

## Overview: Minnesota Drinking Water Action Plan

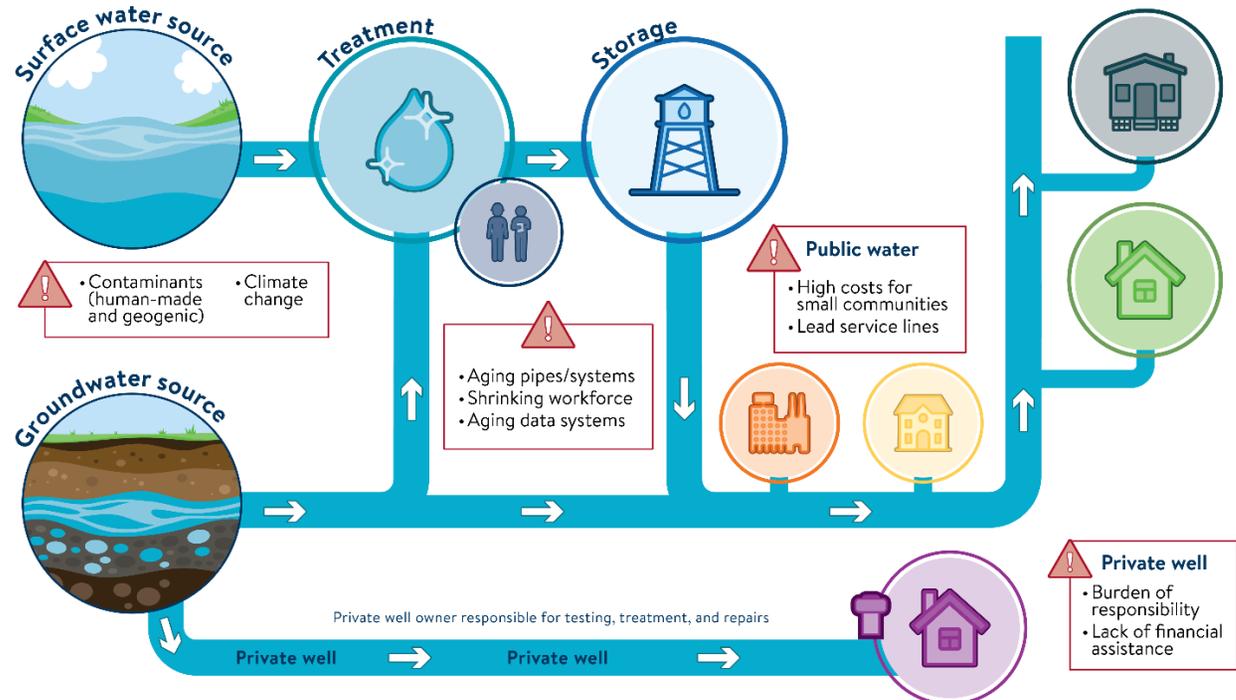
*Vision: Everyone, everywhere in Minnesota has equitable access to safe and sufficient drinking water.*

### Minnesota's 10-year framework to ensure safe and sufficient drinking water

While much progress has been made toward achieving the vision of safe and sufficient drinking water, multiple challenges remain. The *Minnesota Drinking Water Action Plan* (the Plan) incorporates expertise and feedback from water professionals; state and local governments; researchers; and Minnesotans who drink water to name the key challenges and strategies to address the challenges.

Access the Plan and the reports that informed the Plan at [Future of Drinking Water](http://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/cwf/fdw.html) ([www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/cwf/fdw.html](http://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/cwf/fdw.html)).

### There are risks to our drinking water, from source to tap



## Goals and strategies to address key risks

The Plan addresses the challenges affecting drinking water through a framework of five broad goals. Under each goal, the Plan describes key issues that create challenges for meeting the goal and then lists strategies and actions to address the issues.

### Protect sources of drinking water

- Identify and manage potential threats around drinking water sources for public water systems and private wells.
- Include drinking water considerations in land use planning and zoning decisions.
- Emphasize source water protection in watershed management plans.
- Ensure adequate supply of water for public water systems and private wells.
- Ensure laws, rules, and ordinances adequately protect sources of drinking water.

### Establish resilient drinking water infrastructure

- Support and build capacity for asset management and resiliency planning for drinking water infrastructure.
- Support and grow the public water system and licensed well contractor workforces.
- Transition from legacy data systems to modern, resilient systems.

### Ensure safe tap water

- Prevent and resolve health-based violations in public water systems and private wells.
- Reduce lead in drinking water.
- Establish equitable access to private well testing and mitigation.
- Improve our understanding of unserved populations and inadequate drinking water supplies.

## Legislative direction

The 2023 Minnesota Legislature provided Clean Water Fund dollars to Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) to “...develop public health policies and an action plan to address threats to safe drinking water, including development of a statewide plan for protecting drinking water...” ([Minnesota Laws of 2023, chapter 40, article 2, section 7e](https://www.revisor.mn.gov/laws/2023/0/Session+Law/Chapter/40/) [<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/laws/2023/0/Session+Law/Chapter/40/>]).

### Anticipate and manage emerging risks.

- Monitor drinking water sources for emerging contaminants and pathogens.
- Understand how people may be affected by unregulated contaminants and emerging risks.
- Prioritize emerging risks that present the largest public health burdens in the context of established contaminants.
- Advance laboratory capacity and methods to deal with emerging risks.
- Address drinking water risks related to climate change.
- Maintain emergency response protocols to minimize risks if safe public water supplies are disrupted.

### Engage partners

- Communicate with and support public water suppliers and licensed well contractors.
- Provide partners and residents with data on risks and challenges to safe drinking water.
- Facilitate outreach, education, and assistance to communities affected by drinking water contamination.
- Leverage advisory councils to understand, elevate, and prioritize challenges to safe drinking water.
- Create more public-facing (toward residents) explanations of the drinking water supply system.
- Engage with partners and residents to understand their drinking water priorities and concerns.

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