



Our Vision for Minnesota's Water Future

Our vision for Minnesota's water future is that Minnesota will be known as a leader that:

- Provides safe, affordable and trustworthy water to advance public health and achieve social, racial and economic equity for all Minnesotans
- Uses water economically and efficiently for personal, community and business purposes across the water use and reuse cycle
- Ensures all water is high quality to maintain quality of life for which the state is known
- Increases knowledge about the water on which Minnesotans depend



Problem Statement

In Minnesota, the challenges facing our extensive water resources vary locally across the state. Not all Minnesotans have access to clean, abundant and affordable water. As the headwaters of three major, international watersheds, the decisions we make affect millions of people locally and downstream: their health, well-being, livelihoods, and economic prosperity. Action must be taken now to ensure clean, plentiful water is available, accessible and appropriately valued for all use into the future.

Business Case for Collective Action

The Sustainable Growth Coalition has the opportunity to substantially impact Minnesota's water resources to ensure a thriving economy and healthy, equitable communities across the state. Benefits of improving water quality, quantity and access include, but are not limited to:

- Reducing operational and supply chain costs and risks
- Being ahead of and responsive to customer, consumer and investor demand
- Creating new business models, products and services
- Building a regional brand that elevates Minnesota as a great place to do business and live
- Growing job opportunities for all and attracting and retaining talent in Minnesota
- Improving quality of life in Minnesota

About the Sustainable Growth Coalition

Nearly 30 businesses and organizations formed the Sustainable Growth Coalition, a business led partnership harnessing their expertise to advance the next frontier of corporate sustainability—the circular economy. Our members are: 3M, Ackerberg, Allianz Life Insurance Company of North America, Andersen Corporation, Antea Group, Aveda, Barr, Best Buy, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Minnesota, C.H. Robinson, Ecolab, Great River Energy, GREATER MSP, HealthPartners, HGA, Metropolitan Airports Commission, Metropolitan Council, Mortenson, National Grid Renewables, Tennant, University of Minnesota, Uponor, Wenck – a Stantech company, Xcel Energy.

Focus Areas

Focus Area	Rationale	Desired State
 <p>Quantity</p>	<p>Decreasing consumption and ensuring long-term strategies for efficient, effective and economical water use and protection lowers costs, risks and associated carbon emissions.</p>	<p><i>Water is being used economically and is properly valued to create a circular, sustainable water system. It is abundant enough to be used and re-used for purposes across the region, including for recreational, residential, agricultural and business needs.</i></p>
 <p>Quality</p>	<p>Implementing and advancing effective, viable options for water quality protection and management ensures business, community, agricultural and residential needs are safeguarded for the long term and protects inputs for the short term. Using the right type of water for the right uses decreases costs.</p>	<p><i>Across the state, Minnesota is the model for improving water quality through appropriate usage, protection and stewardship. Water is enjoyed, consumed, and trusted by all. Abundant, clean water contributes to increased quality of life for residents, natural resources/wildlife, a thriving economy and advances Minnesota's status as a great place to live, work and visit.</i></p>
 <p>Access</p>	<p>Access to an appropriate quantity and quality of water will ensure the health and well-being of our communities and ecosystems as well as thriving business operations and the reduction of risk. Talent recruitment and retention and workforce development benefits will result.</p>	<p><i>Clean and abundant water can be accessed by all Minnesotans now and in the future, in an equitable and fair manner.</i></p>