

# City of Fergus Falls

## Background Information

**County:** Otter Tail

**GreenStep Coordinator**

**Population:** 13,280

**GreenStep City category:**  
A

**Len Taylor**  
City staff  
[len.taylor@ci.fergus-falls.mn.us](mailto:len.taylor@ci.fergus-falls.mn.us)  
218-332-5418

**Full-time equivalent city staff (approx.):** 140

**City web page relating to sustainability/GreenStep activities:**

**Participating township(s) / school district(s):**

**GreenStep City resolution:** [Click here](#) to view the file.

**GreenStep City status and date:** STEP 2  
(06/15/2016)

**Best Practice Actions Underway and Completed**

**Completed actions are denoted by stars. Mouse over a star for its definition.**

# **Buildings and Lighting**

## **Efficient Existing Public Buildings { BP no. 1 }**

Action 1: Enter building information into the **Minnesota B3 Benchmarking database and** routinely enter monthly energy, water use data for all city-owned buildings.

**Date action report first entered: 01/14/2016**

### **Implementation details:**

The City of Fergus Falls has been entering information into this database.

### **Outcome measures/metrics:**

### **Descriptive links:**

### **For more information contact:**

**Len Taylor (City staff) |  
len.taylor@ci.fergus-falls.mn.us | 218-332-5418**

**2 Star(s) Action 2: Make no/low cost indoor lighting and operational changes in city-owned/school buildings to reduce energy costs.**

**Date action report first entered: 01/14/2016**

**Implementation details:**

The City of Fergus Falls has already implemented indoor lighting changes in the following city facilities: City Shop, Water Treatment Plant, Waste Water Treatment Plant, Police Station, Fire Hall, City Hall, both Municipal Liquor Stores and the Community Arena. These facilities have either changed their operations to include T-8 or LED lighting. In addition, motion sensors, auto dim and photo cells have been added to the Police Station and Waste Water Treatment Plant.

**Outcome measures/metrics:**

**Descriptive links:**

**For more information contact:**

**Len Taylor (City staff) |  
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**2 Star(s) Action 5: Document that the new construction or major remodeling of a public building has met the SB 2030 energy standard or has met or qualified under a green building or energy framework.**

**Date action report first entered: 01/14/2016**

**Implementation details:**

The Fergus Falls Police Station received the Silver LEED Award for their new building project at the October 5, 2015 City Council meeting. The Community Arena, Water and Waste Water Treatment plants and Fire Hall have installed LED lighting.

## **Outcome measures/metrics:**

### **Descriptive links:**

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**1 Star(s) Action 7: Install for one or more city-owned/school buildings one of the following efficiency measures:**

- b. A district energy/microgrid system.**
- a. A ground-source, closed loop geothermal system.**
- c. A rainwater harvesting system for building water use.**

**Date action report first entered: 01/14/2016**

### **Implementation details:**

Independent School District 544 (Fergus Falls) has installed the ground-source, closed loop geothermal system into their elementary school buildings. One of the schools (Adams Elementary) has a rain garden they operate. The Police Station also has installed a ground-source, closed loop geothermal system.

## **Outcome measures/metrics:**

### **Descriptive links:**

#### **For more information contact:**

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# **Efficient Existing Private Buildings { BP no. 2 }**

Action 1: Create or participate in a **marketing/outreach/incentive program** to promote/achieve residential energy/water use reduction and energy efficiency.

**Date action report first entered: 01/14/2016**

## **Implementation details:**

Both Great Plains Natural Gas Company and Otter Tail Power Company use extensive outreach programs to promote residential energy efficiency.

## **Outcome measures/metrics:**

## **Descriptive links:**

## **For more information contact:**

**Len Taylor (City staff) |  
len.taylor@ci.fergus-falls.mn.us | 218-332-5418**

Action 2: Integrate green building best practices information and assistance into the **building permit process**.

