



# Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

## 2027 Request for Proposal

### General Information

**Proposal ID:** 2027-250

**Proposal Title:** Leveraging K-12 Schools for Community Resilience

### Project Manager Information

**Name:** Britt Gangeness

**Organization:** Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

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### Project Basic Information

**Project Summary:** Advances GreenStep Schools and the Climate Action Framework via a climate resilience roadmap that activates school-based mitigation, education, and resilience actions with community and state climate priorities.

**ENRTF Funds Requested:** \$828,000

**Proposed Project Completion:** June 30, 2030

**LCCMR Funding Category:** Resiliency (A)

### Project Location

**What is the best scale for describing where your work will take place?**

Statewide

**What is the best scale to describe the area impacted by your work?**

Statewide

**When will the work impact occur?**

During the Project and In the Future

## Narrative

**Describe the opportunity or problem your proposal seeks to address. Include any relevant background information.**

Minnesota's 2026 Climate Action Framework (CAF) was released in February. It calls for transformational local action and identifies local governments and school districts as essential partners in reducing climate pollution and preparing communities for climate impact (2026 Climate Action Framework—Local government).

Minnesota has many climate-related education efforts that aren't coordinated with the CAF, leaving a major community activation point in schools untapped. Schools reach more residents than any other public institution—18% of Americans are in school buildings daily and 40% of households include school-age children (U.S. Census Bureau)—giving them outsized influence. And when schools model visible sustainable practices, like solar or native plantings, communities tend to adopt similar behaviors (Lawrence Berkeley Lab).

Minnesota's GreenStep Schools (GSS) program is a voluntary challenge, assistance, and recognition program modeled after Minnesota GreenStep Cities—a proven statewide sustainability program—and U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools. GSS does not duplicate existing efforts, it creates partnerships to leverage resources and expertise available for schools.

GSS is well-positioned to help schools implement best-practice actions that motivate stakeholders, strengthen local partnerships, and build the skills needed to adopt climate-resilience strategies, including serving as community resilience hubs.

**What is your proposed solution to the problem or opportunity discussed above? Introduce us to the work you are seeking funding to do. You will be asked to expand on this proposed solution in Activities & Milestones.**

Leveraging K-12 Schools for Community Resilience will provide the coordinated support for schools called for in the CAF. This project will: 1) develop a Climate Literacy & Action Strategy for Schools (CLASS) Roadmap, 2) fully harness GreenStep Schools model in alignment with the CLASS Roadmap, 3) launch a CLASS Roadmap Leadership Cohort, and 4) position GreenStep Schools to support schools-based climate resiliency into the future.

The CLASS Roadmap builds on the 2025 LCCMR-funded project originally awarded to Climate Generation (Proposal ID: 2025-143). With Climate Generation's recent closure, this work remains unfinished. The CLASS Roadmap will re-engage stakeholders and advisors and collaborate with school leaders, educators, and community members to identify climate resiliency and literacy priorities that advance CAF actions. In addition, this proposal takes the prior proposal's climate education planning further by integrating the plan into GSS programming and launching a climate leadership cohort of schools. Through these activities, we will expand the CAF statewide impact so that schools and local governments align climate goals, access technical assistance, and build long-term capacity for climate action and education.

**What are the specific project outcomes as they relate to the public purpose of protection, conservation, preservation, and enhancement of the state's natural resources?**

Schools will lead climate resilience efforts, advancing the public purpose of protecting and enhancing Minnesota's natural resources. By modeling low-carbon operations, preparedness, and climate-smart decision-making, schools influence entire communities to adopt practices that reduce pollution and strengthen local resilience. Improved coordination across agencies and organizations supporting schools will lead to clear guidance, strong alignment with the CAF, and evidence of schools implementing strategies that lower energy use and emissions—key drivers of natural-resource protection. As participation in GreenStep Schools grows, districts build capacity to sustain these practices, ensuring long-term stewardship of Minnesota's environment.

## Activities and Milestones

### Activity 1: Develop a Climate Literacy & Action Strategy for Schools (CLASS) Roadmap

**Activity Budget:** \$241,607

**Activity Description:**

This activity develops the Climate Literacy & Action Strategy for Schools (CLASS) Roadmap, a CAF-aligned guide to help schools adopt climate-resilience practices. A full-time Coordinator will oversee project management, partner engagement, and drafting. Contracts with technical and cohort-support partners will ensure specialized expertise. An advisory committee representing school leaders, educators, community partners, local government and state agencies will guide priorities and validate findings.

