COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

14-0211R

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CITY PARTICIPATION IN THE MINNESOTA GREENSTEP CITIES PROGRAM.

CITY PROPOSAL:

WHEREAS, the Minnesota GreenStep Cities program is a program of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, and partner state agencies, and is a voluntary challenge, assistance and recognition program tailored to help Minnesota cities achieve their sustainability and quality of life goals, focusing on obtaining cost savings, energy use reduction, and encouraging civic innovation; and

WHEREAS, the GreenStep Cities program provides recognition for cities that demonstrate leadership and excellence in sustainability; and

WHEREAS, the Duluth city council has adopted several resolutions over the past decade which tie to the goals of the GreenStep program, such as: Resolution 98-0480, *Principles to Consider Environment*; Resolution 01-0350, *Pledge to Reduce GHG Emissions*, Resolution 05-0730, *Governing Principles for Comprehensive Plan*; Resolution 06-0368, *Guidelines for Planning a Sustainable Community*; and, Resolution 13-0125, *LEED Design Principles*; and

WHEREAS, these previously implemented sustainability initiatives qualify the city to be recognized as a Step One Green Step City; and

WHEREAS, the Next Generation Act of 2007 adopted by the Minnesota state legislature set forth goals for reducing state greenhouse gas emissions, increasing energy conservation, increasing renewable energy resources, and reducing per capita use of fossil fuel; the legislature further directed the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, and the Office of Energy Security in collaboration with Clean Energy Resource Teams to recommend municipal actions and policies that work toward meeting the State's greenhouse gas emission reduction goals; and

WHEREAS, the Minnesota GreenStep Cities program assists in facilitating technical assistance the implementation of these sustainable development best

practices.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Duluth city council hereby authorizes city participation in the Minnesota GreenStep Cities program and further authorizes the proper city officials to take the necessary actions for implementation of this program.

Approved:

Department Director

Approved for presentation to council:

Chief Administrative Officer

Approved as to form:

Attorney

Approved:

Auditor

FMGT/ATTY PB:cjh 4/30/2014

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE: This resolution authorizes City participation in the Minnesota GreenStep Cities program. The GreenStep Cities program has been implemented by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and partners, and is a voluntary challenge, assistance and recognition program to help cities achieve sustainability and quality of life goals. Admission to the GreenStep Cities program is free and participation in the program does not impose any financial obligations. Passage of this authorizing resolution allows the City to be recognized as a Step One GreenStep City.

sustainableDuluth
Where our Environment, Economy and Social fabric are Interwoven

A program of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and its partners
Minnesota GreenStep Cities

Status – August 20, 2013/Update –March 31, 2014

MN GreenStep Cities - City of Duluth Participation

GSC is a program of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and its partners
Over 60 Minnesota cities are participating in the Challenge
Participation requires a City Council resolution

- Minnesota GreenStep Cities is a voluntary challenge, assistance and recognition program to help cities achieve their sustainability and quality-of-life goals.
- This free continuous improvement program, managed by a public-private partnership, is based upon 28 best practices.
- Each best practice can be implemented by completing one or more actions at a 1, 2 or 3-star level, from a list of four to eight actions.
- These actions focus on cost savings and energy use reduction, and encourage civic innovation.

Several best practices are required including:

- **Adopt a complete streets policy that also addresses street trees and stormwater** (see Transportation category on page 4).
- **Use a committee to lead, coordinate and report to community members** on implementation of GreenStep best practices. - (This can be posted on City's Sustainability webpages)
- **Organize goals/outcome measures from all city plans and report to community members** data that show progress toward meeting these goals.

Time will be required to record and submit documentation and for continued coordination and higher recognition.

10 best practices, required, completed and planned, have already been identified for Duluth, in 5 Categories

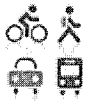
GREENSTEP'S BEST PRACTICES – 5 CATEGORIES, 28 BEST PRACTICES

Buildings and Lighting

Actions Identified

Land Use

Comply with Comprehensive Plan

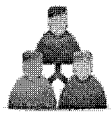


Transportation

Complete Streets Policy?

Environmental Management

Actions identified



Economic and Community Development

Actions identified

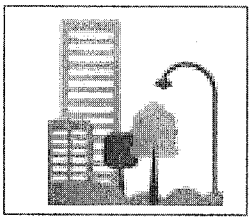
Source: MPCA website. http://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/index.cfm

MN GreenStep Cities - City of Duluth Participation

IDENTIFYING Duluth's REQUIRED and SELECTED BEST PRACTICE ACTIONS

A checkmark √ indicates that the City is or has implemented the best practice.
An arrow →indicates the best practice action can be done with no additional council approvals required.

Best practice Categories and Duluth's 10 best practices to participate in challenge include the following:



Category: Buildings and Lighting

Best practice areas:

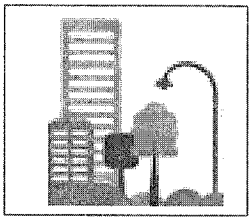
- Efficient Existing Public Buildings
- Efficient Existing Private Buildings
- New Green Buildings
- Efficient Outdoor Lighting and Signals
- Building Reuse

Efficient Existing Public Buildings – Duluth must complete actions 1 and 2, and one additional action.

Yes √	Required	Enter baseline information into **the Minnesota B3 Benchmarking database** and routinely enter monthly energy use data from all city-owned buildings.	STATUS – 2008 baseline data and years 2009-1012 energy data has been entered for 38 buildings > 5,000 square feet.
Yes √	Required	**Make no/low cost facility operations & maintenance changes** to city-owned buildings **to reduce energy costs.**	Low cost changes to operating practices were made at city-owned buildings.
Yes √	Optional Action	**Invest in energy efficiency opportunities** through small retrofit projects in city-owned buildings	Energy cost savings from energy efficiency measures: 2011 - $36,405 annual costs saved 2012 - $37,893 annual costs saved 2013 - $20,448 annual costs saved
Yes √	Optional Action	Implement **information technology efforts and city employee engagement** to reduce plug loads and building energy use	MIS Division has centralized control of all City computers and has uses power management controls.

MN GreenStep Cities - City of Duluth Participation

Best practice Categories and Duluth's 10 best practices to participate in challenge include the following:



Category: Buildings and Lighting continued

Efficient Outdoor Lighting and Signals – Duluth must complete two actions, and one more action.

Yes √	Action Selected	Coordinate traffic signals and/or optimize signal timing so as to minimize car idling at intersections yet maintain safe and publicly acceptable vehicle speeds.	Duluth's Street Light Utility Division utilizes a continuous signal timing optimization program, Synchro traffic simulation software to develop signal timing plans and to preform signal optimization.
Yes √	Action Selected	Replace city-owned parking lot/ramp lighting with Dark-Sky compliant, energy efficient, automatic dimming lighting technologies.	IN PROGRESS – Two smaller ramps have been converted to Dark-Sky compliant lighting on upper lots. Planning is in progress to replace HID fixtures with dimming LED fixtures at two large ramps. Shields will be installed on selected fixtures to eliminate light pollution from reaching outside the parking ramp.
Yes √	Optional Action Selected	Replace the city's existing traffic signals with energy efficient LED or equivalent lighting technologies.	In 2004 and 2005, the majority of Duluth's green traffic signals were replaced with high efficiency LED lights.

MN GreenStep Cities - City of Duluth Participation

Duluth's 10 best practices to participate in challenge include the following:

Category: Land Use

Best practice areas:

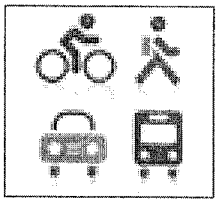
- Comprehensive Plan and Implementation
- Efficient City Growth
- Mixed Uses
- Efficient Highway-Oriented Development
- Conservation Design

Comprehensive Plan and Implementation – Duluth must complete required best practices 1 and 2.

Yes √	Required	**Adopt**/have an adopted **comprehensive plan.**	The Comprehensive Land Use Plan was adopted in 2006 and is a policy document that describes the City's 20-year vision for growth and development.
Yes √	Required	**Demonstrate that regulatory ordinances comply with the comprehensive plan** including but not limited to having the zoning ordinance explicitly reference the comprehensive plan as the foundational document for decision making.	Duluth's zoning ordinance, page 1-2, calls out the purpose of zoning to implement the comprehensive plan.

MN GreenStep Cities - City of Duluth Participation

Duluth's 10 best practices to participate in challenge include the following:



Category: Transportation

Best practice areas:

- Complete Green Streets
- Mobility Options
- Efficient City Fleets
- Demand-Side Travel Planning

Complete Green Streets – Duluth must complete required best practice and two additional best practices.

Yes √	Required	**Adopt a complete streets policy** that also addresses street trees and stormwater.	On March 8, 2010, Duluth City Council adopted Resolution 10-1028, Resolution Providing for A Complete Streets Policy.
Yes →	Selected Action	**Document** inclusion/installation of **green infrastructure elements** as well as **grey infrastructure elements in at least one complete streets reconstruction** project.	Action Step: Identify qualifying complete streets reconstruction project.
Yes √	Selected Action	Identify and remedy **street-trail gaps** between city streets and off road trails/bike trails to better facilitate walking and biking.	City has completed Lakewalk Extension to Brighton Beach.
Yes √	Other Action	Implement **traffic calming measures**, including road diets and depaving, in at least one street redevelopment project.	Traffic calming island was constructed at Jefferson St & 18th a Ave East.

