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Minnesota Sustainable Development Initiative

- Thinking long term
- Recognizing how things connect
- Taking new approaches to issues

Minnesota Milestones Vision

- A highly productive blend of labor and technological know-how will power an expanding economy that provides economic security for Minnesotans and their families.

Minnesota Milestones ...

- All people, regardless of race or gender, will find jobs at fair wages.
- Decent housing will be available for all, regardless of economic means.

Minnesota Milestones ...

- We will not let growth and development overpower our quality of life.
- Urban growth will be managed to conserve resources and enhance quality of life, while the scenic beauty and character of rural Minnesota will be preserved.

Minnesota Milestones ...

- A new respect for the environment based on a deeper understanding of our role in the natural world will become part of our personal and corporate values.

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SDI Vision ... of a future where

- Our political and economic systems consistently reward economically efficient, socially beneficial and environmentally sustainable behavior

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A Reality Check

It is increasingly difficult to protect the environment when the economy says not to.

The fate of the environment is linked to our approach to the economy and our view of progress.

A Healthy Economy ...

- Efficiently transforms resources into goods and services
- Fosters entrepreneurship and profitability
- Supports businesses without added incentives because of the quality of life possible here

A Healthy Economy ...

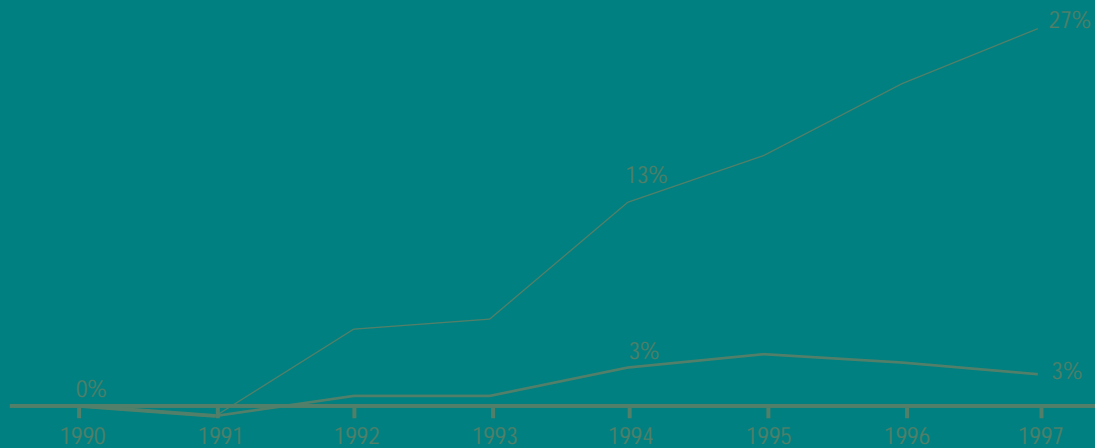
- Encourages business to invest in communities and the environment
- Creates an economic environment that is non-toxic to people and ecosystems
- Adds to the quality of life in Minnesota without diminishing it elsewhere

The Indicators ...

- Minnesota Milestones, a collection of 70 indicators under four goals (people, community & democracy, environment and economy)
- Minnesota Progress Indicator, a experimental collection of 42 economic, environmental and community measures

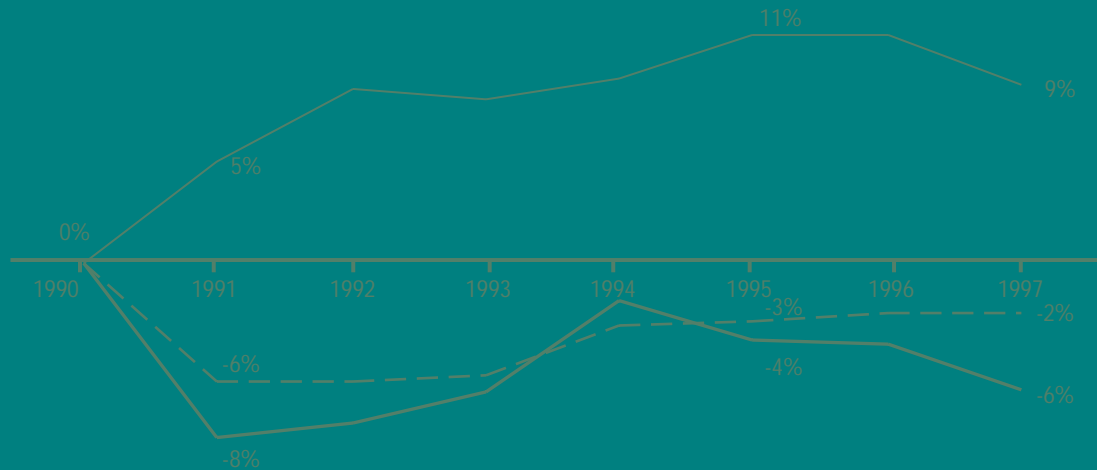
Minnesota Progress Indicator

GSP vs. MPI



Minnesota Progress Indicator

Environmental Factors Lead



Minnesota Progress Indicator

Measuring What Counts

- Business productivity
- Toxicity of the environment
- Natural infrastructure
- Health of habitat
- Access to essential services

Business Productivity ...

- In terms of economic and environmental performance
 - Worker efficiency
 - Energy efficiency
 - Solid waste efficiency
 - Emissions to manufacturing

Toxicity of the Environment

- Air emissions
- Atrazine levels in ground water
- Toxic releases

Natural Infrastructure

- Quality of Minnesota's air, water and land
 - Leaking underground storage tanks
 - Emissions of criteria air pollutants
 - Carbon dioxide emissions
 - Lake transparency
 - Annual use of fertilizer
 - Nitrate levels for ground water

Health of Minnesota's Habitat

- Population trends of keystone indicator species by primary habitat type
 - Loons (lakes)
 - Sharp-tailed grouse (brush land)
 - Black-throated green warbler (forest)
 - Prairie chicken (prairie)
 - Pheasant (farm land)

Access to Essential Services

- Tuition costs as a percent of median disposable income
- Health insurance coverage & costs
- Public transportation miles traveled per capita

The Challenge

- Provide a process for developing a common language and understanding
- Use indicators to provide the linkages in this process
- Define indicators in a way that makes sustainable outcomes understandable and informative



A parting thought ...



“Once stretched with a new idea, one's mind never returns to its original shape.”

— Oliver Wendell Holmes

