



CITY OF
GRAND RAPIDS
IT'S IN MINNESOTA'S NATURE

CITY COUNCIL WORKSESSION AGENDA

Monday, November 28, 2022

4:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER: Pursuant to due notice and call thereof, a Worksession meeting of the Grand Rapids City Council will be held on Monday, November 28, 2022 at 4:00 PM in the City Hall Council Chambers, 420 North Pokegama Avenue, Grand Rapids, Minnesota.

ROLL CALL:

BUSINESS:

1. Climate Action Plan Presentation

REVIEW OF REGULAR AGENDA:

ADJOURN:

Attest: Kimberly Gibeau, City Clerk

Climate Action Planning

Report to Grand Rapids City Council

November 28, 2022

Climate Emergency Resolution

January 24, 2022, Grand Rapids City Council passed a Climate Emergency Resolution which promised the following:

- Complete and Implement a Climate Action Plan;
- Fully implement our autonomous electric vehicle shuttle pilot program;
- Continue serving as a regional leader and share our experience with Grand Rapids Solar Garden project and autonomous electric vehicle project so other communities may learn from us and implement similar ideas.

What is a Climate Action Plan?

- Assesses climate vulnerability (started by ICC students PP)
- Sets goals for achieving smart climate by reducing GHG & carbon
- Proposes actions to achieve carbon neutral economy, resilient communities and equitable conditions
- MN Climate Action Framework, Cities of Duluth, Red Wing
- Cost using contractor between \$18,000 - \$46,000
- Work with Clean Energy Team to develop plan

Green Steps to Climate Action

- Volunteers turned to Green Steps, which the city joined in 2012, according to Best Practices, in the categories of: Buildings & Lighting, Land Use, Transportation, Environmental Management, and Economic & Community Development
- Grand Rapids city has completed 27 actions supporting 9 Best Practices and needs to complete has 11 Best Practices to complete to advance from Step 2 to Step 3.
- Green Steps documents what's been done and is a road map to what needs to be done to be a sustainable city.

GS Example: Buildings & Lighting (1 of 3)

- Benchmarking use of energy and water since 2012.
- Efficient public buildings: 2011 wide gap plate heat exchanger installed at the Grand Rapids Public Library which utilizes waste water from the Blandin Paper Co.
- Solar powered led lights as warning signal in residential areas to identify approaching intersections; crosswalks at school road entrances.

Green Steps Examples (2 of 3)

Land Use:

- 2020-40 Comp Plan includes land uses and guidance for enhancing community life, regional economy, and environmental quality.

Transportation

- Produce/distribute route maps, signage at kiosks and website; bike facilities included

GS Example: Environmental Management (3 of 3)

- Stormwater Utility Ordinance combines 1.5-inch rainfall on-site rainwater infiltration design requirement for construction sites and a stormwater runoff volume limit to pre-development volumes for the 5-year, 24-hour rainfall maximum event.
- 22.6 acres per 1000 residents based on parks alone; all city residents are within one half mile of park, river or lake.
- Participates in regional Advanced Business Energy Retrofit Program

Advantages of Green Steps

- Accessible and attainable for any community.
- Participation is voluntary.
- Challenges participants to improve.
- Assists participants with resources.
- Leads to action that addresses climate change.
- Promotes transparent reporting of actions and outcomes.
- Publicly recognizes participants.

Gold Leaf Pilot Program

- Connects Green Steps to climate response
- Incorporates new models for climate response
- Provides resources for small cities including intern
- Action-focused: completed in less than a year

Requests to the City Council:

- Allow the city to be part of the MPCA's 9-month Gold Leaf pilot program and ask that the planning commission, with assistance from GRPU Commission, work with staff and volunteers to complete and report on the GreenSteps actions during the pilot period. Due 11/30!
- Consider supporting requests for grants to help with data collection.
- Monitor process by reviewing regular reports on progress from the Planning Commission and the GR Public Utilities Commission.



Minnesota **GreenStep**

Gold Leaf Program

An expansion for the Minnesota GreenStep Cities and Tribal Nations programs to challenge, assist, and recognize local climate action.

September 2022

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Acknowledgements

Project Advisory Committee

Colby Abazs, Clean Energy Resource Teams
 Becky Alexander, LHB Corp
 Noelle Bakken, City of Roseville
 Melissa Birch, Clean Energy Resource Teams
 Andrew Boucher, City of Shakopee
 Danielle Cabot, League of Minnesota Cities
 Diana Chaman Salas, Hennepin County
 Brittney Cotner, Sourcewell
 Sean Gosiewski, Resilient Cities and
 Communities
 Mindy Granley, City of Duluth
 Shari Hansen, City of Sunfish Lake
 Jennifer Hassebroek, City of Eden Prairie
 Blaine Hill, City of Morris
 Anna Johnson, Fresh Energy
 Mauricio Leon, Metropolitan Council
 Peter Lindstrom, Clean Energy Resource Teams
 Jason Ludwigson, City of La Crescent
 Leslie Mackenzie, Transition Twin Cities
 Chris Meyer, Clean Energy Resource Teams
 Laura Millberg, Minnesota Pollution Control
 Agency
 Tim Nolan,
 John Paulson, City of Hutchinson
 Lissa Pawlisch, Clean Energy Resource Teams
 Annie Pottorff, City of St. Louis Park
 Ted Redmond, Pale Blue Dot LLC
 Virginia Rutter, Clean Energy Economy MN
 Suzanne Rhees, Board of Water and Soil
 Resources
 Lola Schoenrich, Great Plains Institute
 Kristin Seaman, City of Woodbury
 Adam Seidel, Siemens Smart Industries
 Jacob Selseth, Clean Energy Resource Teams
 Sarah Shapiro, Minnesota GreenCorps
 Jason Walker, Southwest Regional Development
 Commission
 David Wanberg, City of Faribault
 Linden Weiswerda, Minneapolis Parks and
 Recreation
 Eric Wojchik, Metropolitan Council

Contributors

Jonee Brigham, University of Minnesota
 Clean Energy Resource Teams Regional
 Coordinators
 Minnesota Cities Climate Caucus
 Minnesota GreenCorps Members

GreenStep Steering Committee

Melissa Birch, Clean Energy Resource Teams
 Danielle Cabot, League of Minnesota Cities
 Jill Crafton, Izaak Walton League
 Tim Farnan, Minnesota Pollution Control
 Agency
 Riley Gage, Rethos
 Erin Hanafin Berg, Rethos
 Peter Lindstrom, Clean Energy Resource Teams
 Kari Moeller, Minnesota Department of
 Commerce
 Kristin Mroz, Minnesota Pollution Control
 Agency
 Rick Patraw, Minnesota Pollution Control
 Agency
 Lissa Pawlisch, Clean Energy Resource Teams
 Don Reeder, League of Minnesota Cities
 Yasmine Robinson, Environmental Quality
 Board
 Lola Schoenrich, Great Plains Institute
 Brian Strub, Minnesota Department of
 Commerce

Authors

Emily Hartwell, Minnesota GreenCorps
 Kristin Mroz, Minnesota Pollution Control
 Agency

Executive Summary

In its [2020 Strategic Plan](#), the GreenStep Cities steering committee outlined several visions and goals for the future of the program, as recommended by GreenStep participant feedback. One high priority identified by the GreenStep partners and participants identified climate response. The GreenStep Cities program has one Best Practice specifically addressing Climate ([Best Practice 29, Climate Adaptation and Community Resilience](#)), along with many other program actions that address greenhouse gas reductions, adaptation, and community education [across the 29 best practices](#). However, there is a need to highlight and elevate specific actions to clearly define pathways for local governments to take climate action through the GreenStep program. These pathways should be relevant to climate change specifically in Minnesota rather than climate change as a broad topic. The Gold Leaf program identifies the pathways that are most applicable to Minnesota and its goals by cross-referencing actions with the State’s [Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory](#) and [Climate Action Framework](#).

GreenStep has expanded several times since its conception, adding to its program, for example, new Best Practices, additional steps, and even incorporating a pilot program for Tribal Nations to participate. Based on the interest of program participants and the visions shared by the state, we believe adding a climate action component to the existing GreenStep Cities program is the most appropriate step forward.

A climate action program through GreenStep will also help address the concerning climate trends in Minnesota. Temperatures are warming, especially during winter. Summers are becoming drier while precipitation events become more severe. Our natural environment is increasingly unreliable for migratory animals, birds, pollinators, and, indeed, us. Local governments are already seeing these impacts in their communities. Cities, tribal nations, and other governmental units are at the vanguard for climate action. However, there is still an unfilled niche or support for a climate action program specifically for local governments.

An advisory committee and other stakeholders worked to develop such a program. The program has taken the shape of a nature-themed “badge”, in which participants of the program would receive a “leaf” token of achievement for completing any of the selected [43 climate actions](#) under the categories of mitigation, planning, adaptation, and community. Once a participant receives a gold leaf, it can be displayed on a tree model or online image to showcase a community’s climate efforts. The climate action program differs from original GreenStep “Steps” in that these high-priority, high-impact actions are designed to be SMART (Figure 1).

This document describes the process of crafting a framework for this program and outlines the recommendations to begin a pilot program.



Figure 1: SMART actions are specific, measurable, attainable, relevant, and time-bound.

Background

The [GreenStep Cities program](#) (“GreenStep”) is a voluntary challenge, assistance, and recognition program that helps cities achieve their sustainability and quality of life goals. The development of the program began in 2007 when the Clean Energy Resource Teams (CERTs) held regional listening sessions around Minnesota to discuss the State’s [Next Generation Energy Act of 2007](#) and opportunities for community-based energy projects. The idea for a locally-focused sustainability program came from these listening sessions, a [report](#) was provided to the Minnesota Legislature, and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA), the Minnesota Department of Commerce, and CERTs were directed develop a voluntary program. In 2010, this initiative became the GreenStep Cities program, managed by a public-private partnership that includes State agencies, non-profit organizations, and educational institutions. In 2014, GreenStep expanded to pilot a program for [Tribal Nations](#).



Figure 2: The five steps of GreenStep Cities and Tribal Nations.

GreenStep offers a set of [29 Best Practices](#) across five categories: building and lighting, land use, transportation, environmental management, and resilient economic and community development. Each Best Practice includes four to eight actions that a community can take; each action can be completed at a 1, 2, or 3-star level depending on the scope and scale of the action taken.

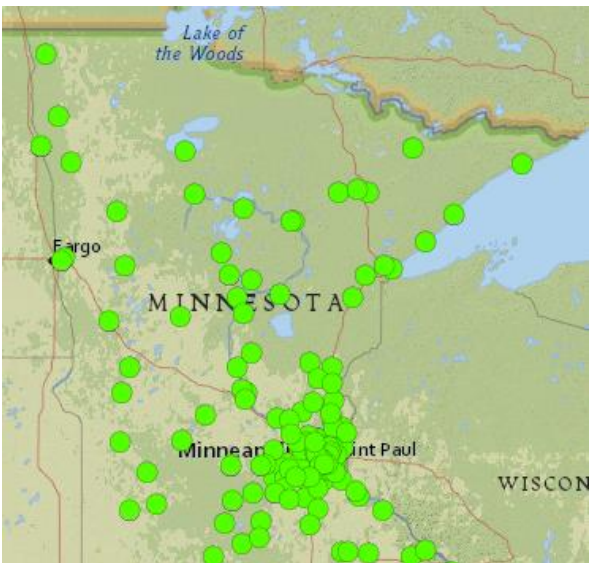


Figure 3: A map of Minnesota GreenStep communities.

