We hope that our new governor, legislature, and agency heads will enter 2011 with a new sense of purpose and a renewed commitment to protecting our environment. Without the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment funds, many of the things we have accomplished in the past few years may not have been possible. It’s easy these days to be gloomy about environmental policy, but we here at MCEA remain stubbornly optimistic. This past year, we have seen Minnesota toughen its childhood lead standards to protect our kids, many of them in neighborhoods with high concentrations of poverty. We have seen the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency issue a national rule to reduce mercury pollution from coal-fired power plants. We have seen the U.S. Department of Transportation, for the first time, bring neighbors into the planning process to make sure what needs to be done is in fact done.

But we here at MCEA remain stubbornly optimistic. This past year, we have seen Minnesota toughen its childhood lead standards to protect our kids, many of them in neighborhoods with high concentrations of poverty. We have seen the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency issue a national rule to reduce mercury pollution from coal-fired power plants. We have seen the U.S. Department of Transportation, for the first time, bring neighbors into the planning process to make sure what needs to be done is in fact done.

Real environmental issues are complex and real environmental progress takes time. MCEA is in for the long haul. Our policy and legal experts use the facts to drive change and to ensure real outcomes. MCEA is equally committed to watching over the profit and nonprofit, political and academic—to form the partnerships needed to succeed. MCEA is protecting our water, air, land and people. MCEA from its beginning as Project Environment Foundation to the present has worked with government agencies, the Legislature, and the courts to set sound environmental policy, to ensure good laws are enacted, to work with the governor and the people and with private companies to ensure that the plan can work. MCEA has been Minnesota’s environmental watchdog since 1974. We’re proud of our record, and we know we make a difference.
It's easy these days to be gloomy about environmental policy, to question whether our political system has the capacity to handle environmental issues effectively. Climate change legislation — defeated. New shoreland standards — vetoed. Environmental impacts of Canada tar sands oil — ignored.

But we here at MCEA remain stubbornly optimistic. This past year, we have seen Minnesota toughen its childhood lead standards to protect our kids, many of them in neighborhoods with high concentrations of poverty. We have seen the U.S. Department of Transportation, for the first time, bring neighbor-to-neighbor and economic development impacts into its standards for evaluating transit projects. We have seen fast track copper/nickel mining projects with enormous political support forced to go back to the drawing board to deal with likely long-term water quality problems. We have seen a state legislature facing a difficult budget situation resist the temptation to raid the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment funds. Without MCEA’s hard work, none of these things would have happened.

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We will enter 2011 with a new governor, a new legislature, and newly elected governor and legislators at the Capitol and we have a new executive director — Scott Strand. We will have a new agency heads. We hope that’s easy these days to be gloomy about environmental policy, to question whether our political system has the capacity to handle environmental issues effectively. Climate change legislation — defeated. New shoreland standards — vetoed. Environmental impacts of Canada tar sands oil — ignored.

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We will enter 2011 with a new governor, a new legislature, and new agency heads. We hope we can work in partnership with our state government again. But even if we can’t, we still have the law and the facts on our side, and the courthouse doors remain open.

MCEA has been Minnesota’s environmental watchdog since 1974. We’re proud of our record, and we know we make a difference.
LEAD - New success on an old problem

Leaf pavement is a solution for producing new energy, especially those children that live in older housing in the urban area. MCEA spearheaded an effort in 2009 and 2010 to lower the early lead action levels. This year’s research showed that lead levels were significantly lower than previously expected. MCEA’s advocacy and alliance building resulted in the Legislature directing the Mn Dept. of Health to review the State’s "recommended" risk for children exposed to lower levels of lead.

TRANSIT - Making it work for everyone

The light rail line in the Central Corridor will become the backbone of the transit system. This effort also lead to changes in the way the Federal Government makes transit funding decisions.

MINING - New mining brings a new debate

MPCA’s failure to adopt standards for nitrogen and phosphorus. MCEA continues to be a leader in the multi-state Mississippi River Collaborative’s efforts to clean up the river.

WATER - Minnesota’s most precious natural resource

MCEA’s water quality program is the oldest and most active water watchdog program in the state. In 2010, MCEA triggered an audit of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) water program by the Federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), in particular focusing on MPCA’s failure to adopt standards for phosphorus. This is the second time in the last two years that the MPCA is under investigation.

