

# FACT SHEET | Cleaning up Minnesota's Water

*2016 Budget for a Better Minnesota*

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Governor Dayton and Lt. Governor Smith [have proposed a \\$220 million plan](#) to provide clean, affordable drinking water for Minnesotans. Their plan would modernize Minnesota's aging clean water infrastructure and protect groundwater from contamination. It would allocate \$167 million to assist communities across the state that could not otherwise afford to make critical investments in their aging clean water infrastructure. The plan also would invest an additional \$53 million in water quality protection initiatives to help leverage millions of federal dollars for conservation practices that would restore and protect water quality across the state.

## Clean, Affordable Water for Minnesotans

- **Point Source Implementation Grant Program** – The Governor and Lt. Governor's plan would invest \$62 million in the Point Source Implementation Grant Program, to help lift the burden off local communities to pay for treatment plant upgrades to address water quality restoration and protection goals.
- **Water Infrastructure Funding Program** – Governor Dayton and Lt. Governor Smith's proposal would provide \$80 million for the Water Infrastructure Funding Program to increase aid to communities rehabilitating aging wastewater and drinking water infrastructure systems. Grant funding is based on the average household income of residents and is designed to keep clean water affordable for Minnesotans.
- **Clean Water & Drinking Water Revolving Funds** – To help local governments update essential clean water and drinking water projects to serve residents and businesses, the Governor and Lt. Governor's Jobs Bill includes \$25 million in funding to match federal grants for affordable, low-interest loans.
- **Buffer Reimbursements** – Governor Dayton and Lt. Governor Smith's plan would invest \$30 million in the Reinvest in Minnesota Reserve program, which works with farmers and private landowners to restore and protect water quality in the implementation of the new buffer law passed last session. The state funds will leverage up to \$120 million in federal dollars and is part of a five-year, 100,000 acre clean water effort.
- **Keeping Clear Water out of Wastewater** – The Governor and Lt. Governor's plan would allocate \$5 million for an inflow/infiltration grant program at the Metropolitan Council. The initiative provides matching grants to local governments to keep clear water from entering the municipal wastewater system, which can overwhelm and back up these systems, causing untreated wastewater to enter our lakes and streams.
- **Wetland Replacement** – To replace an estimated 300 acres of wetlands that are lost due to road construction across the state, Governor Dayton and Lt. Governor Smith's Jobs Bill includes a proposed \$5 million investment in the Local Government Roads Wetlands Replacement Program.
- **Duluth Area Contamination Cleanup** – To clean up contaminated sediment and industrial waste at ten locations at the St. Louis River Estuary and the Duluth harbor and bay, the Governor and Lt. Governor's Jobs Bill would invest \$12.7 million. The state's 35 percent contribution would be matched by 65 percent federal funding.

## Why It's Necessary

- **Aging Infrastructure Requires Action** – The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency estimates that Minnesota communities will need \$11 billion in water infrastructure improvements over the next two decades. This funding is necessary to replace aging wastewater and drinking water systems, upgrade treatment facilities to meet higher standards, and expand systems to accommodate growth. Approximately 60 percent of the needed improvements are in Greater Minnesota.
- **The Cost is Too High for Local Governments** – Without state assistance to help shoulder the cost, many Minnesota communities would be forced to increase their debt loads to unaffordable levels – and dramatically increase utility fees for local residents.