Communities demonstrate progress in the program as they advance through five steps (Figure 2). To achieve Step 1, communities adopt a resolution to enter the program. Steps 2 and 3 allow communities to report and track actions they have already taken and additional actions they take while participating in the program. Steps 4 and 5 ask communities to enter various metrics and demonstrate progress each year, respectively.

At present, [143 cities and 4 pilot tribal nations](#) participate in the GreenStep programs. Over 52% of Minnesota’s population lives in a GreenStep city or tribal nation (Figure 3).

Context

Preparing for its [2020 Strategic Plan](#), the GreenStep Cities Steering Committee asked participants what they needed from GreenStep and its partners in order to continue reaching their sustainability and quality-of-life goals. One emergent need is for climate response through a more concentrated focus on mitigation, adaptation, resilience, and community education. To satisfy this need and continue to challenge, assist, and recognize communities, the GreenStep program must expand to provide the tools, resources, support, and motivation for communities interested in addressing climate change. GreenStep applied for a [Minnesota GreenCorps](#) member to help develop a program to meet these burgeoning needs. The GreenCorps member assisted in program development from September 2021 to August 2022.

One primary goal of creating GreenStep after the Next Generation Energy Act was to help local governments reduce greenhouse gas emissions. However, to make the program more accessible to all communities, the focus of GreenStep's language shifted from climate change to sustainability and quality-of-life. Public support has risen for the climate change movement in recent years. To reflect this change of attitude, GreenStep has the opportunity to build into its program a tool of support and recognition for communities addressing climate change.

At the time of this proposal, the state has released its [Climate Action Framework](#), an initiative under [Executive Order 19-37](#), to provide guidance on how the state can meet its Next Generation Energy Act goals and enhance the climate resilience of Minnesota's natural resources, working lands, and communities. While some actions listed in the framework are specific to state abilities, many can be achieved by supporting local governments in climate action (see [Appendix B](#)). GreenStep is a trusted program with existing program participants, partnerships, and connections, which provides a pathway and the resource for the state to work with local governments in tandem toward climate action. It is important to work specifically with cities because [approximately 75% of all carbon emissions come from cities \(Greenhouse Gas Protocol, 2021\)](#). This puts local governments in a prime position to take action toward reducing those emissions and increasing climate resilience.

Process

Project planning began in September 2021. Research topics included global and local climate change causes and effects, successful climate action programs on both national and international levels, Minnesota community interests and values, and more. Stakeholders were first engaged in December 2021.



Goals

One of the first steps during the project development phase was to identify goals to help guide the decision-making process.

- **Accessible and attainable for any community.** Factors such as size, number of city staff, or amount of financial or technical support should not act as barriers for cities to participate. The selected framework for this program should be able to accommodate whatever capacity a community is able to work within.
- **Participation is voluntary.** In alignment with GreenStep values, communities should join voluntarily. GreenStep has always been and will continue to be non-regulatory. There should be no pressure for communities to join if uninterested, and participants should not be made to feel that joining this program is the only way in which they can advance through GreenStep.
- **Challenges participants to improve.** GreenStep has always provided a means for communities to push themselves. It clearly defines goals, provides pathways to accomplish those goals, and lets communities choose which goals they're interested in accomplishing. Climate action through GreenStep should continue to challenge participants to meet their goals and create new ones that are manageable, ambitious, and realistic.
- **Assists participants with resources.** The resources that communities require to meet their climate action goals should not be a barrier. GreenStep should be able to assist communities with identifying and procuring the resources necessary to take action.
- **Leads to action that addresses climate change.** Action must be specific to climate change, rather than sustainability as a whole. While GreenStep values all efforts to increase sustainability and quality-of-life, this program will specifically emphasize and promote climate change action to reflect the importance of climate action.
- **Promotes transparent reporting of actions and outcomes.** Communities should be able to use this program to hold themselves accountable and report in a way that informs and inspires others. It should provide a resource with which a city can look back on its climate action journey. Through sharing, this program will also build momentum and become a resource for other cities looking to take action.
- **Re-engages Step 5 communities.** Upon reaching Step 5, communities have no program-provided incentive to continue to report actions. GreenStep only provides Step 5 communities formal recognition for reporting metrics. This climate program should reintegrate formal recognition and support for taking action.
- **Publicly recognizes participants.** According to feedback, public recognition is one of the biggest motivators for communities to participate in GreenStep. Adding a recognition component to this program would likely provide motivation as well.

Interests

GreenStep hosted a series of meetings in 2021-2022 to gauge interest from communities, partners, and technical assistance providers. These meetings consisted of both informational presentations and idea facilitation sessions. Represented at these meetings were state agencies, GreenCorps members, private businesses, sustainability nonprofit organizations, community leaders, and city staff. This working group came to be known as the GreenStep Climate Program Advisory Committee (“the advisory committee”) and met on average every three weeks. Common concerns and interests included:



- **Financial incentives.** Advisory committee members, especially from state agencies and nonprofit organizations, expressed that local governments would not be interested in completing high level actions without financial incentive, or would not be able to complete actions without financial support through grants.
- **Technical assistance.** Rather than financial assistance, many city staff and other city representatives desired technical assistance, reporting that even if they do have the finances to complete actions, they may not have the staff or training to do so.
- **Maintaining simplicity in GreenStep.** Some advisory committee members cautioned that complicating the GreenStep program further will repel potential participants.
- **Emphasis on action over planning.** Staff from state agencies and nonprofits continuously asserted that it is past the time for climate action planning efforts to address the effects of climate change (through policies, ordinances, reports, etc.), and planning efforts are not as effective as they were previously. Rather, actions need to be focused on measurable or observable results.
- **Community leaders and youths.** Advisory committee members identified as having a local leader to champion climate action in their community is a major determinant of the success a local government has in participating in climate action. When organized, another major proponent of climate action is dedicated students pressuring and encouraging their local governments to address climate change.
- **Capacity of smaller communities.** Often there was concern for how accessible this program and its actions would be for communities with less city staff, resources, or greater political barriers. These communities tend to be with lower populations and/or located in greater Minnesota (although cities of all sizes and location struggle with capacity). While developing this program, we endeavored to find a balance between only including actionable options and reducing requirements to meet all cities where they are at.
- **Language.** A goal of this project was to have actions that can be repeated in order to receive recertification status. GreenStep regional coordinators indicated that such language would be intimidating. This language was eliminated from outward presenting materials. Some advisory

committee members criticized some frameworks as not appropriately reflecting the urgency and gravity of climate change. We endeavored to develop a program that had a friendly, approachable presentation, but also didn't downplay the seriousness of climate change. We also tried not to use language that asserted that climate change is an imminent threat to cities or utilize "doom speech." We present climate change as a serious issue here; however, we recognize that not all communities have climate goals.

- **Bias toward climate mitigation.** Many advisory committee members pointed out that the early stages of program development showed a bias toward carbon emission reduction ("climate mitigation") over other forms of climate action such as building resilience and involving community members. While a primary goal of this program is carbon emission reduction, they encouraged the program to address other forms of climate action as well. Focusing on mitigation can prevent some communities from action when they don't have a supportive local government. However, presenting mitigation as a way to achieve multiple community benefits may increase participation in areas where current elected members have not committed to climate action.
- **Prioritizing resources.** City staff, especially from cities in greater Minnesota, reported that even if they currently have or were to receive financial or technical resources, they may not be able to prioritize climate action over other urgent matters. Daily work, repairs, and other more immediate needs must be met first before diverting resources toward climate action.
- **Open to all GreenStep communities.** The advisory committee did not believe that this program should only be open to Step 5 GreenStep communities. Regardless of where a community is at in their sustainability journey, it should be able to participate in this program.

Differences from GreenStep "steps"

One particular concern raised by the advisory committee was that this program would be too similar to the current GreenStep "steps" to be worth developing. If the similarities are too many, the program would be redundant and subsequently communities would not be interested in participating. We validate this concern and decided to specifically define the ways in which we sought to make this program differ from the GreenStep core program.



- **Prioritizes high-impact actions.** Any action that increases sustainability is good action, no matter how big or small that action may be. GreenStep recognizes sustainability actions of any size, but for this climate program we sought to increase the challenge of typical GreenStep actions. This was done to re-engage Step 5 communities, challenge communities that have more resources, and create the opportunity for meaningful climate action. To do this, we attempted to include specific, measurable, attainable, relevant, and time-bound language (or, SMART) that provide participants with the details need to take meaningful action.

- **Creates a “road map” from the 181 actions to narrow down a community’s focus.** With a menu of so many actions to choose from, each of which can be completed in many different ways, a community has freedom to progress through the GreenStep program in the way that is best suited to them. For a community interested in climate action, it may be difficult to parse through which actions are the most effective. This climate program helps participants prioritize efforts and highlights a path forward to climate action.
- **Focus on climate action, not just sustainability.** GreenStep focuses on sustainability, which may include facets of health benefits, economic prosperity, and general quality-of-life. While these may be co-benefits of climate action, this program will fulfill the need for supporting local governments interested in directly addressing climate change.

Rejected Frameworks

As the program continued to be developed, this feedback was kept in mind and applied to the greatest extent while still striving to reach the project goals. Based on feedback from the advisory committee, partners, CERTs regional coordinators, and the GreenStep Steering Committee, several framework possibilities were developed and consequently discarded. Criticism for earlier frameworks helped guide the decisions that led to the selected framework.

Framework 1: Greenhouse gas emissions actions

One of the most important resources we used in research for climate change in Minnesota is the [Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory](#), prepared as a joint effort between the MPCA and the Minnesota Department of Commerce. This report identifies the major sources of greenhouse gas emissions, along with the increases and decreases in emissions each of these sectors has experienced between the years 2005 and 2018 (Figure 4).

Our first framework draft was one in which we selected GreenStep actions that specifically target the sectors in which emissions are high, seeing little to no reductions since 2005, or have even experienced

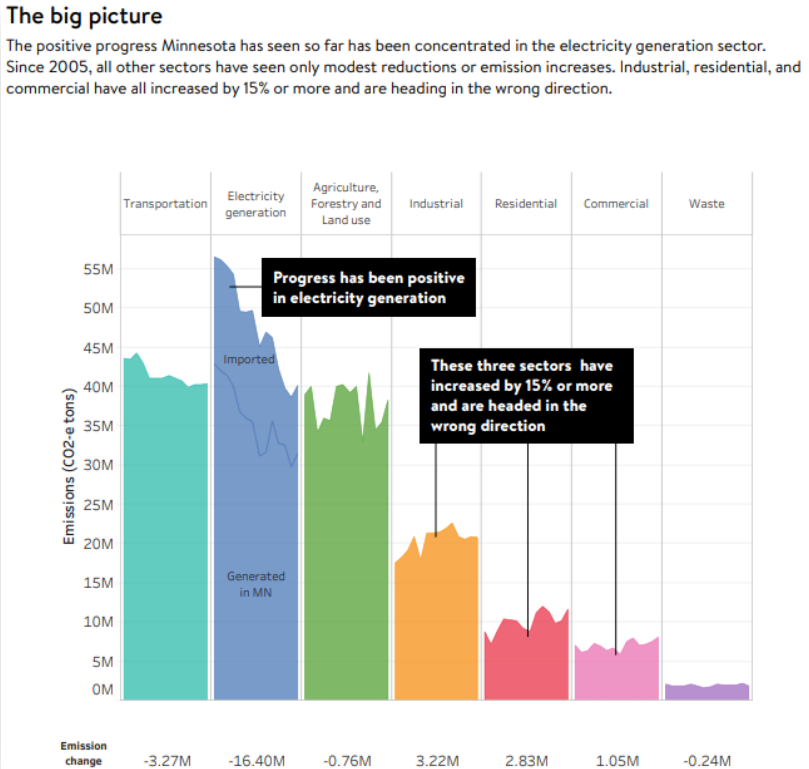


Figure 4: The 2021 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory: 2005 to 2018 is a biennial report to the Minnesota Legislature outlining greenhouse gas emissions sources and trends.

an increase in emissions. We also identified new actions featured in other initiatives such as [LEED for Cities and Communities](#) and the state’s [Climate Action Framework](#) draft that could also be included under this framework (See [Appendix B](#)).

