

Rep. Larry Kraft 2023 Session

Lead author on these bills that became law

St. Louis Park Infrastructure

Cedar Lake Rd and Louisiana Ave reconstruction

- **Description:** \$5M bonding for the reconstruction of a key and regionally significant intersection in St. Louis Park.
- **Benefits:** Increases safety, reduces greenhouse gas emissions, and improves biking and pedestrian facilities

Climate Related

Commercial Building Energy Codes

- **Description:** The energy portion of the state building code will be updated every three years with increasing levels of energy efficiency, so that by 2036, new commercial buildings will be 80% more energy efficient.
- **Benefit:** Reduced greenhouse gas emissions and healthier and more comfortable new buildings. Buildings generate 40% of Minnesota's greenhouse gas emissions; commercial buildings comprise about half that amount.

Energy Benchmarking for Commercial Buildings

- **Description:** Requires MN buildings over 50,000 square feet to benchmark and publicly share their energy usage
- **Benefit:** Addresses existing commercial buildings and on average, results in a 1-3% annual reduction in energy usage in buildings that benchmark. Provides a foundation for additional programs to help building owners lower energy usage, reduce energy bills, and decrease greenhouse gas emissions.

Local Climate Action Planning grants

- **Description:** \$5 million for grants to local units of government to create climate action plans, up to \$50,000 per grant.
- **Benefit:** Helps cities, towns, and other local governments create climate action plans to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and/or adapt to climate change impacts.

Global Warming Refrigerants

- **Description:** Updates the Minnesota Building Code to link more directly to federal changes regarding refrigerants.
- **Benefit:** Allows for an orderly and rapid transition to a new generation of refrigerants that have as much as 75% less global warming potential than the existing generation. This is significant because the cooling industry generates about 10% of global greenhouse gas emissions.

Climate risk disclosure for MN banks

- **Description:** Requires MN banks and credit unions with over \$1B of assets to evaluate their risk due to climate change.
- **Benefit:** Identification of climate risks to MN financial system.

Transportation & Climate

Climate Smart Transportation and Land Use

- **Description:** Requires any capacity expansion project on the MN Dept of Transportation (MnDOT) network that would increase greenhouse gas emissions or vehicle miles traveled (VMT) to have those increases offset, either within the project or by projects elsewhere in the state. Also requires the Metropolitan Council to take the transportation greenhouse gas emissions and VMT targets from MnDOT, incorporate them into a regional climate action plan with a focus on land use, and then build climate planning into the next round of comprehensive plans (for 2050) that all cities in the metro area will start in 2026.
- **Benefits:** Creates a structure for the systemic change we need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from transportation, our #1 source of greenhouse gas emissions in MN. Also builds climate change planning and climate conscious land use into all metro cities' planning going forward.

EV charging infrastructure

- **Description:** Creates EV charging infrastructure tied to the National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) program to create long range charging infrastructure on major routes throughout Minnesota.
- **Benefit:** \$85 million (\$68M federal, \$17M state) over 5 years to create alternative fuel corridors with charging stations at least every 50 miles.

Economic Development & Climate

Minnesota Energy Alley - \$3M funding

- **Description:** Funding for the Grid Catalyst clean energy accelerator, which works to accelerate clean energy deployment by connecting entrepreneurs to project demonstration opportunities, mentorship and development, and investments to grow their business.
- **Benefit:** Clean energy innovation and jobs in Minnesota.

Democracy

Voter pre-registration for 16 & 17 year olds

- **Description:** Allows anyone that is 16 or 17 to pre-register to vote, so when they turn 18 they are automatically registered.
- **Benefit:** Proven to increase voter turnout in the 18-29 age range. Helps young people to form lifelong voting habits.

Healthcare

Health Insurance Network Adequacy, especially for mental health services

- **Description:** Updates network adequacy parameters used by the MN Department of Health to determine if an insurance company's in-network offerings are sufficient. For two years, requires health insurance plans to accept new mental health providers, if they will agree to the same contractual terms as providers currently in-network. Also requires the MN Dept. of Health to study network adequacy and develop longer-term recommendations.
- **Benefit:** Immediate action to address the mental health crisis with more in-network options for patients, while also creating long-term recommendations for changes.

Hearing Aids insurance coverage

- **Description:** Health insurance must cover a pair of hearing aids every three years for anyone instead of just those who are 18 years of age and younger.
- **Benefit:** Hearing aids now covered in health insurance for all Minnesotans.

Consumer Protection

Contractor recovery fund modified to include claims against solar installers

- **Description:** Requires residential solar installers to become licensed as residential contractors, and therefore pay into the contractor recovery fund.
- **Benefit:** Consumer protection for residential solar customers. The Contractor Recovery Fund compensates owners or lessees of residential property in Minnesota who have suffered loss due to a licensed contractor's fraudulent, deceptive or dishonest practice, failure of performance, or if the contractor goes out of business.

First Responders

Fire safety account fee increased

- **Description:** The Fire Safety Account was created by the Legislature in 2006 with a 0.65% surcharge on homeowners insurance premiums. This account is a vital funding source within the fire service, and yet it has been raided during tough economic times and was reduced to 0.5% in 2013. This legislation has returned the surcharge to 0.65%.
- **Benefits:** Ensures that the Minnesota Board of Firefighter Training and Education, the State Fire Marshal's Office, and the Statewide Response Teams - including Hazmat, Task Force 1 Structural Collapse Team, and the Air Rescue Team - are provided the resources they need to do their jobs and keep us safe. It will also help provide more dollars for firefighter training - which especially can be an issue in greater MN.