

Environmental Groups - Activist Non-Profits

MN350

- A Minnesota 501(c)(3) nonprofit group affiliated with the 350.org national climate protection organization founded by Bill McKibben in 2010

Scope of Participation:

- **Mission:** to inspire Minnesotans to rise to the challenge of the climate crisis through creative local and national campaigns, grassroots organizing, and mass mobilization
- **Vision:** returning our climate to the safe level of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere (350 parts per million), promoting a just and livable future
- **Membership:** Over 3,500 citizens

Key Focus:

- **Tar Sands Campaign** - resisting increases in tar-sands crude oil flows through Minnesota, including interventions in pipeline start-up and expansion cases before the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
- **Divestment Minnesota Campaign** - persuading shareholders, including universities, municipalities, and retirement funds, to divest their holdings in fossil energy investments
- **Legislative and Political Advocacy Campaign** - participating in efforts to promote Clean Energy and Jobs, Advanced Next-Generation Energy, and Transit for Livable Communities; also involved in Climate Solutions and Economic Opportunities and other similar workshops
- **Minneapolis Energy Options** - partnerships with utilities to expedite conversions to renewable energy sources
- **Education and outreach on solutions to the climate crisis**, including news media releases, guest editorials, and letters to the editor in Twin Cities and neighborhood publications
- **Rallies, demonstrations**, and participation in larger actions such as the People's Climate March in cooperation with 350.org and other national climate protection organizations
- **Practicing climate justice** by supporting and partnering with Honor the Earth and other indigenous causes in fighting increased tar sands flows

How to be Involved:

- Volunteer opportunities are outlined at the web site, www.MN350.org
- Phone inquiries are taken at 612-424-3878
- Community meetings are held once each month; committees meet weekly
- For more info, contact Betsy Allis - erallis@aol.com, Cecelia Newton - newton.cecelia@gmail.com, or Stan Sattinger - sattinss@aol.com, at First Universalist

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CITIZENS CLIMATE LOBBY

- A fast-growing, nonpartisan, 501(c)(3) nonprofit group with 228 chapters across the U.S., Canada, and 13 other countries, including 15 chapters in Minnesota, 6 of which are Twin Cities-based
- Membership nearly doubling each year; presently over 11,000

Scope of Participation:

- Mission: to build the political will for a livable world and to empower individuals to have breakthroughs in exercising personal and political power
- Vision: to achieve legislation enacting the carbon fee-and-dividend plan at federal or state level as a market-based approach to reducing fossil fuel consumption while supporting the conversion to renewables

Key Focus:

- Group members are trained to speak powerfully to their elected officials, the media, and their local communities to enable members of Congress to become leaders and spokespersons for a stable climate
- Each chapter holds monthly meetings featuring national conference calls, each with a guest speaker, followed by letter-writing campaigns
- At the annual international conference, teams of group members meet with members of Congress and advocate for legislation implementing a direct and steadily increasing fee on fossil fuels. The revenue generated would be returned to the public as a dividend to protect households from rising costs associated with the carbon fee
- Group members write letters to the editor and op-ed pieces, and they generate editorials to promote a sustainable climate.
- Citizens Climate Lobby acknowledges that enacting the fee-and-dividend plan will require bi-partisan support, and getting that support means finding common interests with members of Congress having differing beliefs and values

How to be Involved:

- <http://citizensclimatelobby.org/> provides a detailed description of the organization
- Contact the North Winds Region Coordinator at 952-920-1547 for information on Minnesota chapters of Citizens Climate Lobby. Monthly meetings begin at 11:45 am CT on the first Saturday of each month
- For more info, contact Cecelia Newton - newton.cecelia@gmail.com or Stan Sattinger - sattinss@aol.com at First Universalist

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SIERRA CLUB NORTH STAR CHAPTER

- A Minneapolis-based Minnesota group affiliated with the Sierra Club -- America's oldest and largest grassroots environmental organization with 2.1 million members nationally

Scope of Participation:

- The mission of the North Star Chapter is to preserve and protect Minnesota's environment
- Inspired by nature, the chapter works to benefit the planet and communities

Key Focus:

- Volunteer leadership: the chapter members choose legislative priorities, conduct the work, and make constructive changes for Minnesota's environment
- Members lead work on a breadth of issues all across Minnesota to protect natural places and address the most pressing environmental challenges
- Chapter outings connect members to each other and to Minnesota's natural places, building a legacy of connection to the land
- An intercultural, anti-racist organization that is committed to ensuring that all can experience nature and have access to clean water, air, and soil
- The chapter's legislative advocacy includes working with the Clean Energy and Jobs Campaign to build Minnesota's clean energy economy by supporting renewables like wind and solar and scaling up energy-savings programs that work
- Conducting the Beyond Coal to Clean Energy Campaign, urging electric utilities to commit to phase-out plans for coal-fired generating plants
- Working to protect EPA authority in Congress and support new EPA public health protections under the Clean Air Act
- Climate goals also include reducing habitat fragmentation, invasive species, and other manifestations of stress to our lands caused by climate change

How to be Involved:

- The North Star Chapter's web site is <http://northstar.sierraclub.org>
- Phone inquiries at 612-659-9124
- Meetings are held at 6:30 pm on the 4th Tuesday of each month at the chapter office, 2327 E. Franklin Ave., Minneapolis
- For more info, contact Betsy Allis - erallis@aol.com or Cecelia Newton - newton.cecilia@gmail.com at First Universalist

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ON-LINE NON-PROFITS

- Many national non-profit organizations that are addressing climate change have web sites and frequently send e-mail notifications to their members
- Some provide e-mailed form letters for your "signature" that can be customized to send a specific message
- These letters are directed to the appropriate agencies or elected officials and are transmitted electronically after you "sign" by clicking a button

Scope of Participation:

- You are notified of upcoming climate issues and proposed actions, and you are able to voice your opinion, support, or opposition by e-mail from the convenience and comfort of your home

Key Organizations:

- Center for Climate and Energy Solutions, <http://www.c2es.org/>
- Credo, <http://credoaction.com/>
- League of Conservation Voters, <http://www.lcv.org/>
- MoveOn, moveon.org
- Natural Resources Defense Council, <http://www.nrdc.org/>
- Sierra Club, <http://www.sierraclub.org/>
- Union of Concerned Scientists, <http://www.ucsusa.org>
- 350.org, <http://350.org/>

How to be Involved:

- Ask to be placed on the email lists of organizations that may interest you by visiting their web sites
- Respond promptly to notifications that provoke your interest