Commissioners:

Jarrod Cicha
Mike Collins
Bryant Ficek
Ed Hodder
Michael Joyce
Allison Luongo
Nancy Misra
Youth
Commissioner:
Open



Public Works, Environment & Transportation Agenda
Tuesday, January 24, 2023
City Council Chambers
6:30 p.m.

Address:

2660 Civic Center Dr. Roseville, MN 55113

Phone:

651 - 792 - 7004

Website:

www.cityofroseville.com

- 1. 6:30 P.M. Introduction/ Roll Call
- 2. 6:35 P.M. Public Comments
- 3. 6:40 P.M. Approval Of Previous Meeting Minutes

Documents:

APPROVE NOVEMBER MINUTES.PDF

4. 6:50 P.M. Communication Items

Documents:

COMMUNICATION ITEMS.PDF

5. 7:00 P.M. Green Team Update

Documents:

GREEN TEAM UPDATE.PDF

6. 7:05 P.M. 2023 Sustainability Update

Documents:

2023 SUSTAINABILITY UPDATE.PDF

7. 8:25 P.M. Items For Next Meeting

Documents:

FEBRUARY AGENDA.PDF

8. 8:30 P.M. Adjourn

Roseville Public Works, Environment and Transportation Commission

Agenda Item

Date: January 24, 2	2023 Item No: 3
Item Description:	Approval of the November 22, 2022 Public Works Commission Minutes
	inutes from the November 22, 2022 meeting.
Recommended Ac Motion approving revision.	the minutes of November 22, 2022, subject to any necessary corrections or
Move:	
Second:	
Ayes:	
Nays:	

Roseville Public Works, Environment and Transportation Commission Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, November 22, 2022, at 6:30 p.m. City Council Chambers, 2660 Civic Center Drive Roseville, Minnesota 55113

1	1.	. Introduction / Roll Call				
2		Chair Ficek called the meeting to order at approximately 6:30 p.m. and a				
3		request, Public	c Works Director Jesse Freihammer called the roll.			
4		D	Chair Down A Finds and Manham Lang I Chair Edwin III 11 and			
5 6		Present:	Chair Bryant Ficek; and Members Jarrod Cicha, Edwin Hodder and			
7			Allison Luongo			
8		Absent:	Member Nancy Misra, Michael Joyce, Mike Collins (Excused)			
9		Absciit.	Wichioer Ivaney Wiisra, Wiienaer Joyce, Wirke Collins (Excused)			
10		Staff Present	Public Works Director Jesse Freihammer			
11		Stail Tresent	. Tubile Works Birector sesse Fremaninier			
12	2.	Public Comm	nents			
13		None.				
14						
15	3.	Approval of	October 25, 2022 Meeting Minutes			
16			nd corrections to draft minutes had been submitted by PWETC			
17		commissioner	s prior to tonight's meeting and those revisions incorporated into the			
18		draft presente	d in meeting materials.			
19						
20		Motion				
21			lder moved, Member Cicha seconded, approval of the October			
22		25, 2022 meet	ting minutes as presented.			
23						
24		Ayes: 4				
25		Nays: 0				
26		Motion carrie	ed.			
27	,					
28	4.	Appoint Men	nber to Ethics Commission			

Public Works Director Jesse Freihammer explained the Commission needs to select

one member to serve as a member of the Ethics Commission, per City Code.

Annual meeting is held in December with meetings conducted on an as needed

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basis.

Member Cicha nominated himself for this position.

Motion

Member Ficek moved, Member Luongo seconded, appointing Commissioner Cicha to the Ethics Commission.

Ayes: 4 Nays: 0

Motion carried.

5. Communication Items

Public Works Director Jesse Freihammer provided a brief review and update on projects and maintenance activities listed in the staff report dated November 22, 2022.

Mr. Freihammer announced he is now the Public Works Director for the City, and the City will start interviewing for his previous position, hopefully before the holidays and he anticipated a new staff member for the Assistant Public Works Director/City Engineer position to start work in January.

Chair Ficek thought Roseville was still in the lead for the Home Energy Squad.

Mr. Freihammer indicated that was correct.

6. Public Works 2023 Work Plan

 Public Works Director Jesse Freihammer explained that each year Public Works staff monitor and evaluate the condition of City infrastructure for development of ongoing maintenance and replacement needs plans. He presented the 2023 Work Plan to the Commission and asked for comments.

Member Hodder asked how the City's pavement management reserves look like as far as the budget over the next few years.

Mr. Freihammer indicated short term it is doing okay. Long term, it will still need to be a discussion item, but the City Council does keep putting little chunks of money into it and the department has been consistent on what is being spent. He noted the City is good for the next ten years, longer term than that, certainly depending on which way inflation goes with costs like that the reserves may need to be re-evaluated.

Chair Ficek inquired, for the Hamline/36 replacement he assumed this is trying to be done before work starts on Fairview so that, if traffic diverts, it can go through and he wondered if this will be turned into an all-way stop for the school when lots of people are going through there.

 Mr. Freihammer explained that project was supposed to happen this fall; both are MnDOT projects and there is a chance for delay, but he did know MnDOT wanted to start that early and he knew it would be before school. The County was confident that the all-way stop may work pretty solid and were not concerned about it being delayed for vehicles. A temporary signal was not justified for that.

Chair Ficek indicated Mr. Freihammer mentioned about doing services for Falcon Heights as well and might get up to one thousand hours or half a full-time staff person and he wondered what the City's agreement is with Falcon Heights and how that works.

Mr. Freihammer reviewed the Falcon Heights agreement and services being performed for them.

Chair Ficek indicated there are a lot of funding opportunities out there and he wondered if the City is applying for any of them.

Mr. Freihammer explained a lot of the big stuff, Roseville, as an individual project is a little more difficult to fund for. Staff is looking for opportunities where available and the City has been working with the County on some of the different funding options. He noted the City just got funding from Ramsey County and will be doing a study of critical corridors.

7. City Roadway Speed Limits

Public Works Director Jesse Freihammer explained at the September PWETC meeting, staff presented information about speed limits. The Commission asked staff for more information and staff has gathered that information. A 50th percentile speed map is available, in addition to the 85th percentile speed. The police department has also contributed detailed stats about traffic stops since 2017.

Mr. Freihammer presented the new information and asked for Commission feedback.

Member Hodder explained when looking at the 50th percentile for speeds on Roseville roadways, what is the current speed limit and would the 50th percentile represent.

Mr. Freihammer explained the 50th percentile is the median speed. Half the cars are going faster than the speed limit and half the cars are going less than the speed limit. He showed a slide of the speed limits in the City. If a change was considered, it would obviously be less than the current speed limit.

Chair Ficek asked for the cities Roseville borders that have changed the speed limit, are there signs going into it or is it individually posted.

Mr. Freihammer explained what Falcon Heights did was to post every street. St. Anthony posted a sign when going into the city at the major entry roads stating the city-wide speed limit on local roads. He believed New Brighton is doing the same thing as St. Anthony. He reviewed some of the other cities that have changed the speed limit on local roads. He noted if Roseville does decide to move forward the City probably would keep signage where it currently is and not add any more signs.

Member Cicha indicated he viewed a speed limit change as more of a long-term policy and thoughtfulness from the community. He explained as seen from data, people do not instantly change their driving style or speed, even with a speed limit posted and he did not know if there was any way to change that, but he did think there are benefits in the long term once younger people start driving. He thought Roseville could get feedback from cities that have had the speed limit change for a year or more, but he was not sure it would show a lot of change,

Chair Ficek agreed with Member Cicha. He asked the Commission what options the City could take moving forward. He reviewed the options staff has given with the Commission.

Mr. Freihammer indicated if the City did a citywide speed limit change it is a pretty simple process, if that becomes the recommendation. If the City does something that is by type, then he would recommend doing a study to document that and a little more work involved.

Chair Ficek thought the speed limit map was a good starting point.

Mr. Freihammer agreed and noted that is what some of the other cities started with.

Chair Ficek thought the PWETC could have an open house, if needed.

Mr. Freihammer indicated if the City had something to present there could be a meeting to present what is proposed for resident input.

The Commission discussed what should be included in the information to residents to respond to including costs, speed study, chart showing risk of death or serious injury, and the police enforcement report summarization.

Member Luongo thought this is a lot of information and people are not going to read it if there is too much so she would like for the information to be organized and condensed if possible.

8. Winter Plowing Update

Public Works Director Freihammer gave a presentation about winter maintenance done by the City of Roseville, including plowing of streets and pathways.

Page 4 of 5

169 Chair Ficek asked after a snowstorm if the City goes out the next day to check on 170 the pathways. 171 172 Mr. Freihammer indicated the City does go out the next day the majority of the time to clean up because some of the paths are next to County roads and get plowed 173 174 over. The focus is on the County roads. One thing the City does not do a lot of is 175 sanding or salting on the pathways, it is just plowing, and sweeping being done. 176 The roads do get light salting. 177 178 Member Hodder thought the City did a tremendous job compared to other cities he 179 has been in. 180 181 9. Items for Next Meeting Discussion ensued regarding the January 2023 PWETC agenda: 182 Sustainability Super Meeting – Volume 3 183 184 185 Mr. Freihammer noted there will not be a PWETC meeting in December. 186 187 Member Hodder updated the Commission on City Visioning meeting he attended. 188 189 10. Adjourn 190 191 Motion 192 Member Cicha moved, Member Luongo seconded, adjournment of the 193 meeting at approximately 8:32 p.m. 194 195 Ayes: 4 Navs: 0 196 Motion carried. 197

Roseville Public Works, Environment and Transportation Commission

Agenda Item

Item Description: Communication Items

Background:

At each commission meeting, City staff provides updates on City activities and projects ongoing within the city that pertain to public works activities.

Recommended Action:

Receive report and provide feedback.

Attachments

A: Communications Memo

B: 2023 Roseville Project Map

C: January Development Activity Report

D: Sustainable Roseville January/February Update



Memo

To: Public Works Environmental and Transportation Commission Members

From: Jesse Freihammer, Public Works Director

Date: January 19, 2023

Re: Communications Items

The following are updates to projects and other activities happening in Roseville since the last commission meeting.

Public Works Project updates:

- 2022 Sewer Lining
 - The contract was awarded to Hydro-Klean on December 6, 2021. The project consists of lining 5.6 miles of pipe within the city. Work has begun with about 95% of the work completed within Roseville. Work is anticipated to be completed next week.
- Villa Storm Water Improvements
 - o The project was awarded to Kevitt Companies.
 - Work consists of dredging the upper basin in Villa Park and replacing the inlet and the outlet to the basin.
 - Work is anticipated to be completed by the end of March with final restoration in the spring.

Ramsey County Updates:

- Ramsey County Mill and Overlays & ADA Upgrades
 - Work in Roseville is on three County Roads:
 - Rice Street, County Road B2 to I-694
 - County Road B, Dale Street to Rice Street
 - Lexington Avenue, TH 36 County Road C2
 - o Permanent pavement markings will be installed in the spring.
- Ramsey County Dale Street Safety Improvements
 - County held an open house on January 10 to discuss converting Dale Street to a three-lane section from Como Avenue to TH 36 in 2024.

Miscellaneous Updates:

- Xcel Gas Project
 - All major work is completed. Some minor restoration remains, but will have no impacts to the public.

- Xcel Pole Project
 - Xcel Energy will replace or paint large transmission poles this summer between Lake Bennett and Rice Street. Most poles run along the north side of South Owasso Boulevard.

