

STATE OF MINNESOTA

Executive Department



Governor Tim Walz

Executive Order 19-35

Establishing the Governor's Council on Biofuels

I, Tim Walz, Governor of the State of Minnesota, by the authority vested in me by the Constitution and applicable statutes, issue the following Executive Order:

Minnesota was an early leader in promoting biofuels production and use. It was the first state to mandate the use of both ethanol and biodiesel in its fuel supply, and it adopted statutory goals for replacing petroleum with biofuels of 14% by 2015, 18% by 2017, 25% by 2020, and 30% by 2025. The biofuels industry provides important markets for agricultural commodities and generates economic impacts of \$6.7 billion.

We are not on track to meet our petroleum replacement goals. In recent years, a combination of low market prices and changes in federal policy has been a headwind to growth in biofuels, particularly in the commercialization of advanced biofuels. In order to make progress, we need ideas for policy and investment in biofuels development and utilization that are bold, practical, and broadly supported by a range of interests.

The need for leadership by Minnesota and other states has never been so great, given the lack of leadership and counterproductive policies at the national level, including the large number of small-refinery exemptions from biofuels blending granted by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the rollback of vehicle fuel economy standards.

The transportation sector is now the largest source of greenhouse gas emissions in Minnesota. To meet the goals of the 2007 Next Generation Energy Act, we will need to reduce carbon emissions in this sector.

Minnesota is uniquely positioned to lead the way in reshaping how our transportation system is fueled, so that it helps improve air and water quality, reduce carbon emissions, and provide broadly shared economic benefits. A transportation sector fueled with home-grown low-carbon biofuels, electricity, and the continued buildout of smart transit will ensure that all Minnesotans receive the benefit of cleaner vehicles and that our economy realizes these benefits.

For these reasons, I order that:

1. The Governor's Council on Biofuels ("Council") is created to advise the Governor, and the Commissioners of the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Transportation, the Department of Commerce, and the Pollution Control Agency on the role of biofuels in reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and recommend policy and budget proposals to foster growth in the production and use of biofuels.
2. The Department of Agriculture will convene the Council and provide staffing and administrative support to the Council.
3. The Department of Agriculture must submit a report to the Governor, based upon the Council's recommendations, by November 1, 2020.
4. The study and recommendations of the Council must include, but are not limited to consideration of:
 - a. Policies that accelerate achievement of the petroleum replacement goals outlined in Minnesota Statutes 2018, section 239.7911.
 - b. Policies and programs to advance and invest in carbon efficiency improvements of biofuels plants and sources of biofuels feedstock.
 - c. Policies that utilize biofuels to help Minnesota achieve its greenhouse gas reduction goals under the 2007 Next Generation Energy Act.
5. In making its recommendations, the Council must, at a minimum, consider:
 - a. Impacts to, and opportunities for, farmers, rural communities, the natural environment, and economically disadvantaged populations as it relates to biofuels production.
 - b. The feasibility and cost of increasing biofuels infrastructure throughout Minnesota.
6. The Council must consist of 15 members appointed by the Governor representing agriculture, the biofuels industry, transportation, environmental and conservation interests, and other relevant stakeholders.

This Executive Order is effective fifteen days after publication in the State Register and filing with the Secretary of State. This Executive Order will remain in effect until the report set forth in paragraph 3 is submitted to the Governor or until it expires in accordance with Minnesota Statutes 2018, section 4.035, subdivision 3.

Signed on September 16, 2019.



Tim Walz
Governor

Filed According to Law:



Steve Simon
Secretary of State

