



**Minnesota Pollution Control Agency**  
 520 Lafayette Road North  
 St. Paul, MN 55155-4194

# EA Standard Grant Application

Environmental Assistance (EA) Grant Program  
 FY 2014-15 Focus Areas

Doc Type: Grant Application

Use this form for all Focus Areas. **Instructions** on how to complete the application are located on page four of this application form. **Please read** the complete Request for Proposals (RFP) and other associated documents before submitting this application.

<b>MPCA Use Only</b>
Grant ID#:
Grant/project administrator:

## Part I Application Cover Page

Applicant name: Regents of the University of Minnesota

Address: 450 McNamara Alumni Center, 200 Oak Street SE

City: Minneapolis State: MN Zip code: 55455-2070 County: Hennepin

Mailing address (if different): \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip code: \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact name: Brett Carlson Title: Sr Grant & Contract Administrator

E-mail: awards@umn.edu Applicant's website: www.umn.edu

Phone: 612-624-5599 Fax: 612-624-4843 MN House Dist: 60B

**Project title:** Engaging Greater Minnesota Regions in Climate Adaptation Ideation and Innovation

**Brief project intro summary:** Extreme weather poses a real threat to the well being of Minnesota's communities. Recent flooding, drought, and storm events have caused costly and serious damage to the environment, natural habitat and critical infrastructure. What's more, Minnesota's diversity of landscapes and ecosystems makes different regions of the state vulnerable in different ways to climate change and extreme weather. Through five regional convenings in NE, SE, Central, NW, and SW Minnesota, this project by the University of Minnesota Regional Sustainable Development Partnerships will educate communities about regionally specific implications of climate change, facilitate contacts and the exchange of ideas and technologies for climate change adaptation.

Grant requested: \$ 30,000 + Matching funds/value of In-kind: \$ 10,000 = Total project cost: \$ 40,000

### Matching funds

- Applicant is the sole source of Matching Funds for the proposed project?  Yes  No  
 If no, does this submittal include proof of secured matching funds?  Yes  No
- Applicant is governed by a Board?  Yes  No  
 If yes, does this submittal include necessary board resolution(s)?  Yes  No
- Has applicant ever received Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) EA grant funding before?  Yes  No
- Applicant is in compliance with Minnesota's tax and environmental regulatory requirements?  Yes  No  
 If no, explain: \_\_\_\_\_

### Project proposal

The proposal is representative of the following preferred proposal (select one preferred project proposal per application):

**Focus Area A.** Volatile Organic Chemicals (VOCs):  A1  A2  Other (Specify): \_\_\_\_\_

**Focus Area B.** Food Waste Reduction:  B1  Other (Specify): \_\_\_\_\_

**Focus Area C.** Green Chemistry and Design Curriculum:  C1  Other (Specify): \_\_\_\_\_

**Focus Area D.** Reuse/Repair/Rent:  D1  D2  Other (Specify): \_\_\_\_\_

**Focus Area E.** Environmental Solid Waste Management Practices:  E1  E2  E3  E4  E5

Other (Specify): \_\_\_\_\_

**Focus Area F.** Communities Adapting to Climate Change and Extreme Weather:  F1  F2  F3  F4

Other (Specify): \_\_\_\_\_

**Focus Area G.** City Sustainability Policy Development:  G1  G2  G3  G4  G5  G6

Other (Specify): \_\_\_\_\_

**Focus Area H.** State ENERGY STAR Commercial Buildings Goal:  H1  Other (Specify): \_\_\_\_\_

**Focus Area I.** School Site Sustainability and Student Environmental Education:  I1

Other (Specify): \_\_\_\_\_

## Part 2 Project Description

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### 2a. Environmental need/purpose:

Extreme weather poses a real threat to the well being of Minnesota's communities. Recent flooding, drought, and storm events have caused costly and serious damage to the environment, natural habitat and critical infrastructure. What's more, Minnesota's diversity of landscapes and ecosystems makes different regions of the state vulnerable in different ways to climate change and extreme weather events.

