

# History of the Minnesota Climate Adaptation Awards

The Climate Adaptation Awards were designed by the Climate Adaptation Partnership to recognize and celebrate leadership, education, research, policies, or practices that develop, advance, or implement **climate adaptation** strategies in Minnesota. 2014 was the inaugural year for the awards and they were presented in the categories of organization, institution, and individual.



Emmons and Olivier Resources, Inc, the Insurance Federation of Minnesota, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, and the Minnesota Department of Health sponsored the 2014 awards which were created from recycled glass by Michael Tonder, of Blue Sky Glassworks, Two Harbors, MN.



Mark Seeley, Erin Pratt (MNIPL), Barb Liukkonen, Julia Nerbonne (MNIPL)

## ORGANIZATION AWARD 2014

**Minnesota Interfaith Power and Light (MNIPL)** was formed in 2004 to bring together Minnesota's faith communities to educate and engage their members to respond to climate change. This organization has mobilized support for landmark legislation to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and has educated thousands of members of every major religious denomination on climate change. MNIPL provides practical solutions for faith communities and their members to address climate change through personal responsible stewardship, supporting efforts for investment in solar energy, and reducing their carbon footprint.

## INSTITUTION AWARD 2014

The **Northern Institute for Applied Climate Sciences (NIACS)** is a leader in developing climate adaptation tools and training and has contributed in numerous ways to making a positive difference for land managers in Minnesota. NIACS has led collaboration efforts to design and implement adaptation strategies across numerous landownerships. The science-manager partnerships they foster create results and impacts to help land managers meet adaptation goals.



Mark Seeley, Leslie Brandt (NIACS), Barb Liukkonen



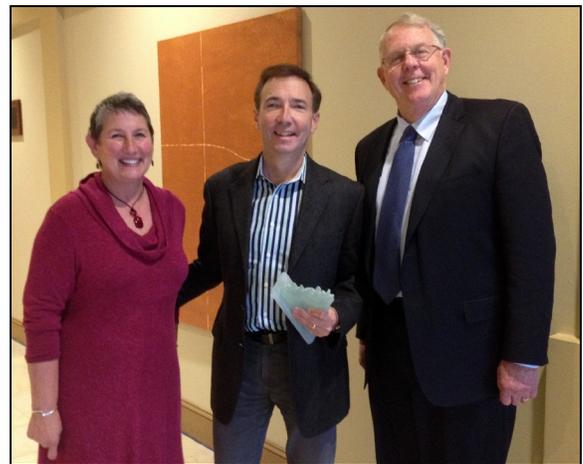
Barb Liukkonen, Dennis Fuchs (Stearns SWCD Manager), Mark Seeley

#### INSTITUTION AWARD 2014

The **Stearns County Soil & Water Conservation District** (SWCD) is in the forefront of working to increase climate adaptation at the local level in both urban and rural settings, with landowners and other units of government. The SWCD recognizes the complexity of climate change and the challenges in working with the agricultural community. The SWCD's outreach activities, such as Certified Crop Advisor training and the Discovery Farms program, emphasize practical agricultural management tools to be used in response to the threat of increased frequency of heavy rain events and other climatic change.

#### INDIVIDUAL AWARD 2014

**Paul Douglas** has been discussing climate adaptation for more than 20 years. Paul has played a significant role for the past several years in educating Minnesotans about climate impacts and adaptation through his broadcasts and video appearances, weather column in the Star Tribune, online presence, and frequent public speaking. He has tirelessly and effectively reached out to both the general public and to professionals about climate impacts and climate change, and has greatly raised awareness and understanding in our state about this important emerging topic.



Barb Liukkonen, Paul Douglas, Mark Seeley

The 2014 Climate Adaptation Partnership Awards Committee included Kristin Raab, MN Department of Health; Julie McDonnell, MN Department of Natural Resources; Mark Seeley, University of Minnesota Extension; and Barb Liukkonen, retired University of Minnesota Extension