



**CLEAN
WATER
LAND &
LEGACY
AMENDMENT**



Clean Water Fund Performance Report Summary

A summary of Clean Water Funds invested, actions taken and outcomes achieved in 2010-2011



Minnesota
Pollution
Control
Agency



Water Resources Center
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
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Clean Water Fund Report Card

Minnesotans care deeply about the state's natural resources and cultural heritage. In 2008, we voted to increase our sales tax and pass the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment, providing 25 years of constitutionally-dedicated funding for clean water, habitat, parks and trails, and the arts.

With that vote came expectations for results. Minnesotans want to know if our water is improving, declining or staying the same. They want to know if investments from the Clean Water Fund are making a difference.

In the first biennium (FY10-11) of Clean Water Funding, (July 2009-June 2011), approximately \$152M was invested in water resource

management activities. The following report card indicates that the state is generally on track with its Clean Water Fund investments so far.

This report card is based on scores for 18 measures highlighted in this report. The scores provide a qualitative assessment of how well actions are being implemented and what outcomes are being achieved. Scores were developed using data-informed professional judgment of agency technical staff and managers. Action and outcome measures are scored for their status as of the end of FY11 and for their trend over time.

In many cases, it is too early to report status and trend for outcome measures after just one completed biennium of Clean Water Funding.

Measure	Status	Trend	Description	
Investment Measures				
INVESTMENTS	Total Clean Water Fund dollars appropriated by activity.	FY10-11: \$152.2 million FY12-13: \$179.4 million	Trend data will be available following completion of FY12-13 biennium.	Appropriation levels will vary by biennium and the strength of the economy. FY10-11 funds have been allocated, while FY12-13 allocations are in progress.
	Total Clean Water Fund dollars per watershed or statewide for 1) monitoring/assessment, 2) watershed restoration/protection strategies, 3) protection/restoration implementation activities, and 4) drinking water protection.	Most watersheds in the state are benefiting from local and statewide projects.	Trend data will be available following completion of FY12-13 biennium.	For FY10-11, nearly all 81 watersheds benefitted from Clean Water Fund-supported activities. Implementation activities comprise the largest portion of spending in watersheds statewide.
	Total Clean Water Fund dollars awarded in grants and contracts to non-state agency partners.	\$68.7 million was awarded in grants and contracts to non-state agency partners in FY10-11.	Trend data will be available following completion of FY12-13 biennium.	Eighty-six percent of grant and contract awards are for implementation activities. Forty-five percent of total FY10-11 appropriations were awarded to non-state agency partners.
	Total dollars leveraged by Clean Water Fund implementation activities.	\$68.3 million dollars were leveraged by Clean Water Fund in FY10-11, or \$1.45 for every implementation dollar invested.	Trend data will be available following completion of FY12-13 biennium.	Required Clean Water match funds were met and exceeded.
Surface water measures				
ACTION	Percent of state's major watersheds intensively monitored through the watershed approach.			Good progress. The monitoring schedule set forth in 2008 is being followed and met.
	Number of non-point source best management practices implemented with Clean Water Funding and estimated pollutant load reductions.			Although funding has increased and there is a continued increase in practices being implemented, the total requests for projects was approximately three times greater than available funds.
	Number of municipal point source construction projects implemented with Clean Water Funding and estimated pollutant load reductions.			Good progress. Pace affected by uncertain municipal budgets and changing construction schedules. Pollutant load reductions are expected to increase as more cities seek financial assistance to move their projects from planning to construction.
OUTCOME	Rate of impairment/unimpairment of surface water statewide and by watershed.	Stream swimming	Not enough information for a trend determination at this time.	Water quality varies greatly by region. Watersheds yet to be assessed will influence the statewide impairment/unimpairment rate. It is unclear if long-term goals will be met.
		Lake swimming		
		Stream aquatic life		
	Changes over time in key water quality parameters for lakes, streams, and wetlands.	Lake clarity	Not enough information for a trend determination at this time.	Lake clarity: For lakes monitored by citizens, there are improving trends in lake water clarity in more lakes than not.
Stream fish		Stream fish: Fish community health varies greatly by region, but statewide percents of poor vs. good fish community health are similar.		
Wetland invertebrates		Wetland invertebrates: Statewide, most wetlands have good quality wetland aquatic insect communities.		