Council Update:

- Below is a highlight of items recently presented to and/or acted on by the City Council. More information can be found in the agenda packets and minutes for the referenced Council meetings:
 - o November 28:
 - Denied Minor Plat for Wheaton Woods 2nd Addition
 - Approved Condition Use permit for greater density for proposed apartment at County Road B & Albert Street
 - Awarded City Attorney Contracts
 - New Civil Attorney, Kennedy & Graven
 - o December 5:
 - Adopted 2023 City Budget
 - Adopted 2023 Fee Schedule
 - Adopted 2023 Utility Rates
 - o January 9:
 - Swore in mayor and council members
 - Received League of Women Voters report on City ADA compliance
 - Approved "Less Mow May Resolution"
 - Adopted resolution supporting creation of local sales tax in Roseville.
 - Approved 2023 Public Works Plan

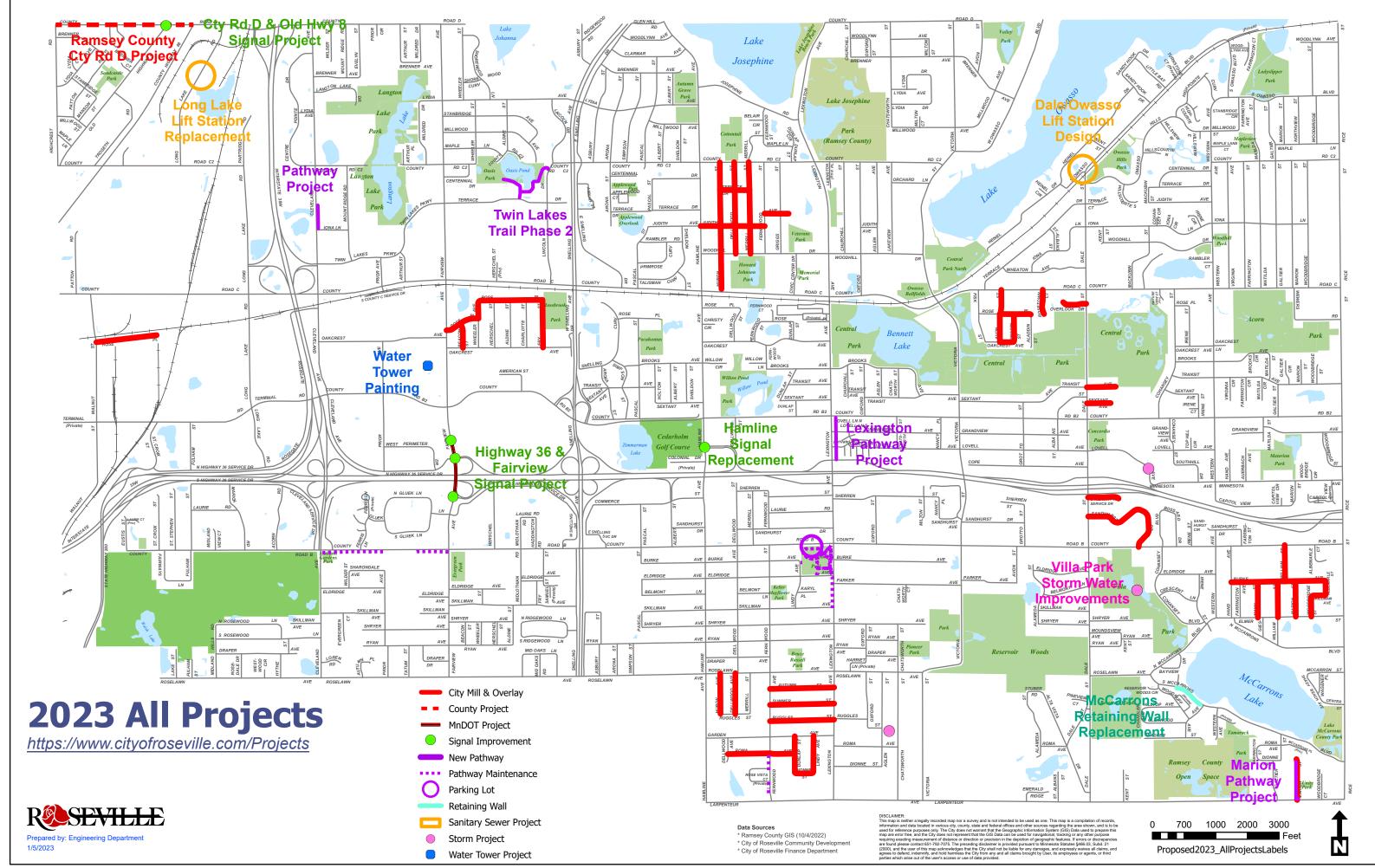
Sustainability Update

- Roseville continues to lead 26 cities participating in the Intercity Home Energy Squad
 Challenge in HES visits per capita as of December 22 mncee.org/2022-intercity-challenge-home-energy-squad
- Roseville has graduated from Xcel Energy's Partners in Energy Program as of December 31, 2022. Staff will continue implementing the Energy Action Plan as a City program. Xcel & the Center for Energy & Environment are still available to the City for guidance and other resources.
- Staff is working on gathering information about the Inflation Reduction Act to provide guidance and support for residents looking to take advantage of the new incentives.
- Staff received 17 applications for Roseville's 1st Annual Sustainable Steward Awardcityofroseville.com/1824/Sustainable-Steward-Award. The applications came from a mix of residential and commercial properties. Three winners were selected for the Gold, Silver & Bronze award for 2022, and were highlighted at the January 23, 2023 EDA meeting.
- The January Commission meeting is the 4th Annual Sustainability Super Meeting. Staff will discuss what was accomplished in 2022, and what is on the work plan for

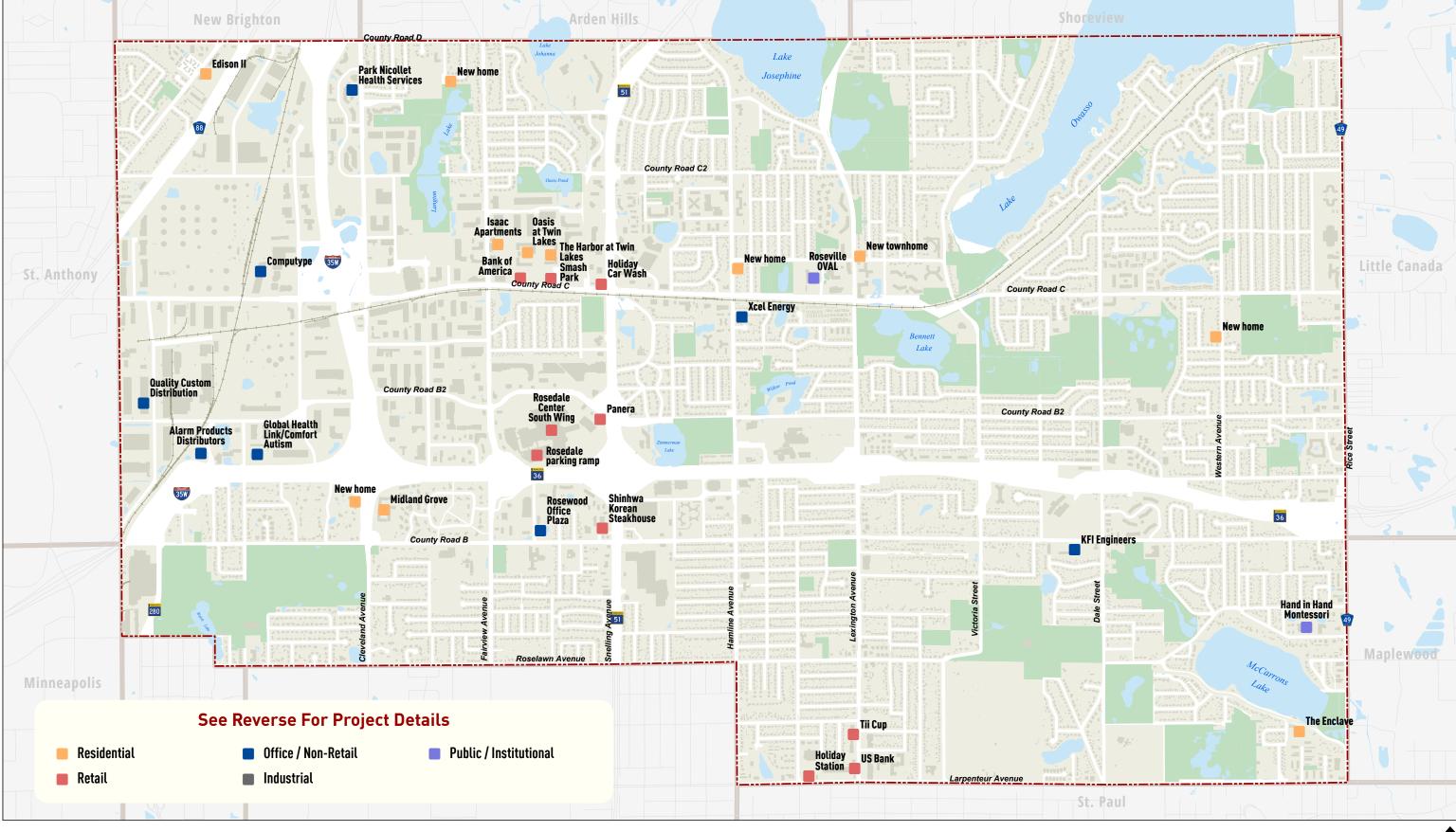
2023. Bring any questions and comments on what has been done or what can be done to move Roseville's Sustainability Program forward to the meeting.

Major Maintenance Activities:

- Street and Storm
 - o 46 inches of snowfall from 11/29/22 thru 1/17/23.
 - 18 plow call outs.
 - O Total season to date snow of 51.5".
 - Ongoing benching, snow plowing and hauling.
 - Ongoing sign work.
 - 23 water breaks, valves, hydrant repairs. Street patching completed. Ongoing monitoring of patch conditions until permanent patch can be installed in spring.
- Water and Sanitary Sewer
 - o Located City-owned facilities for Gopher State One Call locate requests.
 - Made weekly site visits to all lift stations.
 - o Continued repairing water meters and MIUs.
 - o Twenty-two (22) repairs on our water main system. Five done by contractor and the rest done by City staff.
 - o Collected water samples for bacteriological and disinfection byproducts.
 - Continued laundering towels weekly used by office personnel for cleaning work areas.
 - One utility crew member resigned so job is posted.
 - Emergency lighting exit signs have been installed in Public Works Maintenance office.
 - o Compartment heater for City Hall generator failed and has been replaced.
 - o City Hall generator load tested and inspected.
 - Contractor completed cleaning the Public Works Maintenance garage floor drains.
 - o Annual fire extinguisher inspection completed for all buildings.
 - o Crane inspections completed.
 - o Ramsey County Hazardous Waste report submitted.
 - o MCES 2022 Waste Hauler report submitted.
 - o Tier 1 freeze letter, mailed this week.

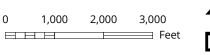


Attachment C





Development Projects: January 2023



Ramsey County GIS (1/4/2023) Community Development Department

ROSEVILLE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT Updated: Jan 10, 2023

	Project Name	Address	Project Description	Applicant/Owner Information	Starting
	Oasis at Twin Lakes (Package 2)	2745 Herschel St	Family affordable apartments (Building 1 – 132 Units)	Eagle Building Company	Summer 2020
	Isaac Apartments	2740 Fairview Ave	127 unit market-rate apartments	Watson Forsberg Company	Spring 2020
	The Harbor at Twin Lakes	2730 Herschel St	277 unit senior affordable apartments	Eagle Building Company	Summer 2021
	The Enclave	201-261 McCarrons Pl	20 detached townhomes	Ovation Homes	Summer 2021
	Edison II	3090 Old Highway 8	60 unit affordable apartments	Sand Companies	Spring 2022
RESIDENTIAL	Residential New Construction	2690 Hamline Ave	New single family home	Lee Homes Inc	Summer 2022
	New Townhomes	1095 Woodhill Dr	4 Unit Townhome	RMX Construction LLC	Summer 2022
	Midland Grove Condos	2210 Midland Grove Rd	Exterior Unit Remodels	Langerman Exteriors Inc	Fall 2022
	Residential New Construction	2239 Cleveland Ave	New single family home	Bald Eagle Builders Inc	Fall 2022
	Residential New Construction	2555 Western Ave	New single family home	Price Custom Homes	Fall 2022
	Residential New Construction	1882 Brenner Ave	New single family home	O'meara Custom building Inc	Fall 2022
	US Bank	1717 Lexington Ave	Demo/Rebuild ATM	Financial Institution Services	Spring 2021
	Mall Parking Structure	1595 Highway 36	Partial Demo	VCC LCC	Spring 2022
	Panera	1620 County Road B2	New Restaurant	VCC LCC	Spring 2022
	Holiday Car Wash	1583 County Road C	Addition	L & D Maintenance Co	Spring 2022
	Mall Retaining Wall	1595 Highway 36	Retaining Wall	Hardscape Construction	Spring 2022
RETAIL	Holiday Stationstores	1215 Larpenteur Ave	New Construction	Gardner Builders	Summer 2022
	Shinhwa Korean Steakhouse	2181 Snelling Ave	Interior Remodel	Chans Consulting	Summer 2022
	Rosedale Center South Wing	1595 Highway 36	Demo of South Wing Entry	VCC LLC	Fall 2022
	Smash Park	1721 County Road C	Footing/Foundation New Building	Rochon Corp	Fall 2022
	Bank of America	1761 County Road C	New Construction	Leopardo Companies Inc	Fall 2022
	Tii Cup	1771 Lexington Ave	Interior Remodel	Monaghan Construction	Fall 2022
	Park Nicollet Health Services	3050 Centre Pointe Dr #200	Interior Remodel	RJM Construction	Winter 2022
	Roseville OVAL	2661 Civic Center Dr	Interior Remodel	Sheehy Construction	Spring 2022
	Hand in Hand Montessori	211 North McCarrons Blvd	Interior Build-Out	Vanguard Builders Inc	Summer 2022
	Computype	2285 County Road C	Interior Demo	Prime General Contractors	Summer 2022
	Xcel Energy	1330 Rose Pl	New Regulator Station	Market & Johnson	Summer 2022
NON-RETAIL/OFFICE	Global Health Link	2277 Highway 36 #300	Interior Remodel	Vy Management LLC	Fall 2022
	Quality Custom Distribution	2501 Walnut St	Interior Improvements	Western Storage and Handling	Fall 2022
	Alarm Products Distributors	2341 Saint Croix St	Interior Remodel	APD Building LLC	Fall 2022
	KFI Engineers	670 County Road B	Interior Remodel	McGough Construction	Winter 2022
	Comfort Autism	2277 Highway 36 #101	Interior Remodel	Hunerberg Construction	Winter 2022
	Rosewood Office Plaza	1711 County Road B	Interior remodel	Reiling Construction	Winter 2022



SUSTAINABILITY

Sustainability Newsletter

Public Works & Engineering Division

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2023







Partners in Energy Graduation



Smart Salting Tips



Renewable Energy Subscriptions

Contact Us:

Engineering Division 2660 Civic Center Dr. Roseville, MN 55113 651-792-7004 Email Us Find us Online!

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Sustainability Tip

Partners in Energy Program Graduation

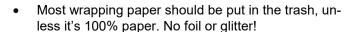
Smart Salting

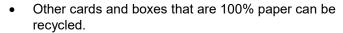
Good Climate News

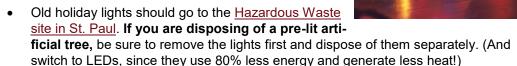
Upcoming Events

Sustainability Tip of the Month

Between gifts, lots of food, and excess decorations, the holidays can be a time full of fun—and extra waste. Here's how to deal with different types of holiday-related materials:







- E-waste (cell phones, computers, keyboards, televisions, etc.) can be recycled for FREE by Ramsey County residents at Repowered in St. Paul.
- Have other things to toss but don't know how? Check out <u>Ramsey County's A-Z</u>
 Disposal guide to learn how to properly get rid of all sorts of items!

Roseville graduates from Partners in Energy



In partnership with our Energy Action Team, the City of Roseville developed an Energy Action Plan that was adopted in June 2020 by City Council. From 2021-2022, city staff worked to implement that Energy Action Plan and meet our four goals: reduce energy burden, increase residential energy efficiency, increase small & medium business energy efficiency, and increase adoption of renewable energy citywide.

Roseville is proud to count itself among the many accomplished cities who are graduates of the Partners in Energy program! Special thanks to Xcel Energy and the Center for

Energy & Environment for their partnership throughout the past two years.

Smart Salting Practices



Winter has already put us through several sloppy storm systems this season. While salt is often necessary to keep our roadways and sidewalks safe, it also causes damage to local waterways and is dangerous to many plants and animals. Here are some tips for smart salting:

- 1. **Shovel** and scrape snow and ice from the pavement surface, as much as you can.
- 2. Use less salt a 12 ounce coffee cup full is enough for a 20 foot driveway
- 3. Check the temperature—salt will not work below 15 degrees F.
- 4. **Consider using sand or lava grit** as alternatives, which can help provide traction on icy surfaces when the temperature is below the threshold where salt won't work.
- 5. Sweep up extra salt and grit once conditions have dried.

Renewable Energy Subscriptions

Are you a fan of renewable energy? The easiest way to support renewable electricity sources is to sign up for Windsource® or Solar*Rewards® Community from Xcel Energy!

These subscription services allow you to source some or all of your home electricity usage from renewable sources for a small monthly fee.

Check out <u>current renewable options available</u> from Xcel Energy and sign up today.



Positive Climate News



<u>England will ban some single-use plastics.</u> Following their 2020 ban on plastic straws, cotton swabs, and drink stirrers, England will ban plastic cutlery, plates, trays and other polystyrene cups and food containers starting October 2023.

Hole in the ozone layer on track to heal. Despite some setbacks from Chinese CFC emissions, the ozone layer is on track to return to pre-1980 conditions by 2066.

<u>USDA approves first vaccine for honeybees.</u> Scientists have developed a vaccine that encourages a prophylactic response in bees to prevent foulbrood, one bacterial threat to hives. The vaccine is injected into royal jelly, which the queen ingests, acquiring immunity and passing it onto her offspring.

Upcoming Sustainability Events

Sustainability Super Meeting — Tuesday, January 24th, 6:30pm. Hear Ryan Johnson and Noelle Bakken give an overview of 2022 sustainability work at the Public Works, Environment, and Transportation Commission meeting. Meetings are held at City Hall, 2660 Civic Center Drive in Roseville, and **on Zoom.**

Drive Electric MN Member Social_— Thursday, January 26th, 4:30-6:30pm. Join other Electric Vehicle enthusiasts for a pint and appetizers provided by Drive Electric Minnesota at Minneapolis Cider Company! 701 SE 9th St Minneapolis, MN 55414. Register here.

New Life Presbyterian Sustainability Talk —Sunday, February 5th, 11:00am-12:00pm. New Life Presbyterian holds adult education sessions after their Sunday services. Noelle will be talking about Roseville's sustainability efforts, the new Roseville Sustainable Steward program, and the proposed Environmental Service Center coming to Roseville. New Life Presbyterian is located at 965 Larpenteur Avenue W., Roseville, MN 55113.

Thank you from your Roseville Sustainability Team!

Ryan Johnson

Environmental Manager 651-792-7049

Ryan.Johnson@cityofroseville.com

Noelle Bakken

Sustainability Intern 651-703-0301

Noelle.Bakken@cityofroseville.com











Roseville Public Works, Environment and Transportation Commission

Agenda Item

Item Description: Annual Green Team Update

Background:

On May 7, 2018, the City Council approved Resolution #11507 that named the Public Works Environment and Transportation Commission as the Green Step Cities Green Team.

Per the resolution, the Green Team shall:

- 1. Approve and make available to the community an annual sustainability update report containing goals and outcomes of community plans and sustainability initiatives.
- 2. Evaluate existing and proposed policies to identify any overlooked opportunities for pursuing sustainability and environmental stewardship, and make recommendations for amending these policies.
- 3. Undertake its best efforts to communicate with and engage residents, businesses, and institutions in the implementation of sustainable practices to help meet City goals.
- 4. Advise City staff members and officials on efforts to educate community members about the City vision and ongoing opportunities to participate in sustainability initiatives.
- 5. Collect feedback from the community and provide recommendations for utilizing this feedback to improve City practices and programs.
- 6. Provide recommendations for further research and programs to implement in the City to promote sustainability and protect the environment.

Recommended Action:

Receive presentation as part of the 2023 Sustainability Update, and provide feedback.

Attachments:

A. Green Team Guide

Minnesota GreenStep Cities & Tribal Nations



A Green Team's Guide to Best Practice 24:

Benchmarks & Community Engagement

Best Practice 24: Engage a broad spectrum of community members and stakeholders in identifying and adopting outcome measures for GreenStep and other city sustainability efforts, and continue community engagement through ongoing education, dialogue, and campaigns.

Action 1: Inclusive and Coordinated Decision Making

Action 2: Communicating Progress on Goals

Action 3: Measuring Outcomes

Action 4: Public Education for Action

Action 5: Planning with a Purpose

Action 6: Engaging the Next Generation

Action 7: Expanding Community Engagement

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Benchmarks and Community Engagement

for green teams



What's a Green Team Guide?

Great question! A Green Team Guide takes a deeper dive into best practices from the Minnesota GreenStep Program. It highlights communities that have implemented the best practice in a unique way and gives Green Teams some implementation ideas. The 2020 edition focused on <u>BP action 1.1 (B3 Benchmarking)</u> and <u>BP 6 (Comprehensive Plans)</u>. This 2021 Guide tackles <u>BP 24: Benchmarks and Community Engagement</u>.

Why Benchmarks and Community Engagement?

If we want sustainability to be sustainable, then BP 24 is the place to start. When you think BP 24, think PEOPLE!

"People" are one of the three Ps of sustainability: people, planet, and prosperity. (It's in a graphic, so you know it's true. It's also in the American Planning Association's report, <u>Assessing Sustainability: A Guide for Local Governments.</u>)

When people participate in decision-making, they bring information about on-the-ground conditions. That can mean the difference between success and failure of a policy or program. It can also lead to more holistic and innovative solutions to thorny and interwoven challenges.



Community members also bring to the table another important component of decision-making: their values. If those values are included, the resulting decisions enjoy greater legitimacy. Finding shared values can help bridge social divisions, and framing sustainability conversations around those shared values helps increase acceptance.

Making sure that community members can engage in a productive way requires that we bring thoughtfulness and intention to designing our processes. This is essential for all to benefit equitably from improvements to community quality of life. Using an equity lens can be helpful for this. (For more information on using an equity lens, see the publications by the <u>International City and County Managers Association</u> listed in the BP 24.1 Resources section.)

Designing for equity can make the outcomes for all residents better. Everyone is not affected equally by a community crisis, but improving the conditions of those most affected by structural inequity will make our communities better for all, an effect sometimes called the "curb-cut effect."

Sustainability is more sustainable when it reflects community.



In "The Curb-Cut Effect," Angela Glover Blackwell describes what happened when curb cuts--the ramps designed to make sidewalks more accessible to people in wheelchairs-became the norm in US cities: "a magnificent and unexpected thing happened. When the wall of exclusion came down, everybody benefited—not only people in wheelchairs. Parents pushing strollers headed straight for curb cuts. So did workers pushing heavy carts, business travelers wheeling luggage, even runners and skateboarders."

In other words, when we design spaces to make sure that they are accessible to our most vulnerable populations, we all benefit. And it's not just the physical accessibility of spaces that see this effect; this principle applies to policies, programs, and processes too. In other words, "laws and programs designed to benefit vulnerable groups, such as the disabled or people of color, often end up benefiting all of society."

So, what kinds of "curb-cuts" could benefit your community?



Pretty much anyone who has worked in local government has their own community engagement "horror story," leading some to conclude that the answer is to avoid public participation whenever possible.

Please don't.

Community engagement can be messy. It can be uncomfortable. It can be frustrating. It can also be breathtaking in its capacity to generate groundbreaking solutions in communities. Sometimes getting to those solutions requires slogging through messy, uncomfortable, and frustrating stages. And sometimes, choosing engagement strategies carefully can help make those stages a little less messy, uncomfortable, and frustrating.

Ignore? Inform? Defend? Or Host?

Engagement horror stories are often the result of community members' perceptions (sometimes warranted!) that decisions have been made in advance by the powers-that-be. The <u>International City and County Managers Association</u> describes some of the engagement choices available to local governments when it comes to approaching potentially contentious issues:

Defensive posturing in community engagement is very costly and can easily be avoided. By utilizing a broader set of tools for online engagement in these circumstances, we come across as more open and available; willing to hear all positions related to a decision. We will be better positioned to provide facts and offer reasoning for decision making because we've allowed all of the ideas and emotions to surface, we've listened—and we've provided an opportunity for the public to do the same. Sometimes the opportunity is all that is needed—by providing it, we remove the perception that we are hiding information or are being driven by ulterior motives—we build trust in our community.

