

## Preparing communities for our changing climate

Extreme weather events increasingly threaten Minnesota's economy and communities

### Challenge

Communities throughout Minnesota are increasingly unprepared for mega-rain events that are four times more likely today than just a generation ago. With aging and inadequate stormwater infrastructure, extreme precipitation events that are causing too many local streets to flood, sewer systems to backup into homes and businesses, and wastewater treatment plants to release partially or fully treated sewage into lakes and rivers.

While many cities, counties, and Tribal Nations across the state are already developing strategies to address future needs related to climate change, additional resources are needed to make sure every community can afford the necessary preparations.



### Proposal

This proposal includes General Fund appropriations of \$1.358 million for FY 2022 and \$1.6055 million for FY 2023 to provide grants to communities statewide for climate resiliency planning. These grants can pay for the climate risk assessment, planning, and pre-design needed to inform the development of bonding proposals to upgrade stormwater infrastructure. Currently these activities are not eligible for bonding funds. Grants will be available on a competitive basis to counties, cities, townships and Tribal Nations in Minnesota.

### Why it's important

Extreme weather events adversely impact Minnesota's economy by destroying homes and businesses, damaging our infrastructure, and contaminating drinking water supplies. The cleanup from these events puts a strain on city budgets and often results in significant damage to residential, business and public property. Resiliency planning efforts are also necessary to mitigate the effects of extreme heat on vulnerable Minnesotans.

Evaluating community impacts will allow local governments to do the necessary work now to prepare their communities for future effects of a changing climate. Assessments and planning will provide greater assurance to local communities, create more certainty for the economy and foster sustainable economic growth.

### For more information

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