

Agency overview



February 20, 2025





Katrina Kessler
MPCA Commissioner



Peter Tester
Deputy Commissioner



Kirk Koudelka
Assistant Commissioner



Dana Vanderbosch
Assistant Commissioner



Frank Kohlasch
Assistant Commissioner



Tom Johnson
Govt Relations Director



Rachel Ganani
Chief of staff

Our mission

**Protect and improve the
environment and human health.**



Areas of responsibility

Water

Air

Land

Climate

Water

Minnesota's treasured waters are not only powerful symbols of our state, but they also provide drinking water, recreational and tourism opportunities, wildlife habitat, water for agriculture and industrial uses, and much more.

Water quality

- monitoring
- standards
- regulations





Air

The MPCA strives to ensure all people in Minnesota have clean air, regardless of where they live or work.

Air quality

- monitoring & alerts
- regulations
- permitting, compliance & enforcement

Land

The MPCA helps clean up land contaminated with pollutants and advances responsible management of waste and materials.

- Investigating land contamination
- Clean up and redevelopment
- Waste planning and permitting



Climate

Minnesotans are experiencing impacts of climate change, from higher temperatures, more extreme storms with intense flooding, and changes in our unique and cherished ecosystems.

- Climate action framework
- Minnesota's climate goals
- Greenhouse gas emissions tracking & analysis





Statutory authority

State Laws

Chapters 114C-D, 115-115D, 116

Environmental regulatory innovations

Clean Water Legacy Act

Water pollution control

Waste management

Environmental response & liability

Petroleum cleanup

Toxic pollution prevention

Enabling statutes

**Additional
authorities in
325 E & F and
elsewhere**



Federal authority

Federal delegations (EPA)

Air programs: Outdoor air monitoring, permitting, air toxics, compliance & enforcement, regional haze, rules, etc.

Water programs: Monitoring, permitting, total maximum daily loads, compliance & enforcement, stormwater, feedlot, septics, etc.

Land programs: Solid waste, hazardous waste monitoring & enforcement, Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), etc.

Our partners

- Minnesota residents
- All levels of government (federal, state, county, municipal)
- Tribal Nations
- Non-governmental organizations
- Businesses large and small
- Volunteer water monitors