ENERGY - Switching away from coal

Switching away from coal is too critical for progress on global warming. This effort also lead to the first ever state funding program to keep key bans in place to prevent new coal and nuclear powered electrical plants from being built.

DEFENSE - Keeping the clock from getting turned

Legislative effort to protect taxpayers from paying the bill for mining pollution decades down the road.

MCEA journey has been made possible by our donors. You had a greener and healthier Minnesota and you contributed. Here are highlights from your support.

LEADERSHIP DONORS

Over 250 people joined MCEA at the Annual Meeting of Directors on Saturday, July 21, raising more than $46,000. The event was truly unique—green in all ways, the audience was addressed by natural landscaping, tasty hors d'oeuvres were served on bamboo platters, and complimentary wine and beers were provided in compostable glasses. In the spirit of the theme, no paper invitations or response cards were sent.

Reception entertainment was provided by The Usual Suspects with guests dancing to Remembrance later in the evening. Alix Kassandral from the Fox 9 Morning Show served as emcee and Jim Jensen, Executive Director at the Montana Environmental Information Center, joined as a panel auctioneer.

More than 100 items were available during the silent and live auction. Kayak, framed artwork, custom pottery, dog sled rides and event getaway packages were just a few retail items that went out the door for a good cause.

Many thanks to all who made the 2010 MCEA Gala a success. Save the date for July 31, 2011 for the second annual Legally Green Event!

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LEADERSHIP DONORS

Mary and Jeff Werbalowsky
Robert and Pat Tammen
The John Larsen Foundation
EcoTrust
Mary Lee Dayton
Wendy and Doug Dayton —
Martha Brand and Jerry Rosen
Edward R. Bazinet Foundation
Peter H. Bachman and Janet Rice
Many thanks to all who made the event a success. Save the date for July 31, 2011 for the second annual Legally Green Event!
**LEAD**  ·  New success on an old problem

Lead pollution is a persistent threat to Minnesota’s population, especially those children who live in older housing in the urban area. MCEA spearheaded an effort in 2009 and 2010 to lower the lead exposure levels—a critical step to prevent children with lead exposure to develop a significant health risk at much lower levels than previously suspected. MCEA’s advocacy and alliance building resulted in the Legislature directing the MnDHA, Division of Health to review the State's “recommended” actions for exposed children to lower levels of lead.

**TRANSPORT**  ·  Making it work for everyone

The light rail line in the Central Corridor will become the backbone of the region’s transit system. It represents an investment of $1 billion that is expected to attract more than $4 billion in compact and mixed-use development. MCEA worked with community-based organizations to successfully add three stations that will serve some of the region’s most diverse neighborhoods and allow them to access all of the region’s economic and environmental successes. This effort also led to changes in the way the Federal Government makes transit funding decisions.

**MINING**  ·  New mining brings a new debate

MCEA is the leading technical and legal voice in the debate about new, unknown mining waste. MCEA has consistently represented an investment of $1 billion that is expected to attract more than $4 billion in compact and mixed-use development. These efforts have lead to extended federal scrutiny of the project and serious legislative discussion about the strengths and weaknesses of existing regulations.

**ENERGY**  ·  Switching away from coal

Switching away from coal represents an investment of $1 billion that is expected to attract more than $4 billion in compact and mixed-use development. These efforts have lead to extended federal scrutiny of the project and serious legislative discussion about the strengths and weaknesses of existing regulations.

**WATER**  ·  Minnesota’s most precious natural resource

MCEA’s water quality program is the oldest and most active water watching program in the state. In 2000, MCEA triggered an audit of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) program by the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). In particular focusing on MPCA’s failure to adopt adequate program improvements that will continue to be a force in the multi-state Mississippi River Collaborative’s efforts to clean up the river.

**DEFENSE**  ·  Keeping the clock from getting turned

Politicians and business people have been making the claim that environmental protection is vital to Minnesota’s economic competitiveness. MCEA has supported coalitions efforts to keep key laws in place to prevent new coal and nuclear powered electrical plants from being built.

