

Improve air quality in environmental justice communities



More capacity to track emissions and enforce permits will help protect residents.

Challenge

The MPCA monitors and enforces federal air pollution standards at more 2,000 facilities across Minnesota. More than half these facilities – about 1,095 – exist in environmental justice areas where people with low income and communities of color reside. The MPCA needs more resources to effectively prevent pollution and protect residents who often bear greater burdens from air pollution.

Why it's important

To achieve a more equitable, inclusive, sustainable, and resilient future, Minnesota must commit more resources to environmental justice areas to protect residents most at risk of negative health effects from pollution. This investment in air quality program staff will allow the MPCA to respond more nimbly to community members and permit holders.

Proposal

\$2,975,000

FY 2024-2025

\$5,250,000

FY2026 onward per biennium

Governor Walz recommends an appropriation of \$2,975,000 to hire 15 new air program employees to work in environmental justice communities. They will:

- Monitor emissions.
- Issue permits.
- Respond to complaints.
- Carry out enforcement actions.



Tom Johnson
Government Relations Director
tom.e.johnson@state.mn.us
651-338-8955

Alexis Donath
Legislative Coordinator
alexis.donath@state.mn.us
651-373-9277