Six regional offices



Detroit
Lakes
👤 37

Brainerd
👤 64

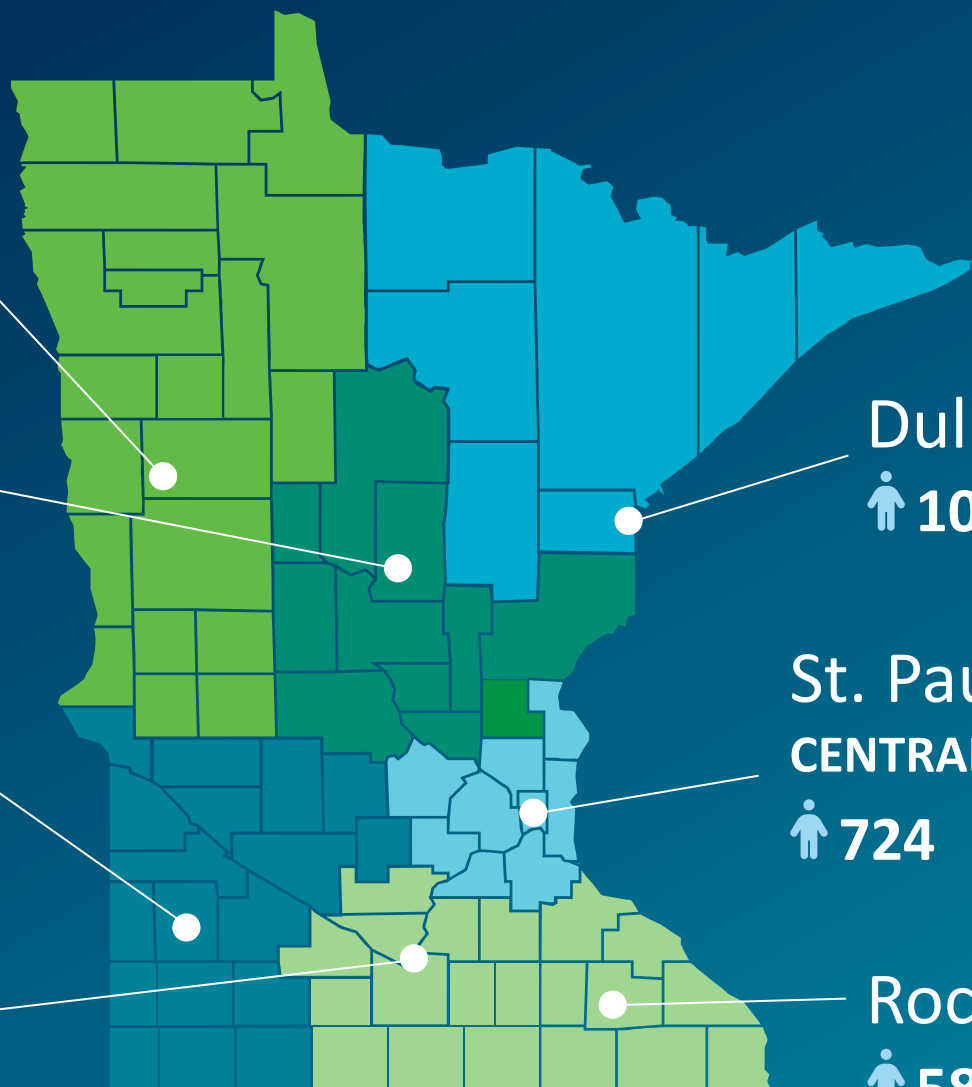
Marshall
👤 32

Mankato
👤 32

Duluth
👤 100

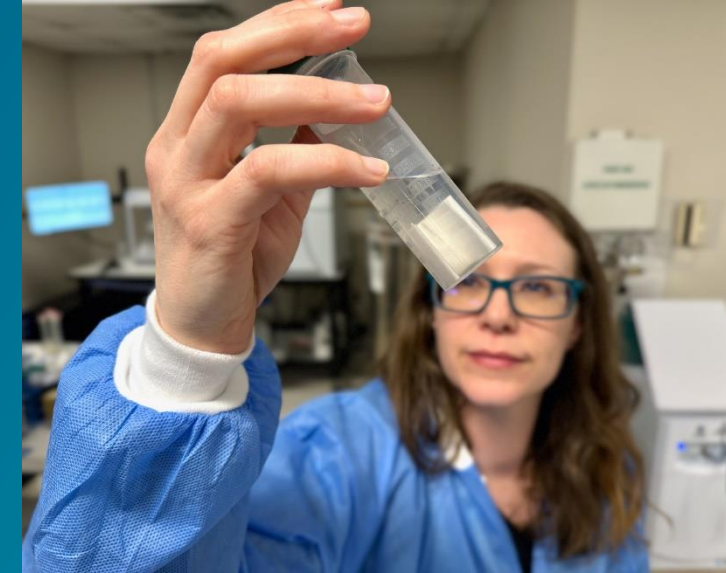
