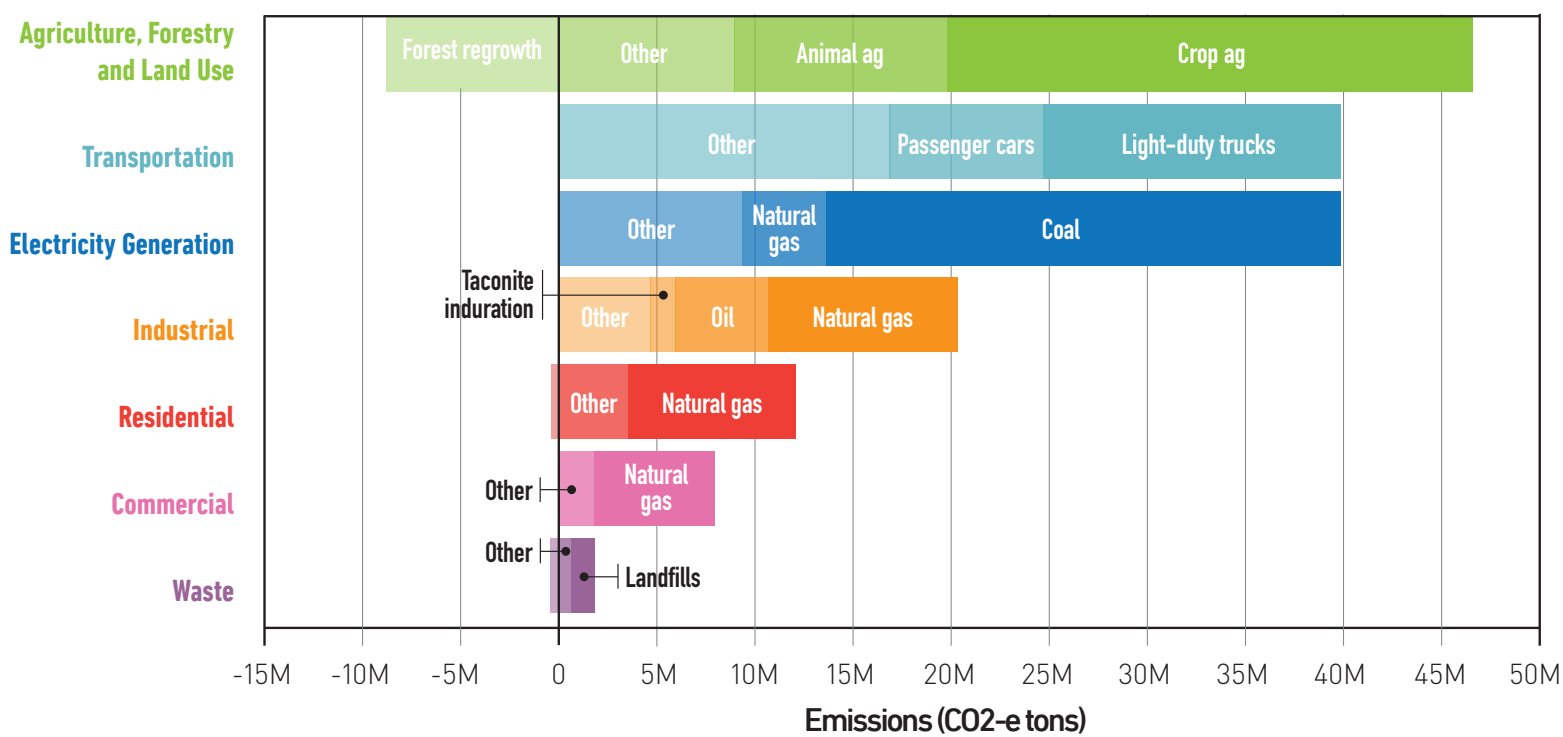
[1] FAQ - U.S.-Energy-Information Administration-EIA.pdf
[2] Why do carbon dioxide (CO_2) emissions weigh more than the original fuel? The CO_2 that is produced from burning a fuel weighs more than the fuel itself because during combustion, each carbon atom combines with two oxygen atoms in the air to make CO_2.
[3] A Lifecycle Analysis of the Green House Gas Emissions from Corn Based Ethanol, a report prepared for the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture by ICF, September 5, 2018, p. 99. And see also Environmental Outcomes of the US Renewable Fuel Standard, March 1, 2022, a study published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences finding ethanol worse for climate than gasoline.

Farmers, researchers, and policymakers gathered at a Forever Green Field Day at the University of Minnesota in July 2021 to see next generation regenerative crops – crops designed to be both profitable and beneficial to the water and land.

