REQUEST FOR COUNCIL ACTION

Date: 4/23/2012
Item No.: 10.b

Department Approval | City Manager Approval

Item Description: Presentation on Minnesota Green Step Cities

BACKGROUND

As part of the Imagine Roseville 2025 process Roseville residents set a goal for the city to be an environmentally healthy community (Attachment A). Roseville has a number of programs and practices that meet the goal and strategies from the IR 2025 report. Roseville can do additional work on these goals and strategies and a relatively new program from the State of Minnesota can help.

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

Forty cities including Falcon Heights, Maplewood, Mahtomedi, St. Anthony, White Bear Lake have already achieved Green Step Cities recognition.

Additionally the program can help flesh out how to follow-through on the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement, signed by Roseville, and the Minnesota Legislature's aggressive Next Generation Energy Act.

This spring students in the University of Minnesota's College of Food, Agriculture and Natural Resource Sciences approached Roseville about a class project to help Roseville become a Green Step City. Students including Lindsay Van Patten and Kiley Friedrich interviewed staff and identified completed best practices and possible best practices that could be completed.

Diana McKeown from the Clean Energy Resource Teams (CERT) will present an overview of the Greeen Step Cities program and Lindsay Van Patten and Kiley Friedrich will present the results of their research. McKeown presented the Green Step Cities overview to the Public Works, Environment and Transportation Commission at its January 24, 2012 meeting. Commission members agreed that the Green Step Cities program was worth further investigation.

Excerpt from January 24, 2012 PWET Commission meeting mintues:

> Member Stenlund moved, Member Vanderwall seconded, to look at this program more in depth for the City of Roseville; directing staff to include it on a future agenda once they were able to document current best practices in the City of Roseville, and prior to June of 2012.

Ayes: 5
Nays: 0
Motion carried.

POLICY OBJECTIVE

To meet Imagine Roseville 2025 goal and strategies related to making Roseville an environmentally healthy community. Promotion of Green Step Cities status can help engage citizens about environmental initiatives – which is also part of the IR 2025 goal and strategies.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

Cataloguing best practices and maintaining records on things such as energy use will require an undetermined amount of staff time. There is no fee to apply for Green Step Cities recognition.

REQUESTED COUNCIL ACTION

Give direction to staff as to pursuing Green Step Cities recognition.

Prepared by: Tim Pratt, Recycling Coordinator
Attachments:
A: Imagine Roseville 2025 environmental goal and strategies
B: Green Step Cities best practices
C: Green Step Cities overview presentation
D: Roseville and Green Step Cities presentation

Environment

Goal: Roseville is an environmentally healthy community

Strategy A: Preserve and enhance soil, water, and urban forest resources

1) Protect and preserve existing lakes, wetlands, ponds, aquifers, and other natural environments and habitats
2) Recognize water resources and the importance of aquifer recharge; reduce stormwater runoff through regulation and education
3) Use best practices to maintain and develop natural resources, focusing on wetlands and groundwater quality; encourage water conservation
4) Protect and enhance urban forests
5) Collaborate with other governmental units and groups to identify and help meet environmental targets

Strategy B: Reduce negative human impacts by conserving energy and reducing pollution

1) Make decisions that account for human impact on the carrying capacity of the environment
2) Model energy conservation and encourage alternative energy; increase use of energy efficient and low impact lighting throughout the city
3) Reduce local energy usage by educating community members about energy conservation and its impact on the city
4) Improve air, water, soil, and sound quality by reducing pollution of all kinds, including from traffic, noise, runoff, and excess light and noise; enhance community awareness of environmental impacts

Attachment B

A program of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and its partners

Google™ Custom Search Search

Minnesota GreenStep Cities

The GreenStep 28 best practices

- **Make planning and tracking easier: download this spreadsheet that lists all 168 unique actions for all 28 best practices.**

  An online version (see view-only example) can be shared with, and edited by, multiple staff members, citizens and elected officials. E-mail Amir Nadav, Great Plains Institute, for online access rights.