St. Paul
CENTRAL OFFICE
👤 724

Rochester
👤 58

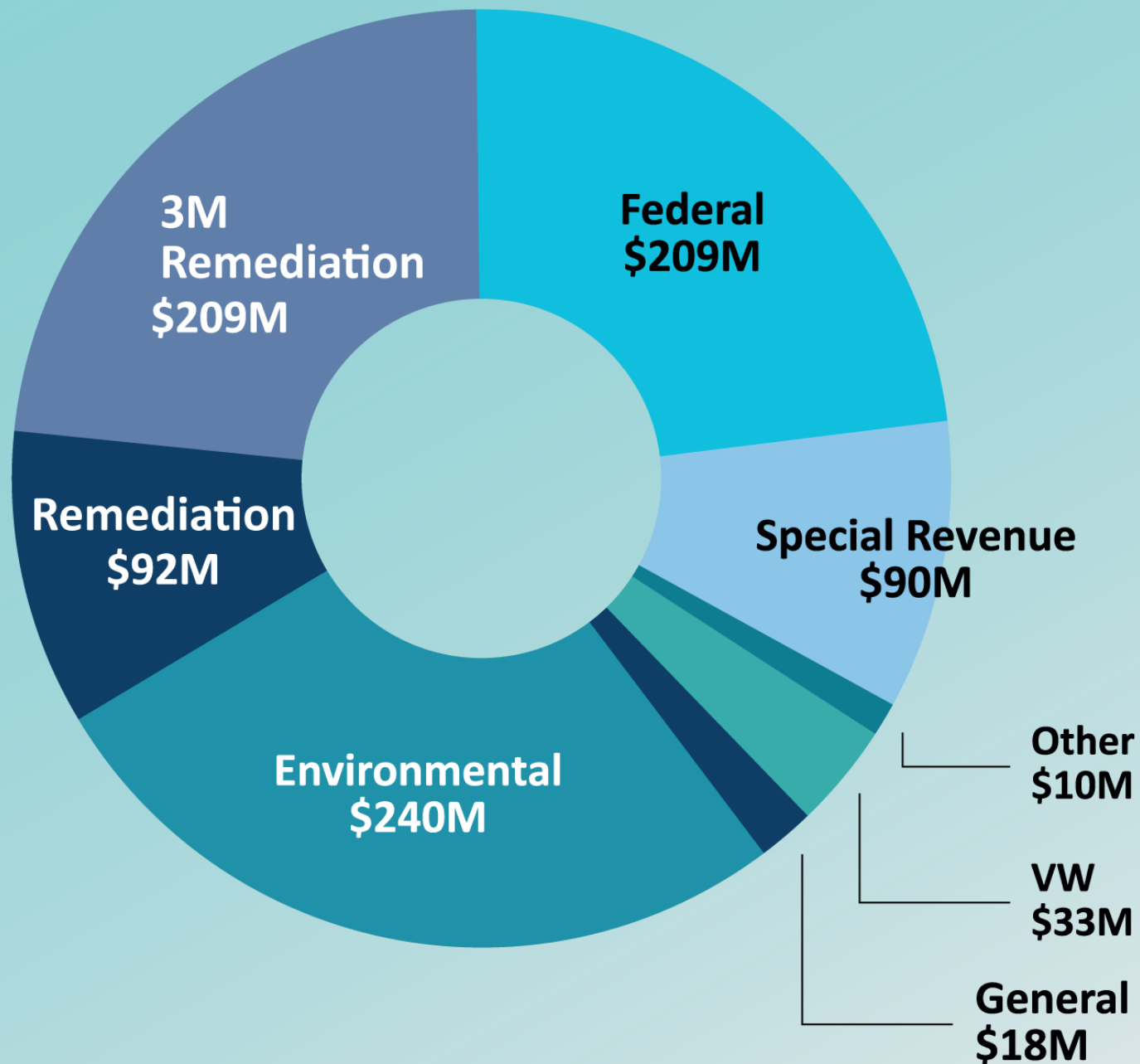


Agency and staff

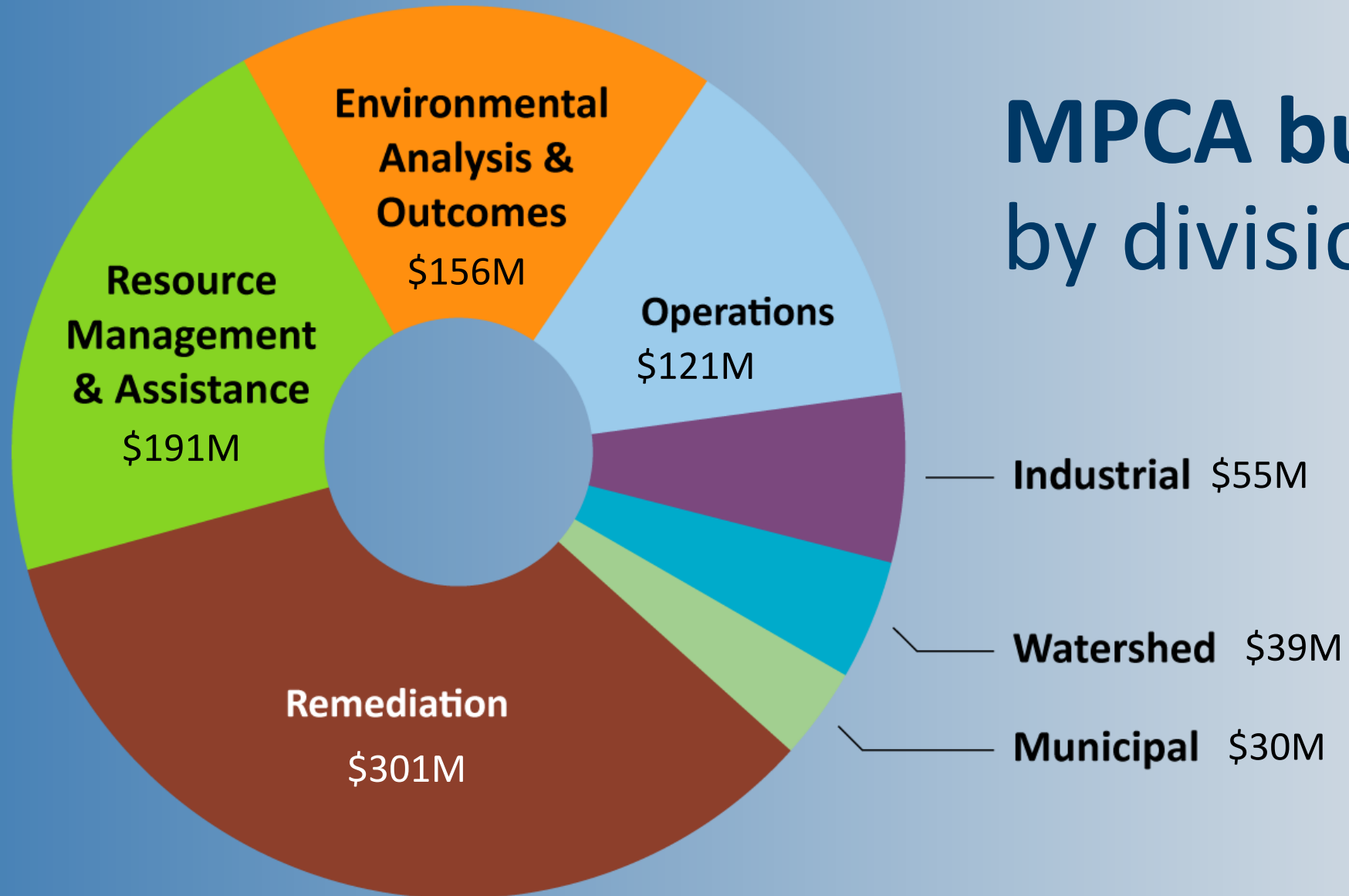
- Established in 1967
- Medium-sized agency
- Our scientific staff are housed within 7 program areas as:
 - Engineers
 - Hydrologists
 - Soil Scientists
 - Chemists
 - Biologists
 - Environmental Specialists



