

MAWSAC Report (9/24/26 DRAFT)

Endnotes

The 2027 MAWSAC report to the Minnesota Legislature and Metropolitan Council taps into a deep repository of technical information made possible by investments in water science and policy research by Minnesota and Twin Cities metro region's public and private entities.

Overview

O-1

Over half of Minnesota's population currently lives in the Twin Cities metro region, based on 2025 statewide and county estimates, which includes the counties of Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott, and Washington.

Minnesota State Demographic Center. *PopFinder for Minnesota, Counties, and Regions*. <https://mn.gov/admin/demography/data-by-topic/population-data/our-estimates/pop-finder1.jsp>. Accessed July 30, 2026.

O-2

Recent surveys of Minnesotans highlight what they value most about water. Three values or uses that people said were most important to protect lakes and rivers for were: future generations, equitable access to clean drinking water, and drinking water was safe and clear. Other uses and values that were highly valued include water for native habitats, watering vegetable gardens, high-quality recreation, cultural or religious practices, and fishing.

Metropolitan Council. *Diverse Water Perspectives*. <https://metro council.org/Wastewater-Water/Planning/Water-Supply-Planning/Projects/PLANNING/Washington-County-Municipal-Water-Coalition.aspx>. Accessed July 30, 2026.

University of Minnesota, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resources Sciences. *Research Brief: How socially and culturally diverse Minnesotans value water*. <https://cfans.umn.edu/news/how-socially-and-culturally-diverse-minnesotans-value-water>. Accessed July 30, 2026.

O-3

Economic development in the Twin Cities metro region is well documented. Organizations such as Greater MSP compile and promote a wide range of information about the region, such as key industries for those interested in doing business here.

Greater MSP. *Key Industries*. <https://www.greatermmsp.org/doing-business-here/key-industries>. Accessed July 30, 2026.

O-4

The number of municipal community water supply systems, their sources, and the populations they support are recorded by the Minnesota Department of Health. Met Council tracks those in the Twin Cities metro region.

Minnesota Department of Health. *Drinking Water by the Numbers: For Fiscal Year 2025*.

<https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/docs/waternumbers.pdf>. Accessed September 4, 2026.

Metropolitan Council. *2050 Water Policy Plan*.

<https://imagine2050.metrocouncil.org/media/rtxjni3c/imagine-2050-water-policy-plan-ada.pdf>. Accessed September 4, 2026.

O-5

The number of privately-owned wells is documented by the Minnesota Well Index; Met Council tracks those in the Twin Cities.

Minnesota Department of Health. *Minnesota Well Index*.

<https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/mwi/index.html>. Accessed September 3, 2026.

Metropolitan Council. *2050 Water Policy Plan*.

<https://imagine2050.metrocouncil.org/media/rtxjni3c/imagine-2050-water-policy-plan-ada.pdf>. Accessed September 4, 2026.

O-6

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) tracks and reports on water use by water appropriation permit holders (using more than 10,000 gallons a day or 1,000,000 gallons a year). Use can be summarized by major categories such as power generation, industrial processing, non-crop irrigation, water supply, water level maintenance, heating/cooling, and special categories.

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. *Minnesota water use data*.
https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/waters/watermgmt_section/appropriations/wateruse.html. Accessed July 30, 2026.

O-7

As part of its regional water supply planning, the Met Council periodically evaluates water use statistics and trends including historical and projected municipal use. Data is reported for the whole region and per person (calculated by dividing total municipal water use in the metropolitan area by the population of the metropolitan area).

Metropolitan Council. *Master Water Supply Plan*. September 23, 2015.

Metropolitan Council. *2050 Water Policy Plan: Appendix G*.
<https://imagine2050.metrocouncil.org/media/rtxjni3c/imagine-2050-water-policy-plan-ada.pdf>. Accessed July 30, 2026.

O-8

Water supply planning considerations of large-volume water users are being investigated by several Minnesota organizations.

Minnesota Department of Health. *Large Volume Water Users and Public Water Supply: Considerations for Evaluating New Large Volume Users in a Community*. June 26, 2026.
<https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/docs/swp/lgwateusers.pdf>. Accessed July 30, 2026.