- Cities that implement a minimum number of best practices organized into these five topical areas will be recognized as a GreenStep City. See What's required to be a GreenStep City?
- Cities should claim credit for best practices already implemented. Adding best practices over time will garner additional recognition.
- For each best practice, and depending on city category (A, B or C), a city needs to complete one or more actions from a list associated with the best practice. See What category is my city in?

Buildings and Lighting

1. Efficient Existing Public Buildings: Benchmark energy usage, identify savings opportunities, and work with utilities and others to implement cost-effective energy and sustainability improvements.

2. Efficient Existing Private Buildings: Provide incentives for energy, water and sustainability improvements in existing structures.

3. New Green Buildings: Construct new buildings to meet or qualify under a green building framework.

4. Efficient Building & Street Lighting and Signals: Improve the efficiency of public lighting and signals.

5. Building Reuse: Create economic and regulatory incentives for redeveloping and repurposing existing buildings before building new.

Land Use

6. Comprehensive Plan and Implementation: Adopt a Comprehensive Plan and tie regulatory ordinances to it.

7. Efficient City Growth: Promote financial and environmental sustainability by enabling and encouraging higher density housing and commercial land use.

8. Mixed Uses: Develop efficient and healthy land patterns.

9. Efficient Highway-Oriented Development: Adopt commercial development and design standards for highway road corridors.

10. Conservation Design: Adopt development ordinances or processes that protect natural systems.

Transportation

11. Complete Green Streets: Create a network of multimodal green streets.

12. Mobility Options: Promote active transportation and alternatives to single-occupancy car travel.

13. Efficient City Fleets: Implement a city fleet investment, operations and maintenance plan.

14. Demand-Side Travel Planning: Implement Travel Demand Management and Transit-Oriented Design.

Environmental Management

15. Purchasing: Adopt environmentally preferable purchasing policies and practices.

16. Urban Forests: Increase city tree and plant cover.

17. Efficient Stormwater Management: Minimize the volume of and pollutants in rainwater runoff.

18. Parks and Trails: Support active lifestyles by enhancing the city's green infrastructure.

19. Surface Water Quality: Improve local water bodies.

20. Efficient Water and Wastewater Facilities: Assess and improve city drinking water and wastewater facilities.

21. Septic Systems: Implement an effective management program for decentralized wastewater treatment systems.

22. Solid Waste Reduction: Increase waste reduction, reuse and recycling.

23. Local Air Quality: Prevent generation of local air contaminants.

Economic and Community Development

24. Benchmarks & Community Engagement: Adopt outcome measures for GreenStep and other city sustainability efforts, and engage community members in ongoing education, dialogue, and campaigns.