10+1 for Effective Community Tips Engagement

- **1. Build relationships.** The best time to build relationships is twenty years ago. The second best time is today. (Coincidentally, the same is true of planting trees see BP 16.) Build relationships with and among diverse segments of your community. Relationships are the ties that hold communities together as they grapple with challenging issues.
- **2. Build trust.** Healthy relationships are based on trust. Be a local government that has proven that it can be trusted to be transparent, and to listen and respond effectively to the needs and priorities of residents. (Want to learn more about building trust? Check out <u>Deloitte Insights Building Trust in Government</u>.)
- **3. Reduce barriers to engagement.** Use a range of different engagement approaches-in person, phone, online. Schedule meetings in locations and at times that make it easy for diverse segments of the community to attend. Consider providing childcare. Not sure what the barriers are in your community? Ask!
- **4. Structure the process carefully.** How you do engagement matters. Sometimes, a big public meeting is not the most effective way to get constructive engagement. Small group processes, one-on-one conversations, or other strategies may be more useful.
- **5. Listen.** Try to understand community members' underlying values. For example, values might include independence, resilience, or community solidarity. Speaking to values increases decision legitimacy and spurs win-win solutions to multiple challenges.
- **6. Value lived experience.** This is important in many contexts, but perhaps most importantly when it comes to past and present injustices. Pretending injustice doesn't exist won't make it go away.
- **7. Think forward**. Lead with questions that invite community members to envision what they would like to see more of in the future. This often helps community members focus on areas of shared value.
- **8. Know when you need help.** If a topic is particularly contentious, consider bringing in an outside individual or team who can facilitate the process in an impartial way.
- **9. Share data...and share stories.** Data show areas of progress and concern. Stories show why they matter. The best stories help people envision how they, too, can be part of a more inclusive and sustainable community.
- **10. Make engagement matter.** To capture the benefits of engagement, you have to connect it with decision making. The most important way to build trust, increase legitimacy of decisions, and show that you value people's time and input is to build what you learn from the engagement into your policies and programs...and then share results!

Bonus: Every community is unique. Adapt and innovate!

Best Practice Actions:

a deeper dive



<u>BP 24.1:</u> Use a city commission or committee to lead, coordinate, report to and engage community members on the identification and equitable implementation of sustainability best practices.

24.1 in Action:

Rochester's Sustainability and Resiliency Task Force

In 2020 Rochester created a Sustainability and Resiliency Task Force to ensure both meaningful community engagement and coordination across existing commissions and committees. Rochester's website describes this decision in the following way:

Social equity, environmental stewardship, fiscal responsibility and sustainability are the foundational principles of the City Council and the reason the City is taking action to ensure that the community has a voice in guiding a sustainability and resiliency plan.

The City of Rochester has created a <u>Sustainability and Resiliency Task Force</u> whose purpose is to develop and implement a plan with input and guidance from all of Rochester's residents. This task force includes a diverse cross-section of the community to ensure that all voices are represented. Task force members will leverage existing commissions, committees, community organizations and nonprofits to address and implement goals outlined in adopted plans to formulate a community-wide sustainability and community resiliency plan.

According to Mayor Kim Norton, "It's remarkable how just a few simple adjustments to our physical environment or minor changes to our behaviors can result in a substantial positive impact on our environment and on the future of our planet. We all need to do our part in order to assure our children and grandchildren have a safe and secure future. Our youth are asking us to help. I hope the community will join me in doing our part to make certain that their concerns and fears are addressed."

Why Inclusive and Coordinated Decision Making?

- Prevent burn-out: many hands make light work!
- Ensure that progress continues even if a particular staff person or volunteer leaves.
- Improve effectiveness by coordinating across departments.
- Identify key community needs and concerns, and solutions that address them.
- Increase legitimacy of decisions: people support solutions they have helped craft.
- Affirm the value and advantage of diversity itself.

Guiding Questions for Inclusive Decision Making

- ? Who's at the table? Who's missing? Think beyond the usual suspects.
 - Local government departments? Regional organizations?
 - Elders? Youth? People with a disability?
 - Black, Indigenous, People of Color?
 - New residents or residents who speak different languages?
 - Renters? Landlords? Homeowners? Manufactured home park residents?
 - Large employers? Small businesses? Workers' organizations? Non-profits? Agricultural producers? Educational institutions? Service providers?
- ? Is the table accessible? What barriers might people face when they try to participate in decision making? Is the process designed to remove those barriers? Think about meeting location and timing, childcare, stipends for people's time, invitations to underrepresented groups, clear communication, welcoming settings, refreshments. Consider providing orientation or training for potential committee members.
- ? Is the table meaningful? Are decisions being made before engagement occurs or does the engagement shape the decisions? For decisions to have legitimacy among community members, make sure they are truly part of the process from the outset.

Star-Level Examples

A staff green team, or small working group (e.g., city manager, council member, citizen commission chair) exists; city participation in a multicity/regional green team; annual news article/media to community members referencing GreenStep (& other programs as relevant); city website has a link to city's GreenStep web page & summary of sustainability initiatives. Report city Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion or Human Rights Commissions under BPA 24.7.

A community group, city task force/commission or committee of city staff/officials exists to lead & coordinate sustainability/GreenStep implementation; city has a dedicated sustainability position on city staff that works with the staff &/or community green team/commission. Report annual environmental/ sustainability reports to city council under BPA 24.3.



A joint committee of city staff/ officials & community members (business, education, religious, etc.) exists & meets regularly; community members on the committee represent the community's racial, economic, abilities, & other diverse representation.

Resources for Inclusive Decision Making

The <u>Blandin Community Leadership Program</u> trains leaders from rural Minnesota communities.

The International City and County Managers Association (ICMA) shares resources <u>"Sustainability Through an Equity Lens, an Introduction."</u>

ICMA identified 11 leading practices used by communities pursuing sustainability that includes social equity in <u>"Social Equity and Local Government Sustainability."</u>

The <u>Intercultural Cities program</u> is an entry point for assessing diversity and awareness on human rights in your community. You can start with the <u>Intercultural Citizenship Test</u> and then use the program to learn how diversity is an advantage.

Several University of Minnesota entities came together to create this resource <u>"Creating a Welcoming Community: A Toolkit to Support Immigrants, Refugees, and BIPOC."</u> It is free to download.

The <u>Government Alliance on Race and Equity (GARE)</u> is a national network of governments working to achieve racial equity and advance opportunities for all.

Engaging Local Government Leaders (ELGL) offers a 5 part series on <u>"Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging in Government."</u>

Additional resources are available on the Minnesota GreenStep website.



<u>BP 24.2</u>: Organize goals/outcome measures from all city plans (social, environmental, economic) and report to community members data that show progress toward meeting these goals.

24.2 in Action:

Duluth's Priority Based Budgeting

Duluth identifies priorities with sustainability woven into them, and then reports progress annually. For this, Duluth uses <u>Priority Based Budgeting (PBB)</u>, a methodology that matches community priorities with available resources. The budget document itself identifies how departmental goals and capital expenditures align with the priorities and includes outcome measurements for the prior three years as well as the current budget year.

Duluth began using PBB in December 2017. Then, during the July 2018 Sidewalk Days, the city launched a game to build community engagement into the PBB process. They provided 10 PBB coins to each constituent, who got to allocate those coins to the priorities they thought were most important to the city. In April 2019, they launched a version of the game on the city's website. 800 people participated in just the first 10 days.

As Duluth looks to add equity and inclusion to their priorities, they will leverage their use of PBB and continuous community engagement. Their <u>2021 Budget Book</u> indicates "racial equity and inclusion touch all of the City's priorities." In 2020, the city hired Mindy Granley as Sustainability Officer. <u>Granley confirmed</u>, "Whether you're interested in saving money and resources over time, protecting open space, or building a more resilient economy, sustainability is about aiming to provide a high quality of life in a community for all of its residents."

Why Communicate Progress on Goals?

- Transparency. Accountability. Ongoing engagement.
- Advance community resilience and quality of life by letting citizens know what the targets are, if they are being met, and how they can help.
- Engaging community members in performance management requires reporting progress. This creates a data-driven decision making process that lends credibility to government and adds value to the community.
- Reporting progress is more than a statement of workload measures (such as light bulbs replaced). Start by understanding the goals of the community. Select, define and report results that are important to the community members.

Guiding Questions for Communicating Progress

- **?**Communicating progress...on what? What are the major goals that have been identified? What was the process through which they were identified? How were community members engaged in identifying those goals? How can this be communicated to community members?
- Communicating progress...to whom? Who are our internal and external audiences. (stakeholders)? What information will be the most meaningful and useful to our stakeholders?
- ?Communicating progress...how? Are we using multiple media and formats? Think beyond the annual report: blog posts, newspaper, social media, text, graphics, videos, podcasts, radio.
- Communicating progress...for what purpose? Are there direct links among goals, communications, and decision making about resource allocation (staff time, budget)?

Star-Level Examples



mance Management Report.



Report goals/outcomes annually Achieve 1 Star rating AND identify Integrate goals/outcomes reporting from plans such as comprehensive, specific steps from city departments parks, library, housing, stormwater, on how to improve performance or drinking water, transportation, meet goals that were not met in the economic development, energy, previous year & incorporate them sustainability; issue a city Perfor- into the city's updated annual sustainability work plan.



explicitly into the city capital improvement planning process, identifying how public dollars are targeted to meeting sustainability goals in the plans.

Resources for Communicating Progress on Goals

Learn more about Priority Based Budgeting as used by Duluth, MN.

The National Civic Review devoted an entire issue to the importance of <u>"Engaging the Public in Local Government Performance Measurement and Reporting."</u>

PA Times, publication of the American Society for Public Administration shares the importance of planning and reporting in <u>"Engaging Citizens in Performance Management and Strategic Planning."</u>

The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) of the Financial Accounting Standards Board shares guidelines of <u>Service Efforts and Accomplishments (SEA)</u> reporting. This methodology has a goal of reporting how well government assesses priorities and then delivers appropriate services.

The American Planning Association provides a guide for local government that defines sustainability, as well as how to implement, measure, and report it called <u>"Assessing Sustainability: A Guide for Local Governments."</u>

Additional resources are available on the Minnesota GreenStep website.



<u>BP 24.3:</u> Engage community members and partners in identifying, measuring, and reporting progress on key sustainability and social indicators, including energy use/greenhouse gas emissions, social vitality/social inclusion outcome measures.

24.3 in Action:

Richfield's Climate Action Plan

In 2020, the <u>Richfield city council approved a Climate Action Plan</u> with 80 actions, across six focus areas, to be completed in the next five years. Results "will be annually reviewed by the Sustainability Commission, with efforts and achievements presented to the City Council annually as well." From LED streetlights to chicken ordinances, the plan identifies specific actions. City leaders appreciate this. "A lot of climate action plans out there are very big picture, but lacking in specific details," said Councilmember Whalen. "This plan has clear steps and we will know each year if we are succeeding or not at working toward our goal of becoming a more sustainable city." Importantly, equity is a priority. According to Rachel Lindholm, Sustainability Coordinator, "Equity and sustainability are always connected in my mind. If you think about weatherization or energy efficiency it is generally those who can least afford to pay that live in the least efficient housing."

This is reflected in the <u>climate plan</u>: "It is well-known that climate change has and will continue to affect everyone, disproportionately affecting marginalized populations. This includes our elderly, people of color, disabled, non-English speaking, low-income, and immunocompromised friends, family, and neighbors." These efforts build on Richfield's participation in the <u>Racial Equity Cohort</u> led by the Government Alliance for Race and Equity (GARE). Equity enters into the plan in areas from food access, to urban forests, to energy efficiency. By establishing specific actions (and timelines), the plan lays groundwork for evaluating outcomes in these areas.

Why Measure Outcomes?

- Without measuring outcomes, it is hard to tell if your efforts are working. Combining "effort" metrics with "effectiveness" metrics helps identify strategies that are working, as well as areas for improvement.
- Meaningful metrics help stakeholders focus future efforts on priorities and gaps.
- Measuring and reporting also help build trust and credibility.
- Communities want to see leadership on the quality of life and resilience issues that matter to them. Measuring outcomes demonstrates that leadership.

Guiding Questions for Measuring Outcomes

- What are we already measuring? Given community members' priorities, what other information might be useful for informing policy and program design? How are we incorporating equity and environmental justice into our choices about data collection, analysis, and reporting? Do we consider the social distribution of the costs and benefits of policy choices? Remember: lack of policy is still a policy choice.
- ? Are we looking at spatial dimensions of sustainability? Maps are essential here.
- Will our data help us measure progress over time on issues of concern to our community? Are we striking the right balance between ease of data collection and meaningfulness for decision making? Do we measure both effort (e.g. dollars or hours spent) and effectiveness (e.g. energy usage or phosphorus concentrations in water)? Do our metrics consider key aspects of sustainability: people, planet, and prosperity?
- ? Is our public reporting on metrics easy to understand and accessible for the community? Do we report metrics (and context) in ways that are engaging and useful? Do we use language and units of measurement that speak to our community? Is our internal reporting for staff and electeds accessible and useful?

