



MN GreenStep Cities Update to City Council

March 8, 2010



What is the GreenStep Cities program?

- **Voluntary** challenge to MN cities from the MN PCA to help cities achieve their sustainability goals
- Provides 28 Best Practices (BPs) grouped into 5 general categories
- Direction on documentation and review is still missing
 - MPCA to hire new staff to write specific requirements and update website by June 2011



Minnesota **GreenStep Cities**

5 GreenStep Best Practices Categories

- **Buildings & Lighting:** Green Building Standards, Efficient Lighting, Building Reuse, etc.
- **Land Use:** Comprehensive Plan, Higher Density & Efficient Development, Conservation Design, etc.
- **Transportation:** Complete Green Streets, Mobility Options, City Fleets, etc.
- **Environmental Management:** Purchasing, Urban Forests, Stormwater Management, Water Quality, etc.
- **Economic & Community Development:** Community Engagement, Green Business, Renewable Energy, Local Food, etc.

More information on the GreenStep Cities website:

<http://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us>



Minnesota GreenStep Cities

- **First pass through BPs and action steps**
 - Identify city departments, boards and commissions and community partners that are best situated to contribute
 - Identify existing city policies, plans, initiatives, etc. that apply to the various action steps
 - Estimate progress toward fulfilling BPs

- **Input is welcome**
 - Expect significant input from departments & boards & commissions

Recognition	Requirement	Status
Step 1 City	Sign Up	Complete
Step 2 City	8 BPs	25%
Step 3 City	16 BPs	13%
Step 4 City	TBD	



Group	BP #	Best Practice	Class A Requirement	% Complete	Bonus BPs
Buildings and Lighting	1	Public Buildings - Work with utilities and others to assess and finance energy and sustainability improvements of existing structures.	Required	50%	1
	2	Private Buildings - Work with utilities and others to assess and finance energy and sustainability improvements of existing structures.	Optional	50%	
	3	New Green Buildings - Construct new buildings to meet or qualify for a green building standard.	Optional	0%	
	4	Efficient Building & Street Lighting and Signals - Improve the efficiency of public and private lighting and signals	Optional	50%	
	5	Building Reuse - Create economic and regulatory incentives for redeveloping and repurposing existing buildings before building new.	Optional	0%	
Land Use	6	Comprehensive Plan and Implementation - Adopt a Comprehensive Plan and tie regulatory ordinances to it.	Required	50%	1
	7	Higher Density - Enable and encourage a higher density of housing or commercial land use.	Optional	0%	
	8	Efficient and Healthy Development Patterns - Mix land uses.	Optional	0%	
	9	Efficient Highway-Oriented Development - Adopt commercial development and design standards for highway road corridors	Optional	0%	
	10	Conservation Design - Adopt development ordinances or processes that protect natural systems	Optional	100%	
Transportation	11	Complete Green Streets - Create a network of multimodal green streets.	Required	33%	
	12	Mobility Options - Promote active living and alternatives to single-occupancy car travel.	Required	0%	
	13	Efficient City Fleets - Implement a city fleet investment, operations, and maintenance plan.	Optional	0%	
	14	Demand-Side Travel Planning - Use Travel Demand Management and Transit-Oriented Design	Optional	0%	
Environmental Management	15	Environmental Purchasing - Adopt and environmentally preferable purchasing policy	Required	0%	
	16	Urban Forests - Increase city tree and plant cover	Required	0%	
	17	Efficient Stormwater Management - Minimize the volume of and pollutants in water runoff.	Required	100%	
	18	Green Infrastructure - Enhance city parks and trails	Optional	0%	
	19	Surface Water - Improve local water bodies	Optional	50%	
	20	Efficient Water and Wastewater Facilities - Assess and improve drinking water and wastewater facilities	Optional	0%	
	21	Septic Systems - Implement an effective management program for decentralized wastewater treatment systems	Optional	0%	
	22	Solid Waste Reduction - Increase waste reduction, reuse and recycling	Optional	60%	
	23	Local Air Quality - Prevent generation of local air contaminants	Optional	0%	
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, discussion, and campaigns.	Required	0%	1
	25	Green Business Development - Document the use of assistance programs for green business and job development.	Required	0%	
	26	Renewable Energy - Remove barriers to and encourage installation of renewable energy generation capacity.	Optional	0%	
	27	Local Food - Strengthen local food and fiber production and access.	Optional	0%	
	28	Business Synergies - Network/cluster businesses to achieve better energy, economic and environmental outcomes.	Optional	0%	





Minnesota **GreenStep Cities**

- **How should the GreenStep Cities program be utilized?**
 - Is it a programmatic guide for prioritizing city projects?
 - Is it a reference used to tweak planned city projects to meet GreenStep criteria?