Renewable electricity generation is at the center of transitioning our economy to become GHG emission free. But it is only the beginning.

As we look for solutions, it is important to make sure investments serve the end we need to achieve. It is not enough to reduce GHG emissions, we must eliminate them.

This picture of our state's GHG emissions and storage helps us see where to put our efforts.



Reproduced from a graph and data from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency available at pca.state.mn.us/air/greenhouse-gas-emissions-data.

Photo: Laurie Schneider

So how does Minnesota help the planet reach zero emissions in time?

STEP 1: Commit to the goals established by science: zero emissions.

We can't get there if we don't understand where we are going.

The Next Generation Climate Act legislation will update greenhouse gas emission reduction goals in Minnesota law to reflect today's science and shape our policy decisions accordingly.

STEP 2: Measure our actions.

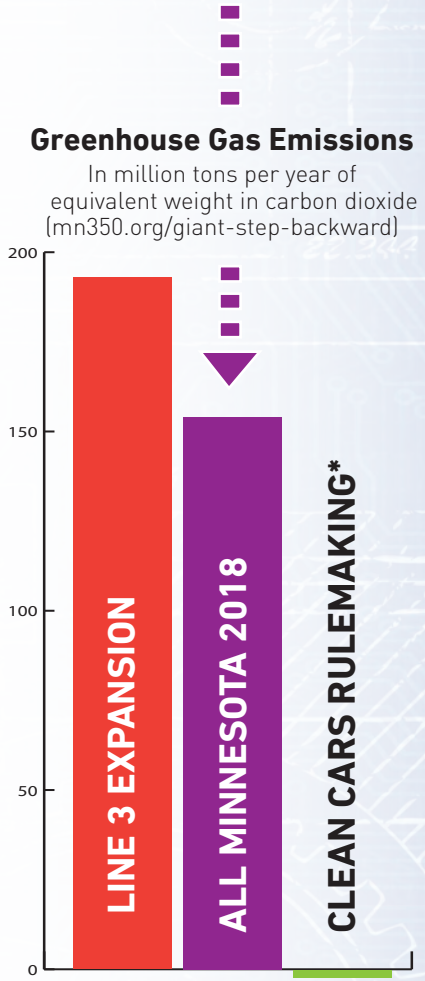
Every policy, permit and expenditure Minnesota undertakes must be done with a clear understanding of how it will either reduce or add to the emissions causing our climate crisis.

Small steps forward can be easily undone by large steps backward.
See graph on the right. **>>>**

We must focus our investments in building the foundation that will serve our future.

> **"Equity must be at the center of the global response... Wealthier countries will have to cut emissions more quickly, making reductions by 2030 beyond those currently proposed and reaching net-zero emissions before 2050."**

From the New England Journal of Medicine editorial signed by 19 international medical journals, September 16, 2021.



*Initial estimates show that the Clean Cars Rulemaking advanced by the Walz administration will lower annual greenhouse gas emissions by 2 million metric tons by the year 2030.

STEP 3: Develop a plan to meet zero emissions by 2040.

With less than 8 years to achieve a global 45% reduction of GHG emissions, **we must move forward at a scale and pace that allows us to meet** not only Minnesota's contribution to emission reductions, but helps the rest of the world meet its timeline, too.

To do this, we need a comprehensive plan. We need a blueprint.

Blueprints set a vision for the future and provide a possible plan to make it happen.

Policy and investments to transform multiple systems in our economy must be designed to achieve the results we seek: **An equitable, sustainable economy on a timeline that makes a difference.**

Common Good

Our public institutions were created to serve people and our environment. But too often these agencies treat industry like their primary clients, overlooking sound science, the interests of people, and the clean water, air, and lands that sustain life.

Headwaters of the Mississippi River before Line 3 construction. Photos: Ron Turney, Indigenous Environmental Network.

In our better future, our government must act for the Common Good: our climate, water and land.

Line 3 Tar Sands Pipeline
Frac-outs predicted; risks ignored

Last year's construction of Line 3 pipeline has breached at least **3** artesian aquifers. It left at least **28** deposits of "inadvertently" pumped drilling sludge in the subsurface along Minnesota's most pristine waters and wild rice beds. And it has shown Enbridge to be a bad partner in stewardship:

- Misrepresenting risks;
- Violating permits; and
- Covering up environmental damage from regulators.

All while telling the public that construction was a success and that they are good environmental stewards. Our state regulatory agencies, through their actions and inactions, facilitated speedy completion of the pipeline over protection of our water and environment.

