



25% by 2025 Water Quality Improvement Goal

2017 Public Engagement Process

Overview

Governor Mark Dayton and Lieutenant Governor Tina Smith have set forth an ambitious goal of achieving a 25% improvement in Minnesota's water quality by the year 2025. Now is the time for citizens, government, businesses, and stakeholder groups to work together to identify regionally-specific priorities, create a shared vision for what a 25% improvement will look like for different parts of the state, and develop strategies to get us there.

The Governor's office, with the support of state agencies and local partners, is launching a civic engagement process from June through November 2017 to gather input on reaching the 25 x '25 goal. We will use a variety of methods to connect with the public and we will work with local partners across the state to reach a broad range of constituents. Input we receive will be used to design legislative and administrative actions that will help communities move forward towards reaching a 25% improvement. The process is also designed to support local communities build constituencies and grassroots support for a clean water agenda well into the future.

Agencies Involved

- Department of Health
- Department of Agriculture
- Pollution Control Agency
- Metropolitan Council
- Department of Natural Resources
- Board of Water and Soil Resources
- Environmental Quality Board
- Public Facilities Authority

Audience

General public, local government and community leaders, businesses, advocacy groups, the legislature.

Civic Engagement Process

To engage meaningfully with citizens, we need to meet them where they are. This means traveling to communities to hear from residents, providing opportunities for groups to organize their own discussions, and having a platform for online participation. Across all methods, the input gathered will help us determine:

1. What would a successful 25% improvement look like for different regions?
2. How would making a 25% improvement enhance the quality of life for Minnesotans?
3. What are the barriers to getting this improvement?
4. What is needed to help move beyond these barriers?

Engagement Strategies

- ❖ Town Hall Events will be open to the public and include several state agency commissioners.
 - **Rochester** – Monday, July 31, 2017
 - **Marshall** – Wednesday, August 16, 2017
 - **Mankato** – Thursday, August 17, 2017
 - **Crookston** – Tuesday, September 5, 2017
 - **St. Cloud** – Wednesday, September 6, 2017
 - **Ely** – Tuesday, September 12, 2017
 - **Bemidji** – Wednesday, September 13, 2017
 - **Minneapolis** – Tuesday, September 26, 2017
 - **Burnsville** – Wednesday, October 4, 2017
 - **Maplewood** – Thursday, October 5, 2017

- ❖ Community Water Meetings:
 - Discussion guides will be provided to support citizen hosted discussions of 25 x '25 within their own communities, for example, in their faith groups, rotary clubs, or neighborhood associations. Output from these meetings can be submitted online or by mail.

- ❖ Online Strategies:
 - There will also be opportunities for the public to continue the conversation and submit comments online.

Partnerships

Strong partnerships are key to this civic engagement effort. We will collaborate with farm groups, environmental groups, local governments, soil water conservation districts, public health officials, community organizers, and others to reach a board range of constituents and to ensure diverse voices are heard.

Outcomes

- ❖ Final Report will outline possible legislative and non-legislative strategies and document region-by-region water quality goals and challenges based on feedback gathered through the engagement process.
- ❖ Water Summit: The Governor and Lieutenant Governor will bring the conversations from across the state together in a Summit to showcase water quality leaders from across state and discuss the possible strategies for achieving a 25% water quality improvement by 2025.