

1ST QUARTER, JANUARY 2022



AIR & WASTE MANAGEMENT  
ASSOCIATION

UPPER MIDWEST SECTION

# QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

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## A&WMA-UMS Member Spotlight



### MIRANDA MAIR

Miranda is a Meteorologist & Air Quality Specialist for HDR Engineering in Minneapolis. She's been actively involved with A&WMA since 2014, first getting involved as the YP Committee Chair, then moving into the Membership Committee Chair role, and now will take the helm as Chair for the A&WMA Upper Midwest Section for 2022. From Miranda:

"The professional connections I've made through A&WMA-UMS have been integral to my career growth. Being able to network with other folks in different companies within private industry, government agencies, and consulting firms has helped me broaden my perspectives on our work and how everything fits together. The mentorship and skill development opportunities presented by A&WMA-UMS have been fantastic, and I look forward to many more!"

Miranda has a Bachelor of Science in Atmospheric Sciences and Meteorology from the University of North Dakota in Grand Forks, ND. Prior to consulting, she had a brief stint doing broadcast television meteorology for a variety of local and national channels (yes, with a green screen and everything). Very fun experience, but thankfully her alarm clock no longer goes off at 3:00 AM for the morning show.



When she's not permitting, modeling, or calculating emissions, she loves spending time with her husband and two daughters (ages 5 and almost-2) trying new recipes, doing art projects, playing video games, and exploring local parks.

## Safety Moment

This quarter's safety moment is about snowmobiling and icy conditions. According to the WI DNR, "There is no such thing as 100% safe ice" as ice's strength cannot be determined by its appearance, age, temperature, or thickness. Extra precautions should be taken when snowmobiling or doing other outdoor activities where ice and snow is involved. In WI, there were 13 snowmobile fatalities between January and March 2021 alone.

Here are some safety tips about snowmobiles and ice to help keep your winter activities enjoyable:

- Don't drink and ride.
- Always wear your helmet and safety gear.
- Travel with a friend, carry a cell phone and let people know where you are going and when you'll return home.
- Dress appropriately, carry a first aid kit and navigation tools.
- Remember that ice is never completely safe under any conditions.
- Slow down when traveling at night.

For more information on outdoor safety tips, check out this link: [Snowmobilers: Think Smart Before You Start This Season | Wisconsin DNR](#)



## A&WMA-UMS Past Event Highlights

### Inaugural North Dakota Regional Environmental Conference

On October 7, 2021, A&WMA UMS was proud to host the first-ever North Dakota Regional Environmental Conference, which was held at Bismarck State College's National Environmental Center of Excellence.

Over 60 in-person attendees enjoyed speakers whose topics spanned across various environmental media, all while appreciating the venue's panoramic views of the Missouri River valley. Planning will soon begin for the 2022 conference, and anyone who is interested in assisting in its preparation are encouraged to reach out the North Dakota Conference Committee Chair, Adam Driscoll at [adriscoll@barr.com](mailto:adriscoll@barr.com)



***Co-Keynote Speaker Jim Semerad, Director of Air Division of the North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality, delivers his keynote address.***

### Conference on the Environment

The 36th annual Conference on the Environment (COE) took place virtually on Tuesday, November 9, 2021. The all-day conference brought together over 200 environmental professionals representing industry, consultants, government, and academia, in the areas of air quality, water quality, and waste management. The COE is co-hosted by the Upper Midwest Section of Air & Waste Management Association (A&WMA-UMS) and the Central States Water Environment Association (CSWEA).

