

Fact Sheet: Midwest Climate and Energy

Mission

The McKnight Foundation, a Minnesota-based family foundation, seeks to improve the quality of life for present and future generations. We use all our resources to attend, unite, and empower those we serve.



About McKnight

Founded in 1953 by William and Maude McKnight, the Minnesota-based family foundation had assets of approximately \$2.2 billion and granted about \$87 million in 2016. Program interests include regional economic and community development, Minnesota's arts and artists, education equity, youth engagement, Midwest climate and energy, Mississippi River water quality, neuroscience research, international crop research, and rural livelihoods.



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Program Goal

The Midwest Climate & Energy program's goal is to foster and support Midwest climate and energy leadership, making the region a national and international leader in addressing climate change by achieving energy-related greenhouse emission reductions.

Our Vision for the Midwest

◆ Clean, resilient, and profitable energy sector

- Utility business models that work
- Modern grid and transmission infrastructure
- Robust market for renewables
- Energy efficient homes, businesses, and industries

◆ Durable public will for climate and energy action

- Engaged rural and urban communities
- Private sector leadership
- Strong climate and energy advocates

McKnight's climate-related work engages the region's public and private leaders, decision makers, and citizens in building low-carbon communities and economies that are vibrant, equitable, and resilient.

Program Background

McKnight's climate-related strategies emerged from our identity as a place-based family foundation in Minnesota with a long-standing environment program. In 2008, McKnight's board committed \$100 million over five years to a strategy to mitigate catastrophic global climate change. This financial commitment supported innovative efforts regionally, nationally and globally.

In 2013, McKnight announced the Midwest Climate & Energy program, building directly on that 2008 commitment and over 20 years of support to promote renewable energy in Minnesota and the Midwest. The Midwest Climate & Energy program is the Foundation's flagship effort to address climate change and enhance community adaptive capacity to respond to the adverse impacts of climate change. It works in close partnership with our other programs and the impact investing initiative to advance climate and clean energy goals across the Foundation.

We work closely with two intermediary organizations: RE-AMP, a regional network of nonprofits and foundations across eight Midwestern states working on climate and energy policy; and the Energy Foundation, helping the Midwest contribute to our nation's sustainable, low-carbon energy supply through state, regional, and national policy efforts.

The impact of global climate change has potential to put at risk all those served by all our programs. We believe strategic philanthropic investments made now can help chart a new low-carbon future; one that is good for the environment and the economy.

Note: The Midwest Climate & Energy program uses a closed application process; proposals for funding are accepted only from organizations that are invited by Foundation staff to apply.



Questions?

Please visit www.mcknight.org
or call us at 612-333-4220.