

# APPENDIX VI

## *Public Engagement Partners*

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#### Minnesota 2050 project

The Minnesota 2050: Pathways to a Sustainable Future project is funded by the Bush Foundation and coordinated by the UMN's Ecosystem Science and Sustainability Initiative. In its first phase, the project has collaborated with the UMN Regional Sustainable Development Partnerships to convene a series of workshops designed to develop possible visions of Minnesota in the year 2050, and are focusing the energy and experience of citizens across the state on the importance of preserving Minnesota's natural heritage.

Through five sessions in greater Minnesota, more than 150 farmers, business owners, teachers, local government officials and other citizen leaders (invited by the Regional Partnerships) have shared their visions for the future of our state. A sixth session convened in St. Paul gleaned insights about the future of the metro region from leaders in local governments, employees of state and regional agencies, and University faculty among others. Almost without exception, participants have been inspired and challenged by the workshops and by their contemplation of our state's future. One participant said, above all, the workshop instilled hope that will counter the sense of anguish he feels about the decline of our environment and the loss of Minnesota's natural heritage.

More information at: <http://www.sustainability.umn.edu/research/>

#### Campaign for Conservation – 50-year vision project

The Campaign for Conservation, with the assistance of the University of Minnesota Extension Service, held 2-3 workshops in each of 14 ecologically-based regions in the state to solicit the aspirations and viewpoints of local residents. The goal of these sessions was to formulate a conservation vision for each region that could be coalesced into a comprehensive conservation 50-year vision for all of Minnesota. In preparation for these meetings, the Campaign for Conservation reviewed more than 90 natural resource management plans written over the past 15 years, recalibrated the data so they were pertinent to each of the 14 Conservation Regions, and then summarized this information and distributed it to each of the participants in advance of the first meeting. This allowed each participant to review the planning that had been done, thus giving them a better understanding of the environmental conditions of their region and a foundation for moving forward. Their input was then used to create a Conservation Planning Template for each Conservation Region that will be compiled into a comprehensive 50-Year Vision for Minnesota that will be completed in 2007.

More information at: <http://www.campaignforconservation.org/>