



annual report

our water  
our health  
our future

2007  
2008



CLEAN WATER ACTION

MINNESOTA

# grassroots

Hundreds of people every day. Thousands every week. Tens of thousands every month. Hundreds of thousands every year. We talk to people about what *really* matters.

Clean, safe water—to drink, to enjoy in our lakes and rivers, to leave as a legacy for our children and grandchildren. Our work focuses on the way the quality of our water makes a real difference in the lives of our members.

## our mission

Clean Water Action Minnesota is a state chapter of national Clean Water Action working to ensure that Minnesota has clean and safe water now and for generations to come.

We promote the fundamental policies needed to improve the quality of our water and our lives.

We work in alliance to address the environmental, social and economic justice issues arising from environmental problems.

We foster active citizen leadership and organize affected communities to create political institutions that preserve and enhance our shared environmental legacy.



# making a difference

## 2007 victories

- Helped pass the strongest Renewable Electricity Standard in the United States. Minnesotans can now count on 25% of their power coming from clean, renewable sources like wind and solar by 2020.
- Ratified the Great Lakes Compact states to limit harmful water withdrawals and exports from the Great Lakes. Minnesota became the first of the eight states to do so.
- Passed the first electronic recycling policy in the country to set concrete goals for how much equipment manufacturers must take back and recycle. Each manufacturer that sells TVs, computer monitors or laptops in Minnesota must collect and recycle 80% of their products (by weight) sold in the state during the previous year.
- Helped pass the Next Generation Energy Act, which includes a state goal to reduce global warming pollution 80% by 2050.
- Clean Water Action Organizer Julie Jansen provided testimony and briefed forty congressional staff on attempts to weaken pollution standards for large-scale factory farms.



## 2008 victories

- Helped pass the Green Solutions Act, funding key research on the implementation of Cap, Auction and Trade models of Global Warming pollution control. This is a small but important step towards meeting the major Global Warming reduction goals set by Minnesota in 2007.
- Received the first full hearings for Pesticide Right to Know legislation since the bill was first introduced in 2005. This bill was a direct response to people suffering from pesticide exposure in Minnesota communities.
- Secured overwhelming legislative support for our two other Healthy Legacy bills to phase out toxic flame retardants and unsafe chemicals in children's products. The legislature passed our phase-out of BPA and phthalates, though Governor Pawlenty vetoed the measures. Ironically, President Bush banned phthalates in children's products in August 2008.
- Invited by Rep. Tim Walz (MN-1) to testify before the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. Program Coordinator Darrell Gerber emphasized the importance of passing the Clean Water Restoration Act (CWRA).





## our water

Water lies at the center of all of the work at Clean Water Action. Minnesota is fortunate to have a wide variety of water resources available. We are working with allies across the state and nation to pass the Clean Water Restoration Act (CWRA) in Congress. CWRA restores Clean Water Act protections to many lakes, rivers and streams across our state and region.

CWA staff member Darrell Gerber testified before the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee in April 2008 in support of CWRA. The 2008 election included support of the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment by nearly 59% of Minnesotans. The amendment ensures an estimated \$90 million per year of new money will be directed to the protection and restoration of water in Minnesota.

Our ongoing priorities are:

- Passing the Clean Water Restoration Act in 2009.
- Watch-dogging Clean Water, Land and Legacy funding allocation to ensure it is handled appropriately.
- Ensure that state and federal regulations are properly enforced to protect Minnesota's water resources.

## promoting a healthy legacy

Awareness is growing about the risks posed by toxic chemicals to our health and the environment. Over 80,000 chemicals are in production in the US. Yet less than 10% of these chemicals have been tested for their effect on human health.

Toxins in our products and water are contributing to increases in diseases such as cancer and asthma. Eliminating exposure to harmful toxins is the best way to prevent these health threats.

We must replace toxic chemicals with safer alternatives. As a leader in the Healthy Legacy Coalition we promote healthy lives and a clean environment. In



## restoring the great lakes

Lake Superior is Minnesota's crown jewel. Beyond natural beauty and majesty, Lake Superior is also a keystone to our region's economy. It provides transportation, sport and commercial fishing, tourism, boating and drinking water. Lake Superior is a vital resource for all of Minnesota. We all benefit from a well restored and protected Lake Superior.