Minnesota Clean Water Council. *Policy Brief: Large-volume water users*. April 20, 2026. <https://www.pca.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/wq-cwc1-37.pdf>. Accessed on July 30, 2026.

O-9

There is growing research documenting changes in Minnesota's climate and related impacts. Annual temperatures and precipitation are increasing, as are the number of extreme weather events. For agriculture and forestry, this means increased heat stress, soil impacts, and different growing conditions that could impact traditional crops.

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. *Climate trends*.
https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/climate/climate_change_info/climate-trends.html. Accessed July 30, 2026.

University of Minnesota Climate Adaptation Partnership. *Minnesota County Climate Trends*.

<https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/65aa7883f5d4419db9983a3fb44870c9/page/Page?views=Map>. Accessed September 4, 2026.

Roop, H. A., N. Meyer, G. Klinger, K. Blumenfeld, S. Liess, A. Farris, P. Boulay, W. Baule, J. Andresen, J. Bendorf, A. B. Wilson, L. Nowatzke, D. Today, and T. Ontl. *Climate Change Impacts on Minnesota Agriculture*. Ames, IA: United States Department of Agriculture Climate Hubs; University of Minnesota Climate Adaptation Partnership; Great Lakes Research Integrated Science Assessment, 2024.

<https://www.climatehubs.usda.gov/sites/default/files/Climate%20Change%20Impacts%20on%20Minnesota%20Agriculture.pdf>. Accessed July 30, 2026.

O-10

Research on contaminants of emerging concern (CECs) is ongoing by Minnesota agencies and their partners. Minnesota Department of Health's CEC initiative prioritizes chemicals that have been found or are likely to be found in Minnesota drinking water and have little or no information available about human health risk. The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency regularly studies the presence of CECs in Minnesota's waters.

Minnesota Department of Health. *Contaminants of Emerging Concern (CEC) Initiative*.

<https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/risk/guidance/dwec/index.html>. Accessed July 30, 2026.

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. *Understanding emerging contaminants*.

<https://www.pca.state.mn.us/air-water-land-climate/understanding-emerging-contaminants>. Accessed September 30, 2026.

O-11

While challenging, multiple organizations are working to assess the condition of water supply infrastructure in Minnesota and in the Twin Cities metro region. In 2026, the American Society of Civil Engineers graded Minnesota's drinking water infrastructure at C-; their report provides more context for this grade. The Met Council is working with public water suppliers in the Twin Cities metro region to better understand infrastructure conditions in the region.

Minnesota Section and Duluth Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers. *2026 Report Card for Minnesota's Infrastructure*.

<https://infrastructurereportcard.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/minnesota-2026-report-card-full.pdf>. Accessed July 30, 2026.

In development: Metropolitan Council. *NAME OF PROJECT WEBSITE*.

<https://metro council.org/Wastewater-Water/Planning/...> Accessed Month DD, 2026.

Issue brief: Protecting water quality and source water for public health and long-term resilience

WQ-1

Several resources illustrate how drinkable, swimmable, and fishable metro region waters are. Examples include drinking water testing results (for public and private wells), Minnesota's impaired water list, and fish consumption guidance.

Minnesota Department of Health. *Drinking Water Protection Annual Reports: Annual reports about the state of drinking water*.

<https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/dwar.html>.

Accessed September 4, 2026.

Minnesota Department of Agriculture. *Township Testing Program*.

<https://www.mda.state.mn.us/township-testing-program>. Accessed September 4, 2026.

Minnesota Department of Health. *Arsenic in Well Water*.

<https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/wells/waterquality/arsenic.html>. Accessed September 4, 2026.

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. *Minnesota's impaired waters list*.

<https://www.pca.state.mn.us/air-water-land-climate/minnesotas-impaired-waters-list>. Accessed June 4, 2026.

Minnesota Department of Health. *Fish Consumption Guidance*.

<https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/fish/index.html>.

Accessed June 4, 2026.

WQ-2

A regional water planning atlas compiles water supply data and information for the Twin Cities metro region.

