THE CHALLENGE
Meeting society’s grand challenges—infrastructure for future cities, climate change, sustainable energy transitions, governance of emerging and/or disruptive technologies, water and food security—requires innovative leadership and collaboration among academia, communities, government, businesses, and nonprofit organizations, anchored upon interdisciplinary and systems thinking rooted in real-world projects.

MISSION
The Science, Technology, and Environmental Policy (STEP) area at the Humphrey School of Public Affairs focuses on public issues arising at the intersection of science, technology, environment, and society that shape economic development, environmental sustainability, and human health and well-being.

The mission of the STEP area is to integrate science with public policy, community action, and multi-sector governance to advance the common good in a complex and diverse world.

PROGRAM
The Master of Science in Science, Technology, and Environmental Policy (MS–STEP) at the Humphrey School is one of the few programs in the nation that prepares individuals with backgrounds in natural sciences, physical sciences, or engineering to become leaders and innovators who integrate science with policy and action to solve grand challenges.

WHAT STUDENTS VALUE IN THE STEP PROGRAM
Harnessing engineering, physical, and natural science backgrounds to shape the policies and practices that serve the public good
Accessing the many international, national, and Twin Cities leaders in industry, nonprofits, government, and community organizations that are shaping the world
Working as a research assistant in hands-on sponsored research projects with local and global partners

SKILLS DEVELOPED IN THE STEP PROGRAM
Interdisciplinary systems thinking
Science and technology domain expertise
Understanding of public policy and governance
Sustainability systems analysis
Public communication
Entrepreneurship and engaged leadership
Action-oriented public service

Energy and Climate Policy
Sustainable Infrastructure and Cities
Technology Innovation and Policy
Urban Water and Food Systems
Risk and Resilience
A science or engineering background coupled with a policy-focused graduate degree affords many career opportunities. MS–STEP graduates are employed in positions like:

- **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS ANALYST**

- **INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS LIAISON**
  Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Department of Interior, Bloomington, Minnesota

- **POLLUTION PREVENTION COORDINATOR**
  U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, San Francisco

- **WATER POLICY PLANNER**
  Minnesota Environmental Quality Board, St. Paul

- **SUSTAINABILITY PROGRAM COORDINATOR**
  City of Minneapolis

- **PROGRAM AND POLICY MANAGER**
  Center for Energy and the Environment, Minneapolis

- **RESEARCH CONSULTANT**
  International Water Management Institute, Sri Lanka

- **MANAGING DIRECTOR**
  Eco Lanka Consultants, Sri Lanka

- **MANAGER, CONSERVATION AND RENEWABLE ENERGY POLICY**
  CenterPoint Energy, Minneapolis

- **REGULATORY AFFAIRS ASSOCIATE**
  3M, Maplewood, Minnesota

- **ENVIRONMENTAL SPECIALIST**
  Barr Engineering, Minneapolis

**CURRICULUM + OPPORTUNITIES**

The MS–STEP program combines a rigorous curriculum with opportunities available in many departments, centers, and schools at the University of Minnesota. MS–STEP students can also engage with scholarly research by working with STEP faculty members as graduate research assistants and participating in workshops and conferences. MS–STEP students attend the bi-weekly STEP Seminar series, which provides an informal setting for feedback, discussion, and engagement with scholars and practitioners in STEP fields inside and outside the University.

**SCIENCE TO ACTION**

Students also have access to the Center for Science, Technology, and Environmental Policy where scholarship, teaching, research, and public engagement come together in hands-on projects. These projects, conducted in partnership with communities, nonprofit and private-sector organizations, local, state, and national governments, and international advisory bodies maximize our impact on the real world.

**RESEARCH FOCUS AREAS**

Energy and Climate Policy
Sustainable Infrastructure and Cities
Technology Innovation and Policy
Urban Water and Food Systems
Risk and Resilience

**REQUIREMENTS**

The MS–STEP program requires 36 semester credits, made up of required courses and electives that provide the knowledge, skills, and domain-specific expertise you need to advance your career goals.