25. Green Business Development: Support expansion of the green business sector in your city.

26. Renewable Energy: Remove barriers to and encourage installation of renewable energy generation capacity.

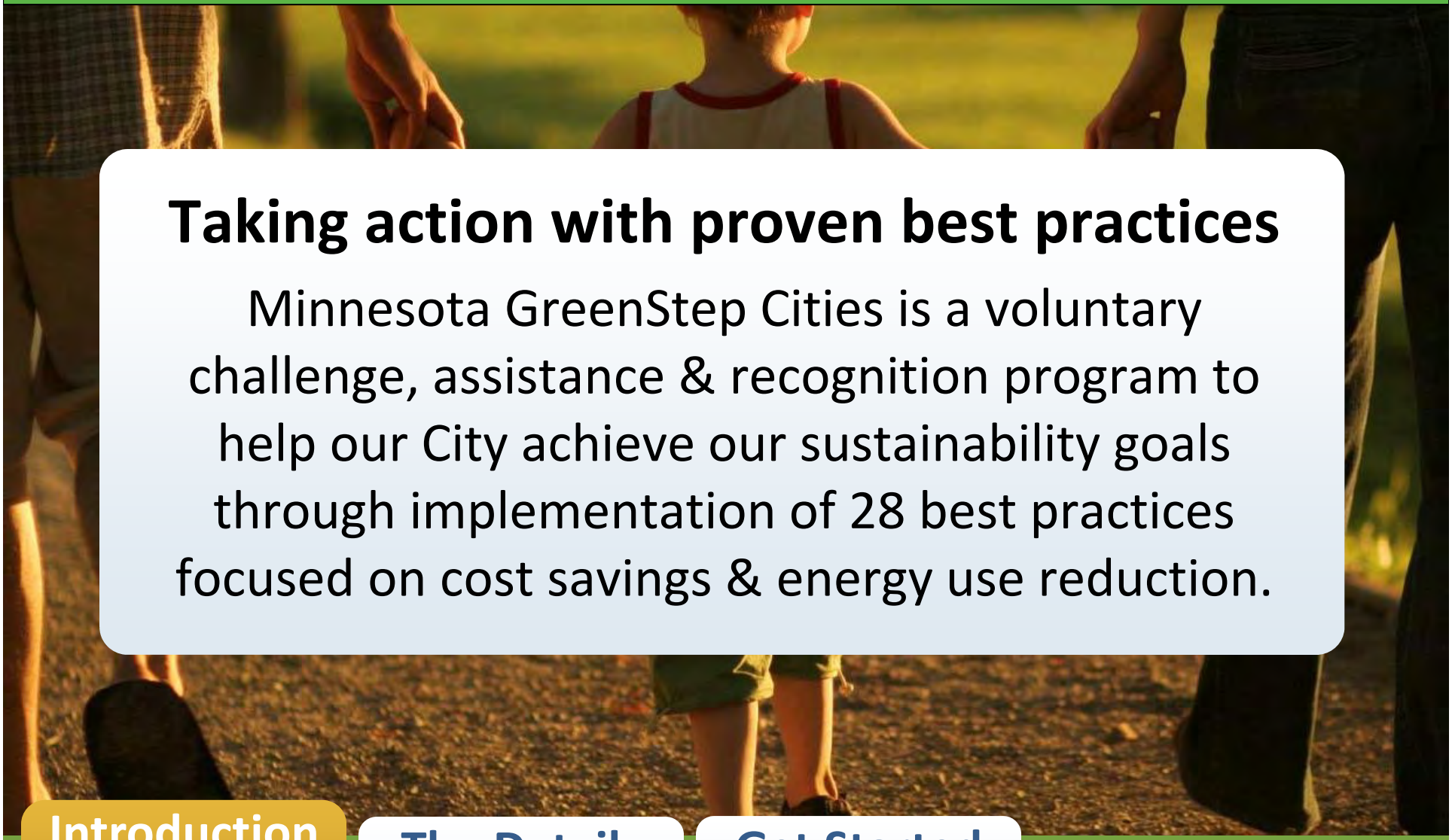
27. Local Food: Strengthen local food and fiber production and access.

28. Business Synergies: Network/cluster businesses to achieve better energy, economic and environmental outcomes.

Minnesota
GreenStep Cities

Implementing Sustainability with Proven Best Practices

Introduction: GreenStep Cities



Taking action with proven best practices

Minnesota GreenStep Cities is a voluntary challenge, assistance & recognition program to help our City achieve our sustainability goals through implementation of 28 best practices focused on cost savings & energy use reduction.

What is GreenStep all about?

- Providing a "Pathway to Sustainability" (i.e., ACTION) that is:
  - Cost-effective
  - Pragmatic
  - Achievable for all cities
- Providing assistance & peer learning for our City to achieve best practices
- Achieving meaningful reductions in energy use and related cost savings
- Providing leadership and action roles for our community members & institutions so as to stretch limited City funds
- Promoting innovation

What makes GreenStep different?

- Focused on Minnesota
- Geared toward smaller cities
- Best practices developed by experts in their fields from Minnesota
- Action oriented
- Allows flexibility with each Best Practice
- Gives credit for actions we've already taken and helps us identify new actions to take
- Identifies real resource people who can help us with each best practice
- Provides a framework for your City's sustainability efforts

Why should our City participate?

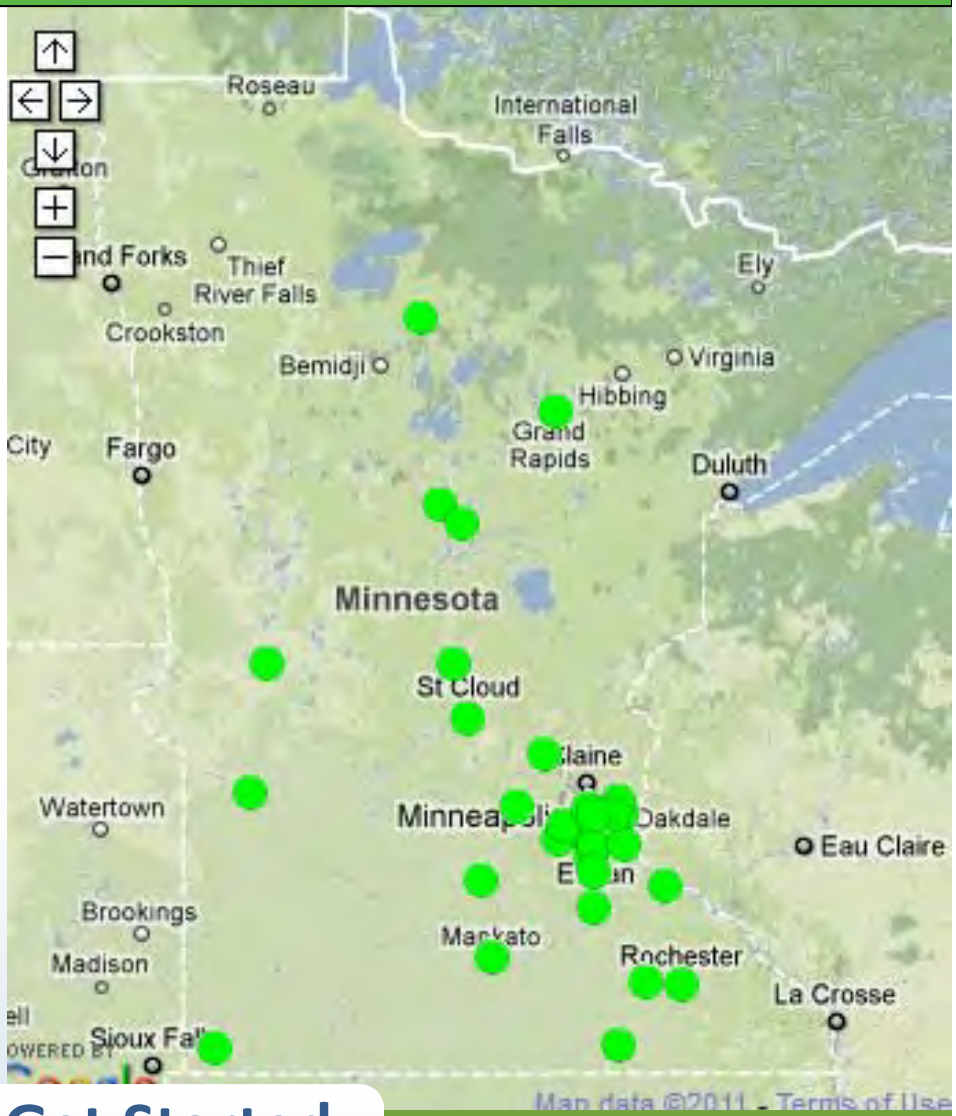
For a healthy, resilient community:

- Cheaper-to-operate & green buildings
- Lower costs to government, business, educational institutions & citizens
- Ecological infrastructure, low-impact development
- Cleaner water & air
- Walkable, bikeable communities, healthier citizens & businesses
- Transportation options connecting jobs & homes
- Local food production
- Local renewable energy production
- More local, green jobs
- Attract businesses