Clean Water Action coordinates the Minnesota campaign for the Healing Our Waters coalition. We also work with allies to build a statewide coalition advancing Great Lakes protection and restoration.

2009, we plan to:

- Lead efforts to phase out bisphenol-A, from children's products in Minnesota.
- Introduce a comprehensive chemical policy bill which removes known toxins from children's products.
- Position chemical policies as key issues for citizens and decision-makers with events in key legislative districts.
- Establish green chemistry and economic development initiatives in Minnesota to promote the production of safe alternatives.
- Continue our work in affected communities to reduce pesticide exposures.
- Continue work on air monitoring for pesticide exposure.

Our priorities include:

- Hosting the 2009 Great Lakes Restoration Conference in Duluth, Minnesota.
- Passing key federal legislation to protect the Great Lakes, including national ballast water treatment requirements and a new, broad Great Lakes Restoration Act.
- Increasing funding for Great Lakes protection and restoration including reducing sewage discharges and cleaning up toxic hotspots.
- Building and strengthening a statewide coalition working to protect and restore the Great Lakes.

# fighting global warming

Global Warming is the most serious environmental threat we have ever faced. Minnesota is already seeing the signs of Global Warming's damage to our water quality and quantity.

Harmful effects include: decreased ice cover on many lakes including Lake Superior, reduced lake levels, increasing frequency of heavy storms, increased polluted runoff, more soil erosion, further pressure on already stressed water infrastructure and higher water temperatures threatening aquatic habitats.

We must act now to reduce our Global Warming pollution emissions. Thankfully solutions already exist. Clean Water Action is working with our allies to bring

these solutions to Minnesota, the Midwest and the nation.

Our priorities include :

- o Educating and raising awareness of local Global Warming impacts.
- o Ensuring Minnesota participates in a regional and federal Cap, Auction and Trade program that limits Global Warming pollution and lowers it over time.
- o Advocating for a wide array of other safe, effective and economical solutions to Global Warming
- o Reducing Global Warming pollution from transportation through policies targeting vehicle efficiency, miles driven and the lifecycle carbon content of transportation fuels.



# clean energy

The energy we use in Minnesota is directly connected to the quantity and quality of our water. Energy production is the largest consumer of water in the state. Pollution from power plants—like mercury—also ends up in our water causing dangerous contamination. Old ways of generating power which rely on burning fossil fuels or nuclear fission harm our health and our environment.



As we better understand the effects of Global Warming we're recognizing the long-term damage power plants can cause to our water. Burning fossil fuels—for transportation or electricity—contributes to Global Warming, which in turn threatens our lakes, rivers and streams.

Clean Water Action's victories include passage of one of the strongest Renewable Electricity Standards in the nation, mandated reductions in mercury emissions from power plants and clean-up of three Metro area coal burning power plants.

Our continued work to transition to a new clean energy economy includes:

- o Educating thousands of Minnesotans each year on the economic, environmental and health benefits of renewable energy
- o Passing a Renewable Electricity Standard in Congress.
- o Stopping projects that send us in the wrong direction, including the Big Stone II coal power plant expansion in South Dakota.

# clean water action minnesota



## transitions

Changes in leadership and new roles marked 2007-2008 for Clean Water Action, here in Minnesota and nationally.

At the national level, John DeCock joined our leadership team as President and Chief Executive Officer in 2007 after the retirement of our Clean Water Action founder David Zwick. Prior to his time with Clean Water Action, John spent 27 years in the field of environmental protection. John was a long time leader in the Sierra Club, serving in a variety of capacities including nine years as Executive Director and Deputy Director of Conservation. John managed the Club's voter education programs and helped pioneer their website and online activism.

Marie Zellar's promotion to National Deputy Director is a testament to her work here in the Midwest. During her years as state director, Marie has showed great ability as a coalition builder and leader. She will continue to work from our Minneapolis office and supervise regional issues and campaigns.

We welcomed new State Director Ken Bradley and Program Director Deanna White in early 2008. They bring nearly thirty years of combined electoral and public policy experience to our organization.

