

NORTH
Dakota Be Legendary.™

Environmental Quality



Biennial Report 2021-2023

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Our Vision

A sustainable, high-quality environment for current and future generations.

Our Mission

To conserve and protect the quality of North Dakota's air, land and water resources following science and the law.

What
we **DO**

The North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality works in cooperation with the general public, industry, and government at all levels to implement protective programs and standards to help maintain and improve our state's air, water, and land resources.

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Who We
ARE



The North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality has primacy for major environmental programs in North Dakota.



What is primacy?
Primacy means Environmental Quality has primary responsibility for ensuring implementation of many federal environmental regulations in the state. This agency has primacy on all North Dakota lands except tribal and reservation lands, where the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has jurisdiction for enforcing federal environmental law.

Who We
SERVE



We are public servants here for the betterment of our state.

Our scientists, engineers, chemists and other staff are North Dakota residents. We work to ensure that our state continues to have clean air, land, and water --not only because it is our job, but because it is personally important to us, our families, and our friends.



Our Work Matters

Environmental Quality is responsible for safeguarding North Dakota’s air, land and water resources. This state agency has 170 employees who work closely with local, state and federal entities to address public and environmental health concerns and implement protection policies and programs. It consists of the Office of the Director and six divisions: Accounting, Air Quality, Chemistry, Municipal Facilities, Waste Management and Water Quality.



Environmental Quality staff inspect thousands of facilities each year to ensure that environmental laws are being followed.



All ND Citizens

We are a responsive and forward-facing agency. We pride ourselves in our accessibility and seek out opportunities for citizen involvement and tribal collaboration.



Partners with Industry

We conduct regular inspections and compliance outreach activities with our industry partners. This yields a high compliance rate, keeping our air, water, and land resources clean.



Other State Agencies

We collaborate with many other state agencies such as Water Resources, Ag, Game & Fish, Mineral Resources, Commerce, PSC, PFA and more to maximize the benefits of our environment.



Government Leadership

We serve as scientific support for our legislature and other appointed and elected officials of all capacities in our state and tribal nations.



Local Communities

We assist our community water systems through compliance outreach and SRF funds. We assist cities, counties, and tribes in their pursuit of improved environmental quality.



Outdoor Enthusiasts

Our clean air, wide open terrain, and many lakes and streams provide boundless health and recreation opportunities for citizens and visitors alike.

Achieved
all
ambient
air quality
standards

Chemistry Lab
analyzed
22,395
samples

Disbursed
nearly
\$181
million in SRF
funds



What We're Proud Of

Environmental Excellence

North Dakota consistently ranks high among states in environmental quality measures.

Industry Collaboration

We enforce ever-changing industry regulations while maintaining open communication. These relationships enable us to maintain a high industry compliance rate.



High Compliance In Public Drinking Water Systems

North Dakota has one of the nation's highest drinking water compliance rates, with **over 99% of public water systems** meeting all health-based standards.



Highly Trained Staff

Our ability to maintain a focused team of highly technical staff that is nimble and innovative enough to keep up with the rules and regulations of an ever-evolving environmental landscape.

Monitoring & Inspections

We maintain environmental compliance while addressing expanding industry challenges. We make sure environmental quality is maintained to the enjoyment of state citizens and visitors alike.

Responsiveness

We strive to be accessible to the public, transparent in our decisions, and accountable for our actions. We pride ourselves in finding innovative solutions to complex problems.

Legislative Changes 67th Assembly



Expansion of Environmental Restoration Fund

HB 1024 expanded the the Environmental Quality Restoration Fund to include non-emergency contamination. It also increased the fund balance from collected environmental enforcement penalties to address larger projects. This larger balance will help restore contaminated property to beneficial use.

CCR Program and Wind Blade Recycling

HB 1090 clarified the definition of groundwater for the Coal Combustion Residual program that regulates coal ash waste from power plants. **HB 1024** also made it illegal to dispose of wind turbine blades in landfills without Environmental Quality approval.

AFO Model Zoning

HB 1423 established a model zoning review task force for animal feeding operations. Environmental Quality will be a member of this task force.



