

**Vita, Carla K (She/Her/Hers) (DEED)**

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**From:** Kohlasch, Frank (He/Him/His) (MPCA)  
**Sent:** Monday, November 25, 2024 7:41 AM  
**To:** Vita, Carla K (She/Her/Hers) (DEED)  
**Subject:** RE: ETAC Memos due COB Nov 22

Carla,  
 Here is the update for the MPCA:

-----START UPDATE-----

The MPCA has a number of grants and available for communities and facilities operating in Minnesota. All available grant and loan opportunities can be reviewed at <https://www.pca.state.mn.us/business-with-us/grants-loans-and-contracts>.

The following specific grants may of interest to energy transition communities.

#### Local Climate Action Grants

The MPCA is seeking proposals for nearly \$3 million in planning and implementation projects that enable local jurisdictions to adapt to extreme weather events and a changing climate and/or to reduce the local jurisdiction's contributions to the causes of climate change. The application deadline Thursday, Jan. 9, 2025, at 4 p.m. Central Standard Time (CST).

#### Industrial facility air toxics and criteria emissions reduction grant

\$5.6 million are available for this is one-time grant opportunity is designed to provide project funding to regulated air pollution emitting facilities for pollution control equipment and/or process improvements that result in reduced air pollution emissions within environmental justice (EJ) areas of concern or within one mile of a designated EJ area. Eligible entities are facilities holding an air quality permit and are located in or within a mile of an Environmental Justice area. The application deadline is 4 p.m. on Jan. 22, 2025.

#### Clean heavy-duty off-road equipment grant

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) is seeking diesel fleet owners from private, public, and nonprofit sectors to apply for over \$2 million available DERA grant funding for off-road clean diesel projects in Minnesota. The federal Diesel Emission Reduction Act (DERA) program reduces diesel emissions from diesel engines to improve air quality and public health. The application deadline is 4:30 p.m. (CT) on Dec. 20, 2024.

#### Implementation grants for community resilience

The MPCA is soliciting project proposals to distribute \$5 million to communities for non-stormwater and non-wastewater implementation projects to increase community resilience to the impacts of climate change. The applications deadline is Thursday, Dec. 19, 2024, at 4 p.m. Central Time (CT).

#### Planning grants for stormwater, wastewater, and community resilience

The MPCA is soliciting project proposals to distribute \$750,000 for climate planning projects to communities across Minnesota. This funding provides an opportunity for these communities to assess vulnerabilities and begin planning for the effects of Minnesota's changing climate in three areas: how to increase resilience to stormwater and reduce localized flood risk; how to improve the resilience of wastewater systems; and how to reduce human health effects and adapt community services, ordinances, and public spaces to the changing climate. Tribal nations, cities, counties, towns/townships, soil and water conservation districts, water management organizations, and water districts are eligible to apply. The application deadline is Thursday, Dec. 5, 2024, at 4 p.m. Central Time (CT).

#### Drinking water planning and design funds for PFAS treatment

This \$22 million opportunity provides funding for planning and design of PFAS treatment systems for owners and operators of community drinking water supply systems in Minnesota. Eligible applicants include owners or operators of community drinking water supply systems in Minnesota. Applicants must have a minimum of four quarters of samples taken from entry points using applicable EPA methods and a rolling average that exceeds the EPA final maximum contaminant level (MCL) values for PFOS, PFOA, PFNA, PFHxS, GenX, or the Hazard Index MCL. Applications will be accepted on a rolling, "first come, first serve" basis until all dedicated funds have been dispersed or June 30, 2025 (4 p.m. Central Time), whichever occurs first.

#### Funding for brownfield investigation

Brownfields are abandoned, idled, or underused properties where reuse is complicated by actual or suspected contamination. The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) has grant money from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) available to pay for assessment of contaminated properties to support redevelopment and reuse. The work is overseen by the MPCA Brownfield Program and performed by MPCA contractors at no cost to the recipients. Eligible sites in Minnesota can be publicly or privately owned with known or suspected contamination. Applicants cannot be responsible for the contamination. Preferred projects for funding are those that have community support; enhance the neighborhood without resulting in gentrification; provide essential services such as affordable housing, social services, or youth enrichment; or support small business owners. Target applicants are typically those with limited financial resources. Typical funding requests range from \$10,000-50,000 but any request is considered provided it meets eligibility requirements.

#### Small business environmental improvement loans

The MPCA provides loans at zero-percent interest to small businesses for capital equipment purchases that help the company meet or exceed environmental regulations, and covering costs associated with the investigation and cleanup of contaminated sites. The loan program can be used for clean-ups for contaminated sites or projects that reduce on-site air emissions or waste generation. It's not intended for projects where energy efficiency is the sole environmental benefit, such as the purchase of vehicles or upgrades of lighting or HVAC systems. Loan terms and conditions: loan amount between \$1,000 and \$75,000; interest rate: Zero percent (0%); repayment term up to seven years; flexibility in the types of collateral accepted; awarded throughout the year

#### Environmental assistance loans

Financial assistance to accelerate the application and/or improvement of environmental processes and technologies in Minnesota by providing assistance for the capital costs (machinery and equipment) of eligible projects. MPCA partners with private financial institutions to offer loans resulting in substantially reduced interest rates for projects that will improve the environmental and economic quality of Minnesota. Priority eligible projects: green chemistry, pollution prevention, source reduction, recycling, and source-separated compostable materials. Eligible loan costs are limited to the capital costs of implementing waste or pollution prevention technologies in Minnesota — the costs of acquisition of machinery and equipment, including freight and installation, and related improvements.

#### Climate-Smart Food System Grant from EPA:

EPA approved Minnesota's work plan for this \$200 million federal grant, under the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Program. The MPCA is now working to transfer the funds to the partner state agencies (MDH, DNR, MDA, and BWSR) so those agencies can begin building their capacity to grant the funds to Minnesotans. The first round of grants should be available in late spring to summer of 2025.

#### Climate Action Framework Update:

The Climate Subcabinet is seeking public comments on the update for Minnesota's Climate Action Framework, which was released in September 2022. Minnesotans can provide their input at the following webpage:

<https://engage.eqb.state.mn.us/climate-action-framework-update>. The Climate Subcabinet intends to release the updated Climate Action Framework in September 2025.