Star-Level Examples



Produce a city environmental/ sustainability report/summary with metric indicators; update your city council periodically at public meetings or during an annual work session; involve an existing city council committee or community task force.



Adopt (ideally after a public process and city council review) & commit to measure and annually report on sustainability indicators, generally related to or directly tied to the city's work on GreenStep best practices; may include community-wide energy & water use, vehicle miles traveled, & waste generated (Regional Indicators Initiative or Metropolitan Green house Gas Assessment).



Use a public process (or public commission with broad representational diversity) to identify, adopt, & commit to measure and annually report on broad sustain-ability (environmental, social, & economic) indicators, such as those covered by GreenStep Step 4/5 metrics; compare measurements & outcomes with city goals & performance benchmarks.

Resources for Measuring Outcomes

The <u>Step 4/5 Metrics Dashboard</u> provides data visualization for Step 4 & 5 reporting communities that can easily be shared with community leaders and residents.

The <u>Center for Small Towns</u> at the University of Minnesota - Morris has faculty and students who partner with small cities on data collection and other forms of support on specific issues identified by the city.

Heather Krause. Webinar recording of <u>"How Not to Use Data Like a Racist."</u> This webinar (complete with provocative title), has useful insights into unintentional biases that may occur with data collection and evaluation.

Alexis Goggans of Be-Bold Services prepared a set of possible equity-related indicators as part of her <u>Equity in Action Toolkit</u>.

Public Management Review compares sustainability reporting frameworks used by European cities and countries in <u>"Sustainability Reporting by Local Governments: A Magic Tool? Lessons on Use and Usefulness from European Pioneers."</u>

The American Planning Association provides a guide for local government that defines sustainability, as well as how to implement, measure, and report it called <u>"Assessing Sustainability: A Guide for Local Governments."</u>

The Government Alliance on Race and Equity (GARE) is a national network of governments working to achieve racial equity and advance opportunities for all. GARE provides a "Racial Equity Toolkit, An Opportunity to Operationalize Equity" with guidance to set equity goals and measure outcomes.

Use of online maps that incorporate and visualize metrics can be a more engaging reporting mechanism. This student used Geographic Information System (GIS) maps to visualize <u>environmental justice in the Twin Cities</u>.

Review good practices for incorporating equity in a city sustainability plan including metrics on progress in reduction of disparities in <u>"Equity in Sustainability, An Equity Scan of Local Government Sustainability Programs."</u> Practices are provided by the Urban Sustainability Directors Network, a peer-to-peer organization of local government professionals.

Additional resources are available on the Minnesota GreenStep website.



<u>BP 24.4:</u> Conduct or support a broad sustainability education and action campaign, building on existing city & community relationships, networks & events involving:

- the entire community - community leaders - homeowners - manufactured home communities - landlords and tenants - community-based organizations - block clubs - neighborhood associations - front yards/sidewalks - congregations - schools - colleges -

24.4 in Action: The Morris Model

The University of Minnesota, Morris (UMM) earned a 2017 <u>Minnesota Climate Adaptation Award</u> by the Minnesota Climate Adaptation Partnership (MCAP). The awards are presented to individuals, organizations, institutions, and businesses in recognition of their exceptional achievements in leadership, education, research, policies, and practices that have resulted in development or implementation of climate change adaptation strategies.

"UMM is to be commended in successfully promoting the 'Morris Model' for public engagement and leading widespread planning for climate adaptation throughout the infrastructure of the greater community that surrounds the campus. In promoting climate resilience UMM has successfully partnered with many different units of government and nonprofit organizations to address areas of concern where climate change is already having impacts. They serve as a terrific role model for other institutions to engage their surrounding community in meeting the challenges of climate change."—Mark Seeley, professor and MCAP Awards Committee co-chair

Want to learn more? There's a website! Check out The Morris Model.

Why Public Education for Action?

- Engaging community members early and often makes it more likely that solutions will be innovative, appropriate, and accepted.
- Participating community members increase knowledge and problem solving skills.
- Empowers people with different backgrounds to create positive change in their lives and community. It can also build up a network of local community members, strengthening capacity to address challenges successfully.
- Increase trust between community organizations and local government.

Guiding Questions for Public Education for Action

- !S the process transparent and participatory? Are we engaging community members. in identifying solutions that work for them? Have we created an opportunity for learning through group discussion? Is the process legitimate, with input from all participants incorporated into the project design and implementation?
- Have we created an environment that will allow long-term and consistent participation from community members? Is a broad cross-section of the community involved? Have we considered potential barriers to participation such as need for child care, transportation, accessibility in location, need for interpreters?
- Have we provided guidelines for communicating that can help develop trust between community leaders and members? Is objective information provided?
- Have we considered ways to make participation fun and engaging, like "gamification"?

Star-Level Examples





At least 2 informational/educational activities or creation of a group to work on such; promotion of/ assistance with Friendly Front Yards, block clubs, neighborhood associations. outreach programs that are limited to promoting/achieving residential energy/water use reduction under BPA 2.1; report business outreach campaigns under BP 25; report youth/student engagement in city government under BPA 24.6; report other targeted campaigns under topic-specific actions, e.g. BPA 23.3.

Sustained activities covering a range of topics (active living, food, water, energy, electric vehicles, etc.) that have some challenge, assistance &/or measurement elements; docu-Report marketing & mented accomplishments such as Green Ribbon School recognition, GreenStep Schools participation, Friendly Fronts apartment building certification; city work that supports schools/youth (through an ecology club, school green team, Parks & Rec programming, etc.).



Recurring activities & multiple reported outcomes involving diverse audiences within the community with: increased multimodal commuting, increased electric vehicle adoption, equitable access to local and healthy foods, reduced water and energy use, improved water & air quality, etc.

Resources for Public Education for Action

The Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy (IATP) used a "Citizen Jury" process in 5 counties to discuss climate and generate a place-based response. The philosophy, structure, and outcomes of the <u>Rural Climate Dialogues</u> are available on their website.

The National League of Cities' <u>ecoAmerica guides</u> provide research-proven practices for successful climate communication and discussion with community members.

The <u>Psychology of Sustainable Behavior</u>, by Christie Manning, introduces research-based tips from psychology to help in efforts to empower sustainability in residents and the workplace.

Learn more about how Lake Crystal gamified energy efficiency with their <u>Beat the Peak Challenge</u> (it's BP 2.1, but still relevant to this conversation). Want to really nerd out on gamification? Check out Sarah-Kristin Thiel's article, <u>"Let's Play Urban Planner: The Use of Game Elements in Public Participation Platforms."</u>

The University of Minnesota Morris and the surrounding community created the MN Morris Model to work on sustainability, resilience, and climate change.

The University of Pennsylvania, College of Agricultural Sciences shares a guide as part of their toolbox on <u>rural community engagement</u>.

The UK Based CommunityPlanningToolkit.org provides a toolkit on community planning.

<u>Everyday Democracy</u>, a project of the Paul J Aicher Foundation, has a mission to advance community dialogue. They provide a series of guides, toolkits, worksheets, and handouts as resources for changemaking through community engagement.

<u>RacialEquityTools.org</u> provides a page of resources for public engagement with an equity lens.

Additional resources are available on the Minnesota GreenStep website.



<u>BP 24.5:</u> Conduct a community visioning and planning initiative that engages a diverse set of community members & stakeholders and uses a sustainability, resilience, or environmental justice framework: Strong Towns, Resiliency, Transition, Appreciative Inquiry, Eco-municipalities, Smart Cities, Healthy Communities.

24.5 in Action:

Warren Designs for Community Regeneration (D4CR)

<u>D4CR</u> is a MN Design Center initiative that seeks "to imagine and plan a thriving and equitable future for the city of Warren."

D4CR will partner with communities in a process of imagining and planning their resilient future, addressing food, water, and energy security while increasing economic opportunities, social cohesion, and finding affordable housing options. Communities participate in a ground-up "Geodesign" process assisted by geographic data, and a dashboard for community goals.

Given the pandemic, meetings have been virtual. These include meetings of four "Point of View" teams, which represent existing residents and businesses, newcomers and cultural organizations, government representatives and organizations, and investors. The teams make use of several key techniques: asset mapping (existing community assets), backcasting (working backward from desired futures), geodesign (using GIS), and a regenerative scorecard (including Place, Water, Energy, Health & Happiness, Materials, Equity, Beauty, and Economic Development).

The D4CR Process

Discover

Gather data Establish Point of View teams Create GIS and community places maps Create evaluation framework

Dream

Explore innovations Consider ideal future Identify potential locations for innovations in city and region

Decide

POV teams plan visions POV teams negotiate visions with each other to find common ground

Do

Develop prototype plans for future project phase

Why Plan with a Purpose?

- Building communities that are resilient and livable requires planning with intention.
- Increasing meaningful community engagement leads to better addressing the needs of community members.
- Creating a shared meaning about sustainability increases the community's ability to make progress toward a healthy and sustainable future for all community members.
- A clean and safe environment is essential for a community to thrive and prosper.
- Shared prosperity benefits everyone!

Guiding Questions for Planning with a Purpose

- Who's at the table? Who's missing? Who are our community stakeholders? How are we making sure that stakeholders are represented and do not face barriers to participation? What sources of diversity exist in our community? How are we ensuring that our planning process, participants, and outcomes reflect that diversity?
- ?Do participants have the opportunity to shape programs and policies from the beginning, or is the engagement seen as an opportunity to sell a decision to the community?
- What are our guiding principles and mission? What areas do we want to focus on and incorporate into our planning efforts (energy, buildings, transportation, procurement, investments, people, equity, health, air, water, climate, local foods, waste)?
- What local data are available about our community assets and needs? How can we use our planning process to build on existing community assets to address community needs?
- ? Is there an existing planning framework that fits our community goals? Do we need to adapt it to fit our local context?
- ?See also the guiding questions for BP 24.1.

Star-Level Examples

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Host a community meeting/event that explicitly uses a sustainability framework. Report staff training and GARE participation under BPA <u>24.7</u> (previously here). Report specific examples of expanding community engagement to diverse audiences under BPA <u>24.7</u>.



Conduct a health impact assessment of city plans/policies/development; conduct a comprehensive health/housing/ food access study or environmental justice assessment across demographics.



Achieve 2-star rating and adopt a sustainability plan or other implementation plan &/or goals & document concrete actions taken toward achieving them. Report adopted energy or climate plans under BPA <u>6.5</u>. Report adopted equity plans under BPA <u>24.7</u>. Report adopted resiliency plans under BPA 29.2.

Resources for Planning with a Purpose

Review good practices for incorporating equity in a city sustainability plan, including metrics on progress in reduction of disparities, in <u>"Equity in Sustainability, An Equity Scan of Local Government Sustainability Programs."</u> Provided by the Urban Sustainability Directors Network a peer-to-peer organization of local government professionals.

Learn about the <u>Strong Towns</u> approach to making communities stronger and more resilient.

The <u>Statewide Health Improvement Partnership (SHIP)</u> at the Minnesota Department of Health assists with community-driven solutions for healthier living.

University of Wisconsin at Stevens Point, Center for Land Use Education provides a free toolkit on <u>Eco-Municipalities and Sustainable Communities</u> with a step-by-step approach. You can also learn about the <u>basics of land use planning</u>.

Learn about the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's <u>Culture of Health Framework</u> focused on achieving health equity by connecting health with social, economic, physical and environmental factors.

From the EPA's Environmental Justice Workgroup, the report <u>"EPA Local Government Advisory Committee's EJ Best Practices for Local Government"</u> identifies current challenges and case studies from across the country of innovative problem solving strategies communities have used to improve environmental and public health outcomes.

Learn about Portland, Oregon's use of a <u>Framework for Equity</u>. Rather than a complaint based system they use a budget-equity assessment process that includes tracking and sharing of data on disparities.

The Department of Housing and Urban Development provides an entry level guide "Sustainability Planning Toolkit: A Comprehensive Guide to Help Cities and Counties Develop a Sustainability Plan."

Additional resources are available on the Minnesota GreenStep website.



