



## 2010 CGMC Policy Positions: Environment & Energy

1. CGMC supports cleaning up polluted waters. Cities' limited financial resources must, however, be spent wisely on those projects leading to the greatest environmental benefits. Therefore, CGMC opposes legislation and rules that would impose unnecessary and unfunded mandates on cities.
2. Minnesota's Heritage Amendment dedicates a portion of the sales and use tax to the clean water fund. When appropriating money from this fund, the legislature and any implementing agency or council should give highest priority to the development of TMDLs and providing assistance for their implementation. These funds should not be used to cover budget cuts or supplant other normal state spending on water programs.
3. Minnesota's Heritage Amendment dedicates a portion of the sales and use tax to funding parks and trails. Regional parks play an important role in improving the quality of life throughout Minnesota. CGMC supports distributing these funds in an equitable manner between Greater Minnesota and the Metropolitan area and dedicating a specific amount for Greater Minnesota parks and trails.
4. Problem materials entering municipal waste streams can cause detrimental environmental effects and damage to municipal treatment and other water systems. CGMC supports legislation and regulations that place responsibility for these materials with the manufacturers and consumers of these products, not just at the treatment and infrastructure maintenance levels.
5. CGMC supports using the state general fund to support the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency water program funding. Using the general fund, rather than relying heavily on fees, promotes legislative oversight and spreads the cost of regulation to everyone who benefits.
6. Assuring that the state's water bodies meet their designated uses and the attainment of water quality standards is the responsibility of all who contribute to stream degradation, not just of regulated point sources. Thus, CGMC advocates the development of pollution control measures that require the participation of all contributors to the degradation of water bodies, including non-point pollution sources.
7. Pollutants will have different impacts depending on the local conditions. Nutrient and pollutant standards, particularly phosphorus standards, should take into account site specific conditions. CGMC supports legal and legislative action to prevent implementation of rules that lack scientific support or that do not include site specific analysis.
8. CGMC supports reasonable antidegradation policies that comply with the Clean Water Act, recognize the need for communities to grow, and include site specific analysis.

9. CGMC supports reasonable trading and banking policies for pollutants.
10. CGMC supports requiring townships to meet the same environmental protections and regulatory requirements as cities.
11. CGMC supports a statewide initiative to inspect all on-site sewage treatment equipment and ban new ISTS for developments with greater density than 1 per 40 acres.
12. CGMC supports renewable energy and the transmission infrastructure necessary to develop these resources. In addition to supporting state programs for wind and solar energy, CGMC recognizes the need to invest in other alternative energy technologies such as those that recover methane and use waste products to create energy.
13. CGMC supports tax credits and other incentive programs to assist municipalities and their residents in developing and using alternative and renewable fuels. CGMC also supports state programs to assist municipalities in adopting energy conservation measures.