

Minnesota Drinking Water Action Plan

JANUARY 2024

A safe, sufficient, and affordable supply of drinking water is essential to healthy communities and a healthy economy. New challenges and existing inequities threaten this foundational resource. By the end of 2024, Minnesota will have a plan that defines actionable strategies and policies that will ensure drinking water is safe for everyone, everywhere in Minnesota.¹

An actionable 10-year plan to ensure that all Minnesotans have equitable access to safe and sufficient drinking water.

Serve every Minnesotan.

Be the State's commitment to protect against existing and emerging threats.

Incorporate expertise and robust feedback from diverse perspectives.

This Plan is in response to the Minnesota Legislature and Clean Water Council's charge to Minnesota Department of Health to "...develop public health policies and an action plan to address threats to safe drinking water, including development of a statewide plan for protecting drinking water based on recommendations from the Future of Drinking Water report" (2021 Minnesota Session Law Chapter 1, Article 1, Section 7 [d]).

The plan will serve every Minnesotan

Every person in Minnesota should be confident their drinking water is safe, regardless of:

- If their water is from a public water system or private well.
- If their water source is groundwater or a surface water body (e.g., river, lake, or stream).
- Their zip code, race, ethnicity, dominant language, sexual orientation, age, or socio-economic status.

The plan will help identify the health inequities in our current drinking water management system and how to address those inequities.

The plan will be the State's commitment to protect against threats

The plan will be the State's commitment to protect against existing and emerging threats that endanger safe drinking water.

¹ This plan builds on the findings and recommendations in the University of Minnesota's 2020 report: [The Future of Minnesota Drinking Water: A Framework for Managing Risk \(PDF\)](https://conservancy.umn.edu/bitstream/handle/11299/212014/Future%20of%20Drinking%20Water%202020Feb3.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y) (<https://conservancy.umn.edu/bitstream/handle/11299/212014/Future%20of%20Drinking%20Water%202020Feb3.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>).

The plan will:

- Address threats and opportunities from the water source through human consumption.
- Guide and speak to the work of all state agencies connected to drinking water from source to tap.
- Include and respond to an assessment of the efficiency and effectiveness of and trust in Minnesota’s drinking water system.

The plan will incorporate diverse expertise and feedback

Through partnership with the University of Minnesota Water Resources Center (WRC), the plan will incorporate expertise and feedback from multiple perspectives. WRC is gathering this feedback through three stages and platforms:

- **Assess governance:** WRC worked with partners to conduct an independent governance assessment with water resource professionals; state, local and tribal governments; and drinking water academic experts in spring 2023. The assessment examined the **effectiveness** of drinking water governance and management, **efficiency** of implementation and delivery of drinking water, and **trust** in the drinking water system and inclusiveness of diverse interests. The assessment is available at [Lessons from Drinking Water Professionals: An Assessment of Drinking Water Governance in Minnesota \(PDF\)](https://conservancy.umn.edu/bitstream/handle/11299/259166/GAF%20Comprehensive%20Report%202023Dec8.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y) (<https://conservancy.umn.edu/bitstream/handle/11299/259166/GAF%20Comprehensive%20Report%202023Dec8.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>).
- **Public meetings:** WRC and partners are inviting public water system customers and private well users to learn more about drinking water in Minnesota and provide feedback on the general plan content, priorities, and recommendations.
- **Online survey:** MDH, WRC, and partners are inviting water professionals; state, local and tribal governments; and academic experts to provide feedback on the draft plan content, priorities, and recommendations.
- **Comment online:** Everyone will be invited to comment online on the revised plan that incorporates feedback gathered through public meetings and survey.

The table below shows the stages, platforms, groups, and timeline for gathering feedback.

Group	Assess governance (Spring 2023)	Provide feedback in person or via a survey on draft plan (Winter 2023 into 2024)	Comment on revised plan online (Spring 2024)
Water resource professionals	✓	✓	✓
State, local, and tribal governments	✓	✓	✓
Academia	✓	✓	✓
Private well users		✓	✓
Public water system customers		✓	✓

01/09/2024

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