Metropolitan Council. *Water Supply Planning Atlas*.

<https://metro council.org/Wastewater-Water/Planning/Water-Supply-Planning/Basics/Atlas.aspx>. Accessed June 4, 2026.

WQ-3

Several resources explore how preventing contamination at the source is more effective and affordable than relying on downstream treatment after contamination has spread.

Noe, Ryan, Bonnie Keeler, and Terin Mayer. *Source Water Protection Challenges and Co-benefits*. University of Minnesota Humphrey School of Public Affairs. November 2021.

https://www.lccmr.mn.gov/projects/2017/finals/2017_03b_final_report_source_water_protection_challenges_and_co-benefits.pdf. Accessed June 4, 2026.

Metropolitan Council. *Protecting Source Water Areas Research Paper*. January 17, 2023. <https://metro council.org/Wastewater-Water/Planning/2050-Water-Policy-Plan/Research/Protecting-Source-Water-Areas.aspx>. Accessed June 4, 2026.

Saint Paul Regional Water Services. *Source Water Protection*. June 18, 2025. <https://www.stpaul.gov/departments/saint-paul-regional-water-services/about-your-water/source-water-protection>. Accessed June 4, 2026.

WQ-4

Maximum contaminant levels (MLCs) enforced by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) for Per and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) are forcing public water suppliers to make major treatment improvements that were not planned for previously, when detection limits were lower. Most existing water treatment facilities are not currently equipped to treat PFAS and other emerging contaminants, resulting in funding needs and/or significant adjustments to water utility rates. Protecting the environment from residual PFAS waste removed by PFAS treatment facilities and disposed of at landfills also remains a major challenge to prevent further contamination of groundwater systems.

Metropolitan Council. *Water Supply Planning Atlas*.

<https://metro council.org/Wastewater-Water/Planning/Water-Supply-Planning/Basics/Atlas.aspx>. Accessed June 4, 2026

Metropolitan Council. *2050 Water Policy Plan*. February 12, 2025.

<https://metro council.org/Wastewater-Water/Planning/2050-Water-Policy-Plan.aspx>. Accessed June 4, 2025.

Minnesota Department of Health. *Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)*.

<https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/hazardous/topics/pfcs.html>. Accessed June 4, 2026.

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. *Air Pollutant, Land Contaminant, Water Pollutant – PFAS*. <https://www.pca.state.mn.us/pollutants-and-contaminants/pfas>. Accessed June 4, 2024.

WQ-5

A recent report by water agencies summarizes the nitrate issue and work underway in Minnesota. It discusses why nitrate is a problem, what monitoring shows about nitrate across the state, and actions being taken to reduce nitrate and protect Minnesota residents.

- a. Interagency Coordinating Team (ICT) subteam on drinking water and groundwater. *Working together to protect Minnesota's waters from nitrate*. Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, January 2026.
<https://www.pca.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/wq-gen1-21.pdf>. Accessed June 4, 2026.

WQ-6

Without sufficient investment in drinking water and wastewater infrastructure, households may face significantly higher costs in the future due to aging systems, infrastructure failures, and service disruptions. Minnesota's Drinking Water Revolving Fund Project Priority List gives a sense of the scale of funding needed to address aging infrastructure.

Minnesota Department of Health. *Drinking Water Revolving Fund – Project Priority List*.
<https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/dwrf/ppl.html>. Accessed June 4, 2026.

WQ-7

Communities may face rising costs related to changing drinking water standards. The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency has summarized some of the benefits and costs of new or changing standards.

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. *Water quality standards: Costs and benefits*.
<https://www.pca.state.mn.us/business-with-us/water-quality-standards-costs-and-benefits>. Accessed June 4, 2026.

WQ-8

Beginning in 2024, all Minnesota public water suppliers that utilize operational technology must conduct annual cybersecurity assessments.

Minnesota Department of Health. *Assessing Security of Public Water Systems*.
<https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/emergency/water/securityassess.html>. Accessed June 4, 2026.

WQ-9

Climate change research illustrates a range of potential impacts on water resources in the metro region including increased annual temperature, warming winters, and increased precipitation.

