

Minnesota's Climate Superfund: It's time for polluters to pay

Prepared by Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy

THE PROBLEM

Across Minnesota people are paying the costs of the climate crisis. We see it in flooded basements, smoke-filled summers, and rising insurance and energy costs. Families, farmers, and cities are shouldering these expenses, while fossil fuel companies make record profits.

ONE SOLUTION

A Climate Superfund bill for Minnesota.

This bill would require the biggest polluters to help cover the costs of climate damage, so everyday Minnesotans aren't left footing the bill alone.



MORE ABOUT CLIMATE SUPERFUNDS

How it was developed. Climate Superfund laws are modeled on the federal Superfund law, or the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) enacted in 1980. That law imposes liability on parties responsible for the presence of hazardous substances at a site. It makes those parties responsible for government cleanup costs, damages to natural resources, the costs of certain health assessments, and cleanup where a site may present an imminent and substantial endangerment.

What the bill would do. Following in the footsteps of Vermont and New York, our bill would require responsible parties to pay for climate mitigation efforts. The money raised will fund public projects designed to repair, adapt, or otherwise mitigate impacts caused by climate change and also assist households and communities in preparing for future climate-change-driven impacts.

A national movement. Big Oil companies knew decades ago that their fossil fuel products could cause “catastrophic” consequences, but they lied to the public to protect their profits. Now more than 1 in 4 people in the United States live in a state or community that is taking major fossil fuel companies to court to hold them accountable for this deception. A growing number of states are also passing or considering Climate Superfund laws that would make polluters pay for the growing costs of climate damages.

How you can help. MCEA is a founding organization in the coalition advocating for a Climate Superfund. The last legislative session laid the groundwork to educate our elected representatives about why this is important for Minnesota's future as we see increasing costs from the climate crisis. You can take action today and tell your legislators you support this bill by using the QR code.

