

# Minnesota Environmental Education Legislation

Copied below are the three statutes related to environmental education contained in Minnesota's Waste Management Act (Chapter 115A).

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## **Statute 115A.072: Public education**

115A.072 is the law which establishes the Environmental Education Advisory Board, and prescribes its members. It reads as follows:

### **Subdivision 1.** Environmental education advisory board.

(a) The director shall provide for the development and implementation of environmental education programs that are designed to meet the goals listed in section 115A.073.

(b) The environmental education advisory board shall advise the director in carrying out the director's responsibilities under this section. The board consists of 20 members as follows:

- (1) a representative of the Pollution Control Agency, appointed by the commissioner of the agency;
- (2) a representative of the Department of Education, appointed by the commissioner of children, families, and learning;
- (3) a representative of the Department of Agriculture, appointed by the commissioner of agriculture;
- (4) a representative of the Department of Health, appointed by the commissioner of health;
- (5) a representative of the Department of Natural Resources, appointed by the commissioner of natural resources;
- (6) a representative of the Board of Water and Soil Resources, appointed by that board;
- (7) a representative of the Environmental Quality Board, appointed by that board;
- (8) a representative of the Board of Teaching, appointed by that board;
- (9) a representative of the University of Minnesota Extension Service, appointed by the director of the service;
- (10) a citizen member from each congressional district, of which two must be licensed teachers currently teaching in the K-12 system, appointed by the director; and
- (11) three at-large citizen members, appointed by the director.

The citizen members shall serve two-year terms. Compensation of board members is governed by section 15.059, subdivision 6. The board expires on June 30, 2003.

**Subdivision 2.** Duties; education. In addition to the director's general duties established in subdivision 1, the director shall:

- (1) develop a statewide waste management public education campaign with materials that may be easily adapted by political subdivisions to meet their program needs; and
- (2) develop and make available to schools educational curricula on waste education for grades kindergarten to 12 to address at least waste reduction, recycling, litter, and proper management and disposal of problem materials.

**Subdivision 3.** Repealed, 1996 c 470 s 29

**Subdivision 4.** Education, promotion, and procurement. The director shall include:

- (1) waste reduction and reuse, including packaging reduction and reuse; and
- (2) the hazards of open burning, as defined in section 88.01, of mixed municipal solid waste, especially the hazards of dioxin emissions to children, as elements of the director's program of public education on waste management required under this section. The waste reduction and reuse education program must include dissemination of information and may include an award program for model waste reduction and reuse efforts. Waste reduction and reuse educational efforts must also include provision of information about and promotion of the model procurement program developed by the commissioner of administration under section 115A.15, subdivision 7, or any other model procurement program that results in significant waste reduction and reuse.

HIST: 1987 c 348 s 4; 1Sp1989 c 1 art 21 s 1; 1991 c 345 art 2 s 19; 1994 c 480 s 7; 1994 c 585 s 4; 1994 c 639 art 5 s 3; 1995 c 247 art 1 s 4,5; art 2 s 3; 1Sp1995 c 3 art 16 s 13; 1996 c 412 art 9 s 1; 1998 c 397 art 11 s 3

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### **Statute 115A.073: Environmental education goals and plan**

Statute 115A.073 is related to the state plan for environmental education (A GreenPrint for Minnesota, Second Edition), and the goals that each citizen must know about the environment. It reads as follows:

The environmental education program described in this section and section 115A.074 has these goals for the pupils and other citizens of this state:

- (a) Pupils and citizens should be able to apply informed decision-making processes to maintain a sustainable lifestyle. In order to do so, citizens should:
  - (1) understand ecological systems;
  - (2) understand the cause and effect relationship between human attitudes and

behavior and the environment;

(3) be able to evaluate alternative responses to environmental issues before deciding on alternative courses of action; and

(4) understand the effects of multiple uses of the environment.

(b) Pupils and citizens shall have access to information and experiences needed to make informed decisions about actions to take on environmental issues.

(c) For the purposes of this section and section 115A.074, "state plan" means "Greenprint for Minnesota: A State Plan for Environmental Education."

HIST: 1990 c 595 s 1; 1993 c 224 art 12 s 32; 1993 c 374 s 22; 1Sp1995 c 3 art 11 s 3,20; 1998 c 397 art 3 s 98,103; art 11 s 3

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### **Statute 115A.074: Environmental education resource centers**

Statute 115A.074 is related to the ability of the Director of the OEA to develop environmental education resource centers in the state. This is being accomplished, currently, by the Sharing Environmental Education Knowledge (SEEK) program. It reads as follows:

**Subdivision 1.** Establishment. The director may establish environmental education resource centers throughout the state as needed. The environmental education resource centers shall serve as a source of information and programs for citizens, provide ongoing contact with the public for feedback to the director on regional environmental education issues and priorities, and serve as distribution centers for environmental education programs.

**Subdivision 2.** Duties. The resource centers shall:

(1) implement the programs and priorities of the office as defined in the plan;

(2) convey regional program priorities to the director;

(3) evaluate regional implementation of environmental education programs and report to the director on the evaluations;

(4) provide regional liaison and coordination for organizations, agencies, and individuals providing environmental education programs on particular issues;

(5) be a distribution and publicity center for agencies, environmental organizations, environmental learning center publications, programs, and services;

(6) be a central source of information for citizens interested in issues that are the responsibility of many agencies, boards, task forces, and organizations;

(7) provide technical assistance to local and state organizations and agencies on program design, promotion, and publicity to reach the chosen target audiences; and

(8) assist the service cooperatives by collecting and distributing environmental

education teaching materials, displays, computer programs, resource person lists, and audio-visual aids, and provide assistance with teacher training workshops and programs on request.

[http://www.seek.state.mn.us/eemn\\_g.cfm](http://www.seek.state.mn.us/eemn_g.cfm)