

Amanda Jarrett Smith (she/her)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

MINNESOTA POLLUTION CONTROL AGENCY (MPCA), St. Paul, MN

Climate Unit Supervisor, 2022-present • Climate and Energy Policy Planner (Planner Principal State), 2018-2022 • Planner Senior, 2016-2018 • Planner Intermediate, 2014-2016 • Planner, 2013-2014

Climate Unit Supervisor (2022-present)

- Lead, supervise, and support Climate Unit staff working on both climate mitigation and adaptation to ensure work products are produced on time, of high quality, and align with agency and Climate Change Subcabinet priorities. Unit work includes program development, technical analysis, grants, and project coordination.
- Ensure unit staff have resources, training, and feedback needed to successfully accomplish their workplan.
- Support staff in professional development, including technical and policy expertise; leadership and project management skills; and diversity, equity, and inclusion learning.
- Providing strategic leadership to the unit through unit and individual work planning, workforce planning, position descriptions, and hiring. Onboard new staff, support them to learn their role, make connections, and develop a sense of belonging.
- Assign staff and match resources consistent with agency and interagency climate change priorities and the position descriptions, skills, workload, and interests of unit members.
- Guide and support staff, providing appropriate level of assistance and oversight for individual staff and projects, setting general direction of work and giving staff responsibility.
- Provide clear and regular communication between staff and leadership, hold regular check-ins with staff, and conduct performance reviews.
- Facilitate staff input into agency strategic planning and development of legislative proposals.

Climate Action Framework and Climate Change Subcabinet leadership (2020-present)

- Led development of “Minnesota Climate Action Framework.” Developed and implemented project and engagement plans, set vision for the document, provided options and decision points to leadership, directed the work of five interagency teams, guided development of engagement strategy and tools, and coordinated with consultants.
- Advise MPCA and interagency leadership to guide implementation of the Framework, interagency coordination, and the Governor’s Advisory Council on Climate Change. Provide input on policy and operational decision-making, including integrating the Framework into agency strategic planning.
- Maintain strong relationships with other agencies, partners, and stakeholders to facilitate collaboration.
- Lead interagency Climate Engagement Team, coordinating work groups to develop and pilot new climate engagement programs and hear from Minnesotans on climate policy priorities.

Clean Cars Minnesota rulemaking leadership (2019-2022)

- Led intra-agency team to adopt Low-Emission and Zero-Emission Vehicle Standards on aggressive timeline and under intense scrutiny from advocates, opponents, the Legislature, and administration leadership. Managed both short-term details and long-term vision. Administrative Law Judge recommended adoption of the rule with no negative findings.
- Provided policy, logistical, and analytical recommendations to Commissioner’s Office and Governor’s Office, including unique mechanisms for establishing an initial credit bank and managing impacts from the COVID-19 crisis.
- Managed relationships with and considered input from stakeholders holding very disparate opinions. Trusted spokesperson to explain the rule to varied audiences. Met with both supportive and opposing legislators.
- Developed and implemented public engagement plan. Led team in responding to over 10,000 written comments within five-day statutory rebuttal period.
- Directed the work of technical team to develop analyses of emissions, costs and benefits, health effects, and credit banking mechanisms, and the agency’s first-ever quantitative air quality equity analysis supporting a rulemaking.
- Researched and wrote rule language and Statement of Need and Reasonableness, considering examples from other states and advice from national peers. Collaboratively reviewed and edited with team.
- Developed implementation plan and transitioned program to implementation staff.

Climate change and energy policy leadership (2016-2022)

- Advised MPCA leadership on climate and energy policy and regulation, including options for state-level action and impacts of and response to federal regulation. Analyzed regulatory proposals and directed work of analytical teams.
- Represented MPCA on interagency leadership team in development of “Pathways to Decarbonizing Transportation in Minnesota” project, including directing consultant teams on public engagement and modeling.
- Directed response to energy and climate-related federal rulemakings. Analyzed rule proposals and their potential impact on Minnesota. Coordinated with and sought input from internal and external stakeholders, including sister agencies, Tribes, the National Tribal Air Association, legal staff, and the Attorney General’s Office.
- Led MPCA involvement in Public Utilities Commission dockets. Participated in utility stakeholder processes, wrote comment letters, and answered Commissioner questions on GHG accounting and EV charging infrastructure.
- Represented MPCA on regional cross-sector collaborations, including Midcontinent Power Sector Collaborative, Midcontinent Transportation Electrification Collaborative, and Midwestern Clean Fuels Policy Initiative.
- Led team to establish strategic plan for agency climate and energy work in the absence of federal leadership.
- Developed “Greenhouse gas emission reduction pathways: A Minnesota playbook” to advise new state administration on regulatory and non-regulatory options for GHG reductions.

Volkswagen (VW) settlement program development (2017- 2019)

- Led team to develop Minnesota’s program to distribute \$47 million of VW settlement funds. Authored Minnesota’s Beneficiary Mitigation Plan, considering settlement requirements, public input, and data.
- Developed and implemented engagement plan in collaboration with EJ Advisory Group and Tribes.
- Directed the work of data analysis team to understand benefits and trade-offs for various funding options.
- Developed 10-year program objectives and measures. Coordinated data tracking and analysis for reporting progress.
- Collaborated with EJ Advisory Group, Minnesota Department of Health, and MPCA staff to develop criteria to consider EJ, health, and air quality in project selection. Coordinated review of outcomes to enhance methods for future use.

Clean Power Plan coordination (2015-2017)

- Supported then led development of state plan for complying with EPA regulation to reduce GHGs from power sector.
- Coordinated the work of consultants supporting technical stakeholder meetings on regulatory options to bring together divergent perspectives, including regulated and unregulated utilities and environmental and EJ advocates.
- Led team to design and implement EJ, community, and Tribal engagement plans, using in-person and virtual methods and tools. Met regularly with advocates to support community understanding of the regulation and seek input.
- Developed an equity analysis plan with the input of internal and external stakeholders.

Air policy planning (2013-2019)

- Twice led intra-agency team to develop biennial air quality report to the Legislature, “The Air We Breathe.” Set a vision, developed and implemented a project plan, directed the work of team members, and kept leadership informed.
- Developed State Implementation Plan revisions informed by internal and external stakeholders, including the permitting section, EPA Region 5, and regulated parties. Ensured proposed projects reduced net emissions.

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS, New York, NY

Assistant Editor, 2010-2012 • Senior Editorial Assistant, 2009-2010 • Editorial Assistant, 2008-2009

EDUCATION

MAXWELL SCHOOL, SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY, Syracuse, NY

Class of 2013

Master of Public Administration, focus in environmental policy

Relevant course work: Environmental Conflict and Collaboration, Environmental Economics, Natural Resource Law, Managerial Economics, Financial Management, Budgeting, Statistics, Quantitative Analysis and Program Evaluation

CARLETON COLLEGE, Northfield, MN

Class of 2008

Bachelor of Arts, English Literature, magna cum laude, Minors in Environmental Studies and Spanish

SKILLS AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Professional development courses: Supervisor Core, 2022; Tribal-State Relations Training, 2021, 2015; Results Based Accountability, 2021, 2019; Dealing with Conflict Confidently, 2018; Advancing Racial Equity, 2016; Measurement, 2016; Leadership Academy, 2015; Strategic Effectiveness for Aspiring Leaders, 2014; Project Leadership, 2014; Facilitation, 2014
Language: Proficient in oral and written Spanish