The fact that each of these infractions is a permit violation is of little solace: aquifers have been drained, sludge will be contaminating the drinking and surface waters of these areas for generations.

Each of these failures was not only predictable but was indeed predicted – by scientists and advocates who weighed in at every opportunity. Our agencies had all the information, laws, and tools they needed to protect Minnesota lands, waters and people. Yet, this pollution happened.

State agencies should now require its clean-up and be transparent about the harms from pipeline construction.

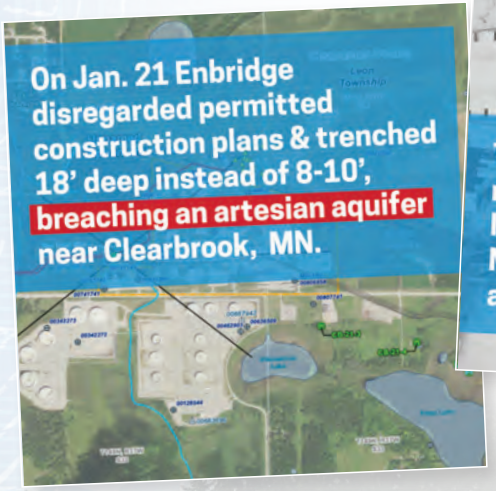
Please see **mepartnership.org/line3/aquifer-breach** for more details.

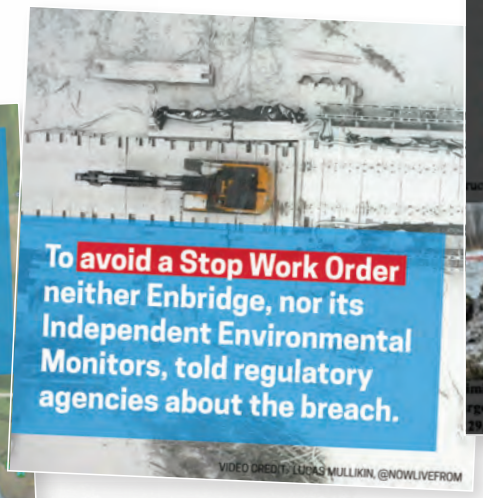
Though in its permit application Enbridge claimed the risk of drilling sludge frac-outs was "low," by the end of its horizontal directional drilling (HDD) under 15 pristine Minnesota streams and rivers, the pipeline company reported 28 frac-outs. Enbridge is so far refusing to share details about how much drilling sludge it pumped into the subsurface and left behind in and around our aquifers. Though the PCA said impacts from HDD would be "temporary," these huge deposits of drilling mud are continually seeping to the surface, polluting groundwater, our streams and wetlands, and will do so for generations.

This photo was taken on September 28, two months after drilling at the Headwaters was complete.

MEP will continue calling on state officials to require investigation and repair of damage from Line 3 construction that is polluting surface and groundwater, wetlands, wild rice beds and other sensitive ecosystems.

A year of gushing water out of the artesian aquifer near Clearbrook, MN





The Minnesota DNR has not disclosed the location of the other 2 aquifer breaches caused by Enbridge, claiming that MN Data Practices Act prevents them from doing so. These failures to share information shield Enbridge from public criticism and the impact full knowledge of the damage this pipeline has caused would have on the operation of Line 3, but also on other Enbridge projects, such as Line 5 in Michigan.

People at the Treaties not Tar Sands rally at the State Capitol in August 2021. Photo: Indigenous Environmental Network.

Other large scale projects threaten our landscape, and our climate action.

Sulfide Mining in our water-rich Northeastern areas are a risk to people and ecosystems. PolyMet would destroy 1,000 acres of wetlands, two-thirds of which are peatland – a critical carbon sink. The CO2 emissions from wetland destruction alone would be more than the yearly greenhouse gas emissions of an average coal plant.

Liquid CO2 pipelines designed to carry this greenhouse gas captured from ethanol production through hundreds of miles of south and southwestern Minnesota, are an effort to "green up" and save the ethanol industry at the expense of the taxpayers paying for it through subsidies. Ravaging more landscapes for pipelines, even to "sequester" carbon or use it to push out more fossil fuels, is not a solution to our climate crisis.

Minnesota's Part: Protecting Our Peatlands

The ground that Minnesotans walk upon is among our most significant pieces of the climate puzzle: this includes Minnesota's six million acres of peatland soils which can pose a threat or an opportunity. Protecting and restoring peat soils, on the other hand, can help our natural systems work to prevent climate pollution and should be included in our development of effective climate protection strategies and healthier farming in Minnesota.