	Measure	Status	Trend	Description
OUTCOME	Number of previous impairments now meeting water quality standards due to corrective actions.			There is much variability in water quality across the state, but many projects are making progress in improving water quality. Restorations take several years to complete.
	Trends of mercury in fish and mercury emissions in Minnesota.	Fish 		Many lakes and rivers are currently impaired because of high mercury concentrations in fish. Significant progress has been made reducing mercury emissions in Minnesota. However, emissions are increasing on a world-wide scale.
		Minnesota emissions 		
	Changes over time in municipal wastewater phosphorus discharges.			Long-term ramp-up in requirements coupled with new Clean Water Fund investments are helping wastewater sources continue to reduce phosphorus discharges.

Drinking water measures

	Measure	Status	Trend	Description
ACTION	Number of community public water supply systems assisted with developing source water protection plans.			Met target for FY10-11. On track to meet long-term target of every community public water supplier engaged in source water protection planning by 2020.
	Number of local government partners participating in Clean Water Funded groundwater nitrate monitoring and reduction activities.			Agencies are working with many local partners and continue to establish effective partnerships.
	Number of new health-based guidance values for contaminants of emerging concern.			Target of 10 new guidance values for FY10-11 was met. On track to meet FY12-13 target. Expanding outreach and education for citizens.
OUTCOME	Changes over time in pesticides, nitrate and other key water quality parameters in groundwater.	Pesticides 		Pesticides: There are decreasing concentrations of five common pesticides, although pesticides are still frequently detected at low levels in vulnerable groundwater.
		Nitrate 	Nitrate: Not enough information for a trend determination at this time.	Nitrate: There is significant local variability in nitrate monitoring results. However, nitrate levels continue to exceed drinking water standards and are increasing in certain vulnerable aquifers.
	Changes over time in source water quality used for community water supplies.		Not enough information for a trend determination at this time.	Currently collecting samples to compare with data from a similar study conducted 25 years ago.
	Nitrate concentrations in newly constructed wells.			Although nitrate levels in less than one percent of new wells exceed the drinking water standard for nitrate, there is a slight increase in recent years.

Legend			
Action Status Scores		Outcome Status Scores	
	We are making good progress/meeting the target		Water quality is high – we are on track to meet long-term water resource needs and citizen expectations
	We anticipate difficulty; it is too early to assess; or there is too much variability across regions to assess		Water quality needs improvement or it is too early to assess – it is unclear if we will meet long-term water resource needs and citizen expectations; and/or water quality varies greatly between regions
	Progress is slow/we are not meeting the target; or the activity or target is not commensurate with the scope of the problems		Water quality is under intense pressure – long-term water resource needs and/or citizen expectations exceed current efforts to meet them
		Trend	
			Improving trend
			No change
			Declining trend



The Clean Water Fund Performance Report: February 2012

This report card is a summary the Clean Water Fund Performance Report. In 2008, Minnesotans demonstrated a renewed commitment to clean water. We voted to increase our sales tax and pass the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment providing 25 years of constitutionally-dedicated funding for clean water, habitat, parks and trails and the arts. This report focuses on the clean water portion of that funding. It clarifies the connections between Clean Water Funds invested, actions taken and outcomes achieved.

Each year until 2034, approximately \$85 million from the Clean Water Fund will be invested in various water management activities – from testing and assessing the state’s lakes, streams and groundwater, to installing conservation practices on the ground to protect and restore our water bodies. This work is being done by thousands of people from state policy makers to local landowners.

Learn more

To see the full report, visit the “Minnesota’s Legacy” website, the official site for all Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment Reporting:

www.legacy.leg.mn/funds/clean-water-fund



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