

**373.475 COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST FUND.**

(a) Notwithstanding the provisions of chapter 282 and any other law relating to the apportionment of proceeds from the sale of tax-forfeited land, and except as otherwise provided in this section, a county board must deposit the money received from the sale of land under Laws 1998, chapter 389, article 16, section 31, subdivision 3, into an environmental trust fund established by the county under this section. The principal from the sale of the land may not be expended, and the county board may spend interest earned on the principal only for purposes related to the improvement of natural resources. To the extent money received from the sale is attributable to tax-forfeited land from another county, the money must be deposited in an environmental trust fund established under this section by that county board.

(b) Notwithstanding paragraph (a), St. Louis County may use up to 50 percent of the principal in an environmental trust fund established under this section in calendar years 2023, 2024, and 2025 and up to ten percent annually thereafter for renewable and climate change related economic development and environmental projects in the county that protect the environment or create clean-economy jobs and manufacturing. The county must leave a minimum of \$10,000,000 as principal in the account. For purposes of this paragraph, economic development projects mean solar incentives and projects to protect Lake Superior and other waters in the Great Lakes watershed from PFAS contamination from landfills. Notwithstanding section 10.49, the environmental trust fund established under this section must be named the Mary C. Murphy Trust Fund.

**History:** 1998 c 389 art 16 s 31 subd 4; 2023 c 60 art 9 s 9