University of Minnesota Climate Adaptation Partnership. *Climate Change in Minnesota*. <https://climate.umn.edu/MNclimate>. Accessed June 4, 2026.

WQ-10

Lead is rarely found in natural sources of water such as rivers and lakes or underground aquifers. Lead can get into drinking water after it leaves the treatment plant, as it passes through your household plumbing system. Homes built before 1940 may have lead service lines that connect them to public water. Plumbing systems built before 1986 may have lead parts. The Minnesota Department of Health provides information about lead in Minnesota's water supplies. They also have an interactive map application that illustrates how many lead service lines need replacement by Minnesota's public water systems.

Minnesota Department of Health. *Let it run...and get the lead out!*
https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/factsheet/letitrun_english.html. Accessed September 14, 2026.

Minnesota Department of Health. *Do you have a lead service line?*
<https://maps.umn.edu/LSL/>. Accessed September 14, 2026.

WQ-11

The New Brighton/Arden Hills Superfund Site provides useful information about the costs and management challenges of addressing water supply contamination. The cities of New Brighton, St. Anthony, Columbia Heights, Fridley, and Minneapolis have been collaborating with the U.S. Army for decades to pump and treat contaminated groundwater and protect public health.

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. *Off-site groundwater plumes at the New Brighton/Arden Hills Superfund Site (a.k.a. the Twin Cities Army Ammunition plant or TCAAP)*. <https://www.tcaaprab.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/MPCA-Factsheet.pdf>. Accessed September 14, 2026.

WQ-12

There are several examples of community and agency actions that could inform legislative and Metropolitan Council actions to protect water quality and source water. Examples:

Metropolitan Council and Minnesota Department of Health. *Presentation to the Clean Water Council: Multi-Community Source Water Protection Pilot*.
<https://metro council.org/Council-Meetings/Committees/Water-Supply-Advisory-Committee/Water-Supply-Technical-Advisory-Committee/2023/October-11,->

[2023/Info-Item-1c-MultiCommunity-WHPP-Pilot-Project.aspx](#). Accessed September 15, 2026.

Minnesota Department of Health. *Source Water Protection Grants*. <https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/swp/grants.html>. Accessed September 15, 2026.

Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources. *Grant Information and Resources*. <https://bwsr.state.mn.us/grants>. Accessed September 15, 2026.

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. *Healthier Watersheds: Tracking the actions taken*. <https://www.pca.state.mn.us/business-with-us/healthier-watersheds-tracking-the-actions-taken>. Accessed September 15, 2026.

Issue brief: Balancing water use to protect our communities, natural resources, and future growth

WS-1

Over half of Minnesota’s population currently lives in the Twin Cities region, based on 2025 statewide and county estimates, which includes the counties of Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott, and Washington.

Minnesota State Demographic Center. *PopFinder for Minnesota, Counties, and Regions*. <https://mn.gov/admin/demography/data-by-topic/population-data/our-estimates/pop-finder1.jsp>. Accessed July 30, 2026.

WS-2

Multiple organizations track various economic measures in the Twin Cities metro region. Examples:

Greater MSP. *Key Industries*. <https://www.greatermsp.org/doing-business-here/key-industries/>. Accessed July 30, 2026.

Metropolitan Council. *2025 Regional Economic Framework*. <https://metro council.org/Planning/2050-Regional-Economic-Framework.aspx>. Accessed July 30, 2026.

WS-3

The landscape of the Twin Cities metro region is dotted with nearly 1,000 lakes and traversed by hundreds of miles of rivers and streams. These resources provide significant

use and benefit to the region such as recreation and tourism, healthy habitat, drinking water protection, tranquil connection, equity, industry and utility, and science and education.

Metropolitan Council. *Lake Monitoring and Assessment*.

<https://metro council.org/Wastewater-Water/Services/Water-Quality-Management/Lake-Monitoring-Analysis.aspx>. Accessed September 4, 2026.

Metropolitan Council. *River Monitoring and Assessment*.

<https://metro council.org/Wastewater-Water/Services/Water-Quality-Management/River-Monitoring-Analysis.aspx>. Accessed September 4, 2026.

