



## GreenStep Cities –

Implement proven sustainability Best Practices in YOUR City!

HUD/DOT/EPA Meeting  
05.24.11





## GreenStep Mission

Provide all Minnesota Cities – small or large – with best practices to help them achieve their sustainability goals through implementation of best practices



[www.CleanEnergyResourceTeams.org](http://www.CleanEnergyResourceTeams.org)



## What is it?

- \*Simple Steps for Cities
- \*Pathway toward Sustainability
- \*Voluntary
- \*28 Best Practices in 5 Categories



## Best Practice Categories

The GreenStep City program consists of 28 best practices in 5 categories:

- Buildings & Facilities
- Transportation
- Land Use Planning
- Environmental Management
- Economic & Community Development

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## What's it all about?

- Providing a "Pathway to Sustainability" that is cost-effective, pragmatic, and achievable for all cities.
- Achieving meaningful reductions in greenhouse gases and other positive environmental outcomes
- Providing assistance & peer learning for local governments to achieve best practices
- Identifying specific existing state agency staff and others who are committed to and technically able to help cities implement each specific best practice
- Promoting innovation
- Inspiring and assisting residents, businesses & community institutions to take action
- Recognize local governments for their past accomplishments and their new efforts spurred by the program

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## What makes this different?

- Minnesota focused
- Geared toward smaller cities
- Best practices developed by experts in their field... from MN
- Action oriented
- Gives credit for actions you've already taken and helps you identify new actions
- Identified real resource people who can help you with each best practice.
- On line case studies to give you examples of how it's worked.
- Allows flexibility with each Best Practice

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## Why would my City do this?

For a more healthy, resilient community:

- Lower costs to government, business, educational institutions and citizens
- Cleaner water, air, viable habitat
- Walkable, bikeable communities and healthier citizens and businesses
- Transportation options that connect jobs & housing
- Local food production
- Local renewable energy production
- More local, green jobs
- Regionally \$ are already being allocated to G.S. cities/grants

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## Why would my City do this?

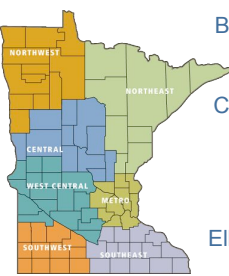
4 key benefits:

- Creates resilient communities
- An efficient use of resources (save \$)
- Creates healthier environments
- Leads to active and engaging community members

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## Regional Representation



Signed:  
Breezy Point, Pine River, Jenkins, Royalton

Considering:  
Crosslake, Nisswa, Pequot Lakes, Detroit Lakes, Park Rapids, Staples, Wadena, Brainerd

Others signed:  
Elk River, Grand Rapids, St. Cloud, Bemidji

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## How do I get started?

- 1) Learn about the program
- 2) Go through the assesment
- 3) Figure out which category you're in
- 4) Garner interest and support
- 5) Have your City select a GreenStep contact person/taskforce
- 6) Sign the resolution

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## Assessment

• WHICH CATEGORY CITY ARE YOU?

Determining a City's GreenStep Category  
Click on the category cells in the Assessment below by your information and to complete the resolution using the first three cells.

Questions	Answers
1. Approximately how many public buildings does the city own?	
2. Approximately how many paid full time employees (FTE) staff does the City have?	
3. For how many separate departments (public works, planning, etc) does the City has paid staff?	
4. Does the City have fixed route transit service (Bus or rail with at least two separate routes that make more than one local stop? Excludes dial a ride, paratransit)	
5. Is the City required to have an MS4 (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System) permit from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency?	
6. Does the City operate a centralized wastewater treatment facility that serves most residents?	
7. Does the City operate a drinking water treatment facility and serve most residents?	
8. How many distinct commercial areas and industrial parks does the City have?	
9. Is the City part of a metropolitan area?	
10. Does it share a border with more than one other incorporated city?	
11. If no, is the City the largest in population of that adjoining community?	
12. Does the City administer a zoning ordinance?	

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## The Assessment Tool

- Walk through what you've already done... and what good opportunities might be
- Learn more about what's happening in depts throughout your city
- Partner with neighboring community

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## Sample Resolution

Key requirements...

- Identify a GreenStep contact person
- Plan to involve community members, civic and educational organizations and businesses
- Pick a few best practices to start on
- Commit to implement a minimum number of required and optional GreenStep best practices
- Whereas clauses to highlight why your community is doing this.

[www.MNGreenSteps.org](http://www.MNGreenSteps.org)

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## Best Practices

GreenStep Program Requirements	City Category		
	C	B	A
1. Efficient Energy Public Buildings	Required	Required	Required
2. Efficient Energy Private Buildings	Required	Required	Required
3. New Green Buildings	Required	Required	Required
4. Efficient Buildings - Street Lighting and Signals	Required	Required	Required
5. Pedestrian Paths	Required	Required	Required
<b>Buildings &amp; Lighting BPs Required</b> 7 7 7			
6. Comprehensive Planning and Implementation	Required	Required	Required
7. Digital Divide	Required	Required	Required
8. Efficient and Healthy Development Patterns	Required	Required	Required
9. Efficient Regional Growth/Development	Required	Required	Required
10. Conservation Design	Required	Required	Required
<b>Land Use BPs Required</b> 7 7 7			
11. Complete Green Teams	Required	Required	Required
12. Multiple Options	Required	Required	Required
13. Efficient City Teams	Required	Required	Required
14. Detailed Site/Travel Plans	Required	Required	Required
<b>Transportation BPs Required</b> 7 7 7			
15. Environmental Sustainability	Required	Required	Required
16. Urban Form	Required	Required	Required
17. Efficient Resource Management	Required	Required	Required
18. Green Infrastructure	Required	Required	Required
19. Outdoor Space Quality	Required	Required	Required
20. Efficient Water and Wastewater Facilities	Required	Required	Required
21. Single Streams	Required	Required	Required
22. Solid Waste Reduction	Required	Required	Required
23. Land Use Quality	Required	Required	Required
<b>Environmental BPs Required</b> 7 7 7			
24. Recycled & Reusable Equipment	Required	Required	Required
25. Green Business Development	Required	Required	Required
26. Renewable Energy	Required	Required	Required
27. Local Buy	Required	Required	Required
28. Greenhouse Gas	Required	Required	Required
<b>Development BPs Required</b> 7 7 7			
29. Emerging BP (additional not required BPs)	7	7	7
<b>Total BPs Required (including Emerging)</b>	8	10	16

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## Sample Best Practices

- Construct new buildings to meet or qualify for a Green Building standard.
- Adopt development ordinances or processes that protect natural systems.
- **Improve the efficiency of city street lighting and signals.**
- Improve the efficiency of drinking water and waste water facilities.

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## Sample Best Practices (cont.)

- **Adopt an environmentally preferable purchasing policy.**
- **Strengthen local food production and access.**
- Use assistance programs for green business and job development.

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## GreenStep Partners

MPCA, CERTS – submitted report to 2009 Legislature  
 League of MN Cities – key collaborator  
 Co-developers –  
 Great Plains Institute  
 Urban Land Institute-MN/Regional Council of Mayors  
 Center for Energy & Environment  
 Izaak Walton League – MN Chapter




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## Question and Answer

What questions do you have?

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**For More Information**



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