A major downside of this framework is that it emphasizes climate change mitigation at the expense of other types of climate action. An emphasis on mitigation may inadvertently turn away potential participants that are more active in other categories of climate action (i.e. adaptation or education) or place a higher value on benefits such as financial savings through climate action.

Framework 2: Number of stars

Each GreenStep best practice action can be completed at one, two, or three stars, indicating the degree to which the action was completed, with one star being “good,” two stars “better,” and three stars “best” (Figure 5). One potential framework was to provide certification and recognition to GreenStep communities that either have the greatest number of stars, or that have the greatest number of actions completed at the three star level. This would provide a numerical, straightforward way of determining certification.

This framework was discarded for several reasons. It provides an unfair advantage to communities who have been involved with GreenStep longer. If the framework were changed to certifying communities that earn the most stars per year or timeframe, it would provide an unfair advantage to communities that have the capacity to take multiple actions at once, or to communities that report all actions at once, even if those actions were not taken that year.

Best Practice Action 1
[Back to best practice page](#)
 Enter/update building information into the MN B3 Benchmarking database, and routinely enter monthly usage data for all city-owned buildings/infrastructure that consume energy/water.

Implementation Tools Star-level Examples

- ★ Complete the Building Editor for each city-owned building/structure; identify the person responsible for routinely entering data; enter (at least once/90 days) current, consecutive monthly energy use data ongoing; also best to begin with 12 consecutive months of historical energy use data.
- ★★ Complete 1 Star criterion and enter 24 consecutive months of historical data; routinely validate and review data by having city staff/a city commission look at patterns/trends and inconsistencies; identify potential opportunities for energy savings; showcase your B3 public page/results on your city website.
- ★★★ Complete 1 and 2 Star criteria, plan for follow-up operations/maintenance actions in poorer performing buildings; routinely enter current and consecutive (monthly or quarterly as available) water use data ongoing; gather and track data for leased buildings (note that Step 4 Metric #1 asks for this).

Figure 5: An example of the star-level examples provided under Best Practice Action 1.1 in the GreenStep Cities program.

Framework 3: Climate narrative

Often, creativity in communities leads to actions that may produce results that go above and beyond any single GreenStep best practice action or may exemplify best practice actions in ways that other communities can gain inspiration from. Under this framework, communities would be able to write a narrative about a project they're doing to take climate action.

However, this niche for recognition is already filled by other initiatives. For example, the League of Minnesota Cities' (LMC) [Sustainable City Award](#) is eligible only for GreenStep Cities (Figure 6). It identifies unique or inspiring implementation of any of the 29 best practices. The award comes with special recognition and a \$1,000 cash prize. Unique projects are also more likely to gain recognition through media attention, making program recognition redundant. While sharing stories is highly recommended to program participants, this framework conflicts with our goal of a program that allows for recertification; it is unfair to set a standard for "above and beyond" with each certification period.



Figure 6: The 2022 Sustainable City Award from the League of Minnesota Cities was awarded to the City of Duluth for their Climate Action Work Plan.

From left to right: LMC Executive Director, David Unmacht, AmeriCorps VISTA Duluth Energy and Sustainability Assistant, Julia Forberg, Duluth Mayor, Emily Larson, Duluth Sustainability Officer, Mindy Granley, and LMC Board of Directors President, Ron Johnson. Photo Credit: League of Minnesota Cities

Framework 4: Climate planning actions

We collected a handful of actions that were focused specifically on addressing climate change. Some of these actions, such as developing a climate action plan, were pulled from existing GreenStep actions; other actions, such as declaring a climate emergency, were new, in coordination with current trends of local Minnesota governments.

While the intention of this framework was to increase accessibility to communities with less resources while still emphasizing climate action, feedback indicated that this framework was too heavy on planning and not as much "doing." There was also concern that this framework focuses too much on mitigation rather than preparation, adaptation, or economic benefits, meaning that it would be harder to secure political support in some communities.

Selected Framework

The advisory committee determined that a badge-based framework would best suit the needs of this program, where participants will receive badges based on actions they complete. The advisory committee also determined a tree-themed framework reflected the nature of this program's needs, complemented the GreenStep aesthetic of sustainability and goal setting, and made the program accessible and desirable to communities. To this end, we created leaf-themed badges (Figure 7) to award to communities based on the climate actions they completed.



Figure 7: A sample tree design that includes individual leaf badges (green are all badge options; the empty leaves would be gold and given as actions are awarded).

We presented three possible structures of this tree-themed badge format to the advisory committee. Each structure has some overarching similarities, namely that in order to receive a leaf, a participant must complete climate actions under that leaf's category. Actions that communities can take to address climate change have been organized by four different categories: mitigation, planning, adaptation, and community. Other categories have the potential to be added later.

Badge Structure 1

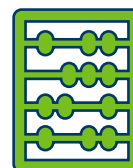
The first of these structures was one in which participants are required to complete a certain number of actions per certification period under a leaf category in order to receive that leaf. The number of actions required would reflect their GreenStep City or Tribal Nation category, which is determined by factors such as number of city buildings and staff.



Feedback indicated that this structure would not incentivize—and in some cases may even discourage—communities to join. Participants may feel as though there is no incentive to complete more actions in a given category if they've already completed enough to earn a leaf. There were also concerns about whether a certification period would make this program less accessible.

Badge Structure 2

The second structure developed was to assign a point value to each action. The point value would be determined by factors including impact, priority, cost, difficulty, and accessibility. Upon meeting a point threshold by completing enough actions, participants would receive a leaf.



Reception to this structure was mixed; quantitatively the advisory committee identified more cons, but the pros arguably had more weight from a qualitative standpoint. While praising its versatility, multiple committee members voiced concerns that this approach was too complicated. Additionally, calculating and assigning point values would be extremely challenging.

Badge 3: Selected Structure

Under the selected structure, actions were reworded to reflect goals that are predicted to have a higher impact on climate change. These actions would have a one-to-one ratio with leaves, where a community completes one action and receives one leaf for it. Many of the actions can be repeated. For example, if an action was “Install or support a community renewable energy project,” a city could achieve one leaf for adding a project in one year and another for a separate project a different year (Figure 8).



Figure 8: Draft Leaf example

Structure Preferences

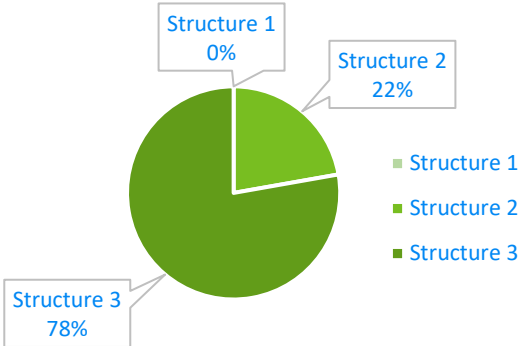


Figure 9: Advisory Committee preferences for each proposed badge structure.

Quantitatively, this was the structure that received the most positive feedback (Figure 9). More advantages were identified than disadvantages, and the advisory committee reported a clear preference of this structure than the others. The committee did bring up some questions of what this may look like aesthetically under this structure, depending upon the type of display used to showcase the awarded leaves. Complexity has been a common concern throughout this process, and this structure was praised for being simple.

Pilot Program

Launching a nine-month pilot program, followed by a two-month evaluation period with five to six participants is recommended to implement this new program. These participants should include (if interest is expressed):



- at least one Step 5 city
- at least one city at any Steps 2 or 3
- at least one tribal nation
- a consideration for participants across Minnesota
- a consideration for participant size and capacity

Pilot program participants should:

- Commit to implementing and reporting at least 2 NEW actions (see [Appendix A](#)) during the pilot period.
- Provide feedback on the program structure and support
- Serve as ambassadors of the official program launch

Upon the end of the program, participants should be asked questions to determine the program's successes and areas to be improved. Questions to ask participants may include:

- How has this program supported your community's climate action?
- Has this program provided meaningful incentive for participation?
- (For Step 5 communities) Did this program increase your city's involvement with GreenStep actions?
- (For Step 1-4 communities) How did this program affect your involvement with the main GreenStep program, if at all?
- Did you feel supported in your involvement in this program? Did you have extra support during this pilot (i.e. AmeriCorps members, temporary staff, etc.) and what difference do you think that made in your ability to participate in this program, if any?
- To what extent did participation in this program increase the number of specific actions taken and/or the speed at which they were implemented? Did this program lead you to take any actions that otherwise would not have taken place during this time period?

The GreenStep Cities steering committee should explore potential partnerships to increase the capacity for program management and ongoing evaluation, identify key technical assistance providers to support communities in their efforts, and consider the recognition aspects of the program during the pilot phase of the Gold Leaf program.

Considerations



While much of this proposal has determined a path forward, a few questions remain to be addressed during the pilot phase and continued development of this program.

- **Capacity:** The bandwidth of both GreenStep program and participant staff to take on the Gold Leaf program has yet to be evaluated. While we don't expect a significantly larger commitment required for this program than what GreenStep already necessitates from staff, a pilot program would be able to provide additional insight. The program can be adjusted if it is found to require too much staff time or other resources.
- **Timing:** With the selected framework, actions can be reported and formally recognized as they are completed, without any specific annual reporting period. Additionally, many actions can be repeated in multiple years to encourage growth overtime (see [Appendix A](#)). The pilot will explore how to provide the guidance and support for these repeatable actions.
- **Program sunset:** A suggestion was made to put an end date on the Gold Leaf program – for example, January 1, 2030 – to recognize the urgency associated with local climate action. All actions could be awarded with that timeframe in mind. In 2030, the program could be finished,

amended to address the impacts and needs of the time, or continued for another length of time.

- **Tribal Nations:** This program was developed to be inclusive of tribal nations, so that participants of GreenStep Tribal Nations can also take part in this program. However, while we reached out to GreenStep Tribal Nations contacts, we were unable to engage tribal nation representatives in program development. To best serve GreenStep Tribal Nations participants, tribal representatives should be invited to participate in the program pilot. GreenStep may explore the desire for a separate pilot program for tribal nations in the future.
- **Expanded Participation:** This program was developed for cities and tribal nations but every attempt was made to create a program that could be expanded or adapted in the future to include other participants, such as counties, schools, and regional development commissions.
- **Funding:** While no immediate funding needs have been identified to launch the Gold Leaf program, funding may be useful for hiring additional GreenStep staff capacity, updating the GreenStep website, developing award displays, or passing funds on to program participants to support their efforts.
- **Guidance:** Ample guidance materials and resources are already located under GreenStep best practice actions. However, it may be necessary to consider additional guidance that can more specifically support the Gold Leaf actions listed in [Appendix A](#), as well as explain the Gold Leaf program overall.