**CELEBRATION**

MCEA MARKS 35 YEARS WITH LEGALLY GREEN GALA

Over 250 people joined MCEA at William Mitchell College of Law on Saturday, July 21, raising more than $46,000. The event was truly unique—green in all ways, the atmosphere was enhanced by natural, decorative, tasty hors d’oeuvres served on bamboo plates, and complimentary wine and beers were provided in sustainable glasses and cans. In the spirit of the theme, no paper invitations or response postcards were necessary.

Reception entertainment was provided by The Usual Suspects with dancing to Romantica later in the evening. Alizé Kandel from the Star Tribune served as emcee and Jim Jensen, Executive Director at the Montana Environmental Information Center, joined as a panel auctioneer. More than 100 items were available during the live and silent auction. Kayak, framed artwork, custom pottery, dog ided videos and avant-garde art packages were just a few of the items that went out the door for a good cause.

Many thanks to all who made the Gala possible. Save the date for July 2011 for the second annual Legally Green event!

**DONORS**

MCEA journey has been made possible by our donors. You hold a greener and healthier Minnesota and your contributions have made it possible.

50,000 OR MORE

- Paul and Denise Aasen
- Mary and John Anderson
- Betsy Daub
- David and Cheryl Daub
- Constance S. Otis Fund of The Saint Paul Foundation

$20,000 TO $49,999

- Mary and John Anderson
- Betsy Daub
- David and Cheryl Daub
- Constance S. Otis Fund of The Saint Paul Foundation

$10,000 TO $19,999

- Mary and John Anderson
- Betsy Daub
- David and Cheryl Daub
- Constance S. Otis Fund of The Saint Paul Foundation

$5,000 TO $9,999

- Mary and John Anderson
- Betsy Daub
- David and Cheryl Daub
- Constance S. Otis Fund of The Saint Paul Foundation

$1,000 TO $4,999

- Anonymous Fund of the Minneapolis Foundation
- Minnesota’s Most Precious Natural Resource
- The Whitney Foundation
- Minnesota’s Most Precious Natural Resource

$250 TO $1,000

- The Minneapolis Foundation
- The Whitney Foundation
- The Minneapolis Foundation

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION**

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<tr>
<th>Year ended June 30, 2010</th>
<th>Amount (in thousands)</th>
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<td>Total Assets</td>
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**STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES**

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**LEAD**

New success on an old problem

Lead government with a vision through Green Dream Minnesota, especially those children that live in older housing in the urban center. MCEA spearheaded an effort in 2009 and to lower the early lead action levels—to great children’s benefit. Current research shows that lead causes a significant health risk at much lower levels than previously expected. MCEA’s advocacy and alliance building resulted in the Legislature directing the MN Dept. of Health to review the State’s “recommended actions” for exposed children to lower levels of lead.

**TRANSIT**

Making it work for everyone

The Light Rail Line in the Central Corridor will become the backbone of the three-county region’s transportation system. It represents an investment of $1 billion that is expected to attract more than $4 billion in compact and mixed-use forms of development. MCEA worked with community-based organizations to successfully add three stations that will serve some of the region’s most densely populated and areas that allow for access to all of the region’s social, economic and environmental amenities. This effort also lead to changes in the way the Federal Government makes transit funding decisions.

**MINING**

New mining brings a new debate

MCEA is the lead mining and rare earths—also the debate about rare, non-ferrous mining in north-eastern Minnesota. MCEA provided extended commentary to state and federal regulatory agencies on the environmental and social impacts of the mining proposal. MCEA has also been leading in an collaborative effort to protect taxpayers from paying the bill for mining pollution decades down the road. These efforts have lead to increased scrutiny of the project and extended legislative discussion about the strengths and weaknesses of existing regulations.

**WATER**

Minnesota’s most precious natural resource

MCEA’s water quality program is the oldest and most active water watchdog program in the state. In 2000, MCEA triggered an audit of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) water program by the Federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), in particular focusing on MPCA’s failure to adopt standards for impaired lakes. MCEA continues to be a leader in the multi-state Mississippi River Collaborative’s efforts to clean up the river.