Work begins with re-engaging prior proposal stakeholders through a landscape analysis of the climate education context. The scope will include structured interviews and surveys to identify needs, barriers, and climate resiliency priorities. We will crosswalk priorities with CAF goals to surface the most relevant resilience opportunities for schools. The advisory committee will review research and refine the priority areas. A writing retreat will synthesize insights into a coherent, actionable Roadmap.

Key outputs include a draft CLASS Roadmap, a public comment period, and a finalized CLASS Roadmap ready for statewide dissemination. These deliverables will enhance the GSS best practices framework, strengthen alignment with state climate goals, and guide cohort programming. Evaluation will track partner participation, quality of feedback, and CLASS Roadmap adoption in subsequent implementation phases.

**Activity Milestones:**

| Description                                                                                     | Approximate Completion Date |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Re-engage Climate Generation Roadmap stakeholders                                               | September 30, 2027          |
| 1 FTE Coordinator position hired                                                                | October 31, 2027            |
| Contracts for CLASS Roadmap and Cohort support executed                                         | December 31, 2027           |
| Advisory committee established                                                                  | January 31, 2028            |
| Landscape analysis complete                                                                     | February 28, 2028           |
| Critical partners interviews and survey results complete                                        | March 31, 2028              |
| Crosswalk critical partners' priorities with CAF to surface resilience opportunities in schools | March 31, 2028              |
| Advisory committee feedback on research findings and identified critical resilience priorities  | April 30, 2028              |
| Writing advisor retreat                                                                         | May 31, 2028                |
| CLASS Roadmap draft published                                                                   | June 30, 2028               |
| Public feedback period closes                                                                   | July 31, 2028               |
| CLASS Roadmap finalized                                                                         | September 30, 2028          |

### Activity 2: Leverage GreenStep Schools and align with CLASS Roadmap

**Activity Budget:** \$201,841

**Activity Description:**

This activity strengthens the GreenStep Schools (GSS) program, aligning it with the CLASS Roadmap for a scalable school-based framework aligned with the CAF. Development of GSS metrics and a reporting protocol will begin early, informed by national research and Minnesota's Gold Leaf Award to ensure clarity, comparability, and long-term usability. The first annual GSS report will document baseline participation, early progress, and system needs. A detailed workplan will then be created to integrate CLASS Roadmap recommendations across all GSS best-practice areas and program activities. Metrics and reporting protocols will be finalized, followed by a second annual report capturing

progress, trends, and school-level outcomes.

We will integrate Roadmap updates in quarterly GSS newsletters and offer learning opportunities to provide consistent guidance, highlight emerging practices, and build a statewide community of practice beyond our leadership cohort. Best Practice Advisors across all GSS best-practice areas will ensure schools receive reliable, high-quality technical assistance as they implement resilience actions.

Milestones include enrolling at least 50 schools or districts interested in Roadmap strategies in GSS, including representation from Greater Minnesota, completing the CLASS-aligned workplan, and finalizing a continuation plan to sustain program growth.

**Activity Milestones:**

| Description                                                                                                                  | Approximate Completion Date |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Quarterly newsletter for program participants begins                                                                         | January 31, 2028            |
| Quarterly learning opportunities for program participants begins                                                             | January 31, 2028            |
| Best Practice Advisors for all GreenStep Schools best practice areas consulted on Roadmap integration                        | March 31, 2028              |
| Development of GreenStep Schools Roadmap metrics and reporting protocol begins                                               | April 30, 2028              |
| GreenStep Schools annual report                                                                                              | July 31, 2028               |
| Develop workplan to incorporate CLASS Roadmap recommendations into GreenStep Schools across best practices areas and program | October 31, 2028            |
| Finalize metrics and reporting protocol                                                                                      | January 31, 2029            |
| Second GreenStep Schools annual report                                                                                       | July 31, 2029               |
| Enrollment of at least 50 schools or districts in program                                                                    | January 31, 2030            |
| Complete workplan to incorporate CLASS Roadmap recommendations into GreenStep Schools                                        | January 31, 2030            |
| GreenStep Schools continuation plan complete                                                                                 | March 31, 2030              |

### Activity 3: Design and launch a CLASS Leadership Cohort

**Activity Budget:** \$257,052

**Activity Description:**

This activity designs and launches the CLASS Leadership Cohort, a structured professional-learning experience that equips school teams to advance climate literacy and resilience. Work begins with developing a clear scope and sequence that outlines learning goals, monthly session topics, and expectations for participating schools. An application process will identify up to ten schools or districts ready to pilot the model, prioritizing geographic, demographic, and readiness diversity. Once selected, the cohort will launch a six-month learning arc that includes four virtual sessions and two in-person convenings focused on applied learning, peer exchange, and project development.