Extracting Large-Scale Forest Resources Needs Full Review

The Huber Engineered Woods Facility is a planned industrial project in Cohasset that would consume roughly 900,000 tons of timber from the surrounding area and emit about 450,000 tons of carbon dioxide annually. While wood products are generally sustainable building materials, this project's impact on surrounding communities and ecosystems requires further study. The facility would especially heavily affect the resources and air quality of the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe, and the Band has called for an environmental impact statement on the project.

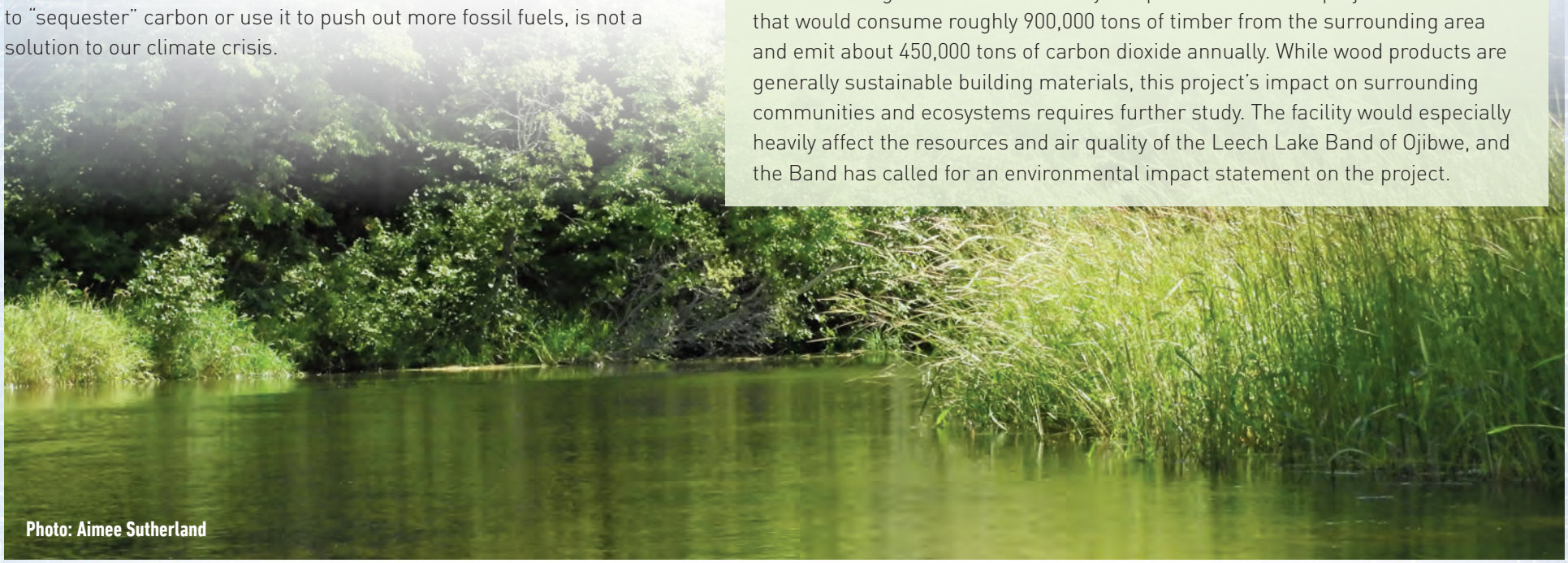


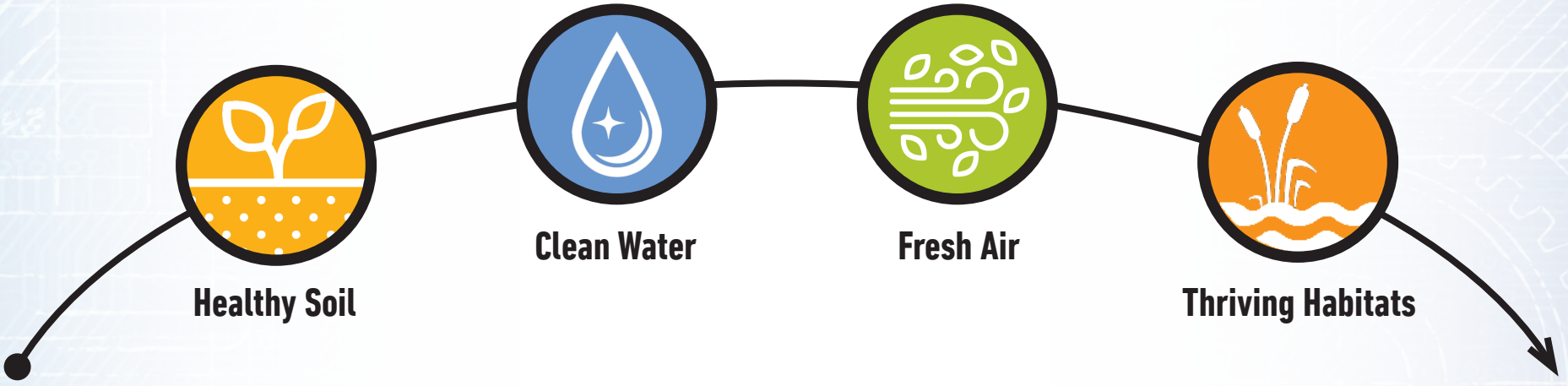
Photo: Aimee Sutherland

We have better solutions. Turn the page.

Prosperity by Design

From the farm to the city and everywhere in between –
we all need the same things:

Photo: Laurie Schneider, Pollinator Friendly Alliance



Healthy Soil

Investing in Farmers and their Future:

- Set a goal of 5.75 million acres of ag land receiving soil-healthy practices by 2030, 12.5 million acres by 2035, 25 million acres by 2040.
- Financially support farmers transitioning to soil-health farming practices.
- Fund Farmer Resiliency Planning.
- Support small and medium-sized meat processors (50 or fewer FTEs) with safety and business training, technical assistance, MDA resource staff to help navigate inspection processes, subsidized meat-processor education and apprenticeship programs.

Clean Water

Developing the Next Generation of Crops:

- Fund the Forever Green Initiative at the University of MN to develop the next generation of winter-hardy perennial and winter-annual cropping systems that protect our water, improve soil health and climate resiliency, and enhance farm prosperity.
- Fund Continuous Living Cover Value-Chain Development, a grant program for supply-chain businesses within the emerging Continuous Living Cover farming sector that will grow the markets and products for these crops.