According to University of Minnesota Extension Climatologist Mark Seeley, "Perceptions of climate behavior are built into the design of our infrastructure." As Minnesota experiences a rapid shift toward more extreme weather, Minnesota's communities need locally-appropriate strategies and innovations to sustain their built environments, natural resources, ecosystems, livelihoods and well-being.

On the ground, Greater Minnesota communities would benefit from new opportunities to connect-- amongst themselves, their Land Grant university, and local innovators in order to adapt to more extreme weather and to develop better climate resilience at the individual, household, farmstead, and community scales.

University of Minnesota Regional Sustainable Development Partnership (RSDP) will convene public officials (federal, state, county, city, watershed district and other entities), farmers, community members, and innovators in five regions in Greater Minnesota along with University of Minnesota researchers to inform, learn and share locally-appropriate solutions for extreme weather resilience and climate adaptation. The purposes of these convenings are to educate communities and leaders about region-specific implications of climate change; to allow communities, innovators and University of Minnesota researchers to explore ideas and technologies for improving community resilience to extreme weather; and to connect people and pollinate ideas that will better facilitate the planning and implementation of local climate change adaptations.

### 2b. 1. Anticipated environmental outcomes/benefits:

Climate change adaptation will take many forms across many levels: individual, household, farmstead, community and watershed. This project will facilitate dialogues on climate change adaptation throughout Greater Minnesota. By leveraging the reach and relationships of the U of M RSDP, this project will increase awareness and facilitate the sharing of strategies, innovations and technologies that can be employed at the local level to build resilience in the face of climate change and extreme weather.

### 2. Likelihood of achieving projected outcomes/benefits:

The U of M RSDP has a portfolio of more than 400 past and current projects throughout Greater Minnesota that have built community-University partnerships in four areas: sustainable agriculture and local foods; clean energy; natural resources; and sustainable tourism and resilient communities. The bidirectional model of identifying innovation both from the community and the University and then blending the two 'ways of knowing' has proven to be an effective way to identify and address emerging issues in these areas. For a decade-and-a-half, RSDP has helped seed the Clean Energy Resources Teams, farm to school initiatives, local food systems, and food hubs throughout greater Minnesota, as well as use of new methods such as design thinking to address rural opportunities and challenges.

From RSDP's conversations with public officials and community members across Greater Minnesota, there is a growing appetite for climate change adaptation strategies, and a need to bring interested, grassroots parties together to share information, ideas and innovations. For example, in Southwest Minnesota, in light of an expected rise in dewpoints from climate change, agricultural producers are experimenting with harvesting dew for irrigation from steel roof buildings. Another example: in Southeast Minnesota, farmers are adapting to a cycle of drought and floods by

using swale and berm land management practices that collect and hold high rainfall event rainwater to produce perennial crops on the downslope of a swale.

U of M RSDP is confident that, with funding support from the MPCA, it can deploy its 'citizen driven' model of engagement to promote discussion, learning and the discovery of innovations that will be needed in the coming years for Minnesotans to adapt to climate change, protect the environment and help Minnesota communities be more resilient to damage from extreme weather.

**2c. Procedures to measure success of project:**

RSDP will implement a pre-convening survey of potential participants to help shape the format and agenda of the convenings. Post-convenings, a survey of participants will measure learning, exposure to innovation, connections, and potential changed behaviors and new initiatives.

**2d. Utilization of innovative technologies/methods:**

Since 1998, U of M RSDP has connected local talent and resources with University of Minnesota knowledge and seed funding to drive sustainability work in greater Minnesota. RSDP's work has supported innovative methods and techniques, both in its projects, such as emerging hydroponics technology, and in its convenings of citizens, including an upcoming Rural Design Conference (July 2014).

**2e. Dissemination of project results:**

Findings from the convenings will be documented and shared through statewide, regional and local news outlets, social media, and agencies and organizations that reach Greater Minnesota constituencies and public officials.