## A&WMA-UMS Upcoming Event

### Solid Waste Operator Conference

On February 22nd the local chapters of A&WMA and SWANA are sponsoring the 12th annual Solid Waste Operator Conference. This event provides Minnesota's certified solid waste operators, Solid Waste Administrators, Regulators, Consultants and other attendees with training on current and relevant topics pertaining to the operation of modern land disposal facilities. Type II and III MPCA Solid Waste Operators CEU's will be offered to participants. Topics will include: Landfill Operations including topics on compaction, working face operations, managing leachate rock, annual stormwater refresher training, planning for a battery fires and the latest information from the MPCA on topics including: MPCA's Draft PFAS Monitoring Plan, Resources MPCA has developed to promote the repurposing of closed landfills and other regulatory developments. The goal of this conference is to provide relevant information to the safe, effective and compliance operations of solid waste management facilities. Please feel free to join us in St. Cloud on February 22nd. [REGISTER HERE!](#)

## A&WMA-UMS News & Announcements

### 2022 Election Results

Please join us in welcoming our new board members to the Air and Waste Management Association's Upper Midwest Section (A&WMA-UMS)! Based on your voting responses, we have elected the following for 2022:

- Miranda Mair (HDR Inc) elected as Board Chair
- Joseph Carlson (Braun Intertec) elected as Board Vice Chair
- Liam Brady (Stantec Consulting LLC) elected as Board Secretary
- Phil Fish (Barr Engineering) re-elected as Board Treasurer
- Hassan Bouchareb (MPCA) elected as new Board Director (3-Year Term)

Miranda will replace Shelley Koehn (3M) as Board Chair, Joe will replace Mike Westereng (Koch Industries) as Board Vice-Chair, Liam will replace Joe Carlson (Braun Intertec) as Secretary and Hassan will replace Adam Driscoll (Barr Engineering) as Board Director. Please join me in thanking Shelley, Mike, Joe, and Adam for their service!!

Additionally, the following individuals have agreed to continuing to serve on the A&WMA-UMS Committees:

- Membership Committee: Vacant
- Education Committee: Vacant
- Communications Committee: Jess Keller (Xcel Energy)
- Young Professionals Committee: Sam Helal (Stantec Consulting LLC)
- Conference Committees: Roger Clarke (Xcel Energy), Adam Driscoll (Barr Engineering), Vacant (COE Planning Committee)
- Programs Planning Committee: Joseph Carlson (Braun Intertec)

Throughout the year, please feel free to contact any one of us if you have questions or suggestions about our Association or would like to get involved. Updated contact information is available on our [website](#).

If you are interested in serving as the Education or Conference on the Environment Conference Committee Chair or joining either committee, please reach out to the A&WMA-UMS Chair, Miranda Mair, at [Miranda.Maireawma-ums.org](mailto:Miranda.Maireawma-ums.org).



# A&WMA-UMS News & Announcements

## WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

What are ways I can get involved in the Air & Waste Management – Upper Midwest Section? There are currently two open committee chairs: the **Education Committee Chair** and the **Conference on the Environment Committee Chair**! We are always looking for new involvement in any of the committee at any time of the year! Elections for Officer positions open in October and there will also be one open Director position as well. Please see below for more information and feel free to reach out to the A&WMA-UMS Chair, Miranda Mair, at [Miranda.Maire@awma-ums.org](mailto:Miranda.Maire@awma-ums.org) for with any questions or to get further information!



1. **Join a Committee.** Committees are a great first step to get involved in the A&WMA-UMS. Committees allow for members to interact in a smaller group, take ownership of specific events or tasks, and give their opinion on the direction of the organization. Committees typically meet once a month for an hour, with additional time needed for events or committee task completion. Please reference our website for more details on the committees by clicking the link below.

2. **Run for an Officer position.** There are four Officers of the A&WMA-UMS – Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer. Each position is a one-year term. Descriptions of these positions can be found in the A&WMA-UMS bylaws, [HERE](#). Nominations for Officer positions will be posted to members in October of each year. Officers are expected to attend monthly board meetings (one hour/month), as well as complete required tasks for their position.

3. **Run for a Director position.** There are three Directors of the A&WMA-UMS. Directors are voting members who participate in each Board meeting. They also are the sole members of the Nominating Committee, who are in charge of annual Board elections. Each director position is a three-year term. Nominations for one Director position will be posted to members in October of each year. Directors are expected to attend monthly board meetings (one hour/month) and lead the election process in the fall.

