

1ST QUARTER, MARCH 2021



AIR & WASTE MANAGEMENT
A S S O C I A T I O N

UPPER MIDWEST SECTION

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

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A&WMA-UMS Member Spotlight

ADAM DRISCOLL



Adam graduated from the University of North Dakota with a BS in Chemical Engineering. He has worked for Barr Engineering from 2007 through 2016, 3M from 2016 through 2019 and then again for Barr Engineering since 2019. His work experience has mostly been spent as an air quality permitting and compliance professional, with occasional involvement in other media. Adam has been an A&WMA-UMS member for many years. He has valued the ability to

connect with like-minded professionals outside of the client-consultant relationship. He states that the A&WMA-UMS, through attending and presenting at conferences and now through board involvement has helped him to grow his network, which includes people that he otherwise would not get the opportunity to meet or work with. He feels that considering the niche nature of the work that members of the association do, it is great to get to grow relationships with others doing similar work.

Adam was recently elected to a one-year Director term within the Association! In his spare time, he enjoys fishing, softball and chasing his kids around (not particularly in that order)!

A&WMA-UMS Recent Event Highlights

Demolition Webinar Series Highlights—the Upper Midwest Section of A&WMA worked with the Minnesota Chapter of the Solid Waste Association of North America to present a five part webinar series on Demolition Project Management. During each session speakers shared their insights on operational, safety or environmental topics related to the management of demolition projects. The event was successful with more than 50 participants attending each session.



Among Us Event Highlights—the Young Professionals committee of the A&WMA Upper Midwest hosted its first ever game night to play Among Us, as well as other online board games. It was a fun time and great opportunity to get to know each other! More of these fun events are planned for the year, so please keep an eye out for them and consider attending!

A&WMA-UMS News & Announcements

WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

What are ways I can get involved in the Air & Waste Management - Upper Midwest Section?

- 1. Join a Committee.** Committees are a great first step to get involved in the A&WMA-UMS. Committees allow for members to interact in a smaller group, take ownership of specific events or tasks, and give their opinion on the direction of the organization. Committees typically meet once a month for an hour, with additional time needed for events or committee task completion.
- 2. Run for an Officer position.** There are four Officers of the A&WMA-UMS - Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer. Each position is a one-year term. Descriptions of these positions can be found in the A&WMA-UMS bylaws, [HERE](#) (link is external). Nominations for Officer positions will be posted to members in October of each year. Officers are expected to attend monthly board meetings (one hour/month), as well as complete required tasks for their position.
- 3. Run for a Director position.** There are three Directors of the A&WMA-UMS. Directors are voting members who participate in each Board meeting. They also are the sole members of the Nominating Committee, who are in charge of annual Board elections. Each director position is a three-year term. Nominations for one Director position will be posted to members in October of each year. Directors are expected to attend monthly board meetings (one hour/month) and lead the election process in the fall. Please take a look at our website for more details and information if you are interested in getting involved! [LINK HERE](#)

If you are interested in getting involved with the A&WMA-UMS, please reach out to the A&WMA-UMS Chair, Shelley Koehn, at shelley.koehn@awma-ums.org.

NORTH DAKOTA CONFERENCE ON THE ENVIRONMENT

The A&WMA-UMS is in the planning of stages of a conference to be hosted in North Dakota later this year! Please stay tuned for more details on this conference in the coming months.



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LANDFILL OPERATOR CONFERENCE

The A&WMA-UMS and SWANA are in the planning of stages of the annual Solid Waste Operator Conference to be held this year in mid-May. Please stay tuned for more details on this conference in the coming weeks.

A&WMA National Webinars

Stay tuned for more information about the following webinar topics, coming this Spring: EV Infrastructure and Toxic Release Inventory Training. Please click this link for the [A&WMA National Website](#) for more details!



A&WMA National Events

The following events are coming up soon! Please click this link [A&WMA National Website](#) for more details and registration information.

- Air Quality Measurements-Methods and Technology Virtual Conference: May 11-13, 2021
- 114th Annual Conference and Exhibition (Virtual): June 14-17, 2021
- Advancement in Vapor Intrusion and Emerging Contaminant Air Quality Issues: September 23-24, 2021 Chicago, Illinois
- Atmospheric Optics: Aerosols, Visibility and the Radiative Balance: October 5-8, 2021 Bryce Canyon, Utah



Reminder! Emission Inventory and Air Toxics Reporting Due April 1

Make sure to be finalizing emissions and air toxics inventories for submittal to the MPCA by the April 1 due date. Please reference the [MPCA website](#) for more information!

