

# Standardizing climate data in environmental review

Developing resources for effective and efficient climate assessment

## The challenge

Local governments, businesses, and the public are seeking reliable tools to evaluate how climate change affects their communities, economies, and ways of life. Minnesota's Environmental Review Program is designed to provide usable information to government decisionmakers, project proposers and the public on the potential environmental effects of a project. Communities need this information for sound decision making. A consistent approach for conducting climate assessments is crucial.



With this proposal, the Environmental Quality Board (EQB) seeks to make climate assessment consistent, effective, and efficient. This will provide more certainty to the environmental review process for all parties. Environmental review is performed by state agencies and local governments across the state. These government units will benefit from Minnesota-specific tools that provide timely and accurate support for integrating climate assessment.

## Proposal

This proposal will result in effective decision-making for reducing GHG emissions across the state, and support for achieving reduction goals identified in the Minnesota Next Generation Energy Act. Through an appropriation of \$760,000 over two years, the deliverables for this proposal will be a Minnesota-specific emissions assessment tool and a Minnesota-specific emissions guidance that is specific to sources and sectors. The proposal will ensure accuracy and consistency of climate information on the EAW form while reducing the time and cost for project proposers to provide information and state and local government agencies to assess applicable climate information.

## Why it's important

EQB received broad input that local governments need additional tools for conducting climate assessments. While EQB has already developed some guidance, local governments requested more detailed, Minnesota- and sector-specific tools and resources. The tools developed with this funding will provide additional accuracy and consistency of public information while reducing the time, cost, and uncertainty for government units and project proposers. Once developed, the tools will be available for all Minnesota businesses and communities to use for planning, and to help identify opportunities for climate-smart design, development, and innovation.



Location and sector specific data/tools



Accurate and timely information



Better planning for more innovation

## For more information

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