Please take a look at our website for more details and information if you are interested in getting involved! [LINK HERE](#)

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## Upcoming A&WMA National Events



The Air Quality Measurement Methods and Technology Conference returns in person in 2022 with its extensive coverage of all aspects of air measurement methodologies, including associated quality assurance protocols and how to use and interpret data. Sessions will also focus on the assessment of key substances of concern for humans and the environment, including criteria pollutants and greenhouse gases, air toxics, and emerging pollutants such as PFAS and ethylene oxide.

For more information and to register for this event click [HERE](#).



The 2022 Air & Waste Management Association (A&WMA) National Annual Conference will be held June 27 - 30, 2022. The A&WMA will bring leading environmental scientists, practitioners, regulators, and companies to San Francisco to share the latest initiatives addressing environmental issues facing communities such as climate change, exposure reduction through innovative technology and regulatory approaches, sustainability, community monitoring, and environmental justice.

For more information and to register for this event click [HERE](#).

## Upcoming A&WMA National Webinars

### **Progress and Challenges in International Solid Waste Management and Disposal**

Tuesday, March 15 • 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm ET

Details and registration coming soon at the following [LINK](#).



# State Permitting/Rule Updates/Form Updates

## Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

### Air Quality Housekeeping Rule

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) is proposing amendments to rules governing air quality, Minnesota Rules chapters 7002, 7005, 7007, 7009, 7011, 7017, and 7019. The proposed rules were open for public comment from October 18 to December 6, 2021. The MPCA held a public information meeting on November 18, 2021, to provide an overview of the proposed rule amendments.

This rulemaking, referred to as the Air Quality Housekeeping Rule (R-04678), is part of an ongoing effort to maintain and improve the MPCA's existing rules. The overall purpose of the rulemaking is to keep the air quality rules current, ensure consistency with applicable federal and state regulations, clarify ambiguous rule language, and correct gaps or errors identified while administering the rules. This rulemaking is needed to maintain the delegation from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to implement and enforce certain provisions of the Clean Air Act in Minnesota, including the Title V operating permit program.

The proposed rule amendments are summarized at the following link: [Air Quality Housekeeping Rule](#)

### Training for Control Equipment Rule

MPCA's [small business environmental assistance program](#) has developed an [online training](#) to help facilities understand and comply with the [control equipment rule](#). The training introduces the rule, options for businesses with MPCA air permits, types of air pollution control equipment, and how to comply with the rule.



### MPCA Form Updates

The following common MPCA air permit application forms have been updated from June 1, 2021 through today ([Link to MPCA Forms](#)):

- CD-05 Compliance Plan for Control Equipment (6/10/2021)
- CR-02: Hood Evaluation & Certification (6/15/2021)
- IA-01: Insignificant Activities List (6/15/2021)
- GI-05B: Emission Unit Information (6/15/2021)
- ME-01: Continuous Monitoring System Information (6/15/2021)
- CH-13: Applicability of State Rules (6/15/2021)
- GI-05A: Pollution Control Equipment Information (9/28/2021)



# Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

## MPCA Quarterly Air Mail Newsletter

MPCA publishes a quarterly Air Mail newsletter, which may be accessed here: [Newsletter Link](#)

### TOPICS:

- \$1M now available for heavy-duty off-road diesel equipment
- Second round of MPCA grants for dry cleaning equipment coming soon
- Air modeling seminar and updates
- Reminder: Share your climate action ideas and priorities
- Host a climate conversation
- For classrooms: A Minnesota-focused Flipgrid activity about climate change
- Apply for a climate resilience planning grant today
- You're invited to stakeholder forums for statewide transportation planning
- Katrina Kessler appointed commissioner of Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
- Wood smoke: What you can do
- Refrigeration management
- RETAP celebrates 20 years
- Clean Air Minnesota reports successes
- State efforts promote health in transportation
- Great Lakes Commission renews commitment to mercury reduction
- In the news: PFAS
- 2022 air emission fees - early estimate
- Notice of intent to adopt proposed air quality housekeeping rules
- Control equipment rule guidance online
- Recent EPA actions

