

Your Clean Water Fund at Work

In 2008, during the greatest recession since the Great Depression, Minnesotans approved a new sales tax through the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment. One third of that sales tax goes to the Clean Water Fund, enabling the protection of our pristine waters, restoration of our degraded waters, and the protection of our groundwater and drinking water sources. It has revolutionized how water work and governance happens in Minnesota, enhancing programs, accelerating progress in meeting clean water goals, and producing tools and resources that few if any other states have.



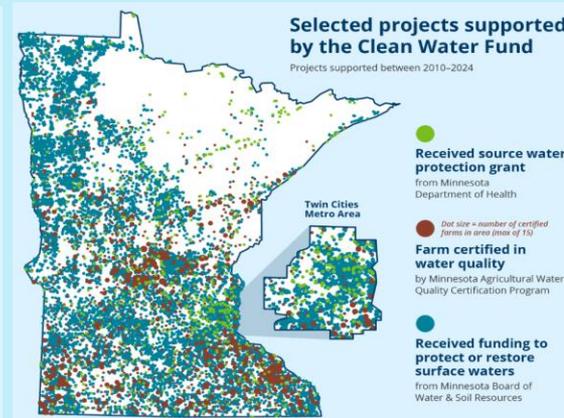
How the work happens

The Clean Water Fund was created to improve water quality in ways beyond the state's capacity in 2008. Using an adaptive management framework, the Fund has set up this systematic approach:



Where we've invested

The Clean Water Fund supports efforts in every corner of Minnesota, from the Twin Cities Metro Area, farm country, small towns, to pristine northern lakes.



How we've invested

Just over \$2 billion have been spent to date. The Clean Water Fund is currently set to expire in 2034, and an estimated \$1 billion remain.

From 2010-2023:

- More than 2/3 of funding has gone to implementation since FY20.
- For every \$1 spent on implementation, more than \$1 of other funding has been leveraged. That's more than \$630 million of additional investment.
- Funding has cultivated partnerships that endure beyond Clean Water Fund activities.
- Funding has enabled small actions to stack up to produce larger impacts and multiple benefits.

What the Clean Water Fund has helped produce

- **10-year monitoring** cycles for lakes and streams
- Creation of a **Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategies** report for every watershed in the state
- The **planning for water** on a watershed (as opposed to jurisdictional) basis
- Plans for more than 80% of Minnesota's community water systems to **protect drinking water**
- Initial and ongoing support for **Forever Green** research
- More than 2,000 loans and 4,000 grants to **protect and restore Minnesota's waters**
- Secured more than **900 easements** that will permanently protect approx. 31,000 acres
- Statewide **testing for PFAS**
- Repair of **881 SSTS** that posed an imminent threat to human health
- A first-in-the-nation **statewide chloride management plan**
- Upgraded **52 municipal wastewater treatment facilities**, reducing phosphorus discharge by over 316,000lbs/yr
- The **delisting of 81 lakes and streams** from the state's impaired waters list, with more lakes having improving water quality trends
- **And so much more**

What we are up to now

During 2026, the Clean Water Council is reviewing proposals for the FY28-29 biennium.

- January-June: Proposal review
- June: Public input session
- June-September: Draft preliminary budget recommendations
- October-December: Prepare scenarios based on November forecast
- December-January: Finalize FY28-29 budget recommendations

Input is welcome at any time during this process.