**Date action report first entered: 01/14/2016**

## **Implementation details:**

The City of Fergus Falls is interested in more green building best practices information on our city website under the Building and Zoning Department area.

## **Outcome measures/metrics:**

## **Descriptive links:**

### **For more information contact:**

**Len Taylor (City staff) |  
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**1 Star(s) Action 3: Implement an energy rating/disclosure policy for residential and/or commercial buildings.**

**Date action report first entered: 01/14/2016**

### **Implementation details:**

The City of Fergus Falls uses the Minnesota B3 Benchmarking database for the city owned facilities. Otter Tail Power Company uses a monthly energy rating system for their clients. They send out statements listing how well they are doing in comparison to last month, last year and in comparison to similar type homes.

### **Outcome measures/metrics:**

## **Descriptive links:**

### **For more information contact:**

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Action 4: Describe energy/water efficiency outcomes and other **green building practices at businesses** located within/nearby the city.

**Date action report first entered: 01/14/2016**

## **Implementation details:**

The City of Fergus Falls has a water conservation rate built into our water utility rate structure.

## **Outcome measures/metrics:**

## **Descriptive links:**

## **For more information contact:**

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Action 5: **Conserve/protect drinking/groundwater** resources by creating a water-wise landscaping ordinance/guidance, WaterSense purchasing program, or guidance on rainwater harvesting and home water softener use.

**Date action report first entered: 01/14/2016**

## **Implementation details:**

The City of Fergus Falls is interested in more water wise guidance and rainwater harvesting information on our city website.

## **Outcome measures/metrics:**

## **Descriptive links:**

## **For more information contact:**

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Action 6: Provide a financial or other **incentive to private parties** who add energy/sustainability improvements, meet the SB 2030 energy standard, or renovate using a green building or energy framework.

**Date action report first entered: 01/14/2016**

**Implementation details:**

Both Great Plains Natural Gas Company and Otter Tail Power Company use extensive outreach programs to promote residential energy efficiency.

**Outcome measures/metrics:**

**Descriptive links:**

**For more information contact:**

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Action 7: Customize a model **sustainable building renovation policy** that includes the SB 2030 energy standard and adopt the language to govern private renovation projects that:

- a. Receive city financial support, and/or**
- b. Require city regulatory approval (conditional use permits, rezonings, variances, PUD status).**

**Date action report first entered: 01/14/2016**

**Implementation details:**

The City of Fergus Falls follows the energy standards found within the Minnesota State Building Code.

**Outcome measures/metrics:**

**Descriptive links:**

**For more information contact:**



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## **New Green Buildings { BP no. 3 }**

**1 Star(s) Action 1: Require by city policy that new city-owned buildings be built using the SB 2030 energy standard and/or a green building framework.**

**Date action report first entered: 01/14/2016**

### **Implementation details:**

The City of Fergus Falls has recently completed the design development phase for a renovated/new construction project at our Public Library. The city and BTR has reviewed the design to incorporate green building framework standards.

### **Outcome measures/metrics:**

### **Descriptive links:**

### **For more information contact:**

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Action 2: Work with the local school district to ensure that **future new schools** are built using the SB 2030 energy standard and/or a green building framework.

**Date action report first entered: 01/14/2016**

### **Implementation details:**

The City of Fergus Falls has recently completed the design development phase for a renovated/new construction project at our Public Library. The city and BTR has reviewed the design to incorporate green building framework standards.

**Outcome measures/metrics:**

**Descriptive links:**

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Action 5: Adopt environmentally preferable covenant guidelines for new **common interest communities** addressing issues such as stormwater, greywater, native vegetation, growing food, clothes lines and renewable energy.

**Date action report first entered: 01/14/2016**

**Implementation details:**

Lakes Country Service Cooperative has developed a food hub to introduce locally grown produce into the local school districts.

**Outcome measures/metrics:**

**Descriptive links:**

**For more information contact:**

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**Efficient Outdoor Lighting and Signals {  
BP no. 4 }**

Action 2: Purchase LEDs for **all future street lighting and traffic signals** .

**Date action report first entered: 01/14/2016**

**Implementation details:**

The City of Fergus Falls has completed a transformation of all of our traffic signals lights to LED lighting and are considering a similar conversion with our street lighting. The street lights around Lake Alice are being considered for LED conversion and the new street lights that will be installed this fall at the former Regional Treatment Center will be LED lights.

**Outcome measures/metrics:**

**Descriptive links:**

**For more information contact:**

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**1 Star(s) Action 4: Coordinate traffic signals and/or optimize signal timing so as minimize car idling at intersections yet maintain safe and publicly acceptable vehicle speeds.**

**Date action report first entered: 01/14/2016**

**Implementation details:**

Traffic signal lights in Fergus Falls go into “flash mode” during certain hours of the day to minimize car idling at intersections.

**Outcome measures/metrics:**

## **Descriptive links:**

### **For more information contact:**

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**1 Star(s) Action 5: Use LED/solar-powered lighting for a flashing sign or in a street, parking lot or park project.**

**Date action report first entered: 01/14/2016**

## **Implementation details:**

The Fergus Falls Police Department has already installed three solar powered school zone signs and is looking into purchasing an additional three signs.

## **Outcome measures/metrics:**

## **Descriptive links:**

### **For more information contact:**

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**3 Star(s) Action 8: Replace the city's existing traffic signals with LEDs.**

**Date action report first entered: 01/14/2016**

**Implementation details:**

The City of Fergus Falls has replaced all of our traffic signal lights with LED lighting.

**Outcome measures/metrics:**

**Descriptive links:**

**For more information contact:**

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**Building Redevelopment { BP no. 5 }**

**2 Star(s) Action 3: Plan for reuse of large-format retail buildings, or work with a local school, church or commercial building to either add-on space or repurpose space into new uses.**

**Date action report first entered: 01/14/2016**

**Implementation details:**

The Fergus Falls Parks and Recreation Department operates their administrative and recreation offices within Roosevelt School. LB Homes bought Eisenhower School from the Fergus Falls School District and has converted the building into their administrative office. Lakes Country Service Cooperative bought and remodeled the former Jefferson School as their main administrative offices building.

**Outcome measures/metrics:**

## **Descriptive links:**

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Action 5: Adopt development/design standards and programs that facilitate **infill, redevelopment, and adaptable buildings** .

**Date action report first entered: 01/14/2016**

## **Implementation details:**

The City of Fergus Falls follows the design and development standards found within the Minnesota State Building Code.

## **Outcome measures/metrics:**

## **Descriptive links:**

### **For more information contact:**

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## **Land Use**

## **Comprehensive, Climate and Energy Plans { BP no. 6 }**

**1 Star(s) Action 1: Adopt a comprehensive plan or (for Category B & C cities) adopt a land use plan that was adopted by the county or a regional entity.**

**Date action report first entered: 01/14/2016**

**Implementation details:**

Each time the City of Fergus Falls plans, historic districts, water systems, transportation, bike plans, tax increment financing plans, development district plans, etc.. they approve them as a part of the city's comprehensive plan

**Outcome measures/metrics:**

**Descriptive links:**

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**1 Star(s) Action 2: Demonstrate that regulatory ordinances comply with the comprehensive plan including but not limited to having the zoning ordinance explicitly reference the comprehensive plan as the foundational document for decision making.**

**Date action report first entered: 01/14/2016**

**Implementation details:**

The City of Fergus Falls has official zoning map (ground zoning, shoreline zoning and airport zoning) and a 2040-2050 plan.

