



Minnesota Landscape  
**ARBORETUM**

## **Clean Water & Climate Change Summit 2010 – Overview**

Humans depend on clean water for life, and in Minnesota we have a much heralded legacy of abundant fresh, clean water. However, recent science shows that Minnesota's waters are threatened – not only by human activities on the land, but by changes in local and regional weather patterns. Sooner rather than later, the data suggest, we will need better ways of managing and using our precious water resources to live and grow our communities – and preserve and improve them for future generations.

Minnesotans agree that protecting clean water is important. Fortunately, building green infrastructure (i.e., mimicking natural systems in the built environment), and the necessity of adapting to new climate trends are becoming mainstream ideas. Nevertheless, predicting the changes in weather and climate patterns remains a challenging proposition. What is certain is that research can now show us more accurately what changes are actually occurring and what the impact of those changes might be to Minnesota and the region's water resources, farms, forests, businesses, towns and cities.

Research also shows that green infrastructure will be a key water management strategy for adapting to stressors such as impacts on land use and shifts in climate.

The Clean Water & Climate Adaptation Summit, hosted at the University of Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, will address these two critical issues. The goal of the summit is to empower local government officials, industry leaders, nonprofit agencies, and citizens with the latest scientific knowledge they need to make informed decisions, allocate resources wisely, and help sustain the health of humans and the communities they live in.