Fresh Air

Cumulative Impacts Analysis:

Require the PCA to evaluate the cumulative impacts of pollution already affecting communities when new projects are seeking a permit to pollute in an area.

Clean Fuel Standard Legislation:

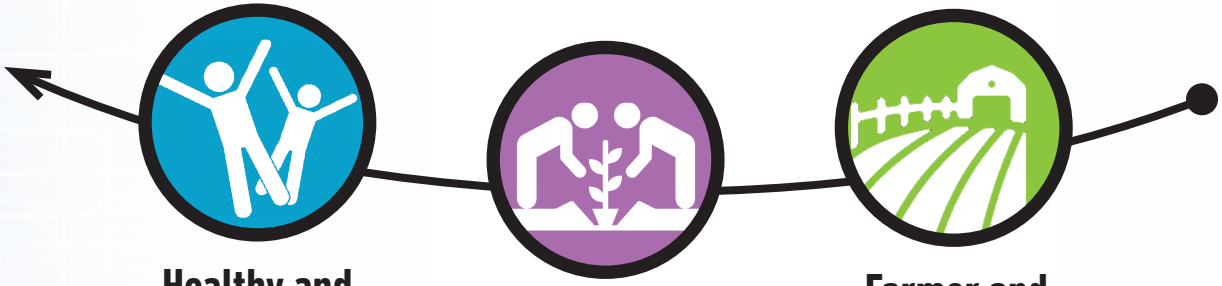
This policy is currently in development and has the potential to be harmful if it expands or invests in the corn-based ethanol that degrades our waters and contributes to climate change.

Community Tree Planting

Thriving Habitats

Protecting Habitat:

- Invest in Natural Climate Solutions, like the Conservation Reserve Easement Program (CREP), Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM), DNR land acquisition, the restoration of prairies and forests, and community tree planting.
- Highways for Habitat is a roadside habitat management program that mandates ecologically sound practices along state highways and provides funding for the program and an ecologist manager.
- All cities should allow native plant landscaping.
- Plants otherwise protected by MN endangered species law shouldn't be exempted from special care if they are found within Minnesota's 135,000 miles of public rights of way. We need to repeal a recent state law that lowered this standard of care.



Healthy and Happy People — **Vibrant Communities** — **Farmer and Family Prosperity**

Let's Lighten Our Energy Burden

What is our energy system costing us?

We all have energy expenses – the cost of keeping our homes warm, our lights on, and our bodies in the right place at the right time. But when we rely on fossil fuels, the energy we use costs more than just money.

This year's budget surplus is a chance to reduce our energy burden, air pollution and climate impact – for families, schools, businesses, for everyone. All while making our lives better.

The Way We Live

Solar on Public Infrastructure – like airports and universities.