Funding sources



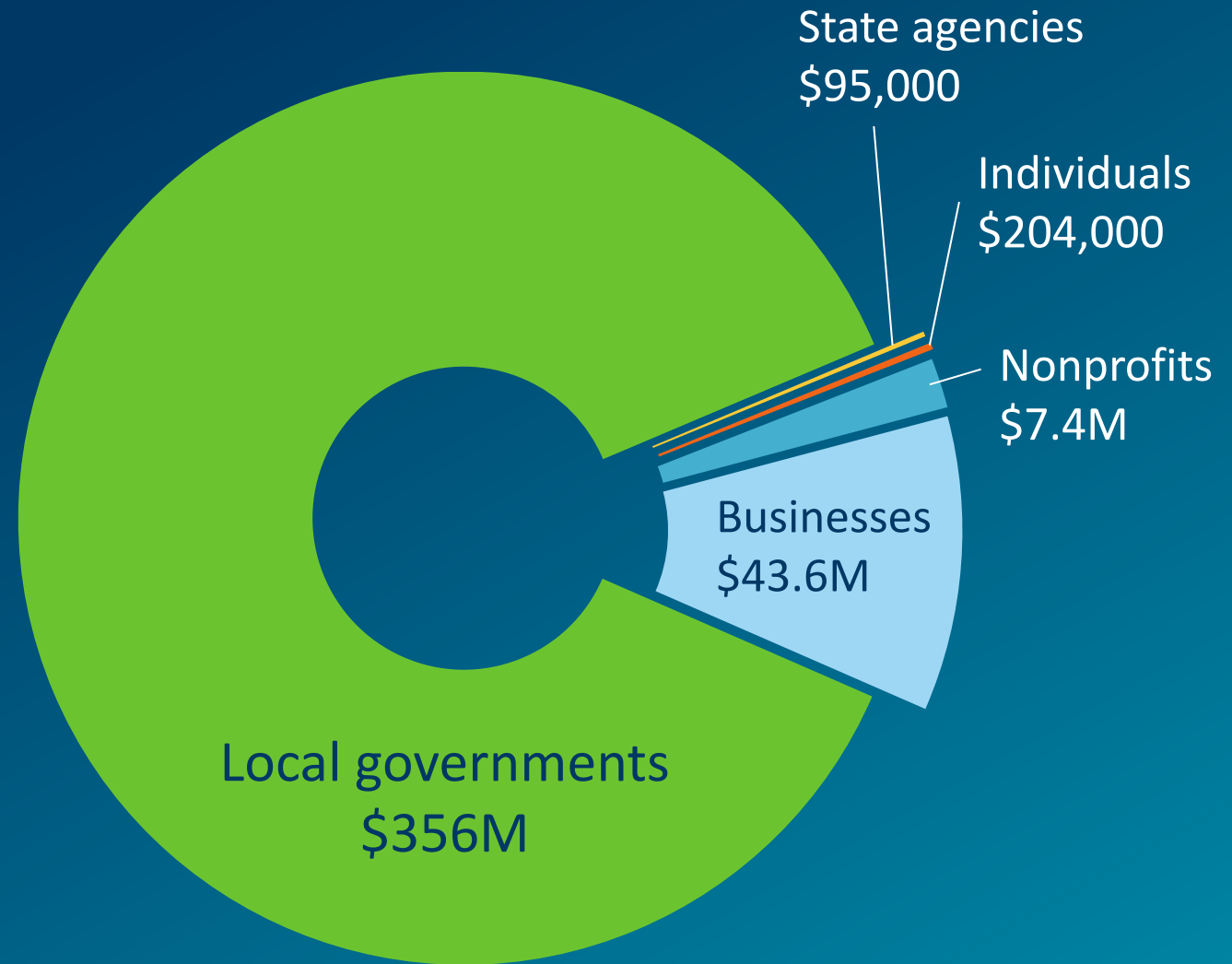
MPCA budget by division



2020-2024 Grants for Minnesota Communities

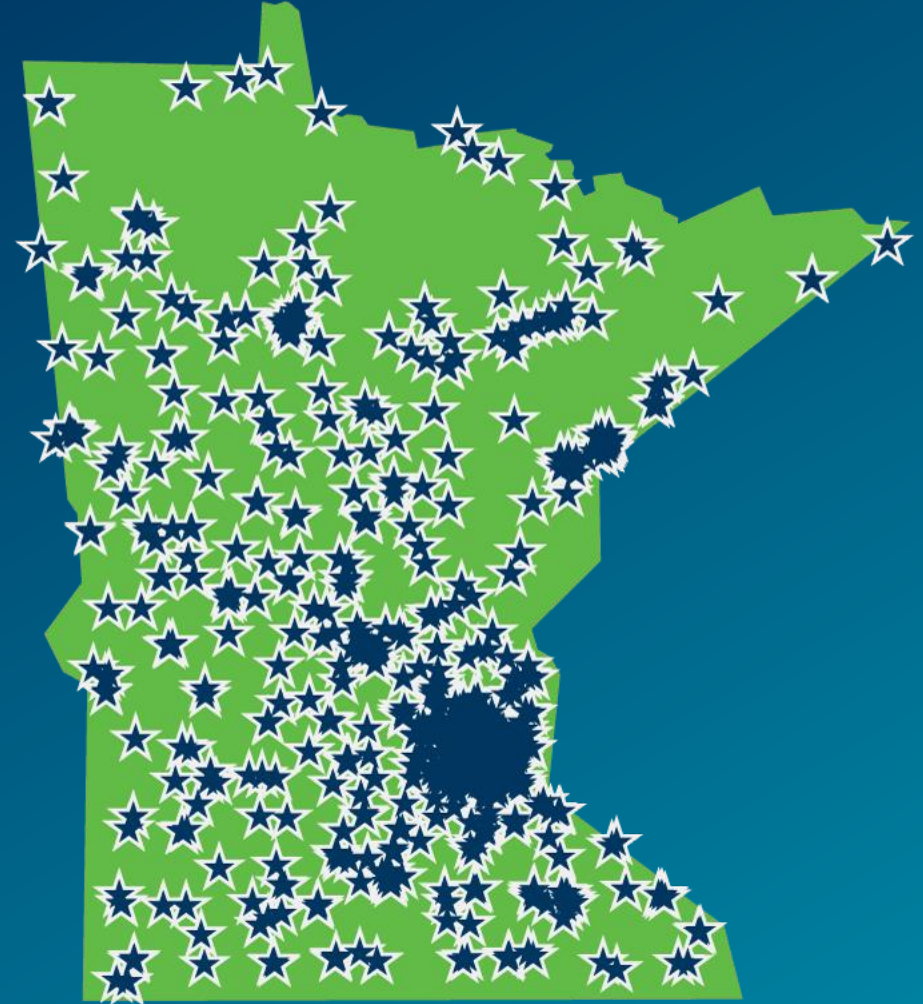
From 2020-2024, MPCA awarded more than **\$400 million** in grants to entities throughout the state:

- Local governments: 859 grants
- Businesses: 205 grants
- State agencies: 5 grants
- Individuals: 25 grants
- Nonprofits: 56 grants



Statewide impact

- Grants benefit every county
- Examples include:
 - Air pollution reduction
 - Food waste reduction
 - Resilient communities
 - Septic system replacement
 - School bus upgrades
 - Solid waste management
 - PFAS source reduction



MPCA organizational structure

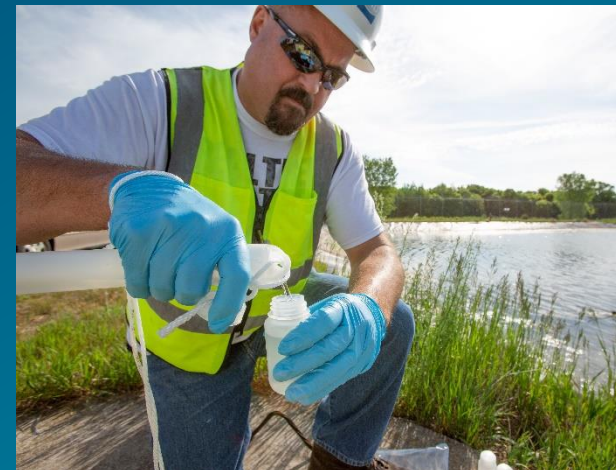


Remediation division



Key work:

- Clean up contaminated properties, including landfills
- Manage long-term projects to remediate past pollution, such as PFAS contamination in the east Metro; Andover hazardous waste site transformation to a pollinator garden
- Superfund, Closed Landfill programs



Resource Management & Assistance Division



Key work:

- Address pollution through non-regulatory approaches (prevention, technical & financial assistance, education)
- Manage solid waste, hazardous waste, rulemaking, and tanks



Watershed Division



Key work:

- Investigate causes, sources, and potential solutions for water pollution problems
- Issue permits for animal feedlots
- Manage several grant programs that benefit local partners