Throughout the cohort, participants will document early outcomes, including shifts in climate literacy, partnerships formed, and initial school-based actions. These findings will be synthesized and shared publicly to elevate visibility and build statewide momentum. A parallel storytelling and impact-documentation project will capture qualitative and quantitative evidence of change, culminating in a final set of case studies and narratives that illustrate the cohort's value and inform future scaling.

Milestones include cohort recruitment, launch, completion of six sessions, school-specific outcomes, and impact-documentation package. Evaluation will track participant engagement, quality of school-level actions, and evidence of increased climate-resilience capacity.

**Activity Milestones:**

| Description                                                               | Approximate Completion Date |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Develop scope and sequence for CLASS Leadership Cohort                    | June 30, 2028               |
| Application and selection of up to 10 schools for CLASS Leadership Cohort | October 31, 2028            |
| Launch CLASS Leadership Cohort 6 monthly sessions, 4 virtual 2 in-person  | October 31, 2028            |
| Document initial outcomes of CLASS Leadership Cohort                      | May 31, 2029                |
| Celebrate CLASS Leadership Cohort outcomes at conference(s)               | June 30, 2029               |
| Launch impact/stories documentation project                               | July 31, 2029               |
| Complete impact/stories documentation project                             | January 31, 2030            |

## Activity 4: Impact analysis, project evaluation, and continuation plan

**Activity Budget:** \$127,500

### Activity Description:

This activity evaluates the effectiveness of the CLASS Roadmap, GreenStep Schools integration, and the first CLASS Leadership Cohort by gathering structured feedback and analyzing early outcomes. The CLASS Roadmap advisory committee will be reconvened to reflect on both the development process and the usefulness of the final product, ensuring the Roadmap remains responsive to school needs. Concurrently, Leadership Cohort 1 participants will provide feedback on session content, facilitation, and the applicability of tools and strategies introduced throughout the six-month learning arc.

We will measure impact using GreenStep Schools indicators of progress, allowing for consistent assessment of changes in climate literacy, school-level practices, and emerging resilience actions. These data, combined with participant reflections, will inform a comprehensive report on Cohort 1 outcomes. The report will include recommendations to refine the cohort's scope and sequence for future iterations, strengthening alignment with statewide goals and improving participant experience.

A parallel storytelling effort will capture qualitative impact—highlighting school actions, partnerships, and early wins. The final deliverable will assemble impact stories, the cohort evaluation report, and a continuation plan into a single, cohesive document that guides future scaling and investment.

### Activity Milestones:

| Description                                                                                   | Approximate Completion Date |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Convene CLASS Roadmap advisory committee and collect feedback on process and product          | December 31, 2028           |
| Convene CLASS Leadership Cohort 1 and collect feedback from program participants              | August 31, 2029             |
| Measure impact of Leadership Cohort using GreenStep Schools indicators of progress            | August 31, 2029             |
| Report on Cohort 1 outcomes and recommendations based on reflections and feedback             | September 30, 2029          |
| Assemble impact stories, cohort evaluation report, and continuation plan into a single report | March 31, 2030              |