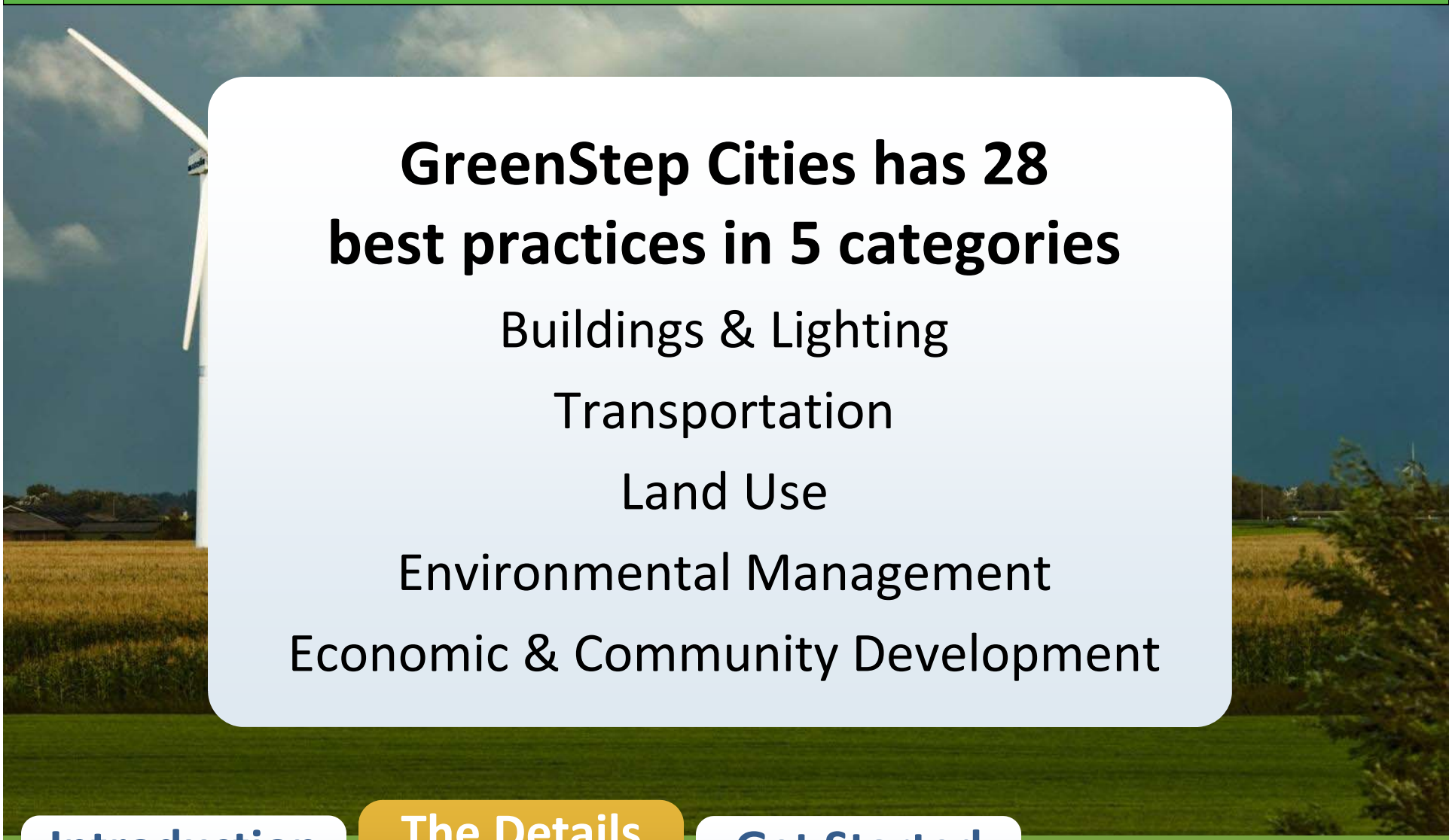
Are other cities already involved?

Yes! A few cities taking action are:

- Apple Valley
- Austin
- Breezy Point
- Delano
- Eagan
- Eden Prairie
- Edina
- Elk River
- Farmington
- Hoffman
- Hanover
- La Prairie
- Luverne
- Mahtomedi
- Mankato
- Milan
- Northfield
- Oakdale
- Pine River
- Red Wing
- Rogers
- Saint Cloud



The Details: Best Practices



GreenStep Cities has 28 best practices in 5 categories

Buildings & Lighting

Transportation

Land Use

Environmental Management

Economic & Community Development

The Details: Best Practices

Buildings and Lighting

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

Land Use

- Comprehensive Plan and Implementation
- Higher Density
- Efficient and Healthy Development Patterns
- Efficient Highway-Oriented Development
- Conservation Design

Transportation

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

Environmental Management

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

Economic and Community Development

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

Which category city are we?

