



Governor Walz's budget recommendations advance the MPCA's work to protect human health and the environment. This budget makes strategic investments in air compliance equipment, establishes a product stewardship program for batteries and electronic waste and supports good governance by updating emergency response statutes.

Air equipment operation and maintenance costs

The Governor recommends an appropriation of \$50,000 from the environmental fund to cover maintenance costs for air monitoring equipment. This includes software licenses for existing equipment, maintenance and repair costs, replacement of consumable supplies and aging items, and calibration and certification of equipment.

This appropriation ensures that the agency can continue to ensure compliance with air permits with the use of proper equipment and that the Legislature's initial 2023 investment in this equipment continues to yield positive results for the health and safety of Minnesotans.



Battery and electronics product stewardship

The Governor recommends the establishment of a product stewardship program for batteries and electronic products. Collecting and recycling these items is costly, and consumers often do not know how or where to dispose of waste.

Batteries pose fire risks for haulers, county solid waste managers, and others in the recycling chain. This recommendation aims to save Minnesotans money and protect the environment by establishing an accessible and sustainably funded program for managing batteries and electronics at the end of their lifecycle.

This proposal is self-funded and has no net cost.



Emergency response package

Governor Walz recommends clarifying language in state law that hinders MPCA's ability to recover certain cleanup costs. Polluters, not taxpayers, should pay for cleanup. But in certain cases, including petroleum spills from saddle tanks, a loophole has sometimes allowed responsible parties to dodge cost recovery, and the MPCA has had to use remediation fund dollars to pay for cleanup. This reduces the budget for addressing other contaminated sites for which the remediation fund is a more appropriate funding source. This proposal will generate an estimated \$200,000 annually in cost savings

The Governor's recommendation also cleans up other language and streamlines processes by:

- Updating terminology for conformity with federal and state law
- Requiring prevention and response plans to be submitted to the MPCA rather than to DPS
- Deleting obsolete language



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