**ENERGY**

Switching away from coal

Jumping off the successful defeat of the new Big Stone II power plant proposal in 2009, MCEA has shifted gears to retiring existing, old coal electrical generation plants. MCEA is part of solid alliance of energy and environmental advocates that range from grassroots organizations to legal and technical experts. Retiring old coal will be a long and hard fought process but it is critical for progress on global warming.

**DEFENSE**

Keeping the clock from getting turned back

Politicians and business people have been making the claim that environmental regulation has been slowing business growth in Minnesota across the board. MCEA has consistently debunked these claims and effectively made the case that strong environmental protection is vital to Minnesota’s economic competitiveness. MCEA also supported coalition efforts to keep key laws in place to prevent new coal and nuclear powered electrical plants from being built.

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**CELEBRATION**

MCEA Marks 35 Years with Legally Green Gala

Over 250 people joined MCEA at William Mitchell College of Law on Saturday, July 21, raising more than $46,000. The event was truly unique—green in all ways, the audience was adorned with natural decorations, tasty hors d’oeuvres were served on bamboo plates, and complimentary wine and beers were provided in compostable glasses. In the spirit of the theme, no paper invitations or response cards were sent.

Reception entertainment was provided by The Usual Suspects with guests dancing to Remoanica later in the evening. A solo from the Fox 9 Morning News served as emcee and Jim Jansen, Executive Director at the Montana Environmental Information Center, joined as a guest auctioneer.

More than 100 items were available during the live and silent auction. Kayak, framed artwork, custom pottery, dog ided ideas and wine and gourmet packages were just a few of the items that went out the door for a good cause.

MCEA thanks all who made MCEA’s 35th possible. Save the date for July 2011 for the second annual Legally Green Event!

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**DONORS**

MCEA journey has been made possible by our donors. You fund a greener and healthier Minnesota and your contributions couple with your time make an impact.

**NUMBERS**

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total Assets</th>
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**STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES**

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**STAFF AT MCEA**

Michelle St. John, President & CEO

**GOALS**

- Emphasize the threat of global warming
- Keep the clock from turning back
- Make it work for everyone

**MISSION**

MCEA is a stronger Minnesota through Green Dream Minnesota, especially those children that live in older housing in the urban center. MCEA spearheaded an effort in 2009 and to lower the early lead action levels—to great children’s benefit. Current research shows that lead causes a significant health risk at much lower levels than previously expected. MCEA’s advocacy and alliance building resulted in the Legislature directing the MN Dept. of Health to review the State’s “recommended actions” for exposed children to lower levels of lead.
It’s easy these days to be gloomy about environmental policy. We hope that whether our political system has the capacity to handle environmental issues effectively. Climate change legislation—defeated. New shoreland standards—vetted. Environmental impacts of Canadian tarsands ignored. We have seen the state legislature pass legislation—defeated. New shoreland standards—vetoed. Here are new shades of green appearing elsewhere as well. We’re excited to welcome Scott Strand as our new Executive Director. We will have a new governor, a new legislature, and a new agency heads. We hope that when we enter the second decade of the 21st century, a new awareness of environmental issues is taking hold, bringing new concerns and new constituents to the table. While Minnesotans still care about preserving and protecting wild areas, there is an growing concern about the environment in our urban areas and its effects on those who live there.

There are new shades of green appearing elsewhere as well. We’re excited to welcome Scott Strand as our new Executive Director. We will have a newly elected governor and legislators at the Capitol and we have a new business and economic climate. MCEA will continue to remain the vigilant and determined voice for our state’s environment and quality of life.

Since 1974, the Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy has been protecting our water, air, land and people. MCEA believes the key to achieving lasting environmental change is to combine strong political advocacy with sound policy and scientific evidence. This approach has been proven effective in bringing about real changes in law and policy. MCEA’s goal is to make sure the changes in the next 35 years are for the better. MCEA has a strong record of success, and our impact is measured in the laws that have been passed, the regulations that have been adopted, and the enforcement actions that have been taken. MCEA is committed to working across all sectors—private and public, profit and nonprofit, political and academic—to form the partnerships needed to succeed. MCEA is equally committed to watching over the process to make sure what needs to be done is, in fact, done.

Minnesota’s environment has seen a lot of changes in the 35 years since MCEA was founded. Some of the changes have been for better, some for worse. MCEA’s goal is to make sure that the changes in the next 35 years are for the better.