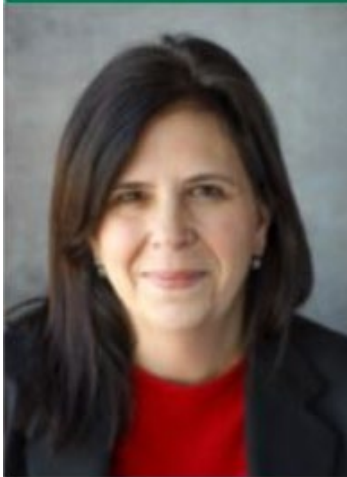


## September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2 pm - The State of Recycling and Solid Waste in Minnesota from the MPCA

### Speakers



#### **Laura Bishop, Commissioner, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency**

Laura Bishop was appointed Commissioner of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) by Minnesota Governor Tim Walz in January 2019. In her role, Laura leads MPCA's efforts to protect and improve the environment and human health by offering technical and financial assistance, and enforcing environmental regulations, cleaning up spills or leaks, developing statewide policy, and supporting environmental education. Bishop is Chair of the Governor's Climate Subcabinet and responsible for strategy development and implementation of statewide climate policy for the administration. Prior to joining MPCA, Laura was Chief Sustainability and Corporate Responsibility Officer for Best Buy Co., Inc. where she led environmental compliance, sustainability, social impact and public affairs for the company. Laura has held public sector roles previously with The State of Minnesota, The White House, and The U.S. Department of State at the U.S. Embassy in Switzerland. Laura's active community involvement is highlighted by her dedication to the boards and councils on which she currently serves, including her work as the Chair of the Minnesota Environmental Quality Board and the Dean's Advisory Committee at the U of MN Hubert Humphrey School for Public Affairs. Laura holds a bachelor's degree in International Relations from the University of Wisconsin and a master's degree in Public Administration from the University of Michigan.



#### **Kirk Koudelka, Assistant Commissioner, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency**

Kirk Koudelka was appointed Assistant Commissioner for Land Policy and Strategic Initiatives in May 2012.

Prior to that, Kirk served as the Legislative Director at the MPCA. He led the agency's legislative efforts for the 2011 through 2014 legislative sessions in both roles.

Before coming to the agency, Kirk spent 11 legislative sessions at the Minnesota House of Representatives in various capacities. The last six years were spent focused on environmental and natural resources issues, four for which were with the House Environment and Natural Resources Policy Committee. It included administering the Solid Waste, Recycling and Resources Conservation Working Group focusing on state level changes, but also internal changes at the Legislature.

Kirk has a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and History from Hamline University.

## **Heidi Kroening, Compliance and Enforcement State Supervisor, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency**

Heidi has worked for the MPCA since 1993. She worked for the Lake Superior Initiative in regards to hazardous waste issues with small businesses. Then moved into the Hazardous Waste Compliance and Enforcement program for 5 years. Then after that moved into the best program in the Agency...Solid Waste. She never left.



## **Mark Rust, Supervisor, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency**

Mark Rust has worked for the PCA and OEA since 1995. He has experience in solid waste policy, planning, permitting, education and outreach and assistance. Mark currently supervises the Sustainable Materials Management Unit at the PCA which houses a number of policy, planning and outreach programs with a focus on working with public and private sector partners to advance sustainable best practices.



## **Peder Sandhei, Principal Planner, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency**

Peder Sandhei has been working for the MPCA for 14 years. He specializes in solid waste planning, organized collection, and hauler reporting. He recently assumed additional responsibilities in the area of waste-to-energy and certificate of need.