

**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund  
2011-2012 Request for Proposals (RFP)**

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**LCCMR ID: 191-G**

**Project Title:** Community-Based Approach to Reducing Estrogenic Water Contaminants

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**Category:** G. Environmental Education

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**Total Project Budget:** \$ \$299,700

**Proposed Project Time Period for the Funding Requested:** 2 yrs, July 2011 - June 2013

**Other Non-State Funds:** \$ 0

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**Summary:**

We will reduce estrogenic chemical water pollution by helping local governments identify and implement green practices to reduce their and their citizens' pollution from cleaning products, pesticides and pharmaceuticals.

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**Location**

**Region:** Statewide

**Ecological Section:** Statewide

**County Name:** Statewide

**City / Township:**

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_____ Funding Priorities	_____ Multiple Benefits	_____ Outcomes	_____ Knowledge Base
_____ Extent of Impact	_____ Innovation	_____ Scientific/Tech Basis	_____ Urgency
_____ Capacity Readiness	_____ Leverage	_____ Employment	_____ TOTAL _____%

## I. PROJECT STATEMENT

The goal of this project is to protect human health and the health of aquatic and terrestrial species by promoting sustainable green practices at the community and household level to reduce inputs of pesticides (including glyphosphate and 2,4-D), cleaning chemicals (including disinfectants, detergent breakdown products and compounds used as surfactants in cleaning products and pesticides) and pharmaceuticals (including antibiotics) into Minnesota's lakes, rivers and streams, thereby reducing pollution levels in these same waters.

The main outcome of this project will be that Minnesota water pollution will be reduced as at least two local governments will reduce their contributions to water pollution by implementing pollution prevention measures. In addition, citizens of these communities will also reduce their use of the target chemicals as they increase their knowledge and understanding of pollution prevention practices. (We recognize that we will fully reach our long-term goal only as the practices promoted by this project become widely adopted. For that reason, the project is designed to be replicable and is a part of our larger ongoing strategy to implement a variety of toxic pollution control practices throughout the region.)

To reach these outcomes, we will work with two target communities to help implement pollution reduction methods within their communities, in part through the development of a "Toxics Reduction Toolbox" that can also serve as a resource for additional interested municipalities. We will also assist the two target communities in creating and implementing citizen education programs.

Non-point sources of water pollution include cleaning chemicals, lawn care products and pharmaceutical wastes that leach from landfills and are discharged into wastewater effluent, polluting Minnesota's lakes, rivers and streams. The US Geological Survey (USGS) has detected 130 man-made chemicals in Minnesota's streams and rivers, including many hormone disrupters, and often *after* wastewater treatment. While the sources of these chemicals are many, local government units (such as cities, counties and school districts) can make a significant contribution to reducing water pollution from persistent toxic chemicals by implementing protective practices, green purchasing standards and citizen education. Early adopters in Minnesota include Minneapolis (which implemented green cleaning practices in all schools and public buildings) and Ramsey County (which implemented green cleaning in public buildings). However, others communities require additional resources to transition to less-toxic practices.

## II. DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT ACTIVITIES

**Activity 1:** Work with two communities to select and implement pollution prevention practices and create and implement citizen education campaigns. **Budget:** \$240,459

We will identify two communities that are interested in implementing pollution prevention practices but lack the knowledge or other resources to do so. We plan to work with one community near Duluth (where the Minnesota Public Interest Research Group, or MPRIRG, will assist with community outreach) and one community in or near St. Paul or another relatively urban area along the Mississippi River.

We will leverage many of the resources currently available on pollution prevention practices, but will go beyond simply presenting the communities with a (sometimes bewilderingly large) menu of options. Instead, we will work with the communities to identify which specific practices are likely to be most effective in their community and help them analyze where they will get the greatest "bang for the buck." These practices are likely to include integrated pest management; replacing toxic cleaning products with environmentally preferable cleaning products; and safer disposal of pharmaceutical waste, but we will consider the full range of possibilities for each community. We will also provide technical assistance to each community in developing citizen education materials and media communications strategies specific to the opportunities and challenges in each community to inform residents of actions they can take to prevent these same pollution problems.

In order to quantify municipal reductions in pollution emissions, we will perform a baseline assessment of chemical use through interviews and surveys of municipal employees and analysis of practices, and compare these results to parallel information collected at the end of the project. We will use focus groups and consumer surveys in each community to evaluate the effectiveness of our efforts and to gauge levels of behavior change among individuals. In addition, we will consult with experts at USGS

and Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) to determine if a cost effective method exists to measure actual reductions in pollution levels in wastewater or surface water in the target communities, and, if so, to measure these reductions.

