

All Minnesotans can help create climate change policy

Fund a statewide outreach effort to advance climate change efforts.



Flash flooding in September 2010 caused Highway 169 to break apart north of St. Peter.

What's the issue?

The effects of climate change are accelerating. Minnesotans experience the effects as warmer winters, heavier and more frequent flooding, and heat waves or droughts. In short, our weather is becoming more unpredictable and more extreme. Wet conditions and extreme events like recent flooding cause more crop damage, soil loss, and disease. A United Nations 2018 report called for urgent action to mitigate climate risks. In January, University of Minnesota researchers reported that Minnesota is one of the fastest-warming states in the country. Climate change is impacting lakes and streams, lands, communities, industries, and public health in Minnesota.

Proposal

Governor Walz proposes a \$250,000 one-time General Fund appropriation for a series of public meetings across the state so that Minnesota communities, businesses, citizens, and non-governmental organizations can participate in climate change policymaking. This proposal includes statewide, multi-agency outreach (coordinated by the MPCA), logistics and follow-up for multiple community meetings, and support for environmental justice efforts. Multiple state agencies, working with input from communities and the private sector, will develop the scope of work and produce a report and climate change roadmap outlining potential policies that cut across all sectors.

Winter is warming 13 times faster than summer in Minnesota

Season	Average change per decade since 1895	Average change per decade since 1970
Winter (Dec. – Feb.)	+ 0.40 degrees F	+1.2 degrees F
Summer (June – Aug.)	+0.13 degrees F	+0.09 degrees F

Why is it important?

Regions, land uses, and landscape types in Minnesota differ in vulnerability to different aspects of climate change.¹ As a result, Minnesota's agriculture, cities, forests, human health, and waters will be impacted by different aspects of changing climate, at different times and places.²

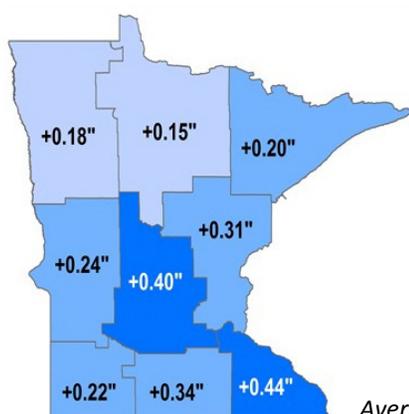
Communities must weigh in on climate impacts and solutions for their part of the state to ensure that our climate change roadmap reflects the most effective path forward for every community.

Climate change is affecting our health, well-being, way of life, and natural resources. The more input Minnesotans have into deciding how we should address climate change, the better. This proposal will produce a solid plan for making our communities more resilient and thereby protecting our economy, public health, and environment in a changing future.

For more information

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Season	Total precipitation change 1895-2016
Winter (Dec - Feb)	+ 6% (0.13 inches)
Spring (Mar - May)	+ 15% (0.93 inches)
Summer (Jun - Aug)	+ 11% (1.21 inches)
Fall (Sept - Nov)	+ 11% (0.66 inches)
Growing season (May - Sept)	+ 9% (1.55 inches)
Annual	+ 12% (2.98 inches)



Minnesota is getting wetter everywhere and in all seasons.

Average change per decade.

Data for charts above courtesy MN DNR State Climatology Office and www.ncdc.noaa.gov/cag/, as presented by Tracy E. Twine, Department of Soil, Water & Climate, University of Minnesota, January 15, 2019.

¹ Dr. Peter B.Reich, Department of Forest Resources, University of Minnesota as presented on January 15, 2019 to the MN House Energy and Climate Policy and Finance Committee.

² Ibid.