Appendix A: Gold Leaf Actions

Below is a list of proposed actions for this program, categorized by the way in which they address climate change. There are a total of 44 actions between four categories: [Climate Mitigation](#), [Climate Planning](#), [Climate Adaptation](#), and [Community Connectedness for Minnesota's changing climate](#).

Climate Mitigation

Gold Leaf Action	Associated GreenStep Best Practices	Annual Recertification Criteria*
CM1 – Efficient public building operations: For one city-owned/school building, complete 12 months of facilities operations utilizing the B3/SB 2030 Energy Efficient Operations Manual (B3 EEOM).	1.6	Per building
CM2 – Certified green building operations: Document the certification of a public or private building at gold-equivalent or better under a green building operations framework (such as the LEED O+M rating system).	1.6 , 2.4	Per certification
CM3- Private sector incentives: Show a private party has newly completed significant energy/sustainability improvements using city-provided incentives.	2.4 , 2.6 , 3.4	Per project
CM4 - Resilient city growth: Document a project that has newly developed an infill lot or redeveloped an existing but underutilized property using city-incentives or as the result of city policy.	5.5 , 7.4	Per project
CM5 - Public sustainable buildings: Document that a public building has been newly constructed or undergone major remodeling and meets/qualifies under the SB 2030 energy standard or a green building or energy framework.	1.5	Per building
CM6 - Public energy efficiency projects: Invest in a new and significant energy efficiency project through performance contracting or other funding in city-owned/school buildings.	1.3	Per project
CM7- Alternatives to car travel: Become a Bicycle Friendly or a Walk Friendly community by implementing green and living street principals.	11.2 , 11.3 , 12.1 , 12.6	Per certification
CM8 - Active living campaign: Conduct an active living campaign like Safe Routes to School, Age Friendly Communities, etc.	12.2	Per campaign

CM9 - Ridesharing: Develop a new challenge campaign, create a new park-and-ride lot, start a new rideboard, and/or incorporate payment for ride-shares and local transit.	12.4	Per project
CM10 - Telecommuter Forward: Be certified as a Telecommuter Forward! Community.	12.5	Per certification
CM11 - Municipal renewable energy purchasing: Purchase 100% clean energy used by city government via the municipal utility, green tags, community solar garden, or 3rd party agreements.	15.2	Per year
CM12 - Community renewable energy projects: Newly install or support the installation for community-owned or public sector/municipally-owned renewable energy technology—solar, wind, hydro, etc.	26.4 , 26.5	Per project

Climate Planning

Gold Leaf Action	Associated GreenStep Best Practices	Annual Recertification Criteria*
CP1 - Safe shelter: Designate a new safe shelter with a plan that arranges for adequate provisions and backup power sufficient to meet daily run-time requirements as a shelter for one week or longer during utility grid failure.	29.1	Per shelter & plan
CP2 - Community resilience hub: Create a plan for a new resilience hub that describes community services to be provided throughout the year, as well as specific services provided during disruption and into recovery after natural hazard events.	29.3	Per plan
CP3 - FEMA rating: Enroll in the FEMA Community Rating System and be recognized at a class rating of 6 through 1.	19.8	Per certification /recertification
CP4 - Climate/resilience plans: Adopt a new or newly updated climate adaptation/resilience plan that is used for the city's comprehensive planning, policy-making, and budgeting. Document how underserved communities were part of the planning effort.	29.2	Per plan/ update
CP5 - Climate risk assessment: Conduct a new climate risk assessment or resilience project planning for local infrastructure (i.e. sewer, stormwater, city roads/bridges, water supply, wastewater, municipal powerlines, public facilities, etc.).	29.7	Per assessment/ resilience project plan

CP6 - Municipal climate goals: Newly adopt or strengthen existing climate or energy goal(s) (i.e. renewable energy, GHG emissions, carbon-neutral, etc.) with a deadline of 2030 or sooner.	6.5	Per goal
CP7 - Climate action plan: Adopt a new or updated Climate Action Plan or be part of a regional Climate Action Plan effort (document participation). For Category C cities, participate in a regional Climate and/or Energy Action Plan.	6.5	Per plan/ update
CP8 - Climate priority resolution: Newly adopt or strengthen a city resolution declaring a climate emergency and prioritizing climate action.	6.5	Per resolution
CP9 - Climate action budget: At least 1% of current city annual budget is allocated to climate action.	24.2 , 29.2	Per year
CP10 - Climate staff: Have a new or rehire a paid staff position with climate action as a main responsibility.	24.1	Per new hire
CP11 - Sustainable building/renovation policy: Customize a model sustainable building/renovation policy that includes the SB 2030 energy standard and adopt the language to govern private new/renovation projects that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) receive city financial support, b) require city regulatory approval (planned unit development, conditional use permit, rezoning, variance), or c) are city/school-owned projects; or Require that all buildings be certified/rated under an identified 3rd-party green building framework.	2.7 , 3.1 , 3.2	Per policy/ update
CP12 – Land use policy: Newly adopt or strengthen a policy limiting annexations or infrastructure extensions to encourage infill and redevelopment.	5.5	Per policy/update

Climate Adaptation

Gold Leaf Action	Associated GreenStep Best Practices	Annual Recertification Criteria*
CA1 - Urban heat relief: In an area of environmental justice concern or high heat vulnerability, newly complete a city project such as: cool pavements; shading structures for a park or transit corridor; cooling water features for heat relief in a park or playground; cool/green roof material; roadside vegetative cover including resilient species increased by at least 40%.	29.6	Per project
CA2 - Flood mitigation: Newly complete an improvement project of green and/or gray infrastructure strategically designed to reduce localized flooding in an area of environmental justice concern or high flood risk such as: fix specific intersections, underpasses, culverts, or other areas prone to flash flooding; resolve recent occurrences of combined sewer overflow; add meaningful system capacity for extreme rainfall events.	29.5	Per project
CA3 - Back-up energy system: Newly install islanding capability and storage for a clean energy system in a publicly accessible building to provide back-up power that can sustain function during extreme weather events.	29.8	Per system
CA4 – Private resilience projects: Document a newly installed residential/commercial/industrial/non-profit project flood or heat risk reduction best practice to increase resilience using city incentives.	17.5 , 29.4	Per project
CA5 – Resilient trees: Plant and maintain at least 2-3 climate resilient trees for each city tree lost.	16.3	Per year
CA6 - Building weather preparation: Newly modify/rebuild one city-owned building to improve flood resilience, prevent damage, and sustain function during extreme weather events.	29.5	Per building
CA7 - Property buy-out: Newly complete the buy-out of one or more properties at risk of flood damage through a city buyout program.	19.8	Per property
CA8 – Resilient public water systems: Newly implement a strategy to reduce climate change risk and increase resilience for city water or wastewater operations or a specific asset (such as a lift station, headwork, water intake/distribution/storage, booster stations/pump, treatment plant, etc.)	29.7	Per project

Community Connectedness for Minnesota's changing climate

Gold Leaf Action	Associated GreenStep Best Practices	Annual Recertification Criteria*
CC1 - Combined Green Team: Have a green team with city and community member representation that meets regularly (at least 4 times every year) and address topics related to Minnesota's changing climate.	24.1	Per year
CC2 - Youth Involvement: Have at least two filled youth/student positions on a city environmental commission, green team, or other advisory body that addresses topics related to Minnesota's changing climate.	24.6	Per year
CC3 - Youth Collaboration: A school environmental club has an ongoing connection with a city commission or green team for involvement in topics related to Minnesota's changing climate.	24.6	Per year
CC4 - Student Internship: A city student internship includes issues related to Minnesota's changing climate in their work.	24.6	Per year
CC5 - Community Restoration: Host one or more events that engage community members in annual restoration or cleanup of public natural areas.	18.8	Per year
CC6 - Citizen Science: Create or participate in a Citizen Science program related to the environment and Minnesota's changing climate.	18.8	Per program
CC7 - Accessible Public Green Spaces: Newly document that at least 20% of total city land area is in protected green infrastructure, or that 90% or more of residents are within a 10-minute walk, or within one-half mile of, a park or other public green/blue space.	18.3	Per documentation
CC8 - Tree Steward Community: Participate in the Tree Steward Program.	16.6	Per year
CC9 - Local Purchasing: Require and document that 10% of city purchases to be made from local businesses with special consideration for minority, disability, and women-owned businesses.	15.3 , 25.7	Per year
CC10 - Local Food Buying: Conduct a campaign and/or provide incentives to promote the increased buying of local foods by schools, hospitals, nursing homes, and event centers. Report the use of organic, whole food, and plant-based options.	15.3 , 25.7 , 27.4	Per year
CC11 - Community Visioning: Conduct a Community Visioning process (i.e. MN Main Streets, D4CR, etc.) that engages community members	5.2 , 8.1 , 29.3	Per process

<p>though a series of events that include discussion of Minnesota’s changing climate and/or community resilience. Hold meetings in diverse and accessible locations and provide translators and interpreters, childcare, stipends, and/or meals for participants as needed.</p>		
<p>CC12 - Green Businesses and Jobs: Document the growth of new/emerging green businesses and green jobs through the targeted assistance and new workforce development actions.</p>	<p>25.1</p>	<p>Per year</p>

* Consideration will be given on a case-by-case basis as actions are reported. The criteria listed here may be adjusted in accordance with the intent of the program.

Appendix B: GreenStep Cities Climate Action Mapping

The table below reviews the GreenStep Cities Best Practice Actions in relation to other programs that define and prioritize climate actions. See a more detailed list at <https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/media/681>.

GreenStep Best Practice Actions	Gold Leaf Climate Actions	MN Climate Action Framework	High-Impact Actions for Low Carbon Cities	USDN’s High Impact Practices	UN’s Sustainable Development Goals
BP 1 – Efficient Existing Public Buildings					
1.1					
1.2					
1.3					
1.4					
1.5					
1.6					
1.7					
BP 2 – Efficient Existing Private Buildings					
2.1					

2.2					
2.3					
2.4					
2.5					
2.6					
2.7					
BP 3 – New Green Buildings					
3.1					
3.2					
3.3					
3.4					
3.5					
BP 4 – Efficient Outdoor Lighting					
4.1					
4.2					
4.3					
4.4					
4.5					
4.6					
4.7					
4.8					
BP 5 – Building Redevelopment					
5.1					
5.2					
5.3					
5.4					

5.5					
BP 6 – Comprehensive Plans					
6.1					
6.2					
6.3					
6.4					
6.5					
BP 7 – Efficient City Growth					
7.1					
7.2					
7.3					
7.4					
7.5					
BP 8 – Mixed Uses					
8.1					
8.2					
8.3					
8.4					
8.5					
8.6					
8.7					
BP 9 – Efficient Highway- and Auto-Oriented Development					
9.1					
9.2					
9.3					
9.4					

BP 10 – Design for Natural Resource Conservation					
10.1					
10.2					
10.3					
10.4					
10.5					
10.6					
10.7					
BP 11 – Living & Complete Streets					
11.1					
11.2					
11.3					
11.4					
11.5					
11.6					
BP 12 – Mobility Options					
12.1					
12.2					
12.3					
12.4					
12.5					
12.6					
BP 13 – Efficient City Fleets					
13.1					
13.2					
13.3					

13.4					
13.5					
13.6					
BP 14 – Demand-Side Travel Planning					
14.1					
14.2					
14.3					
14.4					
BP 15 – Sustainable Purchasing					
15.1					
15.2					
15.3					
15.4					
15.5					
15.6					
15.7					
15.8					
BP 16 – Community Forests & Soils					
16.1					
16.2					
16.3					
16.4					
16.5					
16.6					
16.7					
BP 17 – Stormwater Management					

17.1					
17.2					
17.3					
17.4					
17.5					
17.6					
BP 18 – Parks & Trails					
18.1					
18.2					
18.3					
18.4					
18.5					
18.6					
18.7					
18.8					
BP 19 – Surface Water					
19.1					
19.2					
19.3					
19.4					
19.5					
19.6					
19.7					
19.8					
BP 20 – Efficient Water & Wastewater Facilities					
20.1					

20.2					
20.3					
20.4					
20.5					
20.6					
20.7					
BP 21 – Septic Systems					
21.1					
21.2					
21.3					
21.4					
21.5					
21.6					
21.7					
BP 22 – Sustainable Consumption & Waste					
22.1					
22.2					
22.3					
22.4					
22.5					
22.6					
22.7					
22.8					
BP 23 – Local Air Quality					
23.1					
23.2					

23.3					
23.5					
BP 24 – Benchmarks & Community Engagement					
24.1					
24.2					
24.3					
24.4					
24.5					
24.6					
24.7					
BP 25 – Green Business Development					
25.1					
25.2					
25.3					
25.4					
25.5					
25.6					
25.7					
BP 26 – Renewable Energy					
26.1					
26.2					
26.3					
26.4					
26.5					
26.6					
26.7					

BP 27 – Local Food					
27.1					
27.2					
27.3					
27.4					
BP 28 – Business Synergies & EcoDistricts					
28.2					
28.3					
28.4					
BP 29 – Climate Adaptation & Community Resilience					
29.1					
29.2					
29.3					
29.4					
29.5					
29.6					
29.7					
29.8					



Assessment 2023

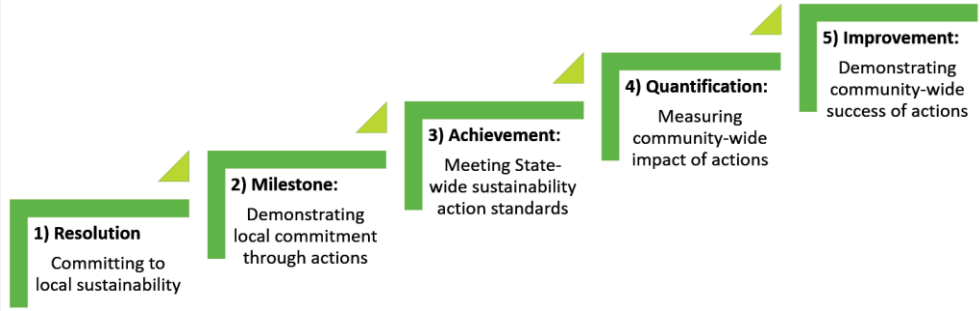
City of Grand Rapids: Category B City

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About the Program

The GreenStep Cities program is a five-step program for cities and tribal nations to work towards sustainability. There are 29 best practices which each provide required and recommended actions. Recommended actions are placed into the following categories: buildings and lighting, land use, transportation, environmental management, and resilient economic and community development. Each action submitted by a city receives a ranking based on a three-star system.



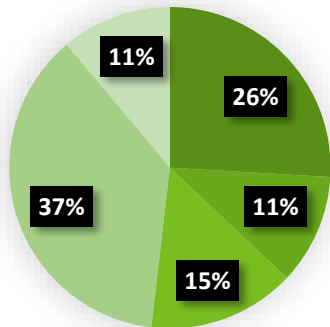


Information and GreenStep Status

Joined: May 2012
Status: Step 2
Total Best Practices (BPs) Complete: 9
Total BP Actions Complete: 27
[Grand Rapids GreenStep webpage](#)

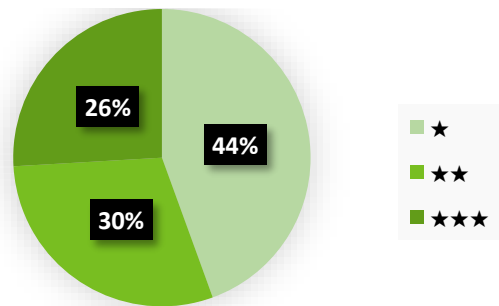
Preliminary submission for city review: Yes
Final April 1st recommendation to League of MN Cities: No
All required BPs done for Step 3?: No
Step 3 BP distribution requirement met?: No
Recommend June 2023 recognition Step 3?: No

Current Distribution of BP Categories:



- Buildings & Lighting
- Land Use
- Transportation
- Environmental Management
- Resilient Economic & Community Development

Star-Rating of Actions:



The star-rating system represents the rating of the city's action, where Not Rated (NR) is an uncompleted action, 1-star represents basic completion, 2-star is full completion, and 3-star is the maximum completion of the given action.

Notable Actions

- Recognized by the Blue Star Award program** as one of the leading cities in the state taking action to protect water resources through stormwater management
- Public library heating supplied from wastewater production** at the Blandin paper mill, reducing natural gas use by nearly 70%
- Solar-storage project** installed in 2022 is a 15-acre, pollinator-friendly site, 2 MW solar array and 1MW/2.5 hour energy storage battery, and the first solar-storage project developed collaboratively by a municipal utility, their wholesale power provider, and a third party developer.
- Free bike share program** available for anyone in several locations across the city.

See all city-reported actions at <https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/city-detail/12079>

Step Advancement Guidelines

Guidelines for Step 2:

As a Category B city, to be recognized as a Step 2 GreenStep City, **ANY 6 Best Practices** must be reported.

Any 6 Best Practices

[Learn more about Step 2](#)

Guidelines for Step 3:

As a Category B city, to be recognized as a Step 3 GreenStep City, the following must be reported, at minimum:

Public Buildings: [1.1](#), [1.2](#)

Buildings & Lighting: any one additional Buildings & Lighting BP ([2-5](#))

Comprehensive, Climate & Energy Plans: [6.1](#) and [6.2](#)

Land Use: any one additional Land Use BP ([7-10](#))

Transportation: any one Transportation BP ([11-14](#))

Sustainable Purchasing: [15.1](#) and any one additional action from [15.2-15.8](#)

Community Forests & Soils: any one action from [16.1-16.7](#)

Environmental Management: any one additional Environmental Management BP ([17-23](#))

Benchmarks & Community Engagement: [24.1](#) and any one additional action from [24.2-24.7](#)

Green Business Development: any two actions from [25.1-25.7](#)

Climate Adaptation & Community Resilience: [29.1](#) at a 2- or 3-star rating

[Learn more about Step 3](#)

Guidelines for Steps 4 and 5:

Steps 4 and 5 focus on metrics – what are the outcomes of all of the actions that the city has implemented over time?

- **Step 4:** Measure and report a minimum number of core and optional metrics for the previous calendar year or the most recent available data.
 - Category B communities: In addition to the CORE metrics, include 3 additional metrics of choice.
- **Step 5:** Demonstrate improvement three eligible metrics measured in Step 4, from one data year to the next.
 - Category A, B, and C communities: Improve upon 3 eligible metric elements.

[Learn more about Steps 4 & 5](#)

Best Practice Actions: Detailed Descriptions

Buildings and Lighting

[BP 1: Efficient Existing Public Buildings](#)

[BP 2: Efficient Existing Private Buildings](#)

[BP 3: New Green Buildings](#)

[BP 4: Efficient Outdoor Lighting and Signals](#)

[BP 5: Building Redevelopment](#)

Best Practice 1: Efficient Existing Public Buildings

BP 1 Completed? **YES** Total actions completed: 5

Actions to Complete BP 1: ~~1.1~~ and ~~1.2~~

Best Practice Action:	Completed: <i>(Star Level out of three stars)</i>	Action Description: <i>(View on GreenStep Website for full description)</i>	Action Summary: <i>(Provided by GreenStep Staff)</i>	Date of Last Entry:
1.1	★★	Enter/update building information and monthly usage data into the MN B3 Benchmarking database.	Benchmarking in Feb. 2010 implemented B3 benchmarking six buildings; at least three years of data	7/11/2012
1.2	★	Make no/low cost indoor lighting and operational changes in city-owned/school buildings.	Yearly boiler inspection; B3 is used in all major city building to monitor energy use and is updated monthly.	7/11/2012
1.3	★	Invest in larger energy efficiency projects.	3 new 97% high efficiency mini boilers installed in Fire Hall in 2011; replacing the 78% ribbon type boiler that was 25 years old.	7/11/2012
1.4	★	Implement IT efforts and city employee engagement to reduce plug loads, building energy use and workflow efficiency.	Building management program for all heating/cooling units in all major city buildings; allows programming evening set back temp, none work days, holidays and occupancy sensors to shut rooftop units off.	10/3/2012
1.5	Choose an item.	Meet the SB 2030 energy standard or qualify under a green building or energy framework.		
1.6	Choose an item.	Improve operations and maintenance of city-owned/school buildings and leased buildings.		

1.7	★★	Install one or more of the following: -A ground-source, closed loop geothermal system. -A district energy/microgrid system. -A rainwater harvesting system	2011 wide gap plate heat exchanger installed at the Grand Rapids Public Library which utilizes waste water from the Blandin Paper Co.	7/11/2012
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Best Practice 2: Efficient Existing Private Buildings

BP 2 Completed? **NO** Total actions completed: **0**

Actions to Complete BP 2: Any one action

Best Practice Action:	Completed: <i>(Star Level out of three stars)</i>	Action Description: <i>(View on GreenStep Website for full description)</i>	Action Summary: <i>(Provided by GreenStep Staff)</i>	Date of Last Entry:
2.1	Choose an item.	Create or participate in a program to promote energy and water efficiency.		
2.2	Choose an item.	Integrate green building and EV charging best practices information and assistance into the building permit process.		
2.3	Choose an item.	Implement an energy rating/disclosure policy for residential/commercial buildings.		
2.4	Choose an item.	Describe energy/water efficiency outcomes and other green building practices at local businesses and not-for-profit organizations.		
2.5	Choose an item.	Create one of the following: -Water-wise landscaping ordinance/guidance -WaterSense purchasing program -Guidance on rainwater harvesting and home water softener use		
2.6	Choose an item.	Provide a financial or other incentive to private parties who add energy/sustainability improvements, meet the SB 2030 energy standard, or renovate using a green building or energy framework.		
2.7	Choose an item.	Customize a model sustainable building renovation policy that		

		includes the SB 2030 energy standard and adopt the language to govern private renovation projects.		
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Best Practice 3: New Green Buildings
 BP 3 Completed? **NO** Total actions completed: **0**
Actions to Complete BP 3: Any one action

Best Practice Action:	Completed: <i>(Star Level out of three stars)</i>	Action Description: <i>(View on GreenStep Website for full description)</i>	Action Summary: <i>(Provided by GreenStep Staff)</i>	Date of Last Entry:
3.1	Choose an item.	Require by city policy that new city-owned buildings be built using the SB 2030 energy standard and/or a green building framework.		
3.2	Choose an item.	Work with the local school district to ensure that future new schools are built using the SB 2030 energy standard and/or a green building framework.		
3.3	Choose an item.	Adopt a sustainable building policy for private buildings; include the SB 2030 energy standard; adopt language governing new development projects.		
3.4	Choose an item.	Provide a financial or other incentive to private parties who build new buildings that utilize the SB 2030 energy standard and/or a green building framework.		
3.5	Choose an item.	Adopt environmentally preferable covenant guidelines for new common interest communities addressing sustainability.		

Best Practice 4: Efficient Outdoor Lighting and Signals

BP 4 Completed? **YES** Total actions completed: **2**

Actions to Complete BP 4: 2 actions (including one from 4.5-4.8)

Best Practice Action:	Completed: <i>(Star Level out of three stars)</i>	Action Description: <i>(View on GreenStep Website for full description)</i>	Action Summary: <i>(Provided by GreenStep Staff)</i>	Date of Last Entry:
4.1	Choose an item.	Require energy efficient, Dark-Sky compliant new or replacement outdoor lighting fixtures on city-owned/private buildings/facilities.		
4.2	Choose an item.	Purchase LEDs for all future street lighting and traffic signals.		
4.3	Choose an item.	Replace city street lighting with Dark Sky-compliant LEDs, modifying any city franchise/utility agreement and adding smart grid attributes.		
4.4	★★★	Coordinate traffic signals; optimize signal timing to minimize car idling at intersections yet maintain safe and publicly acceptable vehicle speeds.	The traffic signal system is owned/operated by MNDOT; recently upgraded and interconnected the city wide signal system to optimize the flow of traffic through the city.	12/29/2012
4.5	★	Use LED/solar-powered lighting for a flashing sign or in a street/parking lot/park project.	Solar powered led lights as warning signal in residential areas to identify approaching intersections; crosswalks at school road entrances.	12/20/2012
4.6	Choose an item.	Relamp/improve exterior building lighting for city-owned buildings/facilities with energy efficient, Dark-Sky compliant lighting.		
4.7	Choose an item.	Replace city-owned parking lot/ramp lighting with Dark-Sky compliant, energy efficient, automatic dimming lighting technologies.		
4.8	Choose an item.	Replace city's existing traffic signal indications with LEDs.		

Best Practice 5: Building Redevelopment

BP 5 Completed? **NO** Total actions completed: **0**

Actions to Complete BP 5: Any one action

Best Practice Action:	Completed: <i>(Star Level out of three stars)</i>	Action Description: <i>(View on GreenStep Website for full description)</i>	Action Summary: <i>(Provided by GreenStep Staff)</i>	Date of Last Entry:
5.1	Choose an item.	Adopt an historic preservation ordinance/ regulations and encourage adaptive reuse.		
5.2	Choose an item.	Implement the Minnesota Main Street model for commercial revitalization.		
5.3	Choose an item.	Plan for reuse of large-format retail buildings, or work with a local school, church or commercial building to either add-on space or repurpose space into new uses.		
5.4	Choose an item.	Create/modify a green residential remodeling assistance/financing program to assist homeowners in adding space or sustainable features.		
5.5	Choose an item.	Adopt development/design standards and programs that facilitate infill, redevelopment, and adaptable buildings.		

Land Use

[BP 6: Comprehensive, Climate and Energy Plans](#)

[BP 7: Resilient City Growth](#)

[BP 8: Mixed Uses](#)

[BP 9: Efficient Highway and Auto-Oriented Development](#)

[BP 10: Design for Natural Resource Conservation](#)

Best Practice 6: Comprehensive, Climate and Energy Plans

BP 6 Completed? **YES** Total actions completed: **3**

Actions to Complete BP 6: ~~6.1 and 6.2~~

Best Practice Action:	Completed: <i>(Star Level out of three stars)</i>	Action Description: <i>(View on GreenStep Website for full description)</i>	Action Summary: <i>(Provided by GreenStep Staff)</i>	Date of Last Entry:
6.1	★	Adopt a comprehensive plan or a future land use plan adopted by the county or a regional entity.	2020-40 Comp Plan includes land uses and guidance for enhancing community life, regional economy, and environmental quality.	8/9/2022
6.2	★	Demonstrate that regulatory ordinances comply with the comprehensive plan.	Sec 30-32-Duties and Responsibilities	12/20/2012
6.3	Choose an item.	Include requirements in comprehensive and/or other plans for intergovernmental coordination.		
6.4	★★★	Include ecological provisions in the comprehensive plan that explicitly aim to minimize open space fragmentation and/or establish a growth area with expansion criteria.	GROW Comprehensive Plan, Chapter 7, Natural Environment includes protection goals	10/2/2022
6.5	Choose an item.	Adopt climate mitigation and/or energy independence goals/objectives in the comprehensive plan or in a separate policy document; include transportation recommendations.		

Best Practice 7: Resilient City Growth

BP 7 Completed? **NO** Total actions completed: **0**

Actions to Complete BP 7: Any one action

Best Practice Action:	Completed: <i>(Star Level out of three stars)</i>	Action Description: <i>(View on GreenStep Website for full description)</i>	Action Summary: <i>(Provided by GreenStep Staff)</i>	Date of Last Entry:
7.1	Choose an item.	Eliminate barriers and actively encourage higher density housing in city zoning ordinance and map.		
7.2	Choose an item.	Achieve higher density housing with one of the following: a. Flexible lot size/frontage requirement for infill development. b. Density and floor area ratio (FAR) bonuses in selected residential zoning districts. c. Clustered residential development. d. Allowing accessory dwelling units, single-room occupancy housing, senior housing, co-housing or tiny houses / apartments by right in selected zoning districts. e. Implement a vacation rental property registration policy and/or special tax.		
7.3	Choose an item.	Achieve higher intensity commercial/industrial land uses through at least one of the following strategies: a. Include a commercial district with zero-lot-line setbacks and a FAR minimum of 1. b. Set targets for the minimum number of employees/acre in different commercial zones.		
7.4	Choose an item.	Provide incentives for affordable housing, workforce housing, infill projects, or for life-cycle housing at or near job or retail centers, or for achieving an average net residential density of seven units per acre.		

7.5	Choose an item.	Use design to create social trust and interaction among neighbors and allow developments that meet the prerequisites for LEED for Neighborhood Development certification.		
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Best Practice 8: Mixed Uses
 BP 8 Completed? **NO** Total actions completed: **0**
Actions to Complete BP 8: Any one action

Best Practice Action:	Completed: <i>(Star Level out of three stars)</i>	Action Description: <i>(View on GreenStep Website for full description)</i>	Action Summary: <i>(Provided by GreenStep Staff)</i>	Date of Last Entry:
8.1	Choose an item.	Organize or participate in a community planning process for the city/a mixed-use district, including specific community engagement practices that engage cultural and income diverse community members.		
8.2	Choose an item.	Locate or lease a property for use as a school, city building or other government facility that has at least two of these attributes: a. Adjacent to an existing employment or residential center. b. Designed to facilitate and encourage access by walking, biking, or other non-vehicle travel modes. c. Accessible by regular transit service.		
8.3	Choose an item.	Modify a planned unit development (PUD) ordinance to emphasize or require mixed-use development or affordable housing, to limit residential PUDs to areas adjacent to commercial development, and/or to add sustainability features.		
8.4	Choose an item.	Report that a (re)development meets a city/community-determined minimum point threshold under the Equitable Development Scorecard or LEED-Neighborhood Development.		

8.5	Choose an item.	Have a downtown zoning district that emphasizes small and destination business, entrepreneurial spaces, and allows or requires residential and residential-compatible commercial development.		
8.6	Choose an item.	Incorporate form-based zoning approaches into the zoning code, in those areas where a diverse mix of uses is desired.		
8.7	Choose an item.	Create incentives for vertical mixed-use development in appropriate locations.		

Best Practice 9: Efficient Highway and Auto-Oriented Development
 BP 9 Completed? **NO** Total actions completed: **0**
 Actions to Complete BP 9: Any one action

Best Practice Action:	Completed: <i>(Star Level out of three stars)</i>	Action Description: <i>(View on GreenStep Website for full description)</i>	Action Summary: <i>(Provided by GreenStep Staff)</i>	Date of Last Entry:
9.1	Choose an item.	Establish design goals for at least one highway/auto-oriented corridor/cluster.		
9.2	Choose an item.	Participate in regional economic development planning with representatives from surrounding townships, cities, the county and business interests to: a. Estimate commercial/industrial needs among all jurisdictions. b. Jointly implement recommendations to stage highway/auto-oriented commercial development in order to avoid overbuilding and expensive low-density development.		
9.3	Choose an item.	Adopt infrastructure design standards that protect the economic and ecologic functions of the highway corridor through clustering of development, native plantings and		

		incorporating access management standards.		
9.4	Choose an item.	Adopt development policies for large-format developments, zoning for auto-oriented commercial districts at the sub-urban edge and/or in tightly defined and smaller urban development corridors/nodes that have some bike/walk/transit access.		

Best Practice 10: Design for Natural Resource Conservation
 BP 10 Completed? **NO** Total actions completed: **0**
Actions to Complete BP 10: Any one action

Best Practice Action:	Completed: <i>(Star Level out of three stars)</i>	Action Description: <i>(View on GreenStep Website for full description)</i>	Action Summary: <i>(Provided by GreenStep Staff)</i>	Date of Last Entry:
10.1	Choose an item.	Conduct a Natural Resource Inventory or Assessment; incorporate protection of priority natural systems or resources such as groundwater through the subdivision or development process.		
10.4	Choose an item.	For cities outside or on the fringe of metropolitan areas, conduct a build-out analysis, fiscal impact study, or adopt an urban growth boundary and a capital improvement plan that provides long-term protection of natural resources/systems, and agriculture outside the boundary.		
10.5	Choose an item.	For cities within metropolitan areas, incorporate woodland best management practices addressing protection of wooded areas into zoning or development review.		
10.4	Choose an item.	Adopt a conservation design policy; use a conservation design tool for pre-design meetings with developers and for negotiating development agreements in cities with undeveloped natural resource areas.		

10.5	Choose an item.	Preserve environmentally sensitive, community-valued land by placing a conservation easement on city lands, and by encouraging/funding private landowners to place land in conservation easements.		
10.6	Choose an item.	Conserve natural, cultural, historic resources by adopting or amending city codes and ordinances to support sustainable sites, including roadsides, and environmentally protective land use development.		
10.7	Choose an item.	Support and protect wildlife through habitat rehabilitation, preservation and recognition programs.		

Transportation

[BP 11: Living & Complete Streets](#)

[BP 12: Mobility Options](#)

[BP 13: Efficient City Fleets](#)

[BP 14: Demand-Side Travel Planning](#)

Best Practice 11: Living & Complete Streets

BP 11 Completed? **NO** Total actions completed: **0**

Actions to Complete BP 11: 11.1 and one additional action

Best Practice Action:	Completed: <i>(Star Level out of three stars)</i>	Action Description: <i>(View on GreenStep Website for full description)</i>	Action Summary: <i>(Provided by GreenStep Staff)</i>	Date of Last Entry:
11.1	Choose an item.	Adopt a complete streets policy, or a living streets policy, which addresses landscaping and stormwater.		
11.2	Choose an item.	Adopt zoning language or approve a skinny street/development project that follows green street and/or walkable streets principles.		
11.3	Choose an item.	Modify a street in compliance with the city's complete streets policy.		

11.4	Choose an item.	Identify, prioritize and remedy complete streets gaps and lack of connectivity/safety within your road network.		
11.5	Choose an item.	Identify and remedy street-trail gaps between city streets and off-road trails/bike trails.		
11.6	Choose an item.	Implement traffic calming policy/measures in at least one street redevelopment project.		

