

Notable Accomplishments by Selected GreenStep Cities June 2011

Minnesota GreenStep Cities is a voluntary challenge, assistance and recognition program to help cities achieve their sustainability goals through implementation of 28 best practices. Each best practice can be implemented by completing one or more specific actions from a list of four to eight actions. These actions are tailored to all Minnesota cities, focus on cost savings and energy use reduction, and encourage innovation.

- Visit www.MnGreenStep.org to learn more about this program, to see city-reported action detail on past and present accomplishments, and to learn how your city can become a GreenStep City.

In total, 355 GreenStep actions have been recorded by the 26 GreenStep Cities in the first year of the program. 7 cities have completed and have recorded a sufficient number of actions to be recognized by the League of Minnesota Cities as a Step Two GreenStep City.

ST. CLOUD

- ✓ Completed the St. Cloud Area Sustainability Plan.
- ✓ Put in service the nation's first public bus powered by recycled vegetable oil, sourced from St. Cloud State University's on-campus dining hall, cutting fuel costs by an estimated \$2.30 per gallon.

EAGAN

- ✓ Built the nation's first Green Globes-certified fire station.



ST. ANTHONY

- ✓ Installed Minnesota's only multi-source water reuse facility for irrigation, reducing ground water draws by nearly 7 million gallons annually.

NORTHFIELD

- ✓ Home to Minnesota's first Transition Town effort to create greater community resiliency, addressing climate change and the transition to renewable energy.

MANKATO

- ✓ Using between 1.5 and 2 million gallons of treated wastewater for cooling at the Mankato Energy Center, saving the city nearly 700 million gallons of water annually.
- ✓ Annual reports on 34 goals and 6 key performance areas from the Greater Mankato Envision 2020 plan.

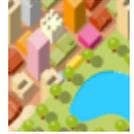
ROCHESTER

- ✓ Identified an urban growth boundary.
- ✓ Measures vehicle miles traveled per capita; mode choice of commuters; transit ridership; acres per household; parking acres per employee.



OAKDALE

- ✓ Reduces building permit fees for LEED-certified buildings.



MILAN

- ✓ Purchasing of only EnergyStar-certified equipment in this city of 326.

PINE RIVER

- ✓ Home to the Rural Renewable Energy Alliance that installed a solar-powered furnace at the nearby solid waste transfer station.

LA PRAIRIE

- ✓ Installed a large French Drain in the city park to infiltrate stormwater and protect Mississippi River water quality.

FALCON HEIGHTS

- ✓ Retrofitted lighting in city hall, the public works garage and the fire department: return on investment is under 2 years.

MAHTOMEDI

- ✓ Held 2 half-day Natural Step workshops to raise awareness of sustainability issues and to discuss opportunities for how the city could integrate principles of sustainability into its Comprehensive Plan.

HOPKINS

- ✓ Located 2 electric car recharging stations in the public downtown parking ramp.
- ✓ Won the Blue Star Award for superior stormwater management.
- ✓ Home to a certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary golf course.



KASSON

- ✓ Has been a Tree City USA for 32 years.

HOFFMAN

- ✓ The local Lions Club gave every city resident a tree to plant.

MAPLEWOOD

- ✓ Vehicle sharing allowed the city to downsize their fleet by 4 vehicles.
- ✓ Installed over 680 home and public rain gardens.
- ✓ Based commercial renovation regulations upon the International Green Construction Code.
- ✓ Communicates sustainability news quarterly to residents.



ELK RIVER

- ✓ Retrofit of lighting/heating at the city ice arena will pay for itself in under 5 years.
- ✓ LEED Gold-certified library uses half the energy of a normal library.
- ✓ Over 300 residents in Project Conserve saving up to \$500/year.