Category C Cities: Very small cities with no more than one public building and no more than two full-time equivalent staff.

Category B Cities: Small to mid-size cities that have several public buildings and at least several staff. Category B cities maintain roads and usually a separate public works department and a planning/development department.

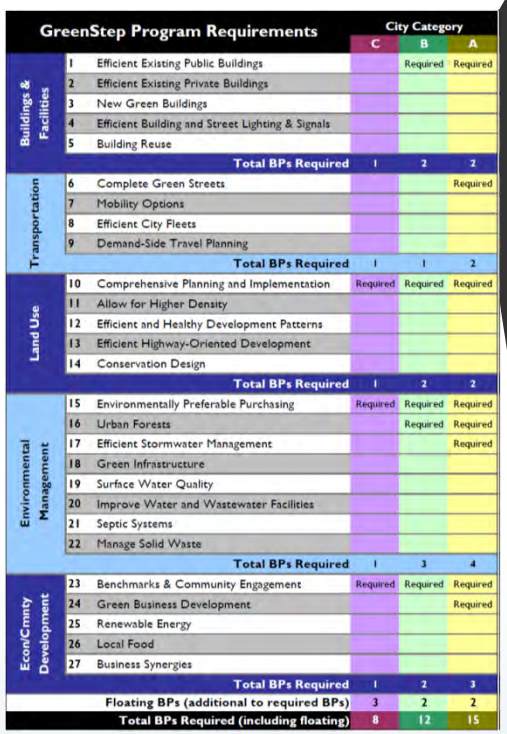
Category A Cities: Mid-size to large cities that are within a metropolitan area or serve as a regional economic and service center. Category A cities are served by a regular route transit service, provide a complete set of urban services, and have distinct commercial and industrial areas. Adjoining cities working together on the GreenSteps program must also be considered Category A cities.

Which category city are we?

	Questions	Answers
1	Approximately how many public buildings does the city own?	
2	Approximately how many paid full time equivalent (FTE) staff does the City have?	
3	For how many separate departments (public works, planning, etc) does the City has paid staff?	
4	Does the City have fixed route transit service (bus or rail) with at least two separate routes that make more than one local stop? Exclude dial-a-ride, paratransit.	
5	Is the City required to have an MS4 (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System) permit from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency?	
6	Does the City operate a centralized wastewater treatment facility that serves most residents?	
7	Does the City operate a drinking water treatment facility and serves most residents?	
8	How many distinct commercial areas and industrial parks does the City have?	
9	Is the C… a?	

City Departments
Enter the number of city departments from the drop down list

Programmatic Requirements



GreenStep Program Requirements			City Category		
			C	B	A
Buildings & Facilities	1	Efficient Existing Public Buildings		Required	Required
	2	Efficient Existing Private Buildings			
	3	New Green Buildings			
	4	Efficient Building and Street Lighting & Signals			
	5	Building Reuse			
		Total BPs Required	1	2	2
Transportation	6	Complete Green Streets			Required
	7	Mobility Options			
	8	Efficient City Fleets			
	9	Demand-Side Travel Planning			
		Total BPs Required	1	1	2
Land Use	10	Comprehensive Planning and Implementation	Required	Required	Required
	11	Allow for Higher Density			
	12	Efficient and Healthy Development Patterns			
	13	Efficient Highway-Oriented Development			
	14	Conservation Design			
		Total BPs Required	1	2	2
Environmental Management	15	Environmentally Preferable Purchasing	Required	Required	Required
	16	Urban Forests		Required	Required
	17	Efficient Stormwater Management			Required
	18	Green Infrastructure			
	19	Surface Water Quality			
	20	Improve Water and Wastewater Facilities			
	21	Septic Systems			
	22	Manage Solid Waste			
		Total BPs Required	1	3	4
Econ/Cmnty Development	23	Benchmarks & Community Engagement	Required	Required	Required
	24	Green Business Development			Required
	25	Renewable Energy			
	26	Local Food			
	27	Business Synergies			
		Total BPs Required	1	2	3
		Floating BPs (additional to required BPs)	3	2	2
		Total BPs Required (including floating)	8	12	15