Best Practice 12: Mobility Options

BP 12 Completed? **YES** Total actions completed: **4**

Actions to Complete BP 12: ~~Any one action~~

Best Practice Action:	Completed: <i>(Star Level out of three stars)</i>	Action Description: <i>(View on GreenStep Website for full description)</i>	Action Summary: <i>(Provided by GreenStep Staff)</i>	Date of Last Entry:
12.1	★	Increase walking, biking and transit.	Produce/distribute route maps, signage at kiosks and website; bike facilities included	8/9/2022
12.2	★	Conduct an Active Living campaign such as a Safe Routes to School program.	City participates in SRTS committee run by ISD 318	8/9/2022
12.3	★★	Prominently identify mobility options: transit; paratransit/Dial-A-Ride; ridesharing/cab services; rental cars; bikes; airports.	Mobility options advertised on city website	8/9/2022
12.4	Choose an item.	Promote carpooling or ridesharing among community members, city employees, businesses, high schools and institutions of higher education.		
12.5	Choose an item.	Implement workplace multi-modal transportation best management practices - including telework/ flexwork - in city government, businesses or at a local health care provider.		
12.6	★★★	Add/expand transit service, or promote car/bike sharing.	Free bike share program with YMCA and Get Fit Itasca	8/18/2022

Best Practice 13: Efficient City Fleets

BP 13 Completed? **NO** Total actions completed: **0**

Actions to Complete BP 13: Any one action

Best Practice Action:	Completed: <i>(Star Level out of three stars)</i>	Action Description: <i>(View on GreenStep Website for full description)</i>	Action Summary: <i>(Provided by GreenStep Staff)</i>	Date of Last Entry:
13.1	Choose an item.	Efficiently use your existing fleet of city vehicles by encouraging trip bundling, video conferencing, carpooling, vehicle sharing and incentives/technology.		
13.2	Choose an item.	Right-size/down-size city fleet with the most fuel-efficient vehicles that are of an optimal size and capacity for their intended functions.		
13.3	Choose an item.	Phase-in operational changes, equipment changes including electric vehicles, and no-idling practices for city or local transit fleets.		
13.4	Choose an item.	Phase in bike, e-bike, foot or horseback modes for police, inspectors and other city staff.		
13.5	Choose an item.	Document that local school bus fleet has optimized routes, start times, boundaries, vehicle efficiency and fuels, driver actions to cut costs including idling reduction, and shifting students from the bus to walking, biking and city transit.		
13.6	Choose an item.	Retrofit city diesel engines or install auxiliary power units and/or electrified parking spaces.		

Best Practice 14: Demand-Side Travel Planning

BP 14 Completed? **NO** Total actions completed: **0**

Actions to Complete BP 14: Any two actions

Best Practice Action:	Completed: <i>(Star Level out of three stars)</i>	Action Description: <i>(View on GreenStep Website for full description)</i>	Action Summary: <i>(Provided by GreenStep Staff)</i>	Date of Last Entry:
14.1	Choose an item.	Reduce/eliminate parking minimums; add parking maximums; develop district parking; install meters and charge for parking at curb and city-owned lots/ramps.		
14.2	Choose an item.	For cities with regular transit service, require/provide incentives for the siting of retail services at transit/density nodes.		
14.3	Choose an item.	For cities with regular transit service, require/provide incentives for the siting of higher density housing at transit/density nodes.		
14.4	Choose an item.	Require new (re)developments to prepare a travel demand management plan or transit-oriented development standards or LEED for Neighborhood Development certification.		

Environmental Management

- [BP 15: Sustainable Purchasing](#)
- [BP 16: Community Forests and Soil](#)
- [BP 17: Stormwater Management](#)
- [BP 18: Parks and Trails](#)
- [BP 19: Surface Water](#)
- [BP 20: Efficient Water and Wastewater Systems](#)
- [BP 21: Septic Systems](#)
- [BP 22: Sustainable Consumption and Waste](#)
- [BP 23: Local Air Quality](#)

Best Practice 15: Sustainable Purchasing

BP 15 Completed? **NO** Total actions completed: **0**

Actions to Complete BP 15: 15.1 and any one additional action

Best Practice Action:	Completed: <i>(Star Level out of three stars)</i>	Action Description: <i>(View on GreenStep Website for full description)</i>	Action Summary: <i>(Provided by GreenStep Staff)</i>	Date of Last Entry:
15.1	Choose an item.	Adopt a sustainable purchasing policy or administrative guidelines/practices directing the city purchase at least: a. EnergyStar and EPEAT certified equipment and appliances. b. Paper containing post-consumer recycled content.		
15.2	Choose an item.	Purchase energy used by city government with a higher renewable percentage than required by MN law.		
15.3	Choose an item.	Establish purchasing preferences that support local, Minority, Disability, and Women-Owned businesses and, working with a local business association, develop a list of locally-produced products and suppliers for common purchases.		
15.4	Choose an item.	Require purchase of U.S. EPA WaterSense-certified products.		
15.5	Choose an item.	Set minimum sustainability standards to reduce the impact of your concrete		

		use, asphalt, roadbed aggregate, or other construction materials.		
15.6	Choose an item.	Require printing services to be purchased from companies using sustainable practices.		
15.7	Choose an item.	Lower the environmental footprint of meetings and events in the city.		
15.8	Choose an item.	Use national green standards/guidelines for purchasing/investments such as cleaning products, furniture, flooring/coatings.		

Best Practice 16: Community Forests and Soil

BP 16 Completed? **YES** Total actions completed: **2**

Actions to Complete BP 16: ~~Any one action~~

Best Practice Action:	Completed: <i>(Star Level out of three stars)</i>	Action Description: <i>(View on GreenStep Website for full description)</i>	Action Summary: <i>(Provided by GreenStep Staff)</i>	Date of Last Entry:
16.1	★	Certify as a Tree City USA.	First certified as a Tree City in 1989.	12/20/2012
16.2	Choose an item.	Adopt best practices for urban tree planting/quality; require them in private developments and/or use them in at least one development project.		
16.3	Choose an item.	Budget for and achieve resilient urban canopy/tree planting goals.		
16.4	Choose an item.	Maximize tree planting along your main downtown street or throughout the city.		
16.5	Choose an item.	Adopt a tree preservation or native landscaping ordinance.		
16.6	★★	Build community capacity to protect existing trees by one or more of: a. Having trained tree specialists. b. Supporting volunteer forestry efforts.	Two certified tree inspectors; one staff is also a member of the International Society of Arboriculture	1/3/2013

		c. Adopting an EAB/forest management plan or climate adaptation plan for the urban forest.		
16.7	Choose an item.	Conduct a tree inventory or canopy study for public and private trees.		
<p>Best Practice 17: Stormwater Management</p> <p>BP 17 Completed? YES Total actions completed: 3</p> <p>Actions to Complete BP 17: Any one action</p>				
Best Practice Action:	Completed: <i>(Star Level out of three stars)</i>	Action Description: <i>(View on GreenStep Website for full description)</i>	Action Summary: <i>(Provided by GreenStep Staff)</i>	Date of Last Entry:
17.1	Choose an item.	Adopt and use Minnesota's Minimal Impact Design Standards (MIDS).		
17.2	★★★	Complete the GreenStep Municipal Stormwater Management Assessment.	Recognized on the Leader Board of the Blue Star Award program.	6/21/2012
17.3	★★	Adopt by ordinance one or more stormwater infiltration/management strategies to reduce impervious surface.	Stormwater Utility Ordinance combines 1.5-inch rainfall on-site rainwater infiltration design requirement for construction sites and a stormwater runoff volume limit to pre-development volumes for the 5-year, 24-hour rainfall maximum event.	6/21/2012
17.4	★★	Create a stormwater utility that uses variable fees to incentivize and educate property owners.	Stormwater utility fees are variable on residential, multi-family, institutional, commercial and industrial parcels; fees are variable on all parcels with the exception of residential.	6/21/2012
17.5	Choose an item.	Adopt and implement guidelines or design standards/incentives for stormwater infiltration/reuse practices.		
17.6	Choose an item.	Reduce de-icing and dust suppressant salt use to prevent permanent surface water and groundwater pollution.		

Best Practice 18: Parks and Trails

BP 18 Completed? **YES** Total actions completed: **3**

Actions to Complete BP 18: ~~Any two actions~~

Best Practice Action:	Completed: <i>(Star Level out of three stars)</i>	Action Description: <i>(View on GreenStep Website for full description)</i>	Action Summary: <i>(Provided by GreenStep Staff)</i>	Date of Last Entry:
18.1	★★★	Make improvements within your city's system of parks, offroad trails and open spaces.	Southwest Elementary School improvements and connection to Grussendorf Park; 4 mile connection of Horseshow Lake/Isleview; North Pokegama Ave and 1 st Ave NE sidewalks connected with Crystal Lake Park; SW, SE, and NE quadrants of the city were connected with paths, including over major highways, the Mississippi River, and the BNSF railroad; Mesabi Trail begins in Grand Rapids, continues for over 150 miles, and connects 25 communities.	12/26/2012
18.2	Choose an item.	Plan and budget for a network of parks, green spaces, water features and trails for areas where new development is planned.		
18.3	★★★	Achieve minimum levels of city green space and maximize the percent within a ten-minute walk of community members.	22.6 acres per 1000 residents based on parks alone; all city residents are within one half mile of park, river or lake.	1/3/2013
18.4	Choose an item.	Adopt low-impact design standards in parks and trails that infiltrate or retain all 2 inch, 24-hour stormwater events on site.		
18.5	Choose an item.	Create park/city land management standards/practices that maximize at least one of the following: a. Low maintenance turf management; native landscaping; organic or integrated pest management; pollinator/monarch-safe policies.		

		b. Recycling/compostables collection; use of compost as a soil amendment. c. Sources of nonpotable water, or surface/rain water, for irrigation.		
18.6	Choose an item.	Certify at least one golf course in the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program.		
18.7	Choose an item.	Document that the operation and maintenance, or construction / remodeling, of at least one park building used an asset management tool, the SB 2030 energy standard, or a green building framework.		
18.8	★	Develop a program to involve community members in hands-on land restoration, invasive species management and stewardship projects.	Mississippi River Front Committee established in 2010; responsible for the clean-up of trash along the banks of the Mississippi in Grand Rapids.	12/13/2012

Best Practice 19: Surface Water
 BP 19 Completed? **NO** Total actions completed: **0**
Actions to Complete BP 19: If the city has a State public water, 19.4 and any one additional action.
 If the city does not have a State public water, any one action.

Best Practice Action:	Completed: <i>(Star Level out of three stars)</i>	Action Description: <i>(View on GreenStep Website for full description)</i>	Action Summary: <i>(Provided by GreenStep Staff)</i>	Date of Last Entry:
19.1	Choose an item.	Consistently monitor surface water quality/clarity and report findings to community members.		
19.2	Choose an item.	Conduct/support multi-party community conversations, assessments, plans, and actions to improve local water quality/quantity.		
19.3	Choose an item.	Adopt and publicly report on measurable surface water improvement targets for lake, river, wetland and ditches.		
19.4	Choose an item.	Adopt a shoreland ordinance for all river and lake shoreland areas.		
19.5	Choose an item.	Adopt goals to revegetate shoreland and create a local program or		

		outreach effort to help property owners with revegetation.		
19.6	Choose an item.	Implement an existing TMDL implementation plan.		
19.7	Choose an item.	Create/assist a Lake Improvement District.		
19.8	Choose an item.	Reduce flooding damage and costs through the National Flood Insurance Programs and the NFIP's Community Rating System.		