Building retrofits towards net-zero such as combining solar, HVAC and efficiency Improvements for schools, public buildings and affordable housing.

Water infrastructure paired with renewables to reduce operation costs for cities and towns. Minnesota should invest at least $300 million to replace and improve aging infrastructure and upgrade water treatment facilities.

Pre-Weatherization and Weatherization Assistance to make homes warm and energy efficient, and to save families money.

Weatherization workforce development

Rebates for electric appliances and vehicles to advance the transition to renewables.

THE ANNUAL COST OF CAR OWNERSHIP IN 2021 WAS $9600. IF YOU INVESTED THAT AT 6% STARTING AT AGE 21 YOU WOULD HAVE OVER $2 MILLION BY THE TIME YOU RETIRE.

The Way We Move

Electrification of school and transit buses so we can get around and breathe clean air.

Bus Rapid Transit in the Metro – the next four BRT lines to build out a great system: F, G, H lines and a fourth line to be determined.

Greater MN Transit – we need to invest now to enable planning, sustained growth and support.

Active Transportation – like Safe Routes to Schools for our kids, for all of us.

Passenger Rail – from Duluth to the Twin Cities.

Ever been to a place that has systems for walking, biking, rolling or riding safely almost anywhere you want to go? We can have that. Children and youth can get to school, the park, guitar lessons or Grandma's house. Seniors can get to their next appointment or their next bridge game. We all can get to our jobs, shopping and friends – and don't have to sacrifice our time, money or well-being to do it.

When we improve lives for people, we are also helping our climate.

This is what a complete system of Bus Rapid Transit lines looks like. Designing and building robust transit will help bring opportunities to people across the state. Whether we own a business or work at one, strong transit benefits us all – even those who never use it.

We can transform our energy system while protecting what is precious.

Unlike the traditional iron-ore mining, never-done-before in Minnesota **sulfide mining generates and leaches toxic heavy metals into ground and surface waters**. This discharge adversely impacts the aquatic food chain, affecting fish, wildlife, and people.

It is Time to Move On from PolyMet

In 2019, PolyMet, the first sulfide mining proposal for MN received final state agency approval. But these permits include a multitude of problems:

- The MN Dept. of Natural Resources approved a dam design for the tailings waste that has been banned in Brazil due to multiple catastrophic failures and also called out as a method to avoid by the United Nations.
- The MN Pollution Control Agency tried to hide the EPA's concerns by asking the federal regulators to read their prepared comments over the phone instead of sending them in.
- Then the MN Pollution Control Agency approved a water quality permit that places NO NUMERIC LIMITS on the amount of pollution that PolyMet may emit at 168 of its sites.
- Several permits granted by Minnesota state agencies are currently suspended pending further review, as dictated by the courts.

The PolyMet sulfide mine near Hoyt Lakes would damage 6,000 acres of wetlands and peatlands that are critical in our fight against climate change. Mining waste would pollute water and ecosystems for hundreds of years.

Beyond PolyMet

The risk of sulfide mining goes beyond PolyMet. A massive sulfide mining district could extend from PolyMet to Teck Resources' deposits, to Twin Metals' proposed mining project near the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. Exploration for copper, nickel and other metals is advancing, from Duluth, along the North Shore, to the BWCA, and in Itasca, Carlton, and Aitkin counties and along the Mississippi River.

Three policies will protect Minnesota's waters and land:

> **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.

> **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.

> **Eliminate a Conflict of Interest** by shifting the duty to promote mining from the DNR to Department of Employment and Economic Development to prevent a conflict of interest between promotion and regulation.

Moving from an economy of waste to an economy of renewal.

There is plenty of copper supply globally. But even if there weren't, it would be hard to make the case that Minnesota must destroy its precious lands for sulfide mining of low-grade ore to find metals that we are throwing away every day.

Currently, the United States gets only 38% of its copper from recycling. If the U.S. procured just 50% of its copper from recycling — similar to the European Union's current rate — this would produce more copper each year than would be extracted by five Twin Metals or almost ten PolyMet mines.

Tech Dump is an award-winning industry leader in IT asset disposition, electronics recycling, refurbishment and resale. This Twin Cities-based organization has processed over 35 million pounds of electronics—all while adhering to the highest levels of **data security** and **environmental standards**. All data is guaranteed destroyed, and Tech Dump holds certifications confirming it does not ship unprocessed items overseas. **Photo: Tech Dump**

Our eyes should be to the horizon of what we must do:

MINNESOTANS THROW AWAY 6,500 CELL PHONES EVERY DAY.

> **Recover and reuse metals.**

> **Require producer responsibility.** Every product should be designed to avoid the forever waste stream at the end of its useful life.

