

# MINNESOTA'S



## COVID-19 RECOVERY BUDGET

### CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate change threatens our families, communities, livelihoods, and environment. A warmer, wetter Minnesota strains food production, our agricultural economy, and farmers. Warmer waters adversely impact Minnesota's lakes and diverse fisheries. Record rainfall events put additional stress on Minnesota's aging stormwater and wastewater systems. The magnitude of climate change and its impacts requires bold action and policies to protect Minnesotans and both fight and prepare for climate change.

### PROTECTING OUR NATURAL AND WORKING LANDS



#### Helping Minnesota farmers implement proven climate-smart practices

Minnesota farmers are an essential part of our climate solution. Governor Walz proposes \$500,000 to establish the Climate Smart Farms Project to quantify and incentivize proven climate supportive practices in agriculture. Certified farmers will be eligible to earn climate payments for implemented climate-smart practices and management.



#### Improving farmland soil health by accelerating cover crops usage

Governor Walz recommends \$5.5 million to accelerate the use of cover crops on Minnesota's farmlands. One of the most effective ways to improve soil health and store carbon is to keep farmland covered with vegetation for much of the year. More than 20 million acres of agricultural land in Minnesota could incorporate cover crop practices and capture more than 4 million tons of carbon each year.



#### Increasing tree cover to offset greenhouse gas emissions

A mature tree absorbs 48 pounds of carbon per year. That's why increasing the number of trees in Minnesota – by reestablishing forests on vacant land and improving tree cover on existing forested land – is a commonsense approach to offset greenhouse gas emissions. Governor Walz proposes \$2.6 million to expand tree-growing capacity at the State Forest Nursery and provide incentives to replant trees on open land and increase tree density in existing forests.

### CREATING RESILIENT COMMUNITIES



#### Preparing Minnesota communities for our changing climate

Extreme precipitation events are causing too many local streets to flood, sewer systems to backup into homes and businesses, and wastewater treatment plants to release partially or fully treated sewage into lakes and rivers. Governor Walz

proposes \$2.9 million to help local and tribal governments assess vulnerabilities and develop plans to enhance stormwater infrastructure due to our changing climate.



#### **Developing more energy efficient commercial and large multi-family buildings**

Since 2005, greenhouse gas emissions in the commercial building sector have increased by 15%, partially driven by higher heating and cooling demands caused by a changing climate. Governor Walz recommends \$145,000 to develop improved energy efficiency standards for all new commercial and large multi-family buildings to achieve net-zero by 2036.



#### **Protecting Minnesota landscapes after major precipitation events**

Heavy rainfall events in Minnesota are now contributing to additional flooding, erosion, declining water quality, and negative impacts on transportation, agriculture, human health, and infrastructure. Governor Walz proposes \$3 million to develop a statewide pilot program that will leverage local, federal and private sector funds to mitigate the impacts of uncontrolled or unmanaged agricultural drainage and climate-driven runoff increases in watersheds.

## **INVESTING IN HOMEGROWN ENERGY FOR TRANSPORTATION**



#### **Investing in cleaner biofuels, farmers and rural communities**

Minnesota's farmers and rural communities have been a national leader in biofuels production and technology. Governor Walz recommends \$4 million to establish a biofuels infrastructure grant program to increase the use of ethanol and biodiesel. These grants would help service stations install the fuel-dispensing equipment needed to ramp up use of higher blends of biofuels. Smart investments in Minnesota biofuels will reduce greenhouse gas emissions and provide opportunities for farmers and Greater Minnesota communities.



#### **Expanding Minnesota's electric-vehicle charging network**

In Minnesota, the transportation sector has eclipsed the power-generation sector as the largest emitter of greenhouse gases (GHG). Governor Walz recommends up to \$1 million to expand the statewide EV charging network. In addition, Governor Walz proposes \$150,000 to fund 150 EV chargers at more than 40 MnDOT facilities for the state fleet. Improving the EV charging network in Minnesota will encourage electric-vehicle purchases and lower GHG emissions.