Best Practice 20: Efficient Water and Wastewater Systems

BP 20 Completed? **NO** Total actions completed: **0**

Actions to Complete BP 20: 20.1, 20.2, and any one additional action

Best Practice Action:	Completed: <i>(Star Level out of three stars)</i>	Action Description: <i>(View on GreenStep Website for full description)</i>	Action Summary: <i>(Provided by GreenStep Staff)</i>	Date of Last Entry:
20.1	Choose an item.	Compare the energy use and financial performance of your facilities with other peer facilities.		
20.2	Choose an item.	Plan and budget for motor maintenance and upgrades.		
20.3	Choose an item.	Establish an on-going budget and program for decreasing inflow and infiltration into sewer lines and losses in drinking water systems.		
20.4	Choose an item.	Optimize energy and chemical use at drinking water/wastewater facilities and decrease chloride in wastewater discharges.		
20.6	Choose an item.	Implement a wastewater plant efficiency project or a program for local private business operations.		
20.7	Choose an item.	Create a demand-side pricing program.		

Best Practice 21: Septic Systems

BP 21 Completed? **NO** Total actions completed: **0**

Actions to Complete BP 21: Any one action

Best Practice Action:	Completed: <i>(Star Level out of three stars)</i>	Action Description: <i>(View on GreenStep Website for full description)</i>	Action Summary: <i>(Provided by GreenStep Staff)</i>	Date of Last Entry:
21.1	Choose an item.	Report to landowners suspected noncompliant or failing septic systems as part of an educational, informational and financial assistance and outreach program.		
21.2	Choose an item.	Use a community process to address failing septic systems.		
21.3	Choose an item.	Clarify/establish one or more responsible management entities for the proper design, siting, installation, operation, monitoring and maintenance of septic systems.		
21.4	Choose an item.	Adopt a subsurface sewage treatment system ordinance.		
21.5	Choose an item.	Create a program to finance septic system upgrades.		
21.6	Choose an item.	Work with homeowners/ businesses in environmentally sensitive areas to promote innovative waste water systems.		
21.7	Choose an item.	Arrange for assistance to commercial, retail and industrial businesses with water use reduction, pollution prevention and pretreatment prior to discharge to septic.		

Best Practice 22: Sustainable Consumption and Waste

BP 22 Completed? **YES** Total actions completed: **2**

Actions to Complete BP 22: Any one action from 22.1-22.3 and any one action from 22.4-22.8

Best Practice Action:	Completed: <i>(Star Level out of three stars)</i>	Action Description: <i>(View on GreenStep Website for full description)</i>	Action Summary: <i>(Provided by GreenStep Staff)</i>	Date of Last Entry:
22.1	★	Improve city operations/ procurement to prevent/reuse/recycle/compost waste from all public facilities, and minimize use of toxics and generation of hazardous waste.	Paperless agenda packets for the City Council and Planning Commission.	1/3/2013
22.2	Choose an item.	Address concerns over consumer products and packaging through education, reuse options, recycling/composting options, credits, fees, mandates or bans.		
22.3	Choose an item.	Improve profitability, legal compliance and conserve resources through adoption of ordinance language, licensing and resource management contracts.		
22.4	Choose an item.	Publicize, promote and use the varied businesses/services collecting and marketing used, repaired and rental consumer goods, especially electronics, in the city/county.		
22.5	Choose an item.	Arrange for a residential and/or business/institutional source-separated organics collection/ management program.		
22.6	Choose an item.	Improve recycling services/expand to multi-unit housing and commercial businesses.		
22.7	★	Improve/organize residential trash/ recycling/organics collection by private/public operations and offer significant volume-based pricing on residential garbage and/or incentives for recycling.	2012 contract signed for garbage/recycling; recycling volumes have increased typically 35%-40%; trash volume has decreased between 18% to 23%	12/20/2012

22.8	Choose an item.	Adopt a construction and demolition ordinance governing demolition permits that requires a level of recycling and reuse for building materials and soil/land-clearing debris.		
<p>Best Practice 23: Local Air Quality</p> <p>BP 23 Completed? NO Total actions completed: 0</p> <p>Actions to Complete BP 23: Any one action</p>				
Best Practice Action:	Completed: <i>(Star Level out of three stars)</i>	Action Description: <i>(View on GreenStep Website for full description)</i>	Action Summary: <i>(Provided by GreenStep Staff)</i>	Date of Last Entry:
23.1	Choose an item.	Replace small internal combustion engine lawn/garden equipment with lower polluting equipment.		
23.2	Choose an item.	Reduce residential burning of wood and yard waste and eliminate 'backyard' trash burning.		
23.3	Choose an item.	Decrease air emissions from vehicle idling, business trucking, and pollutants/noise from stationary engines/back-up generators.		
23.5	Choose an item.	Install, assist with and promote publicly available EV charging stations or public fueling stations for alternative fuel vehicles.		

Economic and Community Development

[BP 24: Benchmarks and Community Engagement](#)

[BP 25: Green Business Development](#)

[BP 26: Renewable Energy](#)

[BP 27: Local Food](#)

[BP 28: Business Synergies and Ecodistricts](#)

[BP 29: Climate Adaptation and Community Resilience](#)

Best Practice 24: Benchmarks and Community Engagement

BP 24 Completed? **NO** Total actions completed: **0**

Actions to Complete BP 24: 24.1 and any one additional action

Best Practice Action:	Completed: <i>(Star Level out of three stars)</i>	Action Description: <i>(View on GreenStep Website for full description)</i>	Action Summary: <i>(Provided by GreenStep Staff)</i>	Date of Last Entry:
24.1	Choose an item.	Use a city commission/committee to lead, coordinate, report and engage community members on sustainability best practices.		
24.2	Choose an item.	Organize goals/outcome measures from all city plans and report to community members data that show progress toward meeting these goals.		
24.3	Choose an item.	Engage community members/partners in identifying, measuring, and reporting progress on key sustainability and social indicators.		
24.4	Choose an item.	Conduct/support a broad sustainability education/action campaign.		
24.5	Choose an item.	Conduct a community visioning/planning initiative that engages a diverse set of community members & stakeholders and uses a sustainability, resilience, or environmental justice framework.		
24.6	Choose an item.	Engage wide representation of community youth/students by		

		creating opportunities to participate in city government.		
24.7	Choose an item.	Engage Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC), renters, low-income, new Americans, differently abled and other traditionally under-represented community members.		

Best Practice 25: Green Business Development

BP 25 Completed? **NO** Total actions completed: **1**

Actions to Complete BP 25: Any ~~two~~ one actions

Best Practice Action:	Completed: <i>(Star Level out of three stars)</i>	Action Description: <i>(View on GreenStep Website for full description)</i>	Action Summary: <i>(Provided by GreenStep Staff)</i>	Date of Last Entry:
25.1	Choose an item.	Grow new/emerging green businesses and green jobs through targeted assistance and new workforce development.		
25.2	★★	Create/participate in a marketing/ outreach program to connect businesses with assistance providers.	Participates in regional Advanced Business Energy Retrofit Program	10/2/2022
25.3	Choose an item.	Promote sustainable tourism.		
25.4	Choose an item.	Strengthen value-added businesses utilizing local "waste" material.		
25.5	Choose an item.	Lower the environmental and health risk footprint of a brownfield remediation/redevelopment project; report brightfield projects.		
25.6	Choose an item.	Promote green businesses that are recognized under a local, regional or national program.		
25.7	Choose an item.	Conduct/ participate in a buy local campaign for community members and local businesses.		

Best Practice 26: Renewable Energy

BP 26 Completed? **NO** Total actions completed: **1**

Actions to Complete BP 26: Any ~~two~~ one actions

Best Practice Action:	Completed: <i>(Star Level out of three stars)</i>	Action Description: <i>(View on GreenStep Website for full description)</i>	Action Summary: <i>(Provided by GreenStep Staff)</i>	Date of Last Entry:
26.1	Choose an item.	Adopt wind/biomass ordinances that allow, enable, or encourage appropriate renewable energy installations.		
26.2	Choose an item.	Promote resident/business purchases and/or generation of clean energy.		
26.3	Choose an item.	Promote financing and incentive programs for clean energy.		
26.4	Choose an item.	Support a community solar garden or help community members participate in a community solar project.		
26.5	Choose an item.	Install a public sector/municipally-owned renewable energy technology.		
26.6	★★★	Report installed private sector-owned renewable energy/energy efficient generation capacity.	2021 GRPU and MN Power 2 MW solar+ 1MW/2.5 hour energy storage battery.	8/19/2022
26.7	Choose an item.	Become a solar-ready community, including adopting ordinance/zoning language and an expedited permit process for residents and businesses to install solar energy systems.		

Best Practice 27: Local Food

BP 27 Completed? **NO** Total actions completed: **0**

Actions to Complete BP 27: Any one action

Best Practice Action:	Completed: <i>(Star Level out of three stars)</i>	Action Description: <i>(View on GreenStep Website for full description)</i>	Action Summary: <i>(Provided by GreenStep Staff)</i>	Date of Last Entry:
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27.1	Choose an item.	Incorporate working landscapes - agriculture and forestry - into the city by adopting an ordinance.		
27.2	Choose an item.	Facilitate creation of home/ community gardens, chicken & bee keeping, and incorporation of food growing areas/access in multifamily and residential developments.		
27.3	Choose an item.	Create, assist with and promote local food production/distribution within the city.		
27.4	Choose an item.	Measurably increase institutional buying, and sales through groceries and restaurants.		

Best Practice 28: Business Synergies and Ecodistricts

BP 28 Completed? **YES** Total actions completed: **1**

Actions to Complete BP 28: ~~Any one action~~

Best Practice Action:	Completed: <i>(Star Level out of three stars)</i>	Action Description: <i>(View on GreenStep Website for full description)</i>	Action Summary: <i>(Provided by GreenStep Staff)</i>	Date of Last Entry:
28.2	★★	Document that at least one business/ building uses waste heat or water discharge from another business or conducts materials exchange activities with another organization.	2012 city began using waste hot water from paper production at the Blandin Paper Mill to heat the Grand Rapids Public Library; reduced natural gas consumption by nearly 70%	1/3/2013
28.3	Choose an item.	Require, build or facilitate at least four sustainability attributes in a business/industrial park project.		
28.4	Choose an item.	Use 21st century ecodistrict tools to structure, guide and link multiple green and sustainable projects together in a mixed-use neighborhood/development, or innovation district.		

Best Practice 29: Climate Adaptation and Community Resilience

BP 29 Completed? **NO** Total actions completed: **0**

Actions to Complete BP 29: 29.1 at 2- or 3-star level

Best Practice Action:	Completed: <i>(Star Level out of three stars)</i>	Action Description: <i>(View on GreenStep Website for full description)</i>	Action Summary: <i>(Provided by GreenStep Staff)</i>	Date of Last Entry:
29.1	Choose an item.	Prepare to maintain public health and safety during extreme weather and climate-change-related events, while also taking a preventive approach to reduce risk for community members.		
29.2	Choose an item.	Integrate climate resilience into city or tribal planning, policy, operations, and budgeting processes.		
29.3	Choose an item.	Increase social connectedness through engagement, capacity building, public investment, and opportunities for economically vulnerable residents.		
29.4	Choose an item.	Encourage private sector action and incentivize investment in preventive approaches that reduce risk and minimize impacts.		
29.5	Choose an item.	Protect public buildings and natural/constructed infrastructure to reduce physical damage and sustain their function during extreme weather events.		
29.6	Choose an item.	Reduce the urban heat impacts of public buildings/sites/infrastructure.		
29.7	Choose an item.	Protect water supply and wastewater treatment facilities to reduce physical damage and sustain their function during extreme weather events.		
29.8	Choose an item.	Improve local energy resilience.		