<u>BP 24.6:</u> Engage wide representation of community youth and college students by creating opportunities to participate in city government (including commissions).

24.6 in Action:

La Crescent's GreenStep Committee

The City of La Crescent achieved Best Practice Action 24.6 at the 3-star level when they added two high school students to their GreenStep Committee.

Students were chosen by the High School science faculty, approved by the City Council, and hold regular positions on the team. Jason Ludwigson, City Sustainability Coordinatorsays that the students "provided valuable feedback, particularly to formulate outreach for the Partners in Energy (PiE) program." PiE is an Xcel Energy grant program that uses local and utility resources to set and meet clean energy goals. Ludwigson continued, "Students' life experiences and views are different from adults, especially when it comes to sustainability. They will experience more of the climate impacts and challenges in the future, so it is important to have their perspectives on the team."

La Crescent entered the GreenStep Cities program in 2015 and employed college interns from neighboring cities to great success for the first few years. These part-time student interns helped them organize their GreenStep Committee and set up B3 building benchmarking. Ludwigson said, "depending on the scope of your program and your budget, college interns can be really helpful. They can be most effective if they are enrolled in a degree program specific to sustainability, if they are knowledgeable and passionate, and if they have a mentor." The city has transitioned in recent years to a part-time paid staff person to advance additional objectives.

Why Engage the Next Generation?

- It gives young people an additional opportunity to become connected to their community--both natural and human.
- It helps youth develop personal skills and leadership qualities, and prepares youth to be active citizens in democracy.
- Young people have a right to represent their values and priorities! They understand their reality in a way that is different from that of people even just a little older.
- Engaging youth in environmental protection can change not only the youths' behaviors and attitudes, but possibly also those of their families and other adults.
- Youth are valued stakeholders in creating effective and inclusive policies.

Guiding Questions for Engaging the Next Generation

- Phow are youth and young adults involved in local government and sustainability planning? How can we make youth engagement meaningful and sustained? Do youth and young adults have real opportunities to provide input and affect decision making?
- (2) Is the role of the youth representatives clear to adult committee members?
- What are the youth groups in our community? Are there ways to involve them in governance? Are there segments of the youth population who are not represented or involved? Have we found ways to involve youth that represent the racial, cultural, economic, and other forms of diversity in our community?
- Are there particular barriers that youth face, such as transportation or school schedules? Can we provide training to youth so that they feel comfortable participating?

Star-Level Examples



Government Day; student group engaged with city on a project; youth/student committee or comstudent/intern help with GreenStep action entry. Report under action <u>24.4</u> city staff efforts to support schools/youth to improve their own schools.



Student involvement in Youth in City Student involvement in a city green committee/commission; separate mission (note to what extent it focuses on sustainability issues); high school student internships offered in city government; formal city volunteer program focused on youth; create a professional development &/or mentorship program.



3 or more youth/students of varying backgrounds involved in a campaign working directly with your city council; 2 or more dedicated youth positions on a city environmental commission; ongoing connection between a high school environmental club & city commission that has youth positions; regular student interns to work on sustainability issues.

Resources for Engaging the Next Generation

Minnesota GreenStep has a GreenStep Schools program!

California's Institute for Local Government provides tips for <u>"Engaging Youth in Your Agency's Sustainability Activities."</u>

USAID provides <u>"Youth Engagement in Development: Effective Approaches and Action-Oriented Recommendations for the Field,"</u> which explores the ladder of young people's participation.

The National Civics League reviews seven best practices in <u>"Best Practices for Youth Engagement in Municipal Government."</u>

From Washington State read dozens of <u>youth participation examples</u> and sample documents of youth commissions, councils, advisory boards, and student internship programs.

Two MN organizations help students engage with city government: <u>Youth Environmental Activists Minnesota (YEA! MN)</u> and <u>Youth Eco Solutions (YES!)</u>.

Additional resources are available on the Minnesota GreenStep website.



<u>BP 24.7</u>: Engage Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC), renters, low-income, new Americans, differently abled and other traditionally under-represented community members by encouragement, and support to participate in current and new opportunities to participate in city government.

24.7 in Action:

Engage Winona Seeks to...Engage Winona!

Engage Winona is a local non-profit organization that works with the City of Winona (as well as other entities) to drive "equitable civic action and social change by working to ensure everyone has access, voice and power in community planning, decision-making and changemaking." Over the past few years, Engage Winona has led and collaborated on numerous projects. One of the most interesting is an effort called the <u>Lived Experience Leader Cohort</u>, which works over the course of several months to develop community members' civic muscles: the skills and confidence to overcome systemic and trust barriers to pursue projects rooted in their lived experiences.

Brian Voerding, founder and director of Engage Winona, offers these suggestions for local governments looking to build trust and expand meaningful engagement:

- Meet people where they're at. Build networks throughout the community.
- Listen hard. Ask questions. You don't have to do it all or know it all.
- Follow their process, not yours.
- Do engagement a little at a time.
- Don't take sides. (If you have to take sides, get a neutral facilitator, and meet in a neutral space.)
- Avoid binary issue framing. Frame in a future-oriented way, with concrete outcomes.

-Thanks to Brian Voerding for sharing information on Engage Winona.

Why Expand Engagement?

- Identifying and addressing community priorities requires that community members have access to the processes where the local government's priorities are set.
- Building on community assets requires a strong understanding what those community assets are and how to build on them.
- Innovation expands where diverse perspectives come together!
- Integrating new community members is essential for economic prosperity. That means making sure *all* community members are able to engage in local government.

Guiding Questions for Expanding Engagement

- Who's in the room? Who's not in the room? Who's speaking? Who's not speaking? Who's being heard? Who's not being heard?
- ?What are the barriers to effective participation? If we don't know what the barriers are, do we ask? Are our public spaces accessible and welcoming? Do we go to where people already or do we expect them to come to us?
- ②Do we provide diverse engagement opportunities, in diverse formats, in diverse spaces, and, when necessary, in diverse languages? Do we provide leadership training opportunities for community members?
- ?Do we communicate in multiple formats, spaces, and languages? If we don't know the best ways to communicate and engage with a given segment of the community, do we go to them and ask what the best ways are?

Star-Level Examples

Provide diversity, equity, inclusion, & Participate in a process that probias training for city staff, electeds, and volunteers; provide ADA and reasonable accommodation training for department heads & managers; to increase accessibility of local develop an equity statement that addresses the city's overarching goals; include an equity chapter in the Comprehensive Plan.

Participate in a process that promotes equity in local government, such as becoming a member of GARE; take multiple concrete steps to increase accessibility of local government operations & decision making, such as by providing childcare for public meetings; hosting participation opportunities in

motes equity in local government, such as becoming a member of GARE; take multiple concrete steps to increase accessibility of local government operations & decision making, such as by providing childcare for public meetings; hosting participation opportunities in multiple & accessible locations, formats, &/or languages; ensuring that city communications are available in languages spoken by community members; review & assess city regulations for their impacts on underrepresented populations; address equity through-

A committee/commission with wide community representation exists & meets regularly to provide ongoing guidance to city government on expanding & improving the quality of community engagement, particularly among historically marginalized community members; regular reporting on progress made in ensuring equitable access to city government programs, planning, budgeting & decision-making; develop & adopt a community equity plan with ample opportunity for public engagement & participation; use Equitable Deve-<u>lopment Scorecard</u> or an equivalent tool to assess development or redevelopment proposals.

out the Comprehensive Plan.

Resources for Expanding Engagement

The <u>Blandin Community Leadership Program</u> trains leaders from rural Minnesota communities.

For more details on Minnesota's demographics and economic prosperity, see the Immigrants and Minnesota's Workforce Report from the Committee on Minnesota Workforce and Immigrants.

The Region 5 Development Commission has developed resources around creating <u>Welcoming Communities</u>.

Looking to up your facilitation skills? Check out the <u>Convergent Facilitation</u> book and trainings.

The <u>Red Boot Way</u> is a method of intentional listening used by Engage Winona (and many others).

The Aspen Institute's Better Arguments Project is a national effort to bridge civic divides.

The <u>League of Minnesota Cities</u> has a useful resource page on race equity.

Additional resources are available on the Minnesota GreenStep website.

Benchmarks and Community Engagement:

some additional useful approaches



100 Cups is an engagement process in Beltrami County, Minnesota, taking place from March-December 2020, led by a group of community members called the Beltrami Area Resiliency Team, and coordinated by the Beltrami Area Service Collaborative.

The process is described as follows:

"100 Cups is a community-driven framework that listens to the voices of those who are not typically at the decision-making table. The format of 100 Cups is simple—volunteer interviewers have cups of coffee one-on-one with 100 community members. Questions center around community values, priorities, strengths, challenges, and hopes for the future."

Some of the questions included:

- What values do you think are most important to your community?
- What's something you know that you wish other people in your community knew and paid attention to?
- What are the most significant challenges that your community faces?
- What's one thing that could be done right now that would make a difference for your community?
- "I wish there was a place in our community where..."
- Do you feel like you have a voice when decisions are made in the community?

The results have been shared on the resiliency team's website and through events. As of June 2021, this process is focused on community conversations to identify next steps: working toward "self-healing communities, building more empathy within our community, and creating more spaces where all voices are heard."

Learn more on the Beltrami Area Resiliancy Team website.



The Circle of Healing is a group of Native and non-native people in the Itasca area whose purpose is to take the courageous actions needed to create communities that are culturally aware and considerate of all its residents and visitors.

The Circle of Healing was formed after nine people from the Itasca area attended a 2011 White Earth Tribal College workshop on Native American historical trauma. The Circle, which continued for a decade, included dozens of community members - both Native and non-native - and was coordinated by Becky LaPlant of the Blandin Foundation. The project summary describes its central approach:

From that first meeting to the group's conclusion, a Talking Circle was used to convene the group. This way of bringing people together asks that they speak honestly and truthfully from the heart and listen attentively to others, without cross talk or interference when someone else is speaking. This format was invaluable to the group – strong enough to support them through deeply personal conversations, cultural learning, tears, laughter and anger – while flexible enough to allow the group's membership to expand as their work evolved.

As LaPlant put it, "Talking is action."

Early on, the Circle adopted as its core principles the <u>Seven Grandfather Teachings</u>: Gwayakwaadiziwin (Honesty), Debwewin (Truth), Inendizowin (Humility), Zaagi'idiwin (Love), Nibwaakaawin (Wisdom), Zoongide'iwin (Courage), and Manaaji'idiwin (Respect). Over the next decade, Circle of Healing members retained their commitment to these principles. Working from a place of humility and love often meant learning to suspend judgment and arbitrary timeframes. From historical trauma to present life challenges, "people have so much going on," said LaPlant. "And my timeline doesn't dictate what happens in someone else's community."

It is not possible to list in this space all of the Circle of Healing's many accomplishments,

but here are some of the highlights:

- The establishment and celebration of Indigenous Peoples Day in the City of Grand Rapids, the <u>Resolution</u> for which was passed unanimously by City Council in 2014.
- The <u>ceremonial raising of the Leech Lake Tribal Flag</u> at the County Courthouse and Chamber of Commerce buildings.
- Collaboration to reduce barriers for Native American teachers and to ensure the accurate and respectful inclusion of Native American history in school curriculum.
- Hosting of community film screenings and discussions, including the films <u>Dawnland</u>, <u>Dodging Bullets: Stories from Survivors of Historical Trauma</u>, The Doctrine of Discovery: Unmasking the Domination Code, Reel Injun, Indian Horse, and Neither Wolf Nor Dog.
- Participation of over 100 people from 12 different organizations (including all of the Grand Rapids Police Department), in Anishinaabe Worldview Training cohorts: 3½ days of immersive training taught by Red Lake Nation Elder Renee Gurneau.
- Establishment of <u>Biidaajimotaage S/he Brings the News</u>, an active Facebook group with current, local news from Indian Country, as well as information on cultural events, training and volunteer opportunities and resources.
- Bringing the <u>Why Treaties Matter</u> exhibit to 22 sites across the region.
- Support for the youth-led development and construction of <u>Mikinaak Park</u>, an accessible and culturally significant playground in the community of Ball Club.

The Circle of Healing's accomplishments are impressive, and they did not come easily. The work was built on the foundation of trust, and that trust was built by ongoing, honest dialogue, by humility and a willingness to learn, and by people showing up in ways that valued and supported community members and their goals. Not once, not twice, but over and over again.