## Project Partners and Collaborators

| Name                                             | Organization                                             | Role                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Receiving Funds |
|--------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| CLASS Implementation & Cohort Support Contractor | TBD                                                      | A contracted partner that will provide the expertise to conduct the landscape analysis, interviews, and crosswalks that shape the CLASS Roadmap; draft and refine the Roadmap through the writing retreat and public-comment process; design and support the CLASS Leadership Cohort; produce evaluation report, impact stories, and a continuation plan. | Yes             |
| Advisory committee members                       | Various and TBD (see below)                              | An advisory committee representing school leaders, educators, community partners, local government and state agencies will guide priorities and validate findings. The advisory committee will review research and help refine the priority areas.                                                                                                        | No              |
| Writing advisors                                 | Various and TBD                                          | Participate in a writing retreat and support synthesis of insights into a coherent, actionable roadmap.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Yes             |
| CLASS Leadership Cohort members                  | TBD                                                      | School or district teams of 1-3 people who will join the cohort for learning and peer sharing to advance climate literacy and resilience.                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Yes             |
| Best Practice Advisors                           | TBD (see below)                                          | To ensure schools receive reliable, high-quality technical assistance as they implement resilience actions, we will establish Best Practice Advisors from agencies, universities, and nonprofits.                                                                                                                                                         | No              |
| Dr. Nick Kleese                                  | University of Minnesota's Center for Climate Literacy    | Serve as an advisor. Promote outcomes of projects in networks and communities. See also, Letters of Support.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | No              |
| Corrie Grosse                                    | College of St. Benedict and St. John's University        | Serve as an advisor. Promote outcomes of projects in networks and communities. See also, Letters of Support.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | No              |
| Dr. Patricia Born                                | Hamline University School of Education and Leadership    | Serve as an advisor. Promote outcomes of projects in networks and communities. See also, Letters of Support.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | No              |
| Brian Scott                                      | Harbor City International School                         | Serve as an advisor. Promote outcomes of projects in networks and communities. See also, Letters of Support.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | No              |
| Rebekah Degener                                  | Minnesota Association for Environmental Education (MAEE) | Serve as an advisor. Promote outcomes of projects in networks and communities. See also, Letters of Support.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | No              |
| Heidi Roop                                       | University of Minnesota Climate Adaptation Partnership   | Serve as an advisor. Promote outcomes of projects in networks and communities. See also, Letters of Support.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | No              |
| Tom Hogan                                        | Minnesota Department of Health                           | Serve as an advisor. Promote outcomes of projects in networks and communities. See also, Letters of Support.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | No              |
| Ben Kusch                                        | TriDistrict Center for Advanced Professional Studies     | Serve as an advisor. Promote outcomes of projects in networks and communities. See also, Letters of Support.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | No              |

|                       |                                                             |                                                                                                               |    |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| Stacey Stark          | U-Spatial                                                   | Serve as an advisor. Promote outcomes of projects in networks and communities. See also, Letters of Support.  | No |
| Kristen Hengtgen      | UndauntedK12                                                | Serve as an advisor. Promote outcomes of projects in networks and communities. See also, Letters of Support.  | No |
| Jason Mutzenberger    | Eden Prairie Schools                                        | Serve as an advisor. Promote outcomes of projects in networks and communities. See also, Letters of Support.  | No |
| Anna Callahan         | Trust for Public Land                                       | Serve as an advisor. Promote outcomes of projects in networks and communities. See also, Letters of Support.  | No |
| Beth Mercer-Taylor    | Institute on the Environment (IonE)                         | Serve as an advisor. Promote outcomes of projects in networks and communities. See also, Letters of Support.  | No |
| Mary-Margaret Zindren | American Institute of Architects Minnesota (AIA Minnesota)  | Serve as an advisory. Promote outcomes of projects in networks and communities. See also, Letters of Support. | No |
| Anisa Heming          | Center for Green Schools at the U.S. Green Building Council | Serve as an advisor. Promote outcomes of projects in networks and communities. See also, Letters of Support.  | No |
| Jonee Kulman Bringham | Minnesota Design Center at the University of Minnesota      | Serve as an advisor. Promote outcomes of projects in networks and communities. See also, Letters of Support.  | No |
| Diana McKeown         | Clean Energy Resource Teams (CERTs)                         | Serve as an advisor. Promote outcomes of projects in networks and communities. See also, Letters of Support.  | No |
| Kate Knuth            | Climate Section at the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency   | Serve as an advisor. Promote outcomes of projects in networks and communities.                                | No |

## Dissemination

**Describe your plans for dissemination, presentation, documentation, or sharing of data, results, samples, physical collections, and other products and how they will follow ENRTF Acknowledgement Requirements and Guidelines.**

The CLASS Roadmap and final evaluation reports will be available on the MPCA website by January 2029 and available to download for free. We will present the CLASS Roadmap, CLASS Leadership Cohort outcomes, GreenStep Schools reporting metrics, and impact stories on program webpages, program newsletters, and at state and/or national conferences. We will share project summaries with writing advisors, cohort leaders, and project partners to disseminate to their networks. These activities will promote use of the CLASS Roadmap and participation in the GreenStep Schools program across all parties. All program activities during the grant period and all published documents will follow the ENRTF Acknowledgement Requirements and Guidelines.