**2f. Assets and resources available to the Applicant to implement the proposal:**

*(Note: for nongovernmental organizations requesting over \$25,000 in grant funds, you may be asked to demonstrate financial stability by providing an internal financial statement, an IRS Form 990, or a certified financial audit prior to a grant award.)*

The U of M RSDP has staff and offices in five regions of the state- NW, NE, Central, SW and SE. Each regional RSDP has a governing board made up of community members (75%) and U of M faculty members (25%). Each region also has work groups that provide project guidance, prioritization, network connections, and an "ear to the ground" in four focus areas. At the statewide level, RSDP has content expert staff in clean energy and sustainable agriculture/local foods who provide strong regional presence and programming. As a part of University of Minnesota Extension, RSDP also has access to vast institutional knowledge of Greater Minnesota programming, including program design and evaluation. For this project, RSDP would recruit student and faculty participants from all five of the University's campuses (Twin Cities, Morris, Duluth, Rochester, and Crookston). In addition RSDP has access to University of Minnesota facility and administrative resources throughout the state.

**2g. Additional Information requested only of Focus Area A. Volatile Organic Chemicals (VOC) proposals:**

*(If not clearly addressed in 2a – 2f of your proposal, please be sure to provide the following information.)*

1. Provide a general description of your business and its services, including the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) code.
2. Identify whether the project will result in a reduction in environmental regulatory obligations (i.e., going from a Large Quantity Hazardous Waste Generator to a Small Quantity Hazardous Waste Generator, or eliminating the need for an air permit).
3. Provide the cost effectiveness of the proposed project as cost/lb of VOC reduced.
4. Explain the extent to which the project may be a model that other businesses can utilize for VOC reduction.
5. Explain the extent to which the project, or aspects of the project, are exploratory in nature and discuss plans to ensure their longevity.

## Part 3 Experience and Qualifications

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**3a. Applicant's experience and qualifications related to implementing and completing proposed project:**

**Project management:**The project PI has successfully led a number of statewide and multi-state grants and projects with foundation, federal and state funding. Each of the U of M RSDP Executive Directors manages a portfolio of ongoing community-University projects (currently 130 active projects).

**Experienced Conveners:** The five RSDP Executive Directors are skilled in board management and host regular regional board meetings and other convenings. For example, in 2010, with funding from the USDA, the RSDP hosted a series of five regional convenings on Farm to School that brought together farmers, school nutrition staff, and public health interests. The convenings resulted in real connections made within the regions and the establishment of new farm to school programs that supply locally grown food to school cafeterias.

More recently, in July 2014, RSDP will host a statewide conference on Rural Design and Design Thinking Methodologies, a ground breaking multidisciplinary perspective on Nature Based Recreation, Food Systems, and the future of Extension.

Sustainable Development and Environmental Protection: The U of M RSDP's mission is to advance sustainable development and regional resilience in Greater Minnesota. The core of RSDP's program is grounded in place-based work that engages stakeholders to move towards sustainability.

**3b. Significant participant(s)/partners experience and qualifications related to proposed project:**

To create these five Greater Minnesota convenings, RSDP will draw upon established connections with public officials, community members, innovators, and University faculty, as well as the MPCA to participate in the planning and recruitment of interested, serious, and results-oriented participants.

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## Part 4 Project Work Plan and Budget

**4a. Project work plan:**

**1. Goal statement:**

Help communities in Greater Minnesota adapt to climate change and extreme weather through five regional convenings that will educate communities about climate change, facilitate contacts and the exchange of ideas and technologies for climate change adaptation.

**2. Project evaluation plan:**

Create and execute post-convenings survey of participants to measure learning, exposure to innovation, connections, and potential changed behaviors and new initiatives. Analyze results and use in dissemination of findings.

**3. Objectives/tasks:**

Objective 1 of 3. University of Minnesota Extension RSDP will invite public officials (federal, state, county, city, watershed district and other entities), farmers, community members, and innovators in Greater Minnesota along with University of Minnesota researchers and the MPCA to convene to discuss, inform, learn and share locally-appropriate solutions for extreme weather resilience and climate adaptation. The principal outcome will be that 300 attendees of the five regional convenings (~60 in each) will learn about extreme weather resilience both within their region and statewide and will be better able to implement adaptive practices.