Mobility Options - must implement this best practice by completing at least two actions.

Yes √	Selected Action	**Promote walking, biking and transit** use by one or more of the following means: a. Produce/distribute route maps, signage or website	**Bike** maps for Duluth are available at http://www.dsmic.org/
Yes √	Selected Action	Launch an **Active Living campaign** in concert with your local community health board, such as a Safe Routes to School program.	In 2013, City sponsored Active Transportation Week - **Creating Safe Routes to Schools workshop.**

MN GreenStep Cities - City of Duluth Participation

Duluth's 10 best practices to participate in challenge including the following:

Category: Environmental Management

Best practice areas:

- Purchasing
- Urban Forests
- Efficient Stormwater Management
- Parks and Trails
- Surface Water Quality
- Efficient Water and Wastewater Facilities
- Septic Systems
- Solid Waste Reduction
- Local Air Quality

Purchasing – Duluth must complete required best practice and one additional best practice.

Yes →	Required	**Adopt an environmentally preferable purchasing policy or administrative guidelines/practices** directing that the city purchase at least: **a. EnergyStar** certified equipment and appliances and **b. Paper** containing at least 30% post-consumer recycled content	Actions steps: **Add** Energy Star certified equipment and appliances to Purchasing Policy. **Prepare** policy to purchase 30% post-consumer recycled paper.
Yes √	Selected Action	Require purchase of U.S. EPA WaterSense-certified products	Property & Facilities Maintenance Division has adopted this best practice.

Urban Forests – Duluth must implement this best practice by completing at least two actions The City of Duluth has employed some aspects of all 6 of the listed best practice actions in Urban Forestry

Yes √	Selected Action	Certify as a Tree City USA.	City of Duluth has been a Tree City USA for 23 years.
Yes √	Selected Action	Build Community capacity to protect existing trees by certifying at least one or more staff/volunteers.	City of Duluth has four certified arborists.

MN GreenStep Cities - City of Duluth Participation

Duluth's 10 best practices to participate in challenge include the following:

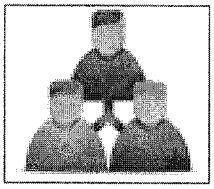
Category: Environmental Management - continued

Efficient Stormwater Management – Duluth must implement this best practice by completing at least one action.

Yes √	Selected Action	**Create a stormwater utility that uses variable fees to incentivize** enhanced stormwater management, minimize the volume of and pollutants in runoff, and educate property owners.	The City water and gas utility charges monthly storm water rates based on ERU. ERU is one residential quarter-acre lot with a runoff coefficient of 0.30.
Yes √	Other Action	**Adopt and implement guidelines** for, or adopt required design standards/incentives for, **at least one of the following stormwater infiltration/reuse techniques:** **a.** Rain gardens or green roofs **b.** Cisterns or other stormwater reuse strategies **c.** Green alleys or green parking lots **d.** Pervious/permeable pavement or pavers	Yes, per Chris Kleist – identify the document where the guidelines are located.
Yes √	Other Action	Adopt an ordinance with erosion and sediment control provisions as well as requirements for permanent stormwater treatment.	Yes, per Chris Kleist – identify the ordinance.

MN GreenStep Cities - City of Duluth Participation

Duluth's 10 best practices to participate in challenge include the following:



Category: Economic & Community Engagement

Best practice areas:

- Benchmarks & Community Engagement
- Green Business Development
- Renewable Energy
- Local Food
- Business Synergies

Benchmarks & Community Engagement - Duluth must complete actions 1 and 2.

Yes →	Required	**Use a committee to lead, coordinate and report to community members** on implementation of GreenStep best practices.	City has a department-wide Sustainability Team and will report GreenStep accomplishments on website: http://www.duluthmn.gov/sustainability/
Yes →	Required	**Organize goals/outcome measures from all city plans and report to community members** data that show progress toward meeting these goals.	Action steps: Identify all plans - Energy, economic development, comprehensive, parks, drinking water, stormwater, library, housing plans.

Green Business Development – Duluth must implement this best practice by completing at least two actions

Yes √	Selected Action	**Actively promote green tourism resources** to tourism and hospitality businesses in/around the city.	We promote the St. Louis River Corridor which is the world's largest freshwater estuary. Efforts include enhancing trails connectivity, walkability.
Yes √	Selected Action	**Lower the environmental footprint of a brownfield** remediation/redevelopment project.	Document jobs created at Atlas Cement Plant or US Steel site.