## Long-Term Implementation and Funding

**Describe how the results will be implemented and how any ongoing effort will be funded. If not already addressed as part of the project, how will findings, results, and products developed be implemented after project completion? If additional work is needed, how will this work be funded?**

GreenStep Schools (GSS) will integrate the CLASS Roadmap into its ongoing technical assistance, best-practice actions, and recognition program, and maintain all tools and products after project completion. The Leadership Cohort model will continue as a core program strategy through GSS's public-private partnership that includes state agency collaboration and outside organizational support and networks. With guidance from the steering committee, we will leverage these funding streams to pursue additional philanthropic support for continued Roadmap implementation. We will present our findings at the Green Schools National Network Conference (or similar), elevating Minnesota as a leader in climate resilience strategies among schools.

## Other ENRTF Appropriations Awarded in the Last Six Years

| Name                                                                  | Appropriation                                                       | Amount Awarded |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| Groundwater Contamination Mapping Project - Phase II                  | M.L. 2021, First Special Session, Chp. 6, Art. 6, Sec. 2, Subd. 03f | \$800,000      |
| Replacing Failing Septic Systems to Protect Groundwater               | M.L. 2022, , Chp. 94, Art. , Sec. 2, Subd. 10h                      | \$2,000,000    |
| Pig's Eye Landfill Task Force                                         | M.L. 2022, , Chp. 94, Art. , Sec. 2, Subd. 10j                      | \$800,000      |
| Economic Analysis Guide for Minnesota Climate Investments             | M.L. 2023, , Chp. 60, Art. 2, Sec. 2, Subd. 07f                     | \$54,000       |
| Pollinator Habitat Creation at Minnesota Closed Landfills             | M.L. 2023, , Chp. 60, Art. 2, Sec. 2, Subd. 08o                     | \$1,508,000    |
| Determining Ambient Background PFAS Concentrations in Minnesota Soils | M.L. 2024, , Chp. 83, Art. , Sec. 2, Subd. 03g                      | \$621,000      |
| Get the Lead Out: Lead-Free Fishing Tackle Education                  | M.L. 2024, , Chp. 83, Art. , Sec. 2, Subd. 05e                      | \$254,000      |
| Pine Needles Reveal Past and Present Airborne PFAS                    | M.L. 2025, First Special Session, Chp. 1, Art. 2, Sec. 2, Subd. 07c | \$550,000      |

## Project Manager and Organization Qualifications

**Project Manager Name:** Britt Gangeness

**Job Title:** Supervisor, Environmental Education and Outreach Unit at the MPCA

**Provide description of the project manager's qualifications to manage the proposed project.**

Britt Gangeness is a collaborative, equity-minded leader who has spent her career helping Minnesotans build stronger relationships with their environment and with one another. As Supervisor of the Environmental Education and Outreach Unit at the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, she guides a team responsible for some of the state's most visible and impactful environmental programs—from Minnesota GreenStep Cities and Tribal Nations to Smart Salting training, Get the Lead Out, Eco Experience, and We Are Water MN. Her leadership centers on clear communication, thoughtful partnership building, and a belief that environmental literacy is essential to community resilience.

Before stepping into her supervisory role, Britt spent many years shaping statewide initiatives as a State Program Administrator. She led the evolution of We Are Water MN, supported K–12 and community education efforts, and played a key role in directing the Eco Experience at the Minnesota State Fair. Her earlier work in youth development, university instruction, program evaluation, and environmental learning centers continues to inform her approach: grounded in curiosity, guided by empathy, and focused on creating meaningful learning experiences.

Britt holds an M.Ed. in Environmental Education from the University of Minnesota, Duluth and a B.A. in Biology and

Environmental Studies from St. Olaf College. She has earned multiple awards for her contributions to environmental education and remains active in her community as a youth ski coach and former board member for the Minnesota Association for Environmental Education.

**Organization:** Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

**Organization Description:**

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's (MPCA) mission is to protect and improve the environment and human health. The MPCA has approximately 1000 staff who work at seven offices throughout Minnesota. We work with regulated parties, businesses, governments, organizations, and 11 Tribal Nations in Minnesota to develop innovative, community-centered approaches that protect our natural resources, improve human health, and foster strong economic growth.

In 2010 the MPCA launched Minnesota GreenStep Cities and Tribal Nations, a voluntary challenge, assistance, and recognition program to help communities achieve their sustainability and quality-of-life goals. This program supports 156 member cities and Tribal Nations and continues to grow and meet environmental goals as more communities commit to measurable improvement and long-term local resilience.

Beginning in 2013, MPCA collaborated with the University of Minnesota and other partners to shape the initial vision for Minnesota GreenStep Schools. In 2014, the MPCA awarded an Environmental Assistance Grant to the University of Minnesota that enabled initial development, including establishing the program framework and building the partner network. From 2018-2020 the University of Minnesota and MPCA took steps towards statewide implementation. This sustained investment and partnership helped make possible the official pilot launch of GreenStep Schools.

## Budget Summary

| Category / Name                       | Subcategory or Type | Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Purpose | Gen. Ineligible | % Benefits | # FTE | Classified Staff? | \$ Amount        |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|-----------------|------------|-------|-------------------|------------------|
| <b>Personnel</b>                      |                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |         |                 |            |       |                   |                  |
| State Program Administrator           |                     | The program coordinator provides statewide oversight, strategic alignment, and accountability for the entire 2.5-year initiative. This role executes and manages contracts, and convenes the CLASS Advisory Committee to ensure broad representation and alignment with Minnesota's Climate Action Framework. The program coordinator reviews and approves all major deliverables—including the CLASS Roadmap, GreenStep Schools metrics and reporting protocols, and the CLASS-aligned workplan—while coordinating with GreenStep Schools leadership to ensure statewide coherence. They oversee evaluation activities, validate findings and recommendations, and guide the development of a long-term continuation plan. Throughout, the program coordinator ensures quality, alignment, and sustainability, positioning the CLASS Roadmap for statewide scaling and integration into broader climate and education systems. |         |                 | 35%        | 2.5   |                   | \$438,091        |
|                                       |                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |         |                 |            |       | <b>Sub Total</b>  | <b>\$438,091</b> |
| <b>Contracts and Services</b>         |                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |         |                 |            |       |                   |                  |
| TBD                                   | Service Contract    | The CLASS Implementation & Cohort Support Contractor leads research, synthesis, facilitation, and documentation; develops and refines the CLASS Roadmap; produces GreenStep Schools technical content; designs and supports the Leadership Cohort; and synthesizes feedback, indicators, and stories into a comprehensive evaluation and continuation package.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |         |                 |            | 1.88  |                   | \$250,000        |
|                                       |                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |         |                 |            |       | <b>Sub Total</b>  | <b>\$250,000</b> |
| <b>Equipment, Tools, and Supplies</b> |                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |         |                 |            |       |                   |                  |

|                                     |                                                  |                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                   |   |  |  |                  |                |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|--|--|------------------|----------------|
|                                     | Tools and Supplies                               | In-person Retreat and Cohort materials (markers, flipchart paper, snacks \$100/event)                                                         | For activities and support of 1 Writing Retreat and 2 Cohort gatherings           | X |  |  |                  | \$300          |
|                                     |                                                  |                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                   |   |  |  | <b>Sub Total</b> | <b>\$300</b>   |
| <b>Capital Equipment</b>            |                                                  |                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                   |   |  |  |                  |                |
|                                     |                                                  |                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                   |   |  |  | <b>Sub Total</b> | -              |
| <b>Acquisitions and Stewardship</b> |                                                  |                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                   |   |  |  |                  |                |
|                                     |                                                  |                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                   |   |  |  | <b>Sub Total</b> | -              |
| <b>Travel In Minnesota</b>          |                                                  |                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                   |   |  |  |                  |                |
|                                     | Conference Registration<br>Miles/ Meals/ Lodging | Minnesota Association of School Administrators (MASA) Annual Conference exhibit (includes 4 full registrations); 2 nights lodging for 2 staff | Roadmap and GreenStep Schools promotion and networking                            |   |  |  |                  | \$1,125        |
|                                     | Conference Registration<br>Miles/ Meals/ Lodging | Minnesota Rural Education Association (MREA) Annual Conference exhibit (includes 2 registrations); 2 nights lodging for 2 staff               | Roadmap and GreenStep Schools promotion and networking                            |   |  |  |                  | \$3,200        |
|                                     | Miles/ Meals/ Lodging                            | Roadmap Writing Retreat: 2 staff travel for 2.5 day trip (2 nights lodging, 1 breakfast, 2 dinner/person)                                     | Travel for staff or contractor facilitating and coordinating the Writing Retreat  |   |  |  |                  | \$882          |
|                                     | Miles/ Meals/ Lodging                            | 2 in-person Cohort Gatherings: 2 staff travel for 2 trips (1 nights lodging, 2 dinner/person)                                                 | Travel for staff facilitating and coordinating cohort participants and gatherings |   |  |  |                  | \$952          |
|                                     |                                                  |                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                   |   |  |  | <b>Sub Total</b> | <b>\$6,159</b> |
| <b>Travel Outside Minnesota</b>     |                                                  |                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                   |   |  |  |                  |                |
|                                     |                                                  |                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                   |   |  |  | <b>Sub Total</b> | -              |
| <b>Printing and Publication</b>     |                                                  |                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                   |   |  |  |                  |                |
|                                     | Printing                                         | Handouts, activity outlines for in-person events (\$250 per event)                                                                            | 1 Writing workshop and 2 cohort materials                                         |   |  |  |                  | \$750          |

|                       |          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |   |  |  |                    |                  |
|-----------------------|----------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|--|--|--------------------|------------------|
|                       | Printing | Roadmap printing                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Printed reports for distribution and utilization by schools and partners                                                                                                                                                                                               |   |  |  |                    | \$2,000          |
|                       |          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |   |  |  | <b>Sub Total</b>   | <b>\$2,750</b>   |
| <b>Other Expenses</b> |          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |   |  |  |                    |                  |
|                       |          | Facility Rental for 1 Writing Retreat location                                                                                                                                                                                         | Meeting location for up to 50 participants                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |   |  |  |                    | \$500            |
|                       |          | Facility Rental for 2 Cohort gatherings                                                                                                                                                                                                | Meeting location for up to 30 participants                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |   |  |  |                    | \$1,000          |
|                       |          | Meals: Writing retreat and cohort gatherings meals for participants (Retreat meal for 1 day at \$40/person x 50 people= \$2000) (Cohort light breakfast and lunch for 1 day at \$20/person x 30 people= \$600)x 2 gatherings = \$1,200 | Writing Retreat will be held over a day and a half. Providing lunch, dinner, and breakfast will be critical to maximize time and make the event useful. Cohort gatherings will be 1 full day. Providing a light breakfast and lunch will allow for full participation. | X |  |  |                    | \$3,200          |
|                       |          | Honorarium for writing and research expertise                                                                                                                                                                                          | Up to 20 experts providing Roadmap development, participating in sub-committees, and supporting implementation (80 hours x \$35/hr/person)                                                                                                                             | X |  |  |                    | \$56,000         |
|                       |          | Honorarium for school CLASS Leadership Cohort                                                                                                                                                                                          | Up to 10 schools (5 staff/each) co-designing and participating in 6 gatherings and implementing actions (\$7,000/school)                                                                                                                                               | X |  |  |                    | \$70,000         |
|                       |          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |   |  |  | <b>Sub Total</b>   | <b>\$130,700</b> |
|                       |          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |   |  |  | <b>Grand Total</b> | <b>\$828,000</b> |

## Classified Staff or Generally Ineligible Expenses

| Category/Name                         | Subcategory or Type | Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Justification Ineligible Expense or Classified Staff Request                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Equipment, Tools, and Supplies</b> |                     | In-person Retreat and Cohort materials (markers, flipchart paper, snacks \$100/event)                                                                                                                                                     | Includes reasonable refreshments for all-day meetings                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>Other Expenses</b>                 |                     | Meals: Writing retreat and cohort gatherings meals for participants (Retreat meal for 1 day at \$40/person x 50 people= \$2000)<br>(Cohort light breakfast and lunch for 1 day at \$20/person x 30 people= \$600)x 2 gatherings = \$1,200 | Provide reasonable food for all-day retreat and cohort gatherings                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>Other Expenses</b>                 |                     | Honorarium for writing and research expertise                                                                                                                                                                                             | Provide one-time payment to organizations involved in supporting the development and implementation of the CLASS Roadmap. Organizations providing expertise could spend up to 80 hours participating in meetings, researching, writing, and assisting with implementation. Schools are often stretched thin already but their expertise and experience is necessary for co-design and feedback on the CLASS Roadmap and Leadership Cohort model. |
| <b>Other Expenses</b>                 |                     | Honorarium for school CLASS Leadership Cohort                                                                                                                                                                                             | Provide one-time payment to organizations involved in supporting the development and implementation of the CLASS Roadmap. Schools are often stretched thin already but their expertise and experience is necessary for co-design and feedback on the CLASS Roadmap and Leadership Cohort model. Schools may spend 100 hours participating in, providing feedback on, or implementing actions for this project.                                   |