- Thank you to Noreen Hautala and Becky LaPlant for sharing about the Circle of Healing.



Artist Wesley May, with youth members Arionna and Teona, creating a Seven Teachings mural during a pre-Covid summer gathering.



For climate solutions to work, they must be connected to community solutions.... Listening to communities about what they need is the only way to create policies that work on the ground and bring people together. -Tara Ritter, IATP

From 2014 - 2020, the <u>Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy</u> partnered with the <u>Center for New Democratic Processes</u> (formerly Jefferson Center) to host <u>Rural Climate Dialogues</u> in five Minnesota counties: Stevens, Itasca, Winona, Redwood, and Murray. Conversations focused on community resilience and local energy systems, and brought together 15-21 randomly selected participants representative of the community, a form of engagement called the "<u>Citizens Jury</u>."

Community

Microcosm

Citizens Jury

Productive

Deliberation

Democratic

Conversation

High Quality

Information

Sufficient

Time for

Study

Minimizing

Biases

Over the course of a session lasting 2-3 days, participants (who were compensated for their time) got to know each other, established ground rules for discussion, heard presentations from local subject matter experts, debriefed and deliberated after each presentation, collectively drafted a statement for their neighbors, and voted to identify key community challenges.

Each RCD's recommendations have been shared widely:

The most effective messengers of this information are participants themselves. Participants have presented their recommendations to their county commissions and city councils, state agency staff, the Rural Minnesota Energy Board and other local collaboratives. In every community, we have also worked with the news media to write and broadcast follow-up articles and interviews about the event, and in some cases, to place opinion editorials from event participants and organizers. This ensures that RCD results are transparent and fully available to the public.



Creating jobs was once the focus of economic development, but in recent years, this has shifted to the need for workers, especially in rural parts of MN that are seeing aging residents and slower population growth. A recent <u>University of Minnesota (UMN) study</u> found that a quarter of economic growth over the last 45 years was due to a growing labor force. They estimate that Minnesota will need to increase migration to our state by four and a half times to meet labor force needs, and that much of that will likely need to be met by international migration. As a result, a number of communities have joined the "welcoming movement." <u>Welcoming America</u> defines this as communities that promote "intentional, inclusive policies, practices and norms that enable all residents to live, thrive, and contribute fully – including immigrants."

Fatima Said is the Executive Director of Winona County's <u>Project FINE</u> (<u>Focus on Integrating Newcomers through Education</u>). She, herself, was a Bosnian refugee. For over 30 years Project FINE has been helping refugees and immigrants in the region. Along with advocacy, information referrals, translation, and legal assistance, Project FINE offers employment services. Regional employers frequently reach out to Project FINE for help finding workers. Project FINE in turn reaches out to immigrant populations. According to Said, "with refugee and immigrant populations, everything starts with a job. All of them want to work and make a living."

UMN Extension is also helping communities, through the <u>"Making it Home" program</u>, which helps participants create a community-wide vision for attracting new residents. Jennifer Hawkins, UMN Extension Educator, worked with <u>Spring Valley</u>, a small community in Southeastern MN. "We trained six terrific facilitators for local study circles," says Hawkins. "Those facilitators brought together school children, retirees, teachers, newcomers and others to talk about what's great about Spring Valley, and how those assets can be leveraged to attract more residents."



In Rochester, a pilot project is employing "Community Co-Designers" to help plan <u>Discovery Walk</u> design concepts. Destination Medical Center and several community partners are working together to ensure that more diverse voices are included in the design of public spaces, policies and programs.

Kevin Bright, director of energy and sustainability for Destination Medical Center Economic Development Agency and the City of Rochester, is leading the effort in partnership with Jess Roberts, Affiliate Researcher at the Minnesota Design Center at the University of Minnesota. A steering committee comprised of several community organizations helped to develop the initiative.

The steering committee chose to pilot this new approach on the design of Discovery Walk, a planned linear parkway along 2nd Ave SW from Annenberg Plaza to Soldiers Field Park.

"We found that sometimes the people that are most impacted by projects, programs and policies are not part of the design process," said Kevin Bright, director of energy and sustainability for Destination Medical Center and the City of Rochester. "The framework we developed creates formalized opportunities for power-sharing and shared decision making. This, in turn, leads to healthier and more equitable public spaces."

St. Paul Climate Justice Advisory Board:

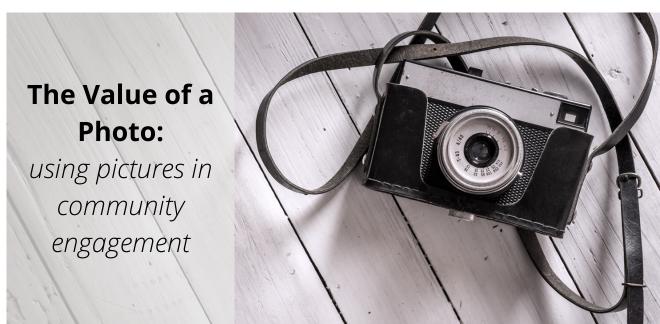
at the intersection of the 3 Ps



The City of St. Paul's Climate Justice Advisory Board (CJAB) was formed in August 2020 to support the implementation of the city's Climate Action and Resilience Plan. According to the <u>City of St. Paul</u>, the Board's "work will focus on ensuring that the costs and benefits of new programs in clean energy, energy efficiency, the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, and climate resilience and adaptation are equitably distributed to ensure Saint Paul's most vulnerable residents benefit as much or more from these changes as the City's less vulnerable populations."

According to Mayor Melvin Carter, "Ensuring the many voices of our community are heard in shaping our climate action and resilience work is vital." The CJAB is composed of 13-17 community representatives, taking into account geographic distribution, as well as designating one seat each for the business community, the building/construction trades, and academia. The Climate Justice Advisory Board is also a great example of inviting youth onto your government boards and commissions: the CJAB has two youth members.

One of those youth members—Adri Arquin—was featured, along with Russ Stark (St. Paul's Chief Resilience Officer), in a July 2021 conversation about the CJAB, hosted by Janiece Watts of Fresh Energy. That webinar can be found on the <u>Fresh Energy website</u>.



Sometimes, the most effective way for community members to express their values, priorities, and aspirations for their families and their communities is through pictures. There are various ways to incorporate photos into community engagement. One of the simplest is to provide a way for community members to submit photos on a particular topic. For instance, if your city is doing a comprehensive plan, you might ask community members to send in pictures of things that they like about their community and would like to see more of.

A more intensive approach, photovoice, is a visual research methodology that is particularly well suited to stimulating useful conversations around social concerns. Alyssa Scott, who led a photovoice process in Long Prairie, Minnesota, shared fundamentals of the approach: "There are three main goals...First, to enable people to capture and share their perspectives on their community. Second, to promote dialogue in small groups about community issues. Third, to take action on what is learned in a way that is meaningful to the group." Some important things to keep in mind:

- Conversations about social issues can be tricky. Use a trained facilitator for conversations.
- Trust is critical. Establish mutually acceptable ground rules for photographs and conversations. In some projects, for instance, photographs may not include recognizable people.
- People's time and perspectives have value. Consider providing stipends and/or meals for participants.
- Follow-up matters. How would participants like you to use the information they have provided?

For more information on Photovoice, see <u>Creating a Welcoming Community: A Toolkit to Support Immigrants, Refugees, and BIPOC.</u>



So you're thinking to yourself, the data never lies. Well, maybe it does, and maybe it doesn't. However, it definitely tells a story, and every story is told from a perspective. And if you care about equity, it's essential to look at your data with that in mind.

As Heather Krause puts it in the webinar, *How Not to Use Data Like a Racist*, "Quantitative data has a perspective, lived experiences, built into it at all times. There's no such thing as quantitative data that is objective, when 'objective' means 'has no worldview, values, or lived experience baked into it."

She suggests that there is a lifecycle of data--



--and suggests that we ask what perspectives, values, and worldviews are embedded at each stage of the process. The rest of the webinar gives concrete suggestions on how to do that.

Check it out on youtube!

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Roseville Public Works, Environment and Transportation Commission

Agenda Item

Item Description: 2023 Sustainability Update

Background:

Roseville residents highly value the sustainability, natural resources, and recreational opportunities in the community, which is why the City has made it a priority to preserve, promote, and maintain these resources. Through the City's Comprehensive Plan, participation in programs such as GreenStep Cities, and projects such as the ongoing wildlife habitat restoration in city parks, Roseville continues to strive toward building a sustainable future for all residents, businesses, and visitors. For more information, see the Sustainability webpage CityOfRoseville.com/Sustainability.

As part of our sustainability work, the City participated in Xcel Energy's Partners in Energy Program. Staff worked with Xcel Energy and the Center for Energy and Environment (CEE) to move the program forward. Staff is very excited with how the program operated, and the advancements that were made to establish goals and strategies in order to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions.

The goal of the Partners in Energy Program is to create a community-based Energy Action Plan that the City can use to implement actions to lower greenhouse gas emissions. The Energy Action Plan was developed by an Energy Action Team that met five times between December 2020 and April 2021 to discuss and create the focus areas of the plan. Staff implemented the plan from June 2021 until December 31, 2022. Roseville officially graduated from the program as of January 1, 2023, but will continue to implement the Energy Action Plan as long as there are improvements that can be made. For more information, see the Partners in Energy webpage CityOfRoseville.com/Partners-in-Energy.

In 2022, the City advanced several other topics to make Roseville more sustainable, and 2023 will see even more with the addition of the Sustainability Specialist position.

Recommended Action:

Receive a presentation from staff about our sustainability programs, including our work on Partners in Energy, and provide feedback.

Attachments:

A: Presentation

Attachment A

Roseville Sustainability Public Works Department



Public Works Environment and Transportation Commission 24-Jan-23

Green Team

On May 7, 2018, the City Council approved Resolution #11507 that named the Public Works Environment and Transportation Commission as the Green Step Cities Green Team.

- Per the resolution, the Green Team shall:
 - Approve and make available to the community an annual sustainability update report containing goals and outcomes of community plans and sustainability initiatives.
 - Evaluate existing and proposed policies to identify any overlooked opportunities for pursuing sustainability and environmental stewardship, and make recommendations for amending these policies.
 - Undertake its best efforts to communicate with and engage residents, businesses, and institutions in the implementation of sustainable practices to help meet City goals.
 - Advise City staff members and officials on efforts to educate community members about the City vision and ongoing opportunities to participate in sustainability initiatives.
 - Collect feedback from the community and provide recommendations for utilizing this feedback to improve City practices and programs.
 - Provide recommendations for further research and programs to implement in the City to promote sustainability and protect the environment.





What we've done

2009

- 2030 Comp Plan Process (adopted)
 - U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement (2007)
 - Emissions inventory using the Clean Air Climate Protection Software
- Geothermal system

2012

- RCA to support pursuing Green Step Cities (GSC)
- U of M Sustainability Studies
- Clean Energy Resource Team (CERTs)

- RCA to become a GSC
- PWETC Presentation on GSC
- Entered best practice information into GSC website
- Solar Investigation



What we've done

2015

B3 Benchmarking

2016

- Solar Investigation
- Campus Energy Audits

2017

- U of M Capstone projects: Green Step Cities, Complete Streets, + additional
- Vulnerable Population Assessment

- Solar installations on City Hall, Fire Station, & Maintenance Facility
- Council approval of Complete Street Policy & Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Policy (EPPP)
- Green Step City Step 3 recognition



What we've done

2020

- Advanced & implemented the Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Policy
- Received a Minnesota GreenCorps member in September
- Promoted BizRecycling Program through Ramsey County
- Applied for Xcel Energy's Partners in Energy program
- Expanded and promoted compost collection in City buildings
- City became a Step 4 GreenStep City

- Xcel Energy's Partners in Energy program
 - Established an Energy Action Team
 - Created an Energy Action Plan
 - Started implementing the Energy Action Plan
- Created the framework for a Voluntary Energy Benchmarking Program
- Expanded the number of public buildings in our B3 Benchmarking Program
- City became a Step 5 Green Step City
- Won the Best of B3 Benchmarking Award



What we've done

2022

- Implemented our Energy Action Plan (more to follow)
- Maintained Green Step City Step 5, and expand our current list of best practices
- Created a plan to add EV Charging Stations at public facilities
- Sustainable Steward Program
- Graduated from Xcel Energy's Partners in Energy Program
- 2022 Intercity Challenge (Home Energy Squad Visits)
- Bi-monthly Sustainability Newsletter
- Created a Roseville Sustainability Logo

- Sustainability Specialist Position
- Less Mow May



Roseville Sustainability **Events**



Zero Waste Events

- Earth Day
- Taste of Rosefest
- Run and Roll for the Roses
- Wild Rice Festival
- Tapped & Uncorked new in 2022

RESULTS

Eureka Recycling was happy to partner with the Friends of Roseville Parks and The City of Roseville this year to coordinate recycling and composting planning and services for the 8th Annual Tapped & Uncorked event.