<b>Outcome</b>	<b>Completion Date</b>
<i>1. Two communities will commit to implementing pollution prevention strategies.</i>	<i>Sept. 2011</i>
<i>2. Pollution prevention measures will be identified for each community.</i>	<i>Jan. 2012</i>
<i>3. Pollution prevention measures will be implemented by each community.</i>	<i>Feb.-June 2012</i>
<i>4. Citizen education materials will be developed and distributed to at least 25% of the residents in each community. (We estimate we will reach at least 40,000 citizens.)</i>	<i>April 2012</i>
<i>5. Municipal use of target chemicals in the two communities will be reduced by an estimated 30 to 50 percent.</i>	<i>July 2013</i>
<i>6. Use of target chemicals by citizen participants in the two communities will be reduced by an estimated 10 percent.</i>	<i>July 2013</i>
<i>7. Levels of estrogenic pollutants will be reduced in Lake Superior, the French and Mississippi Rivers, in Battle Creek and other identified local water bodies.</i>	<i>July 2013</i>

**Activity 2:** Develop and distribute Toxics Reduction Toolbox      **Budget:** \$59,241

To assist with Activity 1, we will develop an online Toxics Reduction Toolbox. The toolbox will leverage existing information, but will provide a much-needed single location to access information that is currently time- and effort-intensive to gather, including case studies, examples of procedures and policies, purchasing standards, standards for pharmaceutical waste disposal, information on integrated pest management and environmentally sensitive cleaning products, and links to stand-alone resources including the MPCA’s green cleaning standards. Unlike most such resources which are geared toward individual consumers, this toolbox will be geared to municipal audiences. We will make municipalities beyond the two direct project participants aware of the toolbox through outreach to local associations and associations of cities and counties, through the MPCA, and through media coverage of the two project communities. We will evaluate the toolbox through a user evaluation form, and use the results to guide updates and revisions to the Toolbox.

<b>Outcome</b>	<b>Completion Date</b>
<i>1. On-line Toxic Reduction Toolbox will be developed and deployed.</i>	<i>May 2012</i>
<i>2. Communities around Minnesota will be made aware of the Toolbox. We estimate that the toolbox will be downloaded at least 1,200 times.</i>	<i>June 2012</i>

**III. PROJECT STRATEGY**

**A. Project Team/Partners**

The project will be coordinated by Kathleen Schuler, MPH, Senior Policy Analyst at the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy (IATP) and Co-Director of the Healthy Legacy project. She will be assisted by the Healthy Legacy Project Coordinator at IATP, and IATP communications and IT staff. MPIRG will provide on the ground staff in Duluth and Northern Minnesota.

**B. Timeline Requirements.** This is a two year project to allow time to identify partner communities, undertake educational activities, and implement pollution reduction practices.

**C. Long-Term Strategy and Future Funding Needs**

This project will be part of an ongoing larger effort to protect the health of Minnesota citizens and our environment by IATP, the Healthy Legacy coalition, the MPCA and cities and counties throughout Minnesota. IATP has applied for a grant through the Environmental Protection Agency’s Great Lakes Restoration Initiative to implement similar strategies to reduce chemical pollution in the Great Lakes.

## 2011-2012 Detailed Project Budget

### IV. TOTAL TRUST FUND REQUEST BUDGET: 2 years

<u>BUDGET ITEM</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
<b>Personnel:</b> <i>All personnel expenses are 78% salary, 22% benefits</i>	
Kathleen Schuler, Project Manager (IATP Senior Policy Analyst) - One person, .5 FTE in years 1 and 2	\$ 85,760
Senior Project Staff (IATP Healthy Legacy Project Coordinator) - One person, .3 FTE in years 1 and 2	\$ 46,080
Project Associate - One person, .25 FTE in years 1 and 2	\$ 35,200
Communications Director - One person, .1 FTE in years 1 and 2	\$ 16,896
Communications Associate - One person, .1 FTE in years 1 and 2	\$ 13,056
Website Developer (to create, maintain and update Toolbox Web site) - One person, .2 FTE in year 1, .1 FTE in year 2	\$ 19,968
<b>Contracts:</b>	
Contract with MPIRG ( <i>The Minnesota Public Interest Research Group is a grassroots, student-directed, nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that empowers and trains students and engages the community to take collective action in the public interest statewide. For nearly 40 years, MPIRG has worked to improve the lives of Minnesotans through education, outreach, community engagement, and collective advocacy around issues that benefit our communities and the natural environment. MPIRG has established working relationships with communities in and around Duluth and extensive experience working with the public on toxic chemical issues. These funds will support on the ground work in the Duluth area parallel to that being done by IATP staff in the St. Paul-area community. They will also assist with and provide feedback on Toolbox development.</i> )	\$ 70,000
Contract with Web site developer to assist with design and implementation of Toolbox Website.	\$ 2,500
<b>Travel:</b>	
In-state travel to potential and selected partner communities. <i>Travel expenses will include mileage at the standard government rate or car rental expenses (whichever is less), meals, and lodging if necessary.</i>	\$ 10,240
<b>Additional Budget Items:</b>	
Publication and printing expenses for outreach materials and reporting.	\$ 10,000
Meetings in potential and selected partner communities ( <i>Funds will cover meeting space, speaker fees and meeting materials. No LCCMR funds will be spent on refreshments.</i> )	\$ 6,000
<b>TOTAL ENVIRONMENT &amp; NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND \$ REQUEST</b>	<b>\$ 299,700</b>

### V. OTHER FUNDS

<u>SOURCE OF FUNDS</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>Status</u>
<b>Other Non-State \$ Being Applied to Project During Project Period:</b>		
Environmental Protection Agency Great Lakes Restoration Initiative ( <i>This application is for a three year project, of which the last two years would coincide with this request from LCCMR. The project would employ complementary techniques to those supported by this proposal to implement water pollution reduction strategies among communities and businesses in the Great Lakes region.</i> )	\$ 346,907	<i>pending</i>
<b>Other State \$ Being Applied to Project During Project Period: N/A</b>		
<b>In-kind Services During Project Period: N/A</b>		
<b>Remaining \$ from Current ENRTF Appropriation (if applicable): N/A</b>		
<b>Funding History:</b> <i>Although no funds have yet been secured for activities directly relevant to this specific funding request, we have applied for other funding as indicated above.</i>		

## **Project Director**

Kathleen Schuler, MPH, Senior Policy Analyst at the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy (IATP) and Co-Director of the Healthy Legacy Project, advocates for policies that protect human health and the environment from toxic chemicals that get into our food system and into our bodies. She also provides information for consumers on reducing their personal exposures, such as the IATP Smart Guides. Ms. Schuler has a Master of Public Health degree from the University of Minnesota. As a Bush Leadership Fellow in environmental health, she studied at Boston University and did an internship with the Center for Health, Environment and Justice. Prior to her work in the environmental health field, Ms. Schuler led policy initiatives in Medicaid managed care, including working with health care companies at the Minnesota Department of Human Services, where she worked for 17 years. She is an active member of the Minnesota Public Health Association and Environmental Justice Advocates of Minnesota.

## **Organizational Description**

Founded in 1986, the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy (IATP) is a tax-exempt 501(c)3 organization whose mission is to work locally and globally at the intersection of policy and practice to ensure fair and sustainable food, farm and trade systems. We work to build bridges between different constituencies with the goal of developing local, state, national and international policies that will promote environmental and human health; ensure socially and ecologically sustainable development; value human rights; increase the capacity of civil society to participate in policymaking; and strengthen local and regional economies.

For the past five years, IATP has been at the vanguard of promoting green chemistry and sustainable production. Through a number of initiatives, we help businesses and consumers identify and implement strategies to reduce their exposure to toxic chemicals and their contributions to such pollution. Among many other accomplishments, we have:

- Founded and co-direct Healthy Legacy, a statewide coalition working to build support for and pass broad chemical policy reform in Minnesota and increase consumer awareness of strategies to reduce their exposure to toxic chemicals. Our key partner in this effort is Clean Water Fund.
- Participated in the founding of the Business-NGO Working Group on Safer Chemicals and Sustainable Materials, which brings NGOs and businesses together to identify ways businesses can produce more sustainable products and reduce their environmental impacts.
- Co-organized a conference with the University of Minnesota to engage local companies in exploring emerging green chemistry alternatives for use in their products.
- Begun developing relationships with Minnesota state agencies positioned to advance green business practices in the state.

IATP has an extensive track record of successfully leveraging local, regional and national media coverage to bring attention to issues of concern, and our work to protect human and environmental health from toxic chemicals in particular. (For example, the St. Paul Pioneer Press ran an extensive front page article on our work on toxic chemicals in February 2010.) In addition, we have extensive experience creating and distributing user-friendly and accessible resources to help both individuals and institutions make more sustainable purchasing decisions and protect human and environmental health from toxic chemical pollution. (Many of these “Smart Guides” can be downloaded on our Web site at <http://www.iatp.org/foodandhealth/>.)