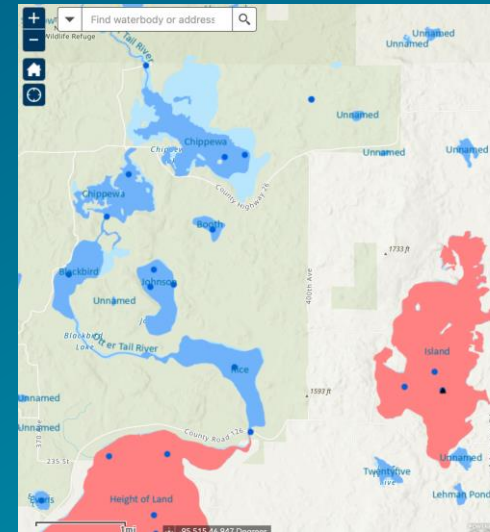


Environmental Analysis & Outcomes Division



Key work:

- Monitor and evaluate environmental conditions
- Develop environmental standards
- Make environmental data broadly accessible to stakeholders & the public



Industrial Division

\$55M

Key work:

- Work with larger private industrial facilities on permitting, compliance, and enforcement
- This work encompasses regulations on air quality, water quality, hazardous waste, and underground storage tanks



Municipal Division

\$30M

Key work:

- Work with cities and towns to ensure proper management of wastewater, stormwater, and septic systems
- This work includes technical assistance, permitting, compliance & enforcement, and development of policy



Operations Division

\$121M

Key work:

Provide services that benefit all agency programs:

- Fiscal & contracting
- Human resources
- Legal services
- Communications
- Data management
- Emergency management
- Facilities & fleet



Federal grants



Climate Pollution Reduction Grants - Climate smart food systems \$200 M



Brownfields - \$2 M



Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling (SWIFR) - \$500,000

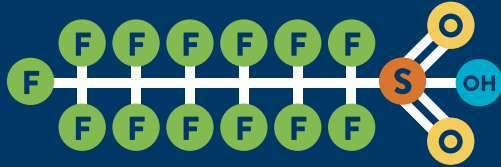


Electric school bus - \$5.5 M federal; \$2.9 M state



Hypoxia taskforce - \$1.7 M

Commissioner's priorities



Addressing and reducing PFAS contamination

- Minnesota's PFAS Blueprint
- Amara's law, planning and design grants, staffing



Mitigating the impacts of climate change

- Minnesota's Climate Action Framework
- Climate resiliency grants, clean energy by 2040

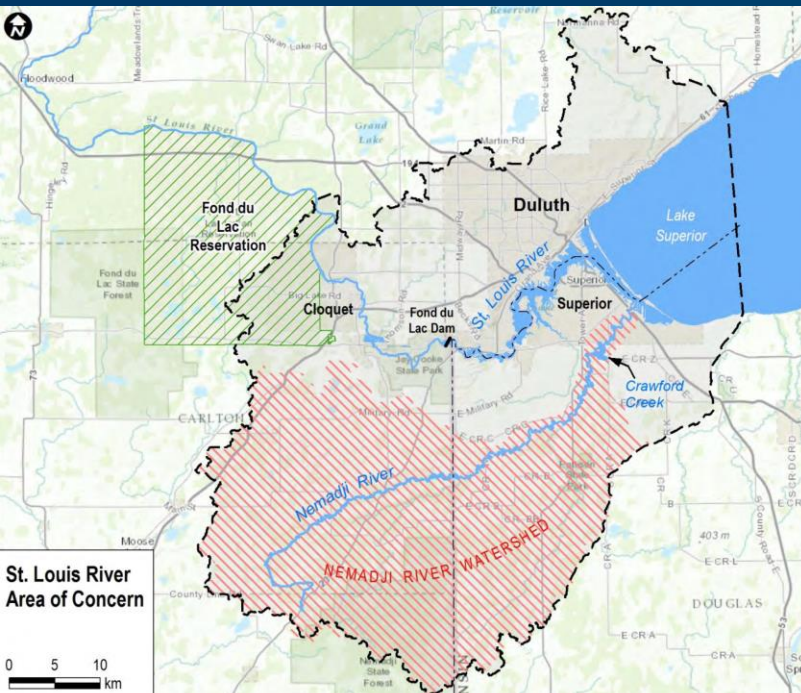


Good governance and service to all Minnesotans

- Accountability, efficiency, transparency
- Permit status dashboard, cumulative impacts

Success story

St. Louis River area of concern



Thank you!