> **Prohibit "planned obsolescence,"** the intentional design of products to wear-out or break after a certain amount of time.

> **Ban single use plastics.** From the bag to the bottle, these plastics are made from fossil fuels and leave a legacy of hazards to our people and planet.

> **Prioritize composting** of food waste and organic materials. Create easy-to-use systems for everyone across the state.

And this session, the Minnesota legislature should pass:

> **Compostable Product Labeling Accuracy.** Right now, the lack of standards means many items that aren't truly compostable are putting that label on their products, contaminating the quality of compost being produced.

Lead is poisoning our people and wildlife. *It is time to get the lead out.*

Science has long understood that there is no safe level of exposure to lead, for humans or other animals. It is a neurotoxin. Exposure in any amount can have serious and irreversible repercussions on brain development and a wide range of impacts to organ systems. **No amount of lead is normal in a biological system.**

Lead in Water Service Line Pipes

Minnesota still has approximately 100,000 lead drinking water service lines across the state. Though careful water chemistry and management practices can mitigate the dangers from these pipes, they are still contaminating drinking water. Tests conducted by MEP in Duluth neighborhoods found high lead levels in water coming from home faucets. Of 52 homes tested, 19% had lead levels above the Environmental Protection Agency action level.

While no one is immune to lead's downward pull, danger is particularly severe for developing brains and bodies. ***Nearly 700 Minnesota children a year*** are found to have elevated blood lead levels. And while exposure can affect anyone, lead disproportionately impacts low-income and diverse communities where it is more often found in water pipes and paint.

These outcomes are entirely preventable.

Stephan Witherspoon of MEP worked with neighbors in Duluth to test home water samples for lead.

It's time to Get the Lead Out of Minnesota:

- **> Replace 100,000 lead drinking water service lines across Minnesota**
- **> Ban lead fishing tackle and ammunition**

Photo: Laurie Schneider

Lead has been prohibited in paint since 1978, water pipes since 1986, and gasoline since 1996. Yet lead fishing tackle and ammunition continue to be produced and used across Minnesota, tainting meat supplies and killing wildlife.

Loons, swans, eagles, bears are suffering

An estimated 10-20 million animals, including eagles, hawks, bears, vultures, ravens and coyotes, die each year in North America, not from being hunted, but from lead poisoning.[2]

Birds swallow rocks to aid in digestion. But even a tiny fishing sinker, when mistakenly ingested, is enough to kill wildlife. Trumpeter swans, common loons, and bald eagles[3] are experiencing population-level impacts from lead poisoning.

The Minnesota Dept. of Natural Resources estimates that 40% of Minnesota trumpeter swan deaths are from lead poisoning.[1]

Tainting deer meat

How often do Minnesotans unwittingly consume lead in venison?

We can estimate based on the experience of food shelves that receive venison donations. Food shelves x-ray all meat donations to ensure its safety before distribution; shards from lead bullets spread 18 inches from the entry point and are too small to be detected by taste or texture.

In Minnesota in 2020, over 7% of all donated venison needed to be discarded because it had been tainted by lead bullets. If that 7% is extrapolated to un-donated venison, **over half a million pounds a year of tainted meat is taken home by hunters to be consumed by their friends and family.**

Equivalent lead-free substitutes for fishing tackle and ammunition are effective and increasingly available and cost-competitive. It is time to protect people and wildlife and go lead-free.

Nearly 90% of the scavengers admitted to the Raptor Center at the University of Minnesota are impacted by lead poisoning. About a third of them have fatal lead levels. The source of the poisoning is lead ammunition used for large game animals such as deer. Gut piles left behind are an attractive meal for these birds. It only take a piece of lead the size of a grain of rice to kill a bald eagle when ingested.

[1] In one instance in March 2019, 10 trumpeter swans died at Sucker Lake in Vadnais Heights from lead.
[2] "Poisoned Wildlife and Tainted Meat: Why Hunters are Moving Away from Lead Bullets", New York Times, November 24, 2018
[3] "Toxic Fishing Tackle Is Hampering Loon Recovery in New Hampshire" – 2017, Audubon Society
"Nearly half of US bald eagles suffer lead poisoning" – 2022, Associated Press
"Lead Bullets Are Stunting the Bald Eagle's Recovery" – 2022, Audubon Society

Protecting Our Shared Legacy

Lake Superior

Minnesota's environmental community continues to help protect and restore Lake Superior; from its unique coastal habitats to the natural resources we all need to thrive.