Metropolitan Council. *Stream Monitoring and Assessment*.

<https://metro council.org/Wastewater-Water/Services/Water-Quality-Management/Stream-Monitoring-Assessment.aspx>. Accessed September 4, 2026.

Metropolitan Council. *Priority Waters List*. <https://metro council.org/Wastewater-Water/Planning/Water-Resources-Management/Priority-Waters-List.aspx>. Accessed July 30, 2026.

WS-4

The Metropolitan Council used a regional groundwater flow model, Metro Model 3, to estimate long-term sustainable groundwater use for the Twin Cities metro region.

Christianson, Evan and Ray Wuolo. *Technical Memorandum: Metro Model Pumping Optimization 3*. Barr Engineering Company, Inc. April 2, 2015.

Metropolitan Council. *Master Water Supply Plan*. September 23, 2015.

WS-5

When water use by one entity impacts another or a public resource, it is called “well interference” and Minnesota has a process to resolve these situations, administered by the Department of Natural Resources.

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. *Well interference resolution process*. https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/waters/watermgmt_section/appropriations/interference.html. Accessed July 30, 2026.

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. *Blaine-Ham Lake area well interference investigation*.

https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/waters/watermgmt_section/blaine-ham-lake-well-interference.html. Accessed September 4, 2026.

WS-6

Water use in Minnesota is managed by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, and annual reports are provided to the public.

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. *Minnesota Water Use*.
https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/waters/watermgmt_section/appropriations/wateruse.html. Accessed June 4, 2026.

WS-7

Met Council's Water Efficiency Grant Program provides several examples of Twin Cities communities who have invested in improving their water efficiency and conservation programs.

Metropolitan Council. *Water Efficiency Grant Program*.
<https://metro council.org/Wastewater-Water/Planning/Water-Supply-Planning/Grants/Water-Efficiency-Grant-Program.aspx>. Accessed June 4, 2026.

Issue brief: Water supply infrastructure: managing aging infrastructure and long-term investment needs

I-1

Minnesota's Drinking Water Revolving Fund Intended Use Plan identifies projects and activities that the Public Facilities Authority intends to fund from the fund during each state fiscal year.

Minnesota Department of Health. *Drinking Water Revolving Fund – Intended Use Plan*.
<https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/dwrf/ppl.html>. Accessed June 4, 2026.

I-2

Met Council is currently working on a technical report that focuses on an assessment of water supply infrastructure in the Twin Cities metro region.

In development: Metropolitan Council. *NAME OF PROJECT WEBSITE*.
<https://metro council.org/Wastewater-Water/Planning/...> Accessed Month DD, 2026.

I-3

Water supply infrastructure is currently supported by a range of tools, which can inform legislative and Met Council actions to invest in resilient water systems. Examples:

Minnesota Public Facilities Authority. *Drinking Water State Revolving Fund*. <https://mn.gov/deed/pfa/funds-programs/drinking-water.jsp>. Accessed September 15, 2026.

Minnesota Public Facilities Authority. *Water Infrastructure Fund*. <https://mn.gov/deed/pfa/funds-programs/wastewater.jsp>. Accessed September 15, 2026.

United States Environmental Protection Agency. *Green Project Reserve Guidance for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF)*. <https://www.epa.gov/cwsrf/green-project-reserve-guidance-clean-water-state-revolving-fund-cwsrf>. Accessed September 15, 2026.

Minnesota Management and Budget. *General Fund Appropriation Bonds*. <https://mn.gov/mmb/debt-management/bonding/bond-sale/general-fund-appropriation-bonds/>. Accessed September 15, 2026.

Minnesota Legislative Reference Library. *Major Capital Investment and Bonding Bills and Laws, 1963-present*. <https://www.lrl.mn.gov/history/bondingbills>. Accessed September 15, 2026.

Issue brief: Understanding groundwater and surface water interactions for long-term water supply sustainability

GWSW-1

Met Council has completed several studies focused on identifying and describing groundwater-surface water interaction in the Twin Cities metro region.

