



The Environmental Quality Board: Working to Protect Minnesota Air & Water

The Environmental Quality Board is an inter-agency executive board responsible for coordinating the State of Minnesota's environmental policy. When established in 1973, the Legislature found that "problems related to the environment often encompass the responsibilities of several state agencies and that solutions to these environmental problems require the interaction of these agencies." (Minnesota Statutes 116C.01)

Environmental Congress

EQB organizes and hosts an Environmental Congress. The Congress provides a space in which Minnesotans come together and engage in productive dialogue, while collaborating on how we can work together in innovative ways to plan meaningful action for Minnesota's environmental issues.

Clean Water

In 2015, the EQB worked in collaboration with numerous state agencies to create "Beyond the Status Quo: 2015 EQB Water Policy Report." EQB's work to identify the key threats to our waters, is the first step in developing initiatives to keep our waters safe for consumption and recreation.

Pollinators

In August 2016, Governor Mark Dayton issued Executive Order 16-07. This order directed a team of state agency experts to take immediate action to restore pollinator health in Minnesota and reverse pollinator decline. The EQB has created the Interagency Pollinator Protection Team to address this critical issue.

Climate Change

The EQB is leading an initiative called "Climate Solutions and Economic Opportunities." This project uses collaboration between the EQB, state agencies, industries, and citizens to develop Minnesota-specific strategies on climate change that effectively reduce greenhouse gases while growing our economy.

Silica Sand (Frac) Mining

In 2013, the EQB was asked to assemble a silica sand technical assistance team to assist local governments with ordinance development, zoning, environmental review and permitting, and other issues related to silica sand. EQB developed model standards and criteria for mining, processing, and transporting silica sand that local governments may use when creating local ordinances.

Environmental Review Advisory Panel

The EQB “monitor[s] the effectiveness” and “take[s] appropriate measures to modify and improve” the effectiveness of the environmental review rules (Minn. Rules 4410.0400, subp. 1). In the 2015 Minnesota legislative session, the EQB was directed to streamline environmental review. EQB is convening an Environmental Review Advisory Panel to modernize and improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the environmental review program.



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