## Non ENRTF Funds

| Category         | Specific Source                                             | Use                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Status                     | Amount           |
|------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------|
| <b>State</b>     |                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                            |                  |
| In-Kind          | MPCA salary (various)                                       | Coordinate grant application and management. Facilitate agency hiring process for Coordinator position and supervise work duties. Oversee project advancement and outcomes. Graphic design and marketing materials. Promote communications and engagement with participating program communities. Maintain records and information. Track outcomes and deliverables. Provide ongoing technical assistance to schools and communities.                                                                         | Pending                    | \$35,000         |
| In-Kind          | Environmental Quality Board                                 | Provide access to online interactive public engagement tool for documenting Roadmap progress, gathering feedback amongst critical partners.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Pending                    | \$2,000          |
|                  |                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | <b>State Sub Total</b>     | <b>\$37,000</b>  |
| <b>Non-State</b> |                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                            |                  |
| In-Kind          | Practitioners and experts - individual organization budgets | School experts and their consultants or other community leaders involved in collaboration or review of Roadmap development and/or participating in implementation cohorts (Total hours estimated: 1,500 x \$35/hour= \$52,500). Technical assistance providers that include assistance to Roadmap development in the scope of their regular work activities. (Total hours estimated: 820 x \$35/hour= \$28,700) NOTE: Does not include those individuals or organizations receiving a stipend to participate. | Potential                  | \$81,200         |
|                  |                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | <b>Non State Sub Total</b> | <b>\$81,200</b>  |
|                  |                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | <b>Funds Total</b>         | <b>\$118,200</b> |

**Total Project Cost: \$946,200**

**This amount accurately reflects total project cost?**

Yes

## Attachments

### Required Attachments

#### *Visual Component*

File: [5b958405-f24.pdf](#)

#### *Alternate Text for Visual Component*

Infographic titled "Leveraging K-12 schools for community resilience," highlighting the Minnesota GreenStep Schools program. Describes vision, outcomes, and the integration of the 2026 Climate Action Framework. Includes steps of developing the CLASS Roadmap, identifying school needs, launching a leadership cohort, and collaboration....

### Supplemental Attachments

*Capital Project Questionnaire, Budget Supplements, Support Letter, Photos, Media, Other*

| Title                            | File                             |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Letters of Support (20 combined) | <a href="#">ce4d4dcb-a34.pdf</a> |

## Administrative Use

**Does your project include restoration or acquisition of land rights?**

No

**Do you understand that travel expenses are only approved if they follow the "Commissioner's Plan" promulgated by the Commissioner of Management of Budget or, for University of Minnesota projects, the University of Minnesota plan?**

Yes, I understand the Commissioner's Plan applies.

**Does your project have potential for royalties, copyrights, patents, sale of products and assets, or revenue generation?**

No

**Do you understand and acknowledge IP and revenue-return and sharing requirements in 116P.10?**

N/A

**Do you wish to request reinvestment of any revenues into your project instead of returning revenue to the ENRTF?**

N/A

**Does your project include original, hypothesis-driven research?**

No

**Does the organization have a fiscal agent for this project?**

No

**Does your project include the pre-design, design, construction, or renovation of a building, trail, campground, or other fixed capital asset costing \$10,000 or more or large-scale stream or wetland restoration?**

No

**Do you propose using an appropriation from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund to conduct a project that provides children's services (as defined in Minnesota Statutes section 299C.61 Subd.7 as "the provision of care, treatment, education, training, instruction, or recreation to children")?**

No

**Provide the name(s) and organization(s) of additional individuals assisting in the completion of this proposal:**

Kristin Mroz-Risse, GreenStep Cities and Tribal Nations Co-Director, MPCA; Jonee Kulman Brigham, Current GreenStep Schools Program Leader and Senior Research Fellow, Minnesota Design Center; Katie Piehl, GreenStep Schools strategic advisor, Bloomwise Partners

**Do you understand that a named service contract does not constitute a funder-designated subrecipient or approval of a sole-source contract? In other words, a service contract entity is only approved if it has been selected according to the contracting rules identified in state law and policy for organizations that receive ENRTF funds through direct appropriations, or in the DNR's reimbursement manual for non-state organizations. These rules may include competitive bidding and prevailing wage requirements**

Yes, I understand