Metropolitan Council. *Characterizing Groundwater and Surface Water Interactions in Northeastern Twin Cities Lakes, MN*. <https://metro council.org/Wastewater-Water/Planning/Water-Supply-Planning/Projects/PLANNING/Characterizing-Groundwater-and-Surface-Water-Inter.aspx>. Accessed August 28, 2026.

Metropolitan Council. *Evaluation of Groundwater and Surface Water Interaction*. <https://metro council.org/Wastewater-Water/Planning/Water-Supply->

Planning/Projects/PLANNING/Evaluation-GW-SW-Interaction.aspx. Accessed August 28, 2026.

Metropolitan Council. *Interactions of Groundwater and Surface Water Resources*. <https://metro council.org/Wastewater-Water/Planning/Water-Supply-Planning/Projects/PLANNING/Interactions-of-Groundwater-and-Surface-Water-Reso.aspx>. Accessed August 28, 2026.

GWSW-2

The DNR is responsible for balancing competing management objectives that include both development and protection of Minnesota's water resources. One example is the water appropriation permit program.

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. *Water Appropriation Permit Program*. https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/waters/watermgmt_section/appropriations/index.html. Accessed August 28, 2026.

GWSW-3

The evaluation of groundwater and surface water is done at different scales. Examples of how communities and agencies are evaluating groundwater-surface water interactions in the Twin Cities metro region include:

Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization. *Our Projects*. <https://www.vermillionriverwatershed.org/watershed-management/capital-improvement-projects/>. Accessed August 28, 2026.

Metropolitan Council. *White Bear Lake Area Comprehensive Plan Work Group*. <https://metro council.org/Council-Meetings/Work-Groups/White-Bear-Lake-Work-Group.aspx>. Accessed August 28, 2026.

Minnesota Department of Health. *New Burnsville Plant Will Use Excess Quarry Water*. <https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/waterline/feature-stories/burnsville.html>. Accessed August 28, 2026.

Issue brief: The cost of water: balancing affordability, resilience, and long-term sustainability

C-1

Met Council is currently working on a technical report that focuses on water rates and affordability in the Twin Cities metro region.

In development: Metropolitan Council. *NAME OF PROJECT WEBSITE*.

<https://metro council.org/Wastewater-Water/Planning/...> Accessed Month DD, 2026.

C-2

Met Council is currently working on a technical report that focuses on an assessment of water supply infrastructure in the Twin Cities metro region.

In development: Metropolitan Council. *NAME OF PROJECT WEBSITE*.

<https://metro council.org/Wastewater-Water/Planning/...> Accessed Month DD, 2026.

C-3

Until recently, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services administered a program to help low-income households with water and wastewater bills. As of 2026, funding is no longer available for that program. Minnesota's Energy Assistance program provides an example of an assistance program to help eligible low-income residents pay for critical utilities. Currently, this program focuses on energy bills, but it could be expanded, or a new program developed, to assist with water bills.

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of Community Services. *Low Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP)*.

<https://acf.gov/ocs/programs/lihwap>. Accessed September 1, 2026.

Minnesota Commerce Department – Energy & Utilities. *Energy Assistance Program*.

<https://mn.gov/commerce/energy/consumer-assistance/energy-assistance-program/>. Accessed September 1, 2026.

C-4

Access to water as a human right is recognized by multiple organizations, including the United Nations.

Metropolitan Council. *Imagine 2050*. <https://imagine2050.metro council.org/>.

Accessed September 1, 2026.

United Nations. *The human right to water and sanitation: resolution/adopted by the General Assembly*. <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/687002?v=pdf>. Accessed September 1, 2026.

C-5

There are some useful examples of local programs that could inform legislative and Met Council actions to keep water affordable and resilient. Examples:

Saint Paul Regional Water Services. WaterWorks Donations. <https://www.stpaul.gov/departments/saint-paul-regional-water-services/billing-and-payment/waterworks>. Accessed September 15, 2026.

Minnesota Public Facilities. Drinking Water State Revolving Fund – Intended Use Plan. <https://mn.gov/deed/pfa/funds-programs/drinking-water.jsp>. Accessed September 15, 2026.