This year's results:

- Compostables = 112 pounds
- Recyclables = 132 pounds
- Landfill/Incinerator = 15 pounds

Total discards: 259



In total, 94% of materials generated at the 8th Annual Tapped & Uncorked were either composted or recycled and diverted from the landfill or incinerator.

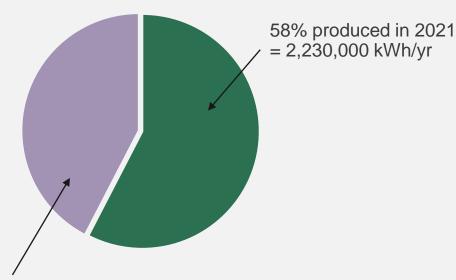




Roseville Sustainability 2040 Comp Plan Goals

How is Roseville doing in meeting the 2040 Comp Plan energy goals?

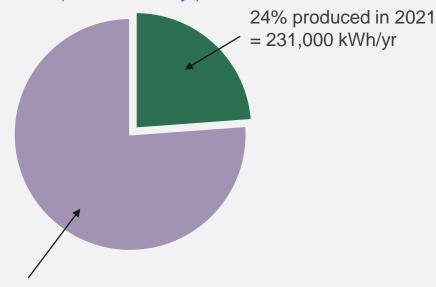
100% Renewable of City Operations (3,873,000 kWh/yr)



To meet our goal, we need to increase our use of Renewable Resources by 42% (1,642,000 kWh/yr)

Roseville has ~1,200,000 kWh in a Community Solar Garden in Washington County that should come online in late 2022 (~11% or 442,000 kWh remaining to meet goal)

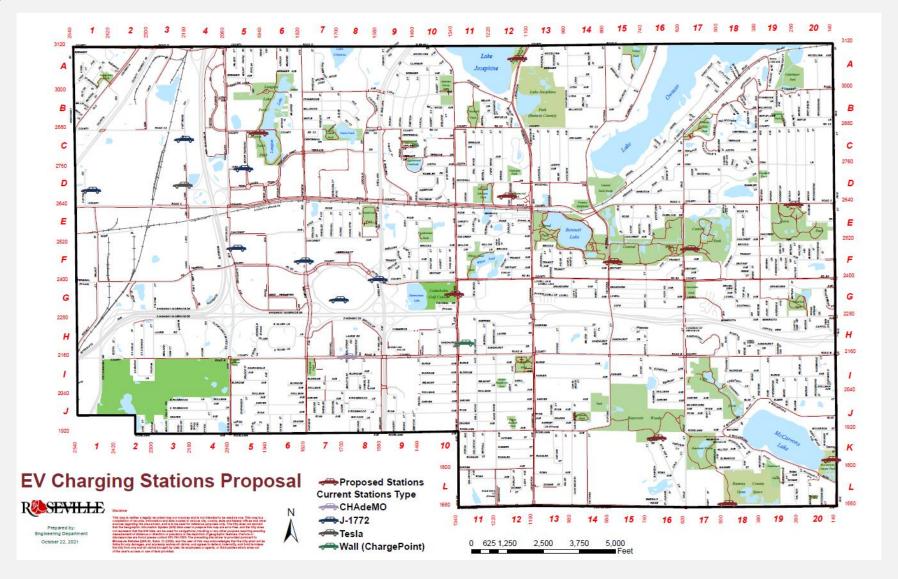
25% of City Operations produced onsite (968,000 kWh/yr)



To meet our goal, we need to increase our onsite generation by 76% (738,000 kWh/yr)



Roseville Sustainability EV Charging





Roseville Sustainability EV Charging

ROSEVILLE CITY HALL

retrofitcompanies.com

EV CHARGING PROPOSAL

4/08/2022



Prepared For

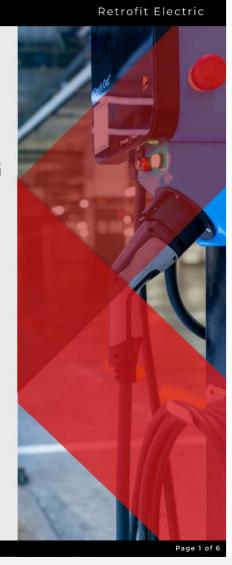
Ryan Johnson

City of Roseville

2660 Civic Center Drive Roseville, MN 55113

Prepared By

Electrical Estimating Manager
763-334-1140
aschutz@retrofitcompanies.com







Roseville Sustainability Less Mow May

Council adopted Resolution (Jan 9, 2023)







2022 Accomplishments

- Created a Sustainable Steward Award Program to recognize properties that make energy efficient improvements
- Maintained GreenStep Cities Step 5
- Created a bi-monthly newsletter that focuses on Sustainability
- Created an EV resource page on the city website for residents
- Developed sustainability branding/logo for the city alongside Sustainable Steward Award Program
- Worked with Community Development and HKGI to add new sustainable land use incentive checklist to phase 2 zoning code update
- Attended several events to promote sustainability: Earth Day, Rice/Larpenteur Alliance – Community in Bloom & Summer Block Party, Taste of Rosefest, and LWV EV Fair)





SUSTAINABILITY

Contact Us:

Sustainability Newsletter

Public Works & Engineering Division

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2023







Partners in Energy



Smart Salting Tips

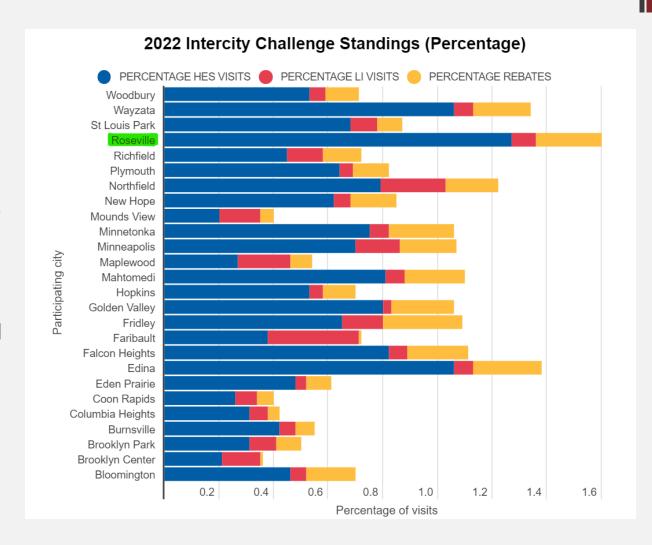


Renewable Energy Subscriptions



2022 Accomplishments

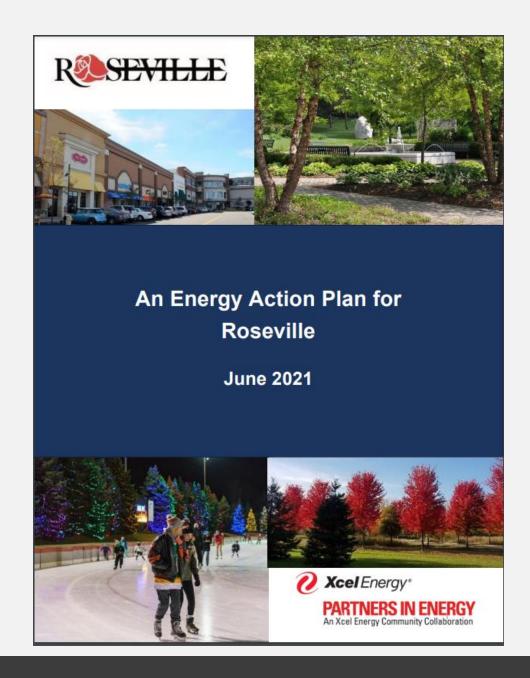
- Contacted over 3,000 households, including 1,500 low-income households, with information about energy saving rebates, the Energy Assistance Program, and Home Energy Squad opportunities
- Contacted over 100 businesses and visited 60 in person to promote free energy audits for businesses
- Roseville leads cities participating in the <u>Intercity</u> Home Energy Squad Challenge in Home Energy Squad visits per capita as of December 2022
- Gave away over 20 free HES visits to residents (and counting) to help Xcel Energy and CEE promote Home Energy Squad
- Distributed over 500 flyers to local food shelves and food distribution events
- Worked to translate our Energy Burden flyer into Nepali for local Bhutanese immigrants





Partners in Energy Update

- Ultimate planning phase outcome
- Plan for pursing the Community's Energy Vision
- Guides implementation
- Adopted by City Council 21-Jun-21
- Timeline
 - Development: Dec 2020 June 2021
 - Implementation: June 2021 Dec 2022
 - Graduation: Dec. 31, 2022
 - Continued implementation: Jan 2023 ?





Partners in Energy Update

2022 Implementation

- Contacted over 3,000 households, including 1,500 low-income households, with information about energy saving rebates, the Energy Assistance Program, and Home Energy Squad opportunities
- Contacted over 100 businesses and visited 60 in person to promote free energy audits for businesses
- Attended 7 local events throughout the year to promote energy efficiency & renewable energy
- Roseville leads cities participating in the Intercity Home Energy Squad Challenge in Home Energy Squad visits per capita as of December 2022
- Gave away over 20 free HES visits to residents (and counting) to help Xcel Energy and CEE promote Home Energy Squad
- Distributed over 500 flyers to local food shelves and food distribution events
- Worked to translate our Energy Burden flyer into Nepali for local Bhutanese immigrants





Partners in Energy Update

Implementation for 2023

- Partner with Faith Organizations
- Expand outreach to reduce energy burden
- Continue implementing Energy Action Plan (post graduation)
 - Additional presentations, webinars, etc. for our focus areas
 - Door to door handouts for small and medium business energy efficiency
 - Tabling at City events
 - Additional mailings, web updates, and social media posts to increase awareness
 - Continue to work with our current partners and create new partners to expand our reach





Roseville Sustainability 2023 Opportunities

- Initial steps for a Climate Action Plan
 - Applied for MPCA Resiliency Grant (Jan 2023)
- Apply for MPCA EV Charging Grant (Feb 2023)
- Energy Action Plan implementation
 - Focus on Faith Organizations, Energy Burden
- Sustainability website updates
- Expand GreenStep Cities best practices and participate in the Gold Leaf Pilot Program
- Electric Vehicle planning (public charging and fleet electrification)
- Expansion of Parks Recycling, including Education and Outreach
- Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Policy (EPPP)
- Take-out containers





Roseville Sustainability 2023 Opportunities

- Less Mow May education & outreach
- Roseville Sustainable Steward Award Program
- B3 & GreenStep Cities updates and expansion
- Bi-monthly Sustainability newsletter
- Voluntary energy benchmarking program
- Sustainable land use incentives implementation with Community Development (hopefully)
- Community outreach & sustainability event planning
 - Earth Day
 - Rice/Larpenteur Alliance Community in Bloom, Summer Block Party, Winter Warmup
 - Taste of Rosefest, Tapped & Uncorked
- Inflation Reduction Act education & outreach (residents & businesses)
- Bike planning





Additional Topics

- Green Building Guide
 - Saint Paul Sustainable Building Policy
 - Maplewood Green Construction Code
- Determine corridors for Complete Streets
- Determine areas for pollinator friendly right-of-ways
- Urban Forestry
- Research renewable energy options within the City
 - City Buildings, Residential and Commercial districts, etc.
- Green Team Description & Tasks
- 2040 Comp Plan Chapter 9 Resilience and Environmental Protection
- Expansion of Organics/Food Scraps recycling





Questions?



THANKYOU

Public Works Department



Roseville Public Works, Environment and Transportation Commission

Agenda Item

Item Description: Look Ahead Agenda Items/Next Meeting February 28, 2023

Suggested Items:

February:

• Speed Limits

Looking Ahead:

March 2023:

April 2023: Recycling Update from Eureka

Recommended Action:

Set preliminary agenda items for the February 28, 2023 Public Works, Environment & Transportation Commission meeting.