## MPCA Air Quality Permitting Guidance



The MPCA offers extensive permitting guidance on their website at the following link: [MN Permitting Guidance](#)

## State Permitting/Rule Updates/Form Updates

### North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality

#### **CERIS**

The North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) utilizes CERIS (Combined Environmental Regulatory Information System) in order to submit, revise and management air quality applications, registrations or permits, pay environmental fees and submit and view documentation. Access the CERIS here: [Home - CERIS-ND](#)

#### **ND DEQ Air Quality Permitting Guidance**

The North Dakota DEQ offers extensive permitting guidance on their website at the following link: [ND Permitting Guidance](#)



### South Dakota Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources

#### **South Dakota DANR Air Quality Permitting Guidance**

The South Dakota Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources (DANR) outlines current forms on their website at the following link: [Link to Forms](#). Additionally, SD DANR offers permitting guidance on their website at the following link: [SD Permitting Guidance](#).

### Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

#### **Wisconsin DNR Air Quality Permitting Guidance**

Have you ever wondered how the permitting process in Wisconsin works? The eleven-step process is detailed on the WI DNR's webpage. See the following link for more details: [Eleven-step air permit process](#).

#### **Wisconsin DNR Current Air Quality Permitting Forms**

The latest forms for air applications can be found here: [Link to Forms](#)



## In the News

### Recycling recovery

The work of recycling represents more than 60,000 jobs in Minnesota, paying almost \$3.4 billion in wages and adding nearly \$15.7 billion to the state's economy. But each year, Minnesotans are still throwing away more than 850,000 tons of recyclables with an estimated value of \$153 million. Rather than fueling the state's economy, that material is filling up landfills and incinerators.



For the past several years, the MPCA has awarded grants to counties, cities, townships, and tribal communities for projects that improve recycling and composting in Greater Minnesota. Please visit the article on the [MPCA website](#) to learn more about how some of that money is being used to boost the recovery of valuable recyclables.

### Katrina Kessler Appointed Commissioner of Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

Governor Walz has appointed Katrina Kessler commissioner of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency effective November 1, 2021. Read more about Katrina and her plans as Commissioner [here](#).

### Clean Air Minnesota Reports Successes

Clean Air Minnesota is a public-private-community partnership working voluntarily and proactively to reduce human-made sources of two common pollutants: fine particulate matter and ground-level ozone. The work from the two-year funding period that ended June 2021 is complete and had positive results, even in the midst of the pandemic. Read more about the projects completed [here](#).





## In the News

### **Five Minnesota School Districts, Including Faribault and Osseo, to Benefit from Minnesota's New Electric School Bus Pilot Project**



The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) has announced more than \$2.1 million in grants for its innovative electric school bus pilot project. These grants will go towards eight new electric school buses and charging stations to be used by five different school districts in Minnesota. Some of the buses are already in service, while the rest are expected to be operating by Fall 2022.

A goal of the electric school bus pilot program is to support initiatives to remove older diesel buses that pollute more than the electric buses. In addition, the program is looking to determine viability of electric school buses during the cold winter months Minnesota experiences. Progress of the electric buses will be based on the criteria of performance, maintenance, and energy usage, plus some more criteria. Please visit the article at [MPCA](#) for more information on the new pilot program.

### **DNR Welcomes Wisconsin Specialty Recycling to the State's Green Tier Program**

Wisconsin DNR welcomes Wisconsin Specialty Recycling as a Tier I participant in the state's DNR Green Tier Program. The Program recognizes companies that go above and beyond environmental compliance requirements, with Tier I being a recognition of superior performance towards these goals. Wisconsin Specialty Recycling is an electronics recycler that is committed to reducing end-of-life e-waste.



For more information on the WI green tier program and Wisconsin specialty recycling, please read this article at WI DNR's [website](#).



## In the News

### **Final Rule - Phasedown of Hydrofluorocarbons: Establishing the Allowance Allocation and Trading Program under the AIM Act**

The AIM Act, which was included in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021, directs EPA to phase down production and consumption of HFCs in the United States by 85 percent over the next 15 years. A global HFC phasedown is expected to avoid up to 0.5° Celsius of global warming by 2100.



This final rule is the first regulation under the AIM Act to address HFCs, which are potent greenhouse gases commonly used in refrigerators, air conditioners, and other applications. This final rule sets the HFC production and consumption baseline levels from which reductions will be made, establishes an initial methodology for allocating and trading HFC allowances for 2022 and 2023, and creates a robust, agile, and innovative compliance and enforcement system. Read about this Act on the EPA webpage [here](#).



### **EPA Wraps Up A Year of Significant Accomplishments**

Agency actions address the climate crisis, advance environmental justice, protect the health of communities, and restore the role of science. Read more about these accomplishments [here](#).

### **EPA Finalizes Greenhouse Gas Standards for Passenger Vehicles, Paving Way for a Zero-Emissions Future**

Some new greenhouse gas emission standards for vehicle Model Years 2023 to 2026 were finalized in December 2021, according to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The EPA called these standards the “most ambitious” ones ever released for passenger cars and light trucks. Anticipated benefits from these standards are expected to be \$190 billion above the costs of implementing them. These benefits include cost savings with improved fuel efficiency, reduced impact of climate change, and improved public health due to the lowered pollution levels. Learn more about the new standard and how it will shape emission standards for vehicles to come [here](#).



## In the News

### **EPA Announces Plans to Use First \$1B from Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Funds to Clear Out the Superfund Backlog**

On December 17, 2021 the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced a \$1 billion investment from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to initiate cleanup and clear the backlog of 49 previously unfunded Superfund sites and accelerate cleanup at dozens of other sites across the country. Until this historic investment, many of these were part



of a backlog of hazardous waste sites awaiting funding. Thousands of contaminated sites exist nationally due to hazardous waste being dumped, left out in the open, or otherwise improperly managed. These sites include manufacturing facilities, processing plants, landfills and mining sites. Visit the [EPA article](#) for further information.

### **Cleanup to start at 49 Superfund sites using money from infrastructure law**

Clean-up efforts at 49 hazardous waste sites across the U.S. will begin thanks to \$1 billion from the bipartisan infrastructure law, the Environmental Protection Agency said Friday, clearing out a long backlog of contaminated sites awaiting funding. The Superfund sites set to get funding are in 24 states plus Puerto Rico. The EPA said 60 percent of them are in historically underserved communities, pointing out that a quarter of Blacks and Hispanics in the U.S. live within 3 miles of a Superfund site. Read more about these clean-up efforts [here](#).

### **EPA Announces Tighter Fuel Economy Standards for Cars and Trucks**

The Environmental Protection Agency on Monday announced new fuel economy standards to promote President Biden's goal of reducing the nation's greenhouse gas emissions. The transportation sector is the biggest emitter in the country of heat-trapping pollution, which stokes climate change. The EPA's new rules reverse a much weaker Trump-era regulation for automakers to improve their cars' and light-duty trucks' fuel economy. To learn more about these fuel economy standards, visit the NPR article [here](#).



## Air Quality in Your Area

Did you know that you can view real-time data for the air quality in your area? See below for the interactive map for your area.



- **Minnesota**
- **Wisconsin**
- **South Dakota**
- **North Dakota**
- **Federal level / all other states**

## PFAS Information

Please see below for the latest news on PFAS at the state and federal level:

- **PFAS News | Wisconsin DNR**
- **PFAS pollution | Minnesota Pollution Control Agency ([state.mn.us](http://state.mn.us))**
- **Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) | US EPA**



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