

# FALSE SOLUTIONS IN MINNESOTA

**False solutions:** Market-driven or sector-specific climate mitigation approaches and specific fuels or energy sources that do not address the root or structural causes of climate change and environmental injustice.

The presence of false solutions is evident in climate mitigation and energy policies in Minnesota. Examples include carbon capture and storage, and various fuel conversion projects, including renewable natural gas (RNG) production from landfill gas and manure. To date, there has been limited, visible opposition to carbon capture or fuel conversion projects in Minnesota. However, EJ groups are beginning to engage at the state level on climate and environmental justice priorities. For example, the MN Frontline Communities Protection Act (HF 3146/SF 3211), which would require the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency to consider cumulative impacts in environmental permitting and review, was introduced in February 2022.

## Minnesota False Solutions Policies and Projects

Name	Description	Type of False Solution	References/ Resources
MN Future Fuels Act (Introduced 2021)	<p>Supported by ethanol and biodiesel trade groups, the Future Fuels Act is a LCFS that proposes a cap-and-trade system based on the lifecycle emissions, or carbon intensity, of different fuels.</p> <p>Although it was not passed in the Republican-led Senate, it is going to be re-introduced in the 2022 legislative session.</p>	Cap and trade, transportation fuels (e.g., renewable natural gas, ethanol, etc.)	<p><a href="#">MN Future Fuels Act (2021)</a></p> <p><a href="#">Clean Fuels Standard in Minnesota: Summary Report of Stakeholder Feedback (2022)</a></p> <p><a href="#">A Clean Fuels Policy for the Midwest (2020)</a></p> <p><a href="#">Future Fuels Coalition</a></p>
Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS)	<p>Adopted state by state, the RPS requires that a specific portion of utility-sold electricity comes from 'renewable' resources. Fuels considered renewable vary from state to state.</p> <p>Minnesota's RPS includes false solutions such as biomass, hydrogen, municipal solid waste, anaerobic digestion (which is the process to create RNG), and landfill gas.</p>	Biomass, hydrogen, municipal solid waste, anaerobic digestion, landfill gas	<p><a href="#">Minnesota's RPS</a></p> <p><a href="#">Food and Water Watch RPS Report Card</a></p>
Nemadji Trail Energy Center	\$700 million proposed natural gas plant. Minnesota Court of Appeals upheld the Public Utilities Commission (PUC)'s approval of the plant.	Natural gas	<p><a href="#">Clean Wisconsin: We can stop the Nemadji Trail Energy Center</a></p>

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Midwest Carbon Express Project	A proposed CCS project that would run through Minnesota and connect 31 oil refiners throughout the Midwest. Pipeline construction would cost \$4.5 billion. Received some funding from 45Q and selling ethanol on low-carbon fuel market.	Carbon capture and storage	<a href="#">Clean Up the River Environment (CURE): Rural social justice group opposed to CCS</a>  <a href="#">False solutions report</a>  Iowa Chapters of Sierra Club and Food & Water Watch <a href="#">opposed</a>
'Heartland of Greenway' CCS Pipeline	A proposed CCS pipeline that would carry CO2 from South Dakota, Nebraska, Minnesota, and Iowa to store in Illinois.	Carbon capture and storage	<a href="#">Clean Up the River Environment (CURE): Rural social justice group opposed to CCS</a>
Nature Energy Biogas Plant	A biogas plant proposed by Danish Firm Nature Energy that would replace the largest, now-demolished poultry waste incinerator in Benson, MN. The LNG plant would use dairy cow manure, turkey litter, and food waste.	Biogas	<a href="#">Biogas plant moving forward</a>
Amp Americas RNG Plant	A RNG project operated by Amp Americas that processes 700,000 gallons of manure a day. Partial funding from LCFS credits and investment from private equity firm EIV Capital, LLC.	Renewable natural gas	<a href="#">News coverage of its operation</a>
RNG Plant, Inver Grove Heights	A \$40 million RNG plant expected to start operation March 2022 (no updates as of April 2021). The project qualifies for credits under the Energy Policy Act's 2005 Renewable Fuel Standard law.	Renewable natural gas	<a href="#">News coverage of proposed plant</a>
Hennepin Energy Recovery Center (HERC) Incinerator	A 2021 report found that most plastic waste in Minneapolis is not being recycled and is instead burned at an incinerator located near EJ communities.	Waste incineration	<a href="#">Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives (GAIA) Report</a>  <a href="#">Included in MN Climate Action Plan</a>  <a href="#">2021 MN Climate Action Plan</a>
Hydrogen from Xcel Energy Prairie Island Nuclear Plant	Following the announcement of federal funding for clean hydrogen, Xcel is looking into using a portion of their nuclear power to produce hydrogen at the site. The site is located next to the Prairie Island Indian Community reservation; their proximity to the site and its growing nuclear waste stockpile have been an EJ issue for decades.	Hydrogen, nuclear	<a href="#">News coverage</a>