



2020 MINNESOTA CLIMATE ADAPTATION AWARDS

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The Minnesota Climate Adaptation Awards, presented by the Minnesota Climate Adaptation Partnership (MCAP) since 2014, recognize and celebrate exceptional achievements in leadership, education, research, policies, and practices that improve resilience through the development, advancement or implementation of climate adaptation strategies. To honor their accomplishments and impact, MCAP will present each recipient with an award created from recycled glass by Michael Tondor of Blue Sky Glassworks in Two Harbors, Minnesota.

Award Recipient - Individual

Paul Huttner, MPR News

Paul Huttner is an exceptional climate adaptation leader, fully engaged in his professional capacity as Chief Meteorologist for Minnesota Public Radio (MPR) and in his personal life as an active volunteer. Paul launched a weekly MPR radio show, Climate Cast, in 2013 as a vehicle for climate change dialogue, education and inspiration. Climate Cast was the first weekly program in the nation devoted to climate change, with each episode reaching hundreds of thousands of Minnesotans. This effort has received awards from the Society of Professional Journalists and Midwest Broadcast Journalists Association. Paul also volunteers his time and expertise with a number of organizations. He's especially helped the Freshwater Society engage citizens regarding the preservation and management of clean water and healthy waterways in Minnesota. Paul serves as a great citizen-scientist role model, applying his knowledge and talent to inform and inspire climate action.

Learn More: www.mprnews.org/people/paul-huttner

Award Recipient - Institution

2019 Minnesota State Hazard Mitigation Plan - Minnesota Homeland Security and Emergency Management and U-Spatial@UMD

Minnesota Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEM) in partnership with U-Spatial@UMD embraced and coordinated the process of integrating climate change adaptation into the State of Minnesota's 2019 Hazard Mitigation Plan. This was not a required component of the plan, so their efforts show great initiative, innovation and a passion to create a more resilient Minnesota. The Plan was adopted in March 2019 and for the first time integrates climate change trends and adaptation strategies as part of every individual hazard. This effort, led by Jennifer Nelson, HSEM, and Stacey Stark, U-Spatial@UMD, is likely to spread far and wide. The Plan is routinely used by Minnesota counties as the basis to update their local hazard mitigation plans and also serves as a model for other states.

Learn More: <https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/hsem/hazard-mitigation/Pages/state-hazard-mitigation-plan.aspx>



The Minnesota Climate Adaptation Awards are presented by MCAP

The 2020 conference and awards are sponsored by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency; Barr Engineering; the Minnesota Department of Health; the Minnesota Department of Agriculture; the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources; Minnesota SeaGrant; and Emmons & Olivier Resources.

Award Recipient - Business

The Guardian Building, St. Paul

In a changing climate, we need an approach to infrastructure that encourages cross-discipline collaboration to use resources and spaces more efficiently. This could not be truer than rooftop solar photovoltaics and green roofs, technologies that often compete rather than collaborate. The Guardian, a historically designated building in St. Paul, houses organizations that are dedicated to child advocacy. The organizations are committed to eliminating abuse to children as well as the environment. With that in mind, the renovated facility features a biosolar roof that addresses climate change with a multi-pronged approach. As the first truly integrated biosolar roof in Minnesota, the technology incorporates plantings that help reduce roof temperatures, manage stormwater and provide pollinator habitat along with solar panels that generate renewable, clean energy. The organizations are committed to educating the public and stakeholders through monitoring and proactive promotion. A publicly accessible website is under construction to show how each system is operating and track stormwater management performance, urban heat island reduction and solar photovoltaic efficiency.

Award Recipient - Organization

Mississippi Park Connection and Science Museum of Minnesota

The Mississippi Park Connection (MPC) and Science Museum of Minnesota (SMM) launched a major effort to establish multiple gravel-bed tree nurseries and educate the public about the benefits of using them to grow climate resilient trees. In the process, 6,000 of these bare root trees were planted along the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area to replace ash trees lost to Emerald Ash Borer (EAB), including 300 trees within an area of concern for environmental justice bordering downtown St. Paul. Building off this successful pilot project, the SMM committed to hosting the nursery for an additional three years and the MPC launched six additional gravel-bed nurseries. The MPC, along with partners at the National Park Service, will plant 15,000 additional trees along the river by 2021 in response to the loss of ash trees to EAB. These new plantings are diverse tree species intended to withstand Minnesota's changing climate. Resilient tree species planting is an effective strategy to adapt and increase resilience to our changing climate, as they remove carbon dioxide, reduce stormwater runoff, absorb air pollution and lessen urban heat. Furthermore, this collaboration and approach has been adopted by other communities, serving as an excellent example of climate adaptation in action.

Learn More: <https://www.smm.org/pluggedin/gravel-bed-project>

Interested in learning more about award-winning climate adaptation efforts in Minnesota? Visit www.wrc.umn.edu/climateawardsarchive for more MCAP Climate Adaptation Award highlights!

