

Kevin J. McDonald

Work Experience

Supervisor, Environmental Business Assistance – State of Minnesota, Pollution Control Agency
St. Paul, MN
November 2016 – Present

- Championed state initiatives to expand AmeriCorps, national service and volunteerism to assist communities in climate mitigation and adaptation
- Directed team efforts to grant state funds to support environmental projects at hundreds of Minnesota small businesses, local governments and nonprofits
- Managed policies, rules and program activities for two MPCA loan programs, including a joint public and private funding mechanism
- Led numerous actions to update grant funding policies to prioritize environmental justice communities
- Directed new Minnesota climate initiative to reduce emissions of high potential greenhouse gases (GHGs) through refrigerant management and alternatives to HFCs
- Secured U.S. Climate Alliance award to develop a carbon credit protocol to preserve and incentivize carbon sequestered by urban and community forests
- Reinvigorated Minnesota's federally-required Small Business Environmental Assistance Program leading to increased confidential assistance and cost-saving best practices for businesses
- Secured a multi-year Deepwater Horizon oil spill settlement award to fund Common Loon recovery through nonregulatory and educational Get the Lead Out fishing tackle campaign
- Created Minnesota Retiree Technical Assistance Program (RETAP) utilizing retired professionals to help small businesses and local governments reduce energy costs and implement environmental measures
- Led team-based approach to financing hundreds of industry-changing zero emission alternative landscape equipment projects through state grants resulting in substantial reductions in air pollutants and GHGs

Supervisor, Sustainable Development – State of Minnesota, Pollution Control Agency
St. Paul, MN
June 2007 – November 2016

- Championed climate adaptation at MPCA, within Minnesota state government and through external partnerships; secured staffing and funding for first ever climate adaptation coordinator; reinvigorated interagency collaboration on climate adaptation; advocated for creation of internal MPCA adaptation team
- Led pioneering team effort to roll out public sector electric vehicles (EVs) and create first state network of EV charging stations
- Created and assembled team to launch Minnesota GreenCorps, a statewide AmeriCorps program training a new generation of environmental and climate professionals
- Supervised Minnesota GreenStep Cities, a voluntary challenge, assistance and recognition program to help cities achieve their sustainability goals through implementation of cost-effective environmental best practices
- Led green building professionals to accelerate climate-friendly policies, practices and products for commercial buildings, homes and communities
- Advocated for innovative policies and integration strategies to promote eco-industrial parks and green jobs growth
- Secured funding from state, federal and philanthropic funding authorities

- Advanced two successful policy proposals for GHG reductions through State of Minnesota's Climate Solutions and Economic Opportunities (CSEO) process -- Forestry & Other Land Use and EVs
- Supervised Minnesota's Living Green environmental education and assistance efforts - including annual award-winning Eco Experience at the Minnesota State Fair and Living Green Expo - to encourage environmentally preferable practices
- Administered numerous state environmental assistance and pollution prevention grants to businesses, local governments and non-profits
- Acted as spokesperson to legislature and media on various environmental and pollution issues

Principal Environmental Planner - State of Minnesota, Office of Environmental Assistance
St. Paul, MN
March 1993 – June 2007

- Drafted Minnesota Toxic Pollution Prevention Act of 1990 (Minn. Stat. 115D) and chief staff liaison to Minnesota legislature on pollution prevention issues
- Led project design of federally-supported community-based environmental justice project, implemented in partnership with Minneapolis Urban League
- Served as state policy expert on waste reduction, providing the vision, leadership, strategy development and project execution for Minnesota's award-winning Waste Reduction Campaign - an initiative educating citizens about practical ways to reduce waste
- Co-created Minnesota Governor's Awards for Excellence in Pollution Prevention
- Designed and directed Minnesota-50 Project, an innovative program that successfully encouraged voluntary reductions in key toxic chemical releases by the state's manufacturing community

International Coordinator - National Pollution Prevention Roundtable; Washington, DC
January 1997 - August 1998

- Managed multi-year US-Asia Environmental Partnership cooperative agreement, a USAID-funded program promoting clean technologies throughout south and southeast Asia

Consulting

International Consultant - ICF Consulting; Washington, DC
January 1999 - January 2001

Senior Advisor - Minnesota Technology Inc.; Minneapolis, MN
September 1998 - December 2000

Advisor to Asia Pacific Roundtable for Cleaner Production - Ministry of Economic Affairs; Taipei, Taiwan
January 1998 - November 1999

International Consultant - Thailand Pollution Control Department; Bangkok, Thailand
August 1998 - August 1999

Staff Consultant - Asian Development Bank; Manila, Philippines
January 1999 - June 1999

Education

Gustavus Adolphus College; St. Peter, MN
B.S., Biology and Political Science
June 1986