Environmental Justice and QA/QC Added

HB 1024 added an Environmental Justice/ Nondiscrimination Coordinator, and it allowed for a Quality Assurance/Quality Control Coordinator. The Environmental Justice program will ensure federal compliance with Civil Rights and Environmental Justice. It is essential all citizens understand our actions and can participate in our processes. Accurate environmental data is essential for environmental assessments and determining regulatory compliance. The QA/QC Program helps ensure proper and accurate data collection.



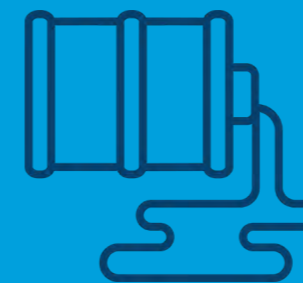
Improved Transparency in Groundwater Data & Streamlined SRF Approvals

SB 2074 was part of Environmental Quality's red tape reduction strategy. It removed roadblocks that prevented citizens from accessing groundwater data, thereby improving transparency while maintaining appropriate privacy protections.

This bill also streamlined SRF approval by eliminating the extra step requiring the State Water Commission to approve the Intended Use Plan.



Legislative Changes 67th Assembly



Expanded Corrective Action Reimbursement Through the Petroleum Tank Reimbursement Fund for Petroleum Releases

SB 2075 modified state law, allowing the Petroleum Tank Release Compensation Fund more flexibility when considering claim reimbursement for petroleum releases at registered sites.



Background Checks for Radioactive Permits and Licenses

SB 2076 changed state law to allow Environmental Quality to run criminal background checks as part of an environmental compliance background through the FBI database for certain employees or applicants pursuing a radioactive materials license or a solid waste permit.

Clarified Abandoned Autos, Disposal and Reimbursements

SB 2118 clarified what is considered an abandoned auto and defined permitted scrap iron processors, scrap tires, and submerged vehicles. It also specified when an abandoned motor vehicle would be disposed of immediately and that they are not eligible for storage cost reimbursement. It amended state law to allow government units to request reimbursement for collecting and disposing of scrap tires. It also allowed Environmental Quality to reimburse commercial towing services if the owner of the abandoned motor vehicle is not identifiable.



New State Laboratory

HB 1165 dedicated funds to replace the existing lab, including the Environmental Quality Chemistry Lab, which is nearly 50 years old and faces ongoing infrastructure challenges.



How We Do It

2021-2023

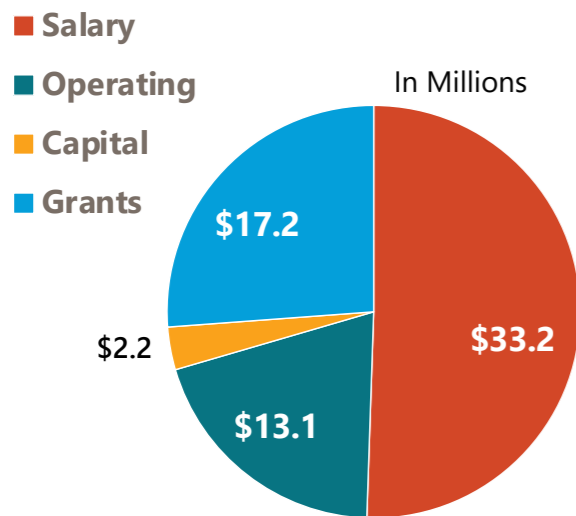
Biennium

Expenditures

& Revenues

51%

of our budget is spent on salaries.
Environmental Quality has 170 full-time employees (166 appropriated plus 4 FTE from an Emergency Commission request).



We are accessible to our customers, transparent in our operations and final outcomes, and accountable for our decisions.

Total Agency Budget = \$ 65,713,220

General Fund	\$13,668,410
Federal Fund	\$28,568,127
Special Fund	\$23,456,683

Success is measured by maintaining high compliance rates and finding innovative technical solutions to complex problems.



Divison Connections



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There is no greater challenge and there is no greater honor than to be in public service.

~ Condoleezza Rice

