

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency has proposed the following four projects for funding by the Legislative Coordinating Commission on Minnesota Resources.

### **Reducing garbage burning and dioxin emissions grant program**

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**MPCA Grant Manager:** Henry Fisher

**LCCMR Requested Funds:** \$620,000

**Project Summary:** Reduce the amount of dioxin emissions and wildfires that result from the burning of household garbage through implementation of educational efforts, outreach activities, and improved rural garbage and recycling collection sites.

**Project Statement:** Today, 227,992 households, or 39 percent of all rural residents in Minnesota, burn their garbage on-site primarily because convenient and affordable garbage/recycling drop-off collection services do not exist. Because of advances in chemistry and packaging, today's garbage contains plastics and other synthetics that, when burned at low temperatures (e.g. burn barrels), release smoke that does not disperse well. This smoke contains dioxin, a highly toxic and known carcinogen. This project will provide grant funds to assist counties in rural Minnesota in implementing education, outreach, and develop garbage/recycling drop-off collection sites.

**Project Timeline:** 3 years, July 2013 to June 2016

**Project Partners/Cooperators:** An estimated 24 counties

**Project Location (Areas of Work):** All non-metropolitan counties in Minnesota

### **Evaluating threats to groundwater resources from emerging contaminants**

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**MPCA Grant Manager:** Byron Adams

**LCCMR Requested Funds:** \$388,273

**Project Summary:** Municipal and industrial wastewaters, known to contain contaminants of emerging concern, are routinely applied to land throughout the state. This project evaluates whether these contaminants are threatening groundwater resources.

**Project Statement:** Contaminants of emerging concern (CEC) are substances that: (1) do not have Minnesota human health-based guidance; (2) pose a real or perceived health threat; and (3) have new or changing health or exposure information. Many of these substances have been found in Minnesota's ground and surface waters. The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) is charged with developing program practices that protect groundwater resources. Current efforts are focused on traditional contaminants such as phosphorus. It is currently unknown whether CEC contained in municipal wastewater effluent, commercial and industrial wastewaters, and domestic septage are impacting groundwater resources, and whether standards should be developed for some CEC.

**Project Timeline:** 3 years, July 2013 to June 2016

**Project Partners/Cooperators:** U.S. Geological Survey and MN Department of Health (Drinking Water Protection and Environmental Health Programs)

**Project Location (Areas of Work):** Statewide

## Mapping landscapes for better land and water quality

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**MPCA Grant Manager:** Bruce Wilson

**LCCMR Requested Funds:** \$360,000

**Project Summary:** This project will create up-to-date land cover data using existing LiDAR data and remote sensing technologies. Products will be extensively used for daily efforts by land and water conservation projects.

**Project Statement:** Information from this project will be used by almost every county, watershed management organization, city, basin and state agency, and will help track our progress with accurate data of Minnesota's cities/growth zones, forests, and agricultural lands to pair with water quality/quantity and biological monitoring data. Without current information, we risk making restoration and protection investments (e.g. targeting Clean Water Funds) based on old and potentially incorrect assumptions. Current data does not fully reflect land use changes. The project will integrate existing data and combine it with improved remote sensing to develop the 'next generation' of higher-quality data that will be used to produce new GIS layers.

**Project Timeline:** 2 years, July 2013 – June 2015

**Project Partners/Cooperators:** University of Minnesota, Metropolitan Council, MN Department of Natural Resources and the MN Geospatial Information Office

**Project Location (Areas of Work):** Statewide

## Leveraging retired experts to improve environmental performance

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**MPCA Grant Manager:** Kevin McDonald

**LCCMR Requested Funds:** \$455,500

**Project Summary:** Deploy 25 retired technical experts to deliver non-regulatory environmental assistance to 220 small businesses and local governments, resulting in documented pollution and energy reductions that go beyond environmental requirements.

**Project Statement:** The goal of this project is to expand current efforts to match seniors and retired professionals with local needs for assistance, strengthening the efforts of Minnesota communities and organizations to accomplish priority environmental goals. These technical services will be provided at no cost to communities and organizations. Seniors/retirees will provide assistance in areas to include: waste prevention and recycling, low-cost energy conservation, stormwater reduction, fuel-efficient fleet management, stationary backup generators, and local government best practices. Based on past retiree assistance delivered, the average estimated savings from implementation is over \$11,000 per year per client.

**Project Timeline:** 3 years, July 2013 to June 2016

**Project Partners/Cooperators:** An estimated 200 small businesses and 20 local governments

**Project Location (Areas of Work):** Statewide

*A link to information about the final proposals submitted on April 6<sup>th</sup> to the LCCMR, including full proposals, budgets, project manager qualifications and maps or illustrations can be found on the LCCMR website here:*  
[http://www.lccmr.leg.mn/RequestforProposals/2013/2013\\_proposals\\_In2.html](http://www.lccmr.leg.mn/RequestforProposals/2013/2013_proposals_In2.html)