



# Three Decades of Accomplishments

Empowering students and the community to take collective action since 1971.

**1971** ♦ University of Minnesota students petition 63% of the student body to establish the first PIRG chapter in the country. Statewide 50,000 students sign petitions to create a dozen other chapters.

**1973** ♦ MPIRG, local unions and state AFL-CIO conducted a joint study in 1972 that resulted in a ban of the use of asbestos in new building construction.

**1974** ♦ MPIRG helped to pass legislation requiring lobbyists to register and disclose spending and contributions, establishing the Minnesota Ethical Practices Board to oversee them.

**1977** ♦ MPIRG research and legislation creates a state ban on fluorocarbons.

**1978** ♦ After a six year legal and legislative battle, MPIRG passes the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness Act to create the nation's sole "paddle-only" wilderness area.

**1979** ♦ MPIRG drafts and lobbies for the Renewable Energy Tax Credit and gains an extension of the credit in 1982.

**1983** ♦ MPIRG sues Northwestern Bell to reduce telephone rates by \$69.1 million.

**1983** ♦ MPIRG lobbies for the state Superfund and citizen Right-To-Know legislation to clean up toxic dumps and protect citizens from exposure.

**1984** ♦ MPIRG mobilizes 10,000 citizens across the state to halt the siting of a high-level radioactive waste dump in Minnesota.

**1985** ♦ MPIRG establishes a statewide, toll-free Tennant/Landlord hotline.

**1986** ♦ MPIRG works with farmers, sports enthusiasts and environmentalists to establish the Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) program.

**1987** ♦ MPIRG prevents the deregulation of small business and residential phone service. MPIRG obtains the nation's most progressive voter registration legislation.

**1988** ♦ MPIRG re-establishes the Renters Credit property tax refund, which had been cut 33%.

**1989** ♦ MPIRG passes the New and Used Car Lemon Laws in 1988 and 1989. MPIRG obtains \$650,000 for consumers in a Solar Tax Credit Class Action lawsuit.

**1990** ♦ MPIRG bans the dumping of "low-level" radioactive waste in landfills and incinerators. MPIRG helps to draft and pass the Minnesota Pollution Prevention Act to reduce toxic air emissions.

**1991** ♦ MPIRG passes energy legislation included in the Omnibus Energy Bill. Exit light signs in state buildings must now use compact fluorescent bulbs.

**1992** ♦ MPIRG's BARTER project establishes Minnesota's first solid waste materials exchange. The materials exchange assists businesses in reducing their waste through reuse and exchange.

**1993** ♦ Minnesota court of appeals rules in MPIRG's favor on Prairie Island radioactive waste storage case. Dry cask storage must have legislative approval and be considered permanent. The Minnesota Supreme Court upholds this decision.

**1994** ♦ MPIRG passes strongest legislation in the nation to stop Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation (SLAPP), which are filed against citizen activists who publicly oppose proposed policies or projects.

**1996** ♦ MPIRG passes truth in environmental advertising legislation that it drafted and first introduced in 1983.

**1998** ♦ MPIRG successfully lobbies for allocation of \$4 million to Metro Greenways and Natural Areas Project.

**1999** ♦ MPIRG's lobby campaign results in allocation of \$8 million for the Inclusionary Housing Fund to create mixed income housing in Minnesota.

**2000** ♦ MPIRG successfully lobbies for a \$110 million comprehensive package of environmental investments in the Legacy Initiative, continuing the Metro Greenways and Natural Areas Project, and protecting natural areas and water quality statewide.

**2001** ♦ MPIRG's POWER Campaign secures increases in the amount spent on energy conservation, and raises requirements for energy-efficiency in publicly-funded buildings.

**2002** ♦ MPIRG wins a campaign at the University of Minnesota to ensure that all apparel is sweatshop free, convincing administration to sign a Code of Conduct, which outlines a strict set of employment and workplace standards for companies licensed to manufacture University apparel.

**2005** ♦ At the University of Minnesota Twin Cities, students lead an Instant Runoff Voting Initiative by collecting over 3,000 petition signatures (10% of the student body). This placed IRV on the All Campus Elections ballot as a referendum, which passes by 76%.

**2006** ♦ MPIRG produces "The Vagina Monologues," Eve Ensler's groundbreaking play based on hundreds of interviews with women, for the eighth year and raises over \$100,000 for women's shelters and advocacy.