Recent Leadership Changes at the MPCA

There have been some recent changes to the leadership at the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. Below are a few of the new division directors, assistant division directors, managers, and supervisors in the [Industrial Division](#), [Resource Management and Assistance Division](#), and [Environmental Analysis and Outcomes Division](#).

Industrial Division

- Division Director - Doug Wetzstein (May 2020)
- Air Quality Permits Section Manager - Steve Pak (May 2020)
- Air Quality Permits Unit 2 Supervisor - Richard Cordes (June 2020)
- Air Quality Permits Unit 5 Supervisor - Kirsten Baker (June 2020)
- Assistant Division Director - Katie Smith (June 2020)
- Land and Air Compliance Section Manager - Cory Boeck (December 2020)
- Air Compliance Unit Supervisor - Rachel Studanski (March 2021)

Resource Management and Assistance Division (RMAD)

- Assistant Division Director - Aaron Luckstein (December 2020)

Environmental Analysis and Outcomes (EAO) Division

- Air Assessment Section Manager - Kari Palmer (April 2020)
- Risk Evaluation and Air Modeling Unit Supervisor - Daniel Dix (July 2020)

Thank you all for your hard work protecting and improving the environment and human health!





In the News

President Biden Signs Executive Orders

On January 20 and January 27, President Biden signed two environmentally-related Executive Orders (EO [13990](#) and EO [14008](#)). Collectively, these EOs present a stark change from the Trump-era and focus on climate change and environmental justice.

EO 13990 (titled "Protecting Public Health and the Environment and Restoring Science To Tackle the Climate Crisis") orders agencies to review Trump-Era actions (regulations, guidance documents, policies, etc.) and specifically revokes the March 2019 Keystone XL pipeline permit and multiple Trump-signed EOs and Trump-era guidance documents. Additionally, EO 13990 established an interagency working group to evaluate the social cost of greenhouse gases and ensure that the costs are appropriately accounted for in future agency actions.

EO 14008 (titled "Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad") orders agencies to focus on climate change and environmental justice issues. The US will reenter the Paris Agreement, prioritize climate-related issues in foreign policy, convert the government vehicle fleet to zero-emission vehicles, pause new oil and gas developments on public lands and offshore, develop an action plan to address climate adaptation and resiliency, and invest federal dollars in the clean energy sector. The Order established the White House Environmental Justice Advisory Council and established the Justice40 Initiative to ensure that federal investments are directed towards disadvantaged communities.

Want to know more? Look for an upcoming webinar from UMS on this topic!

Minnesota Drives Forward with Clean Car Standards to Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions

On Dec. 21, 2020, the MPCA published a Notice of Intent to Adopt Rule with a Hearing for the Clean Cars Minnesota rule in the State Register. The MPCA is planning to adopt a new rule; however, no immediate changes to MPCA will go into effect. A new comment period has opened, and you can submit your questions, comments, and feedback to the administrative law judge (ALJ) assigned to this rulemaking by 4:30 p.m. on March 15, 2021. Please visit [MPCA's website](#) for more information on Clean Cars Minnesota.



In the News

Michael Regan Nominated as US EPA Administrator

On December 17, 2020, President Biden announced Michael Regan as his nominee for Administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency. Michael Regan is the current Secretary of the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality (N.C. DEQ), a role he has held since January 3, 2017. Before his role as N.C. DEQ Secretary, Michael Regan served as the Associate Vice President of U.S. Climate and Energy and Southeast Regional Director of the Environmental Defense Fund. Michael Regan has also worked with the EPA's Air Quality and Energy programs.

At Regan's February 9, 2021 confirmation hearing before the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, Regan received bipartisan support with a 14-6 vote. Regan was confirmed as US EPA Administrator on March 10, 2021 with a 66-34 vote in the Senate.

Learn more about Michael Regan at the following links: [LINK 1](#), [LINK 2](#)

New International Regulations on Plastic Scrap Imports and Exports

In May of 2019, 187 countries worked together to establish restrictions to help address the improper disposal of plastic waste and reduce the associated adverse impacts to the environment. Beginning January 1, 2021 under amendments of a treaty called the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, transboundary shipments of most plastic scrap and waste will only be allowed with the prior written consent of the importing country and any transit countries. Access more information on this agreement by clicking this link to [EPA's website](#) on this development.



MPCA Awards Market Development Grants to Four Minnesota Recycling Companies

During a statewide conversation on expanding recycling markets and jobs, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) Commissioner Laura Bishop announced recipients of the state's first round of recycling market development grants. Commissioner Bishop praised representatives of four Minnesota recycling operations – all located in Greater Minnesota – with developing innovative projects that help

drive stronger markets for recycled materials while also creating more than 200 new jobs. The winners discussed their industries challenges and opportunities during the roundtable discussion also attended by legislators, local elected officials, and members of the public. Please visit the [MPCA's website](#) for more information on the grant and its recipients.

In the News

How One Texas Storm Exposed an Energy Grid Unprepared for Climate Change

The Texas crisis is a wake-up call that exposes how the U.S. electric infrastructure may not be fully prepared to absorb steep climate-related spikes in demand for power. The challenge is likely to grow deeper as the U.S. relies more on wind and solar power, known as "intermittent" sources, because they are subject to the whims of the weather and do not produce electricity 24 hours a day.

Electric grid regulators said the U.S. will have to develop vast supplies of power storage — such as gigantic batteries — that rely on emerging technologies that have only recently started becoming economical and feasible on a large scale. Please visit [NBCNEWS.com](https://www.nbcnews.com) to read the full article.



Energy-related Emissions up in December 2020 Despite Pandemic

Global energy-related carbon dioxide emissions rose slightly in December compared with the same month of 2019, indicating the sharp drop seen due to the pandemic was short-lived. Figures released Tuesday by the International Energy Agency show emissions from the production and use of oil, gas and coal were 2 percent higher in December 2020 than a year earlier. The Paris-based intergovernmental agency said a resurgence in economic activity coupled with a lack of clean energy policies mean many countries are now seeing higher emissions than before the coronavirus outbreak. Please visit [NBCNEWS.com](https://www.nbcnews.com) to read the full article.

MPCA Quarterly Air Mail Newsletter

MPCA publishes a quarterly Air Mail newsletter, which may be accessed here:

[Newsletter Link](#)

TOPICS:

- **Minnesota's PFAS Blueprint released**
- **Apply to be a Minnesota GreenCorps host site**
- **High-emitting vehicle repair program grant**
- **Coming soon: MPCA grants for battery-powered landscaping equipment**
- **Public comment opportunity for Clean Cars Minnesota**
- **Share your transportation story**
- **New report available: The air we breathe**
- **New data on climate-changing pollution in Minnesota**
- **Air permit application tracker revamped**
- **Workshop recordings available: building collaborative partnerships**
- **EPA will enforce new wood stove sales rules**
- **Court decides ACE rule unlawfully adopted**
- **Flawed EPA transparency rule struck down**

MPCA Form Updates

The following common MPCA air permit application forms have been updated from March 1, 2020 through today ([Link to MPCA Forms](#)):



- TFP Application Review: Completeness Checklist (12/7/2020)
- SCP-01: Submittal Cover Page (6/5/2020)
- Total Facility Application Instructions (12/7/2020)
- CK-01: Operating Permit Application Requirements (12/7/2020)
- GI-05B: Emission Unit Information (12/7/2020)
- GI-07: Facility Emissions Summary (12/7/2020)
- GI-09C: Requirements—New Source Review (5/8/2020)
- ME-01: Continuous Monitoring System Information (5/8/2020)
- CH-03: Major Permit Amendment Determination (5/8/2020)
- CH-04a: Determination of Increases at Major Source (12/22/2020)
- CH-04e: Required Elements for a PSD Application (5/8/2020)
- CH-08: Administrative Amendment Determination (5/8/2020)
- PAL-01: Plantwide Applicability Limit (PAL) Cover Page (5/8/2020)
- PAL-02: Determination of PAL Limit for Major NSR Sources (5/8/2020)
- NSPS-A: Subpart A Checklist (5/8/2020)

NEW Spill Clean-up Form!

The MPCA's emergency response program has a new reporting form to document the cleanup of spills that involved soil excavation or if soil/water samples were collected. A link to this form is located [HERE](#).



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