St. Louis River Mercury TMDL

The St. Louis River is listed as an impaired water in Minnesota due to excess of mercury in the water column and in fish tissues. As a result, there are fish consumption advisories along the river, including in the Fond du Lac Reservation and in the urban riverfront communities of Duluth.

In 2022, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency is returning to the Total Maximum Daily Load process that has been interrupted repeatedly over the last ten years. MEP and our member groups are urging the MPCA to have a robust civic engagement process, to ensure that all affected parties are heard and are able to guide the process.

The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative and the St. Louis River AOC

MEP, as part of the Healing Our Waters Great Lakes Coalition, has helped secure funding to do critical remediation of legacy pollutants in the St. Louis River Area of Concern. Matching funds from the Clean Water Land and Legacy Amendment ensure that native habitats are restored as well. Projects like Grassy Point and Kingsbury Bay were completed this year, with MEP members Minnesota Land Trust at the leading edge.

Now, an additional one billion dollars is coming from the federal government to help complete the clean-up in Duluth and around the Great Lakes.

Photo: Margie O'Loughlin

The Lottery Trust Fund

In Minnesota, we are fortunate to have the voter-approved Environment & Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF). The ENRTF, currently supported with 40% of the proceeds from the Minnesota Lottery, invests more than $60 million in dedicated funding for Minnesota's Great Outdoors each year. The Fund helps protect our water, land and habitats, improve our parks and trails, and engage in new cutting edge research.

MEP will always work to defend the bedrock laws, rules and funding that protect our people and planet, including:

> Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund allocation

> Clean Water, Land and Legacy appropriation

> Water Quality Standards

> Laws that define and protect our public waters from short sighted misuse and destruction

> Ready access to public data and transparency in agency decision-making

Challenge:

The current constitutional dedication of lottery funds will expire in 2024.

Solution:

It's time to reauthorize this dedicated funding source so that Minnesotans can count on growing this funding far into the future. It's time to pass legislation to put this constitutional question to voters on the ballot.

This also provides a unique opportunity to restore the dedication of 50% of the lottery funds originally committed to the environment, and reform the process to increase its effectiveness, responsiveness, and accessibility to communities across all of Minnesota. For smaller organizations, rural communities, and local community groups, the ENRTF process can be far too lengthy and complex to pursue. Simplifying and streamlining the ENRTF process will allow every community and organization to access these funds, no matter how big or small or unfamiliar with the workings of state government. At the same time, we can also protect the Fund against future raids and misuse.

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Audubon Minnesota
mn.audubon.org

Bicycle Alliance of Minnesota
bikemn.org

Center for Biological Diversity
biologicaldiversity.org

Clean River Partners
cleanriverpartners.org

CURE (Clean Up the River Environment)
cureriver.org

Climate Generation: A Will Steger Legacy
climategen.org

Do it Green! Minnesota
doitgreen.org

Duluth Audubon Society
duluthaudubon.org

Environmental Law and Policy Center
elpc.org

Eureka Recycling
eurekarecycling.org

Freshwater
freshwater.org

Friends of the Parks & Trails of St. Paul & Ramsey County
friendsoftheparks.org

Hastings Environmental Protectors
hastenviropro.org

Honor the Earth
honorearth.org

Humane Society of the United States - Minnesota
humanesociety.org/about/state/minnesota

Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy
iatp.org

Institute for Local Self Reliance
ilsr.org

Bush Lake Chapter – Izaak Walton League of America
bushlakeikes.org

League Of Women Voters Duluth
lwvduluth.org

Minnesota Conservation Federation
mncf.org

Minnesota Council of Nonprofits
minnesotanonprofits.org

Minnesota Food Association
nesfp.org/about/partners/minnesota-food-association

Minnesota Interfaith Power and Light
mnipl.org

Minnesota Land Trust
mnland.org

Minnesota Ornithologists' Union
moumn.org

Minnesota Renewable Energy Society
mnrenewables.org

Minnesota River Valley Audubon Chapter
mrvac.org

Northern Waters Land Trust
northernwaterslandtrust.org

Parks & Trails Council Of Minnesota
parksandtrails.org

Pesticide Action Network North America
panna.org

Pollinator Friendly Alliance
pollinatorfriendly.org

Renewing the Countryside
renewingthecountryside.org

Sierra Club - North Star Chapter
sierraclub.org/minnesota

St. Paul Audubon Society
saintpaulaudubon.org

Sustainable Farming Association
sfa-mn.org

The Nature Conservancy
nature.org

The Trust for Public Land
tpl.org

Vote Climate
vote-climate.org

Voyageurs Conservancy
voyageurs.org

Wild Rivers Conservancy
wildriversconservancy.org

Women's Environmental Network
wenmn.org

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