Prior to joining Clean Water Action, Ken Bradley was Senior Policy Associate for Fresh Energy. He worked on a variety of energy and environmental justice issues. He helped build coalitions, lobbied and testified on behalf of the organization.

Deanna White joins us with an extensive political and organizing background. She spent eight years with the Sierra Club as National Deputy Political Director and Senior Regional Representative.

## strategic planning

In 2008, Clean Water Action surveyed staff, our board, our members, foundations and key individual donors in an effort to prepare for our five-year planning process. Staff and board members met dozens of times and participated in a two day retreat. The organization developed a plan that set goals and provided focus for the future.

## a new look and new tools

Clean Water Action, after years of deliberation, re-branded our organization. The new logo and style guidelines grace both a more modern and visually appealing newsletter and our updated website. The changes to the website are much more than cosmetic. They make our site easier to use and a better tool for members, decision-makers and the media.

# looking ahead

Though we are heartened by our recent victories, we have a great deal of work ahead of us. The challenge of Global Warming is formidable, and we must voice that threat to our water. Our push for investment in clean, renewable energy is gaining momentum and must continue. Undoing the damages to the integrity of the Clean Water Act must be a high priority. The potential of making comprehensive changes to the way we regard the risks of toxic chemicals in everyday products is only beginning.

We will continue to fight to get environmental champions elected to office, just as we continue to hold all elected officials accountable for their decisions on issues that affect our water.

We will continue to educate people across Minnesota and the region about the danger that Global Warming presents to our water. We will fight for policies that will stop Global Warming and begin to repair the damage left by decades of pollution.

We will work to protect the Great Lakes by ensuring that preventative policies stop pollution, while advocating for policies and funding to clean up existing pollution problems.

We will work to protect everyone—but especially children—from exposure to dangerous toxic chemicals in the products they use. We will advocate for a framework that will allow agencies to evaluate the health impacts of a chemical before it is used in any product.

We will work to ensure that Minnesotans from all walks of life are protected from exposures to dangerous pesticides and that those who are exposed get the help and justice they need.

We will advocate for expanded use of renewable electricity while educating people about what they can do to be more energy efficient. We'll push for development of clean, safe energy sources rather than subsidies for big oil.

We will talk to thousands of Clean Water Action members to educate them about our issues. We'll urge them to get involved in solutions and help fix the problems that threaten our water and our health.

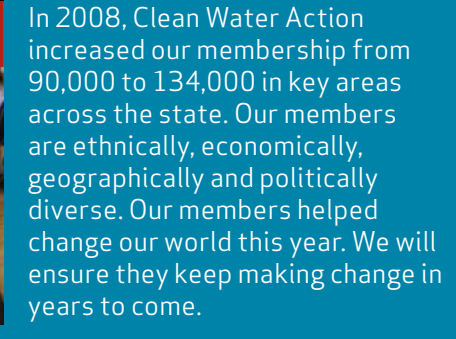
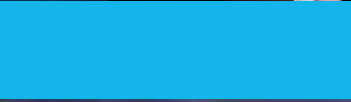
We will protect Minnesota's lakes, rivers and streams.



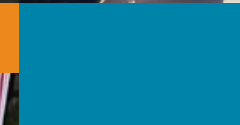
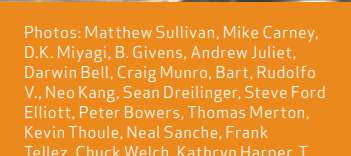
Connecting people to politics and policy has proved to be successful strategy since our inception. Members are our focus. They give us our ability to produce positive solutions for generations to come. Their support is our strength when we face wealthy special interests and polluters. Their stories and their lives are what keep us focused on our mission. Our members' voices help us ensure leaders have the courage to take bold actions to improve our water, our health and our future.



In 2008, Clean Water Action increased our membership from 90,000 to 134,000 in key areas across the state. Our members are ethnically, economically, geographically and politically diverse. Our members helped change our world this year. We will ensure they keep making change in years to come.



Clean Water Action  
 308 Hennepin Avenue East  
 Minneapolis, MN 55414  
[cleanwateraction.org/mn](http://cleanwateraction.org/mn)  
 612.623.3666



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