Sample Best Practices

- Improve the efficiency of city street lighting and signals
- Improve the efficiency of drinking water and waste water facilities
- Construct new buildings to meet green building standards
- Adopt development ordinances or processes that protect natural systems
- Increase city tree and plant cover
- Adopt an environmentally preferable purchasing policy
- Strengthen local food production and access
- Use assistance programs for green business and job development

Best Practice Actions…*for trees*

Within each Best Practice there are a series of Best Practice Actions that a city can take to implement that best practice. This example is for trees.

Increase city tree and plant cover:

- Qualify as a Tree City USA, or
- Adopt MN TreeTrust/Boonestro tree planting standards as city policy, or
- Budget tree plantings to reach 75% residential canopy cover in 15 yrs., or
- Enact street design standards that incorporate street trees

Who can Help? Ken Holman, Community Forestry Coordinator, MN Department of Natural Resources: 651/259-5269, ken.holman@dnr.state.mn.us

Be a GreenStep City: 3 Steps

1. Build community interest
2. Have local City Council approve a resolution
3. Appoint a GreenStep Cities Coordinator

GreenStep Partners

Main Partners:

- Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
- Clean Energy Resource Teams (CERTs)
- League of Minnesota Cities
- Great Plains Institute
- Izaak Walton League – MN Division
- Urban Land Institute – MN and Regional Council of Mayors
- MN Department of Commerce, Division of Energy Resources

For More Information

Diana McKeown

Metro CERT Director

612-455-9172

diana@CleanEnergyResourceTeams.org

Roseville and GreenStep Cities

Kiley Friedrich & Lindsay Van Patten
University of Minnesota
Sustainability Studies

GreenStep Inventory

- GreenStep Framework and Checklist
- Roseville's Strong Environmental Ethic

Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies
CAPRA
ACCREDITED

TREE CITY USA®

Complete the Streets

Implemented

- Thermostat Adjustments on Buildings
- Geothermal Installation at the OVAL
- Zoning to Promote Energy Efficiency
- Efficiency Retrofits to Buildings
- Creation of Comprehensive Plan
- Natural Resource Inventory
- Tree City USA since 1995

In Progress

- Improving Mixed Land Use
- More Accessible Park and Trails
- Water Improvement Projects
- Promote Local Foods and Purchasing
- Promoting Gardening, Chicken and Beekeeping

Areas of Potential

- More Monitoring of Implementation of Comprehensive Plan
- Pursue Supported Initiatives
  (e.g. Complete Streets)
- Promote Walking and Biking
- Measureable Community Development Benchmark Monitoring

- **Research Alternative City Purchasing**

Environmental Purchasing Policy

- To improve upon the existing purchasing policy that is in place and to guide the selection of goods and services to alternatives that have the lowest environmental impacts
- Guide decision makers to ensure that local policy supports markets for recycled and other environmentally preferable products

Environmental Purchasing Policy

The specific goals of the policy are to

- Conserve natural resources
- Eliminate or reduce the use of toxic compounds
- Reduce the amount of waste generated from city operations
- Lower overall expenses by minimizing waste and addressing life-cycle cost accounting
- Invest in and encourage technological advances that minimize negative environmental impacts
- To facilitate a more streamlined, environmentally conscious purchasing process in all city departments that includes assistance and monitoring
- To facilitate annual review of the program in which the policy can be adapted
- Educate city staff and residents about alternative products and practices for improved, environmentally-conscious purchasing and consumption

Thank you

- Questions?

  - Tim Pratt
  - Lindsay Van Patten
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  - Kiley Friedrich
    - Kiley.friedrich@gmail.com