



# Clean Water Fund - Source Water Protection

Fiscal Impact (\$000s)	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017
Clean Water Fund				
Expenditures	1,615	1,615		
Revenues				
Net Fiscal Impact	1,615	1,615	0	0

## Summary

This proposal will assist local communities in development and implementation of source water protection plans, which reduce risks associated with land and water uses that may contaminate public drinking water.

## Background

Source water protection plans are used by communities that use groundwater for drinking water to reduce the risk that land and water uses may contaminate public drinking water. Source water protection is tailored to meet the contamination risks specific to each community by relying on a partnership between state and local government, land owners, and the public water supplier. The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) has administrative rules that specify how a source water protection plan is developed for public water supply wells, in addition to the responsibilities of a public water supplier for implementing source water protection actions. However, public water suppliers often need technical assistance to develop and implement source water protection plans as well as to finance specific actions for reducing contamination risk to their water supply wells.

## Proposal

MDH provides technical assistance to public water suppliers relating to the development and implementation of source water protection plans. In 2008, MDH made a commitment to the Governor’s Office and to the Minnesota Legislature that it would accelerate the rate at which it brings the state’s 935 community water supply systems that use groundwater into the source water protection program using money from the Clean Water Fund. The goal is to complete plan development by the year 2020. MDH has established a grant program that provides financial resources to public water suppliers to implement contamination risk reduction measures to public water supply wells.

Clean Water Fund support for the 2014-2015 biennium will continue commitment to the year 2020 planning goal and to expand the financial assistance for contamination risk reduction. No new FTEs are anticipated.

## Rationale

Protecting public water supply wells from contamination risk supports the MDH Vision and Mission goal to make physical environments safe and healthy. The 935 community public water

### For more information:

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supply systems that use groundwater provide drinking water to approximately 2.9 million Minnesotans, all of whom benefit from efforts to safeguard their drinking water from contamination.

MDH has other state and federal funding to support the source water protection program but it is not sufficient to maintain the level of activity required to meet the year 2020 planning goal and it was never sufficient to create and support the source water protection grant program. The Clean Water Fund request provides the additional fiscal resources needed to accelerate the source water protection program.

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