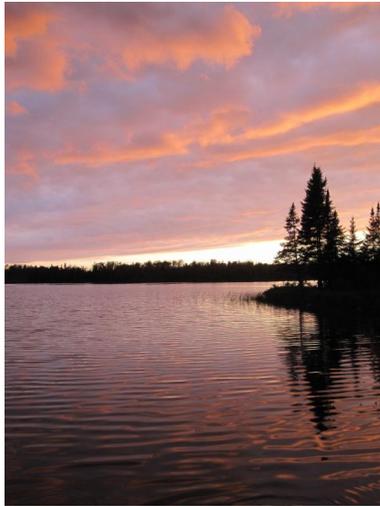


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Reflection, Boundary Waters
Canoe Area Wilderness

2017: A Great Year for Stepping Up to Protect Minnesota's Environment

We ask ourselves - can we realize a future where nature is protected, and people can thrive - with food, energy and jobs?

Yes! Healthy nature and healthy people go hand in hand. With the efforts of so many caring, supportive people, like you, and the staff and volunteers of our member groups, we are together working to realize that vision.

In 2017, our changing climate was in the news often, with fires, hurricanes, and mudslides capturing our attention. Here in the "Bold North," we now have warmer winters, more frequent heavy rain, and a longer growing season. With elected leadership changing priorities, our member groups focused on both community-based and statewide actions to protect, conserve and restore our environment, right here in Minnesota.

We have great stories to share with you about this work, every day, realizing a future where people and nature can be healthy. Every year at this time, we bring together people from each of our nineteen member organizations. We hear their great success stories and insights, and plans to build on what they learned.

In the year ahead, we will share with you these stories - key strategies to adapt to and mitigate the impact of our changing climate, and ways your support is helping protect and restore a healthy environment, for people and nature.

Clean Water and Clean Air

- Hundreds of volunteers planted native grasses and flowers along the Mississippi River - the drinking water source for millions of people.
- 500 Minnesota parents learned about clean water practices and how to keep toxic materials out of drinking water.
- People in 20 communities across the state helped plant over 3,000 trees, great for clean water and clean air.

Youth Getting Outdoors and Restoring Nature

- Kids in St. Paul's Frogtown neighborhood now enjoy a nature-based play area.
- Youth, seniors and new immigrants are coming together to help design a new park serving the Rondo and Midway area in St. Paul.
- 1,200 Stillwater students planted a prairie, complete with trails and birdhouses, that they will be able to use for an outdoor classroom.
- High school students new to the U.S. were introduced to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness.

Energy and Climate Change

- Over 300 people toured a material recovery facility in the Twin Cities to learn where our recycling goes, and how you can create a zero waste lifestyle.
- Young professionals from 18 - 30 years old joined a new advisory panel on clean energy innovation.

Healthy Food and Farmers

- People in two northern Minnesota communities planted berries and wild fruit common to native diets, increasing access to local healthy food and protecting Lake Superior's waters.

These inspiring impacts in 2017 provide hope for a 2018 that will be filled with more successes for Minnesota's environment. Thank you for giving, and lending a hand for healthy nature and healthy people.

Share Your Stories

We want to hear what you love about Minnesota's environment, and share your unique story - why you care, give, and volunteer.

- Share the wonder you felt, or your memories about time outdoors with your family - by a lake, on a walk, at a park.
- Tell us why you support the Minnesota Environmental Fund.

We will share your stories on our website, in our newsletters, and through social media - because your stories add up, too, just like your support for our environment. And maybe your story can make a world of difference.



Wells Fargo employees volunteer in Minneapolis

Share with Us

Make Your Resolution a Green One

Come December 31, many of us vow to better our lives in the new year. Please consider some great ideas - healthy for you and Minnesota's environment:

- Choose a [reusable water bottle](#) instead of buying plastic beverage bottles.
- Bring [reusable bags](#) with you when you shop, and stop using plastic and paper bags.



Photo by Erin Weller

- Practice eating a [vegetarian diet](#) one day a week.
- Learn about people running for elected office this year, ask them about leading on our environment, and [be sure to vote](#).
- Start walking and [biking](#) more, and using public transportation more. Use cars less.

Tips on making your changes sustainable:

- Set realistic goals, track how you are doing, and check in with yourself.
- Bring in a friend, and share your goals.
- And accept imperfection.

Remind yourself you are helping YOU, and a healthier environment!

Giving Back - Twice! - through Phone Recycling

These days, you may be planning to upgrade your phone or tablet - or maybe someone gave you one of the latest releases.

Please consider what to do with your old device, too. Phones and other electronic devices are filled with toxic materials. If our phones are tossed in the garbage, they could get burned or landfilled. That means toxics can end up in our air or our waters.

Thankfully, there are eco-friendly options for disposing of your old phone.

The Minnesota Environmental Fund is now working with [Tetchy Tech](#), a Minnesota company that is mastering socially responsible recycling. Tetchy Tech buys old devices, then fixes and sells them - keeping them out of the waste stream. If the devices are beyond repair, Tetchy Tech disposes of them in a sustainable manner, ensuring that they do not make their way into landfills.

And you can double how you help our environment! Through the company's [Give Back Program](#), you can choose whether to donate the value of your old devices to the Minnesota Environmental Fund, instead of getting a check.

Next time you upgrade your device, remember the importance of socially responsible recycling, and consider choosing the Minnesota Environmental Fund in Tetchy Tech's Give Back Program.

[Give Back](#)



Tetchy Tech

Volunteer Opportunities

Minnesota Environmental Fund and our member organizations are always looking for volunteers who want to get involved in making a difference for Minnesota's environment.



Volunteers by the Mississippi River

MEF offers indoor and outdoor volunteer opportunities, and is planning now for EarthMonth in April. Check out our year-round [volunteer calendar](#), updated regularly. You can also request an activity at your workplace here.

We encourage you to bring volunteerism into your workplace. It's a fantastic way to bond with your team and to promote employee engagement. Learn how your [workplace](#) can get involved.

Donate Today

Please consider a gift to Minnesota's environment.

- You can give any season, anywhere - see our website for details.
- You can choose to [give at work](#) - a great way to give all year, through payroll. Look for the Minnesota Environmental Fund as a giving choice.
- Don't yet have the choice to give at work? You can [encourage your employer](#) to add Minnesota Environmental Fund.



Canoe by David Owen

You can support clean water, natural areas, and healthy food - all year long!

Donate



info@mnenvirofund.org | (651) 917-1876 | mnenvirofund.org

See what's happening on our social sites:

