

# Incorporating HIAs in the Minnesota Environmental Review

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# MDH & Climate Change

- Received CDC grant in 2010, currently in Year 2
- MDH approach: **health and climate change in all processes**
  - Do not create additional process, but work to change existing public health and planning processes, such as:
    - comprehensive plans
    - **environmental review**
    - local public health planning and assessment
    - hazard planning/jurisdictional risk assessment

# Brief Overview of Project

- Since beginning of 2011:
  - Literature review of health/HIAs in environmental review
  - Health & climate change in other states' environmental review
  - Minnesota environmental review process
    - Health & climate change in MN environmental assessment worksheet (EAW)
  - Desktop HIA of EAW project
  - Recommendations
  - Governor's Executive Order

# Lit review of HIAs in environmental review

<b>Barriers</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
General uncertainty of health risks, including probability, magnitude, and severity	Using correlative research and anecdotes can be very informative and persuasive
Lack of (quantitative) health data	
Lack of involvement from health professionals	Health professionals must advocate for inclusion of health impacts AND as the experts identify those potential risks to human health
Environmental review potentially too late	Try to include health in all policies (e.g., comp plans) but still recommended to study in env. review
Political will and resources	Involve the public (buy-in and can promote political will); find legislative and administrative support, and especially funding and resources

# Health & climate change in other states' environmental review

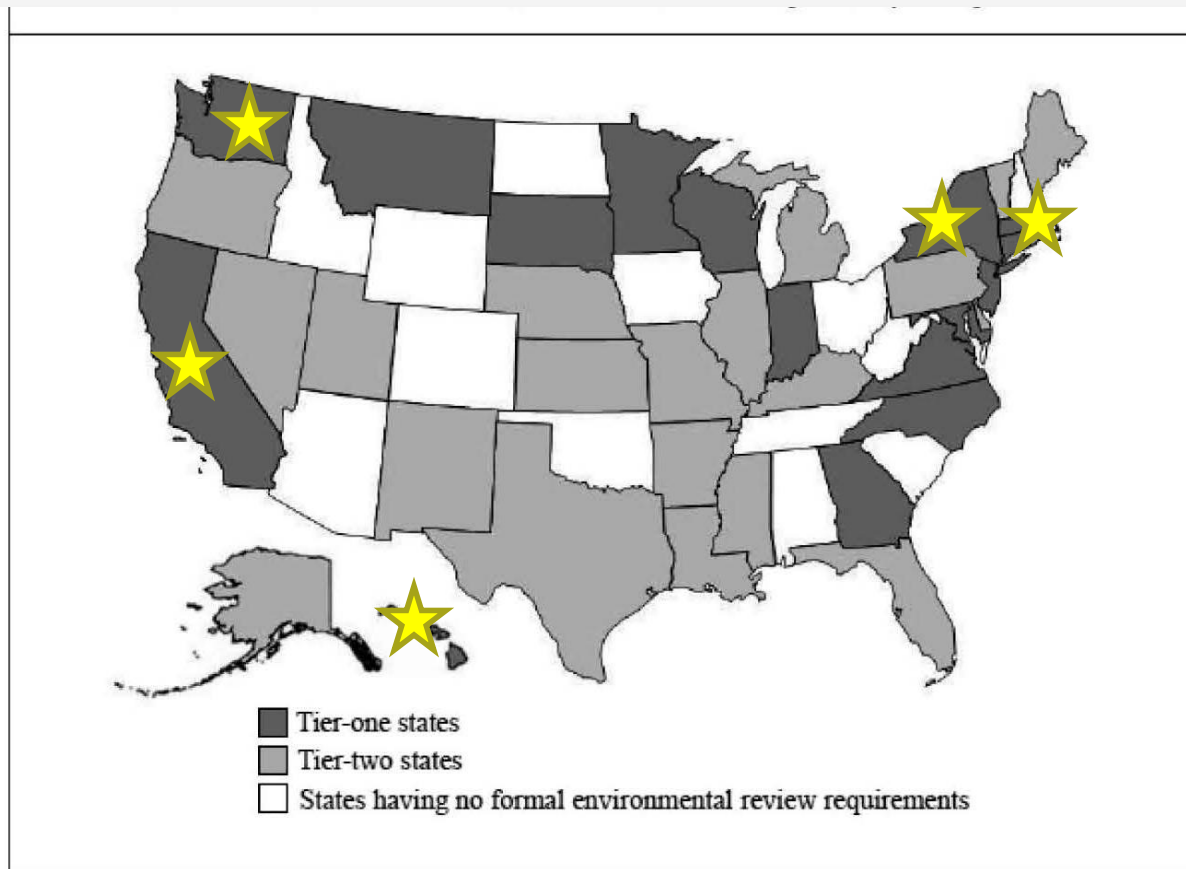


Figure 1. Classification of states based on environmental review policy framework adopted, 2007.

# Minnesota environmental review process

- Minnesota Environmental Policy Act of 1973 (MEPA)
  - Environmental Quality Board
  - “Where there is potential for significant environmental effects resulting from any major governmental action or from any major private action of more than local significance, such action shall be preceded by a detailed statement.” [M.S. 116D.04]
    - Environmental Assessment Worksheet
    - Environmental Impact Statement

# Health & climate change in MN EAW

- Public Health
  - Air Quality
  - Hazardous materials
  - Water Quality
  - Noise
  - Alternative modes of transportation
- Climate Change
  - Vehicle-related air emissions
  - Greenhouse Gases

# Desktop HIA of EAW project

- Divine Mercy Development mixed-use project
- HIA included 26 indicators from 10 topic areas
  - Example: trail access
  - Purpose: to determine if health/climate change included in analysis of the project through the EAW
- Findings & recommendations from report will inform recommendations for revisions to EAW



# Recommendations

- Recommendations for
  - EAW
  - Guidance
  - EAW as screening tool for HIA
- Met with EAW workgroup for feedback
- Plan for educational pieces for RGUs

# Governor's Executive Order

- **“Governor Dayton Moves to Simplify Minnesota’s Environmental Review Process”**
- Three significant evaluations to be conducted by the Environmental Quality Board by **November 15, 2012:**
  - Evaluate & make recommendations on how to improve environmental review
  - Evaluate & make recommendations for improved environmental governance & coordination
  - Prepare an environmental & energy report card
- MDH voice in the evaluation/recommendations

# Thank you

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