Task 1. Organize, coordinate, and execute convening in Northeast Minnesota. Engage speakers, such as Extension Climatologist Mark Seeley, other facilitators and venues. Leverage RSDP connections to advertise and recruit participants from Northeast Minnesota, the University of Minnesota, and state agencies. Use pre-convening survey to help shape convening format and agenda. At conference, connect community, public officials and University of Minnesota researchers and staff around the topic of climate change adaptation in Northeast Minnesota. Identify and encourage sharing of grassroots and on-the-ground innovations that are occurring and evolving to adapt to climate change. Use post-convenings survey of participants to measure learning, exposure to innovation, connections, and potential changed behaviors and new initiatives.

Timeframe: January 1, 2015-December 31, 2015

Titles of Persons Responsible: Statewide Director Kathy Draeger, Executive Director Okey Ukaga (NE region), Statewide Associate Director Greg Schweser, Statewide Assistant Director Dan Gilchrist, Student Employee (TBD)

Estimated Funds: Grant: \$5,920                      Match: \$1,964      Total: \$7,884

Task 2. Organize, coordinate, and execute convening in Southeast Minnesota. Engage speakers, such as Extension Climatologist Mark Seeley, other facilitators and venues. Leverage RSDP connections to advertise and recruit participants from Southeast Minnesota, the University of Minnesota, and state agencies. Use pre-convening survey to help shape convening format and agenda. At conference, connect community, public officials and University of Minnesota researchers and staff around the topic of climate change adaptation in Southeast Minnesota. Identify and encourage sharing of grassroots and on-the-ground innovations that are occurring and evolving to adapt to climate change. Use post-convenings survey of participants to measure learning, exposure to innovation, connections, and potential changed behaviors and new initiatives.

Timeframe: January 1, 2015-December 31, 2015

Title of Persons Responsible: Statewide Director Kathy Draeger, Executive Director Erin Meier (SE region), Statewide Associate Director Greg Schweser, Statewide Assistant Director Dan Gilchrist, Student Employee (TBD)

Estimated Funds: Grant: \$5,551                      Match: \$1,853      Total: \$7,404

Task 3. Organize, coordinate, and execute convening in Central Minnesota. Engage speakers, such as Extension Climatologist Mark Seeley, other facilitators and venues. Leverage RSDP connections to advertise and recruit participants from Central Minnesota, the University of Minnesota, and state agencies. Use pre-convening survey to help shape convening format and agenda. At conference, connect community, public officials and University of Minnesota researchers and staff around the topic of climate change adaptation in Central Minnesota. Identify and encourage sharing of grassroots and on-the-ground innovations that are occurring and evolving to adapt to climate change. Use post-convenings survey of participants to measure learning, exposure to innovation, connections, and potential changed behaviors and new initiatives.

Timeframe: January 1, 2015-December 31, 2015

Titles of Persons Responsible: Statewide Director Kathy Draeger, Executive Director Molly Zinns (Central region), Statewide Associate Director Greg Schweser, Statewide Assistant Director Dan Gilchrist, Student Employee (TBD)

Estimated Funds: Grant: \$5,171                      Match: \$1,726      Total: \$6,898

Task 4. Organize, coordinate, and execute convening in Northwest Minnesota. Engage speakers, such as Extension Climatologist Mark Seeley, other facilitators and venues. Leverage RSDP connections to advertise and recruit participants from Northwest Minnesota, the University of Minnesota, and state agencies. Use pre-convening survey to help shape convening format and agenda. At conference, connect community, public officials and University of Minnesota researchers and staff around the topic of climate change adaptation in Northwest Minnesota. Identify and encourage sharing of grassroots and on-the-ground innovations that are occurring and evolving to adapt to climate change. Use post-convenings survey of participants to measure learning, exposure to innovation, connections, and potential changed behaviors and new initiatives.

Timeframe: January 1, 2015-December 31, 2015

Titles of Persons Responsible: Statewide Director Kathy Draeger, Executive Director Linda Kingery (Northwest region), Statewide Associate Director Greg Schweser, Statewide Assistant Director Dan Gilchrist, Student Employee (TBD)

Estimated Funds: Grant: \$5,780                      Match: \$1,930      Total: \$7,710

Task 5. Organize, coordinate, and execute convening in Southwest Minnesota. Engage speakers, such as Extension Climatologist Mark Seeley, other facilitators and venues. Leverage RSDP connections to advertise and recruit participants from Southwest Minnesota, the University of Minnesota, and state agencies. Use pre-convening survey to help shape convening format and agenda. At conference, connect community, public officials and University of Minnesota researchers and staff around the topic of climate change adaptation in Southwest Minnesota. Identify and encourage sharing of grassroots and on-the-ground innovations that are occurring and evolving to adapt to climate change. Use post-convenings survey of participants to measure learning, exposure to innovation, connections, and potential changed behaviors and new initiatives.

Timeframe: January 1, 2015-December 31, 2015

Titles of Persons Responsible: Statewide Director Kathy Draeger, Executive Director David Fluegel (Central region), Statewide Associate Director Greg Schweser, Statewide Assistant Director Dan Gilchrist, Student Employee (TBD)

Estimated Funds: Grant: \$5,185                      Match: \$1,732      Total: \$6,917

Task 6. Compile, document and disseminate results from convenings and post-convenings surveys from five regional convenings. Findings from the convenings will be documented and shared through statewide, regional and local news outlets, social media, and agencies and organizations that reach Greater Minnesota constituencies and public officials.

Timeframe: January 1, 2015-December 31, 2015

Titles of Persons Responsible: Statewide Director Kathryn Draeger, Statewide Assistant Director Dan Gilchrist, Executive Directors (Okey Ukaga, Erin Meier, Molly Zins, Linda Kingery, and David Fluegel), and Student Employee (TBD).

Estimated Funds: Grant: \$1,397      Match: \$467      Total: \$1,864

Task 7: RSDP will submit a Final Report 1 month prior to the end of the grant agreement or at 100% completion of the project, whichever occurs first.

Timeframe: January 1, 2015-December 31, 2015

Title of Persons Responsible: Statewide Director Kathryn Draeger, Statewide Assistant Director Dan Gilchrist

Estimated Funds: Grant: \$993                      Match: \$330      Total: \$1323

**4b. Anticipated measurable environmental outcomes table is attached, using specified format?**     Yes     No

4c. Budget and expenditures table is attached, using the specified format?  Yes  No

If no, explain:

## Part 5 Supporting and Signature Documentation

		Attached	Mailed	Faxed	Not Applicable
5a.	<b>Letter(s) of support:</b> Comments: Prof. Mark Seeley	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5b.	<b>Letter(s)/resolution(s) of matching funds:</b> Comments:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
5c.	<b>Authorizing board resolution(s):</b> Comments: Will be submitted after Board meeting 7/30	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
5d.	<b>Optional to submit prior to grant award:</b> (Internal Financial Statement or IRS Form 990 or Certified Financial Audit applicable only to non-governmental organizations requesting funding over \$25,000.) Comments:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**Please use the following format and specific language for your Authorizing Resolution:**

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency  
FY 2014-15 Grant Program  
Authorization Resolution

WHEREAS, \_\_\_\_\_ (name of your organization) has applied for a grant from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA), under its FY14-15 Environmental Assistance Grant Program; and

WHEREAS, if MPCA funding is received, \_\_\_\_\_ (name of your organization) is committed to implementing the proposed project as described in the grant application; and

WHEREAS, MPCA requires that \_\_\_\_\_ (name of your organization) enter into a grant agreement with the MPCA that identifies the terms and conditions of the funding award;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the \_\_\_\_\_ (name of governing body) hereby agrees to enter into and sign a grant agreement with the MPCA to carry out the project specified therein and to comply with all of the terms, conditions, and matching provisions of the grant agreement and authorizes and directs \_\_\_\_\_ (name of a position) to sign the grant agreement on its behalf.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Print name of signing officer)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Title)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature of an officer with your governing body)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date your governing body agreed to this resolution)