

Assist business and local government with reducing PFAS use

Providing grants to reduce the use of PFAS will prevent pollution and reduce future cleanup costs.

Challenge

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a family of more than 5,000 chemicals that are now pervasive in the environment. Called “forever chemicals,” they don’t break down and are found in drinking water, fish, soils, lakes and rivers, and even human blood. Many PFAS can cause health problems at low levels.

To address the potential harm from PFAS, state agencies laid out a plan — the Minnesota PFAS Blueprint — to prevent, manage, and clean up PFAS contamination. The plan outlines strategies for removing sources of PFAS; monitoring PFAS contamination in air, water, land, and fish; protecting drinking water; determining health risks; and more.



Metal plating is one type of business that uses PFAS.

Removing sources of PFAS contamination is a daunting task. PFAS continue to be manufactured and used in industrial and commercial products, which means they are still being released into the environment. The most effective way to reduce PFAS contamination will be to lessen or eliminate their use.

Proposal

Governor Walz recommends \$4.21 million for FY2024 and \$210,000 in FY2025 and FY2026 from the General Fund for PFAS reduction grants. The funds would support 1.5 temporary FTE and provide financial assistance to business and local government for reducing or eliminating the use or release of PFAS. Grantees would be able to use the award to identify product or process changes, design treatment strategies, monitor the effectiveness of changes, and related activities.

Why it’s important

The overwhelming consensus of scientists and environmental professionals is that significant actions are needed to prevent adverse impacts from PFAS. Minnesota state agencies created the Minnesota PFAS Blueprint because of the risks posed by PFAS to human health and the environment. Pollution prevention is always more cost-effective than cleanup.

**1200**

Estimated number of Minnesota businesses that may be using PFAS.

For more information

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