## **Outcome measures/metrics:**

## **Descriptive links:**

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## **Resilient City Growth { BP no. 7 }**

Action 2: Achieve higher density housing through at least two of the following strategies:

**a. Incorporate a flexible lot size/frontage requirement for infill development.**

**b. Use density and floor area ratio (FAR) bonuses in selected residential zoning districts.**

**c. Clustered residential development; tie a regulatory standard to comprehensive plan language defining compact city expansion zones that limit low-density development.**

**d. Allowing accessory dwelling units, single-room occupancy housing, senior housing, co-housing or tiny houses / apartments by right in selected zoning districts.**

**Date action report first entered: 01/14/2016**

**Implementation details:**



The City of Fergus Falls is researching this at the current time.

**Outcome measures/metrics:**

**Descriptive links:**

**For more information contact:**

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**1 Star(s) Action 3: Achieve higher intensity commercial/industrial land uses through at least one of the following strategies:**

- a. Include in the city zoning ordinance and zoning map a commercial district with reduced lot sizes and zero-lot-line setbacks, or a FAR minimum of 1.**
- b. Set targets for the minimum number of employees/acre in different commercial zones.**

**Date action report first entered: 01/14/2016**

**Implementation details:**

The City of Fergus Falls has had a B-3 zone established since 1965.

**Outcome measures/metrics:**

**Descriptive links:**

**For more information contact:**

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## **Mixed Uses { BP no. 8 }**

**1 Star(s) Action 2: Locate or lease a school, city building or other government facility that has at least two of these attributes:**

**a. Adjacent to an existing employment or residential center.**

**b. Designed to facilitate and encourage access by walking and biking.**

**c. Accessible by regular transit service.**

**Date action report first entered: 01/14/2016**

### **Implementation details:**

The City of Fergus Falls has the police station meets all of the criteria listed above. We are in the midst of planning for a library expansion project which would also meet all of the criteria.

### **Outcome measures/metrics:**

### **Descriptive links:**

**For more information contact:**

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**1 Star(s) Action 3: Modify a planned unit development ordinance to emphasize mixed use development or to limit residential PUDs to areas**

**adjacent to commercial development.**

**Date action report first entered: 01/14/2016**

**Implementation details:**

The current Planned Unit of Development allows for more mixed used development.

**Outcome measures/metrics:**

**Descriptive links:**

**For more information contact:**

**Len Taylor (City staff) |  
len.taylor@ci.fergus-falls.mn.us | 218-332-5418**

**1 Star(s) Action 5: Have a downtown zoning district that allows residential and compatible commercial development.**

**Date action report first entered: 01/14/2016**

**Implementation details:**

The City of Fergus Falls has had a B-3 zone since 1965.

**Outcome measures/metrics:**

**Descriptive links:**

**For more information contact:**

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Action 6: Incorporate **form-based zoning** approaches into the zoning code, in those areas where a diverse mix of uses is desired.

**Date action report first entered: 01/14/2016**

**Implementation details:**

The City of Fergus Falls has a proposal for this; a B-7 zone in areas near downtown on Union Avenue and Stanton Avenue on the south side from Union Avenue to the dairy.

**Outcome measures/metrics:**

**Descriptive links:**

**For more information contact:**

**Len Taylor (City staff) |  
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**2 Star(s) Action 7: Create incentives for vertical mixed-use development in appropriate locations (downtown, commercial districts near colleges or universities, historic commercial districts).**

**Date action report first entered: 01/14/2016**

**Implementation details:**

The City of Fergus Falls has had a downtown funding program since 1979 that funds the whole commercial building, commercial and residential. This has been proposed that the RTC is in a B-3 zone with 15 years of property tax forgiveness.

**Outcome measures/metrics:**

**Descriptive links:**

**For more information contact:**

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## **Transportation**

### **Living Streets { BP no. 11 }**

**2 Star(s) Action 1: Adopt a complete streets policy, or a living streets policy, which addresses landscaping and stormwater.**

**Date action report first entered: 01/14/2016**

#### **Implementation details:**

The City of Fergus Falls adopted Resolution #141-2012, a resolution establishing a complete streets policy on August 6, 2012. The resolution does address street trees and stormwater issues.

**Outcome measures/metrics:**

**Descriptive links:**

**For more information contact:**

**Len Taylor (City staff) |**

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**2 Star(s) Action 4: Identify, prioritize and remedy complete streets gaps and lack of connectivity/safety within your road network by, for example, adding a bike route/lane, truck route, sidewalk or mid-block alley.**

**Date action report first entered: 01/14/2016**

**Implementation details:**

The City of Fergus Falls has been addressing gaps in the road networks in a number of areas throughout the city. Almost one mile of a walking/biking path has been added along Cleveland Avenue to the end of the city limits. When Fir Avenue was being reconstructed, the driving lanes were narrowed to provide a wider area for pedestrians and bicycles. One of our residents donated land to the city and it was converted to Noyes Park and a walking/biking path was incorporated into this area. When the Tower Road and Bridge project was completed, a trail connection across the river and a truck route was established in this area.

**Outcome measures/metrics:**

**Descriptive links:**

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**1 Star(s) Action 5: Identify and remedy street-trail gaps between city streets and off-road trails/bike**

**trails to better facilitate walking and biking.**

**Date action report first entered: 01/14/2016**

**Implementation details:**

One of our city council members has been working with representatives of the North Country Trail to facilitate better walking and bicycling paths throughout the city.

**Outcome measures/metrics:**

**Descriptive links:**

**For more information contact:**

**Len Taylor (City staff) |  
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**2 Star(s) Action 6: Implement traffic calming policy/measures, including lane conversions (road diets), roundabouts, shared space and depaving, in at least one street redevelopment project.**

**Date action report first entered: 01/14/2016**

**Implementation details:**

As a part of the Tower Road and Bridge project, a roundabout was added to this area. When Friberg Avenue was reconstructed, narrower roadways with a turning lane were established. This roadway goes by the 6-12 school buildings, YMCA and residential areas.

**Outcome measures/metrics:**

## **Descriptive links:**

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## **Mobility Options { BP no. 12 }**

**3 Star(s) Action 1: Increase walking, biking and transit use by one or more of the following means:**

- a. Produce/distribute route maps, signage or a web site.**
- b. Document increased bike facilities, such as racks, bike stations or showers.**
- c. Add bus infrastructure, such as signage, benches, shelters, park and ride lots, and real-time arrival data-streaming.**
- d. Increase the number of employers promoting multiple commuting options, including offering qualified transportation fringe benefits instead of only a tax-free parking fringe benefit.**
- e. Be recognized as a Walk Friendly or Bicycle Friendly Community.**

**Date action report first entered: 01/14/2016**

### **Implementation details:**

- a. Lake Region Healthcare requested and was granted permission to place signs



encouraging people to stop and stretch or do short sets of exercise (ex. jumping jacks, planks) along Lake Alice and around their campus. b. Document increased bike facilities, such as racks, bike stations or showers. The morning Rotary Club donated a number of bicycle racks for public use around the community. A bicycle maintenance station was donated to the city in 2015 and is placed near the public library. c. Add bus infrastructure, such as signage, benches, shelters, park and ride lots, and real-time arrival data-streaming. Productive Alternatives runs a bus service Monday-Saturday throughout the city and they have a daily route to the Fargo-Moorhead area as well. Jefferson Bus Lines also has a daily route that uses Fergus Falls as a pick-up/drop-off point. A number of park benches are located in the downtown area and on the west end of the city for public use. d. Increase the number of employers promoting multiple commuting options, including offering qualified transportation fringe benefits instead of only a tax-free parking fringe benefit. The school district, community college and Lake Region Healthcare sponsor friendly competitions for Walk or Bike to Work or School events. e. Be recognized as a Walk Friendly or Bicycle Friendly Community. The City of Fergus Falls adopted a resolution approving volunteers to develop a Bicycle Master Plan in April of 2014. A group called Pedal Fergus Falls has also been established. A bicycle and pedestrian advisory sub-committee of the Planning Commission has recