



ISSUE BRIEFING: GROWING HEALTHY FOOD & FARMERS

Giving to the Minnesota Environmental Fund ensures people in Minnesota can eat healthy food grown locally, now and for future generations. Together, we can advocate for ecologically-sound farming practices, support small-scale farmers, and increase access to local and sustainably-produced food for all Minnesotans. **These actions protect Minnesota's natural resources, and contribute to a strong and prosperous Minnesota local food economy.**

Your support helps shape key actions across several areas. Here are some snapshots from our 21 members:

- **Educating New Farmers in Sustainable Agriculture:**
 - **Land Stewardship Project, Women's Environmental Institute, and Minnesota Food Association** are supporting beginning farmers by offering classes, workshops, mentorship, and access to land for new farmers of various backgrounds across the state.
 - **Minnesota Food Association** is connecting underserved farmers with experts and resources by acting as fiscal agent and co-host of the annual Immigrant & Minority Farmers Conference.
- **Building Community Support for Local Food and Farmers:**
 - **Women's Environmental Institute** is coordinating East Phillips residents to convert a warehouse to a year-round urban organic farm site to create living wage jobs and entrepreneurial opportunities.
 - **Minnesota Food Association** is educating young people on the importance of sustainable agriculture through the Big River Farms Youth & Family Education Program.
- **Preserving Agricultural Traditions:**
 - **North American Water Office** is promoting the nutritional and medicinal benefits of wild foods and fruit traditionally eaten by Indigenous Peoples and those at subsistence levels by creating edible landscapes.
- **Promoting Healthy Food Access and Eliminating Waste:**
 - **Eureka Recycling** is preventing food waste by hosting zero-waste events, delivering community workshops on composting, and working with restaurants to implement new composting systems.
 - **Women's Environmental Institute** is increasing access to organic vegetables for low-income community members by donating produce grown on their urban farm to a food shelf and café.
 - **Minnesota Food Association** is developing alternative markets that increase local food access in low-income communities, while at the same time retaining profitability for producers.
- **Advancing Policy to Protect Farmers and Natural Resources:**
 - **Land Stewardship Project** is working to stop frac sand mining and large-scale factory farms through local organizing and the development of statewide policies.
 - **Clean Water Fund** is reducing pollution from non-point agricultural sources by focusing on better practices and policies and engaging farmers in finding solutions.
 - **Women's Environmental Institute** is completing research to give East Metro farmers the right-to-know toxic exposures to their farmland and help identify alternative farming sites.
- **Creating New Farm Spaces:**
 - **The Trust for Public Land** is partnering with the non-profit organization, Frogtown Farm, to create a hub for health, recreation, local food, and a connection to nature for an urban community through the 12.7-acre Frogtown Park and Farm in St. Paul.
 - **Women's Environmental Institute** is creating a rural food hub with East Central small farmers wanting to transition to organic farming that is sustainable and addresses rural food poverty.

Want to learn more? Visit [Environmental Initiative](#), [Eureka Recycling](#), [Land Stewardship Project](#), [Minnesota Food Association](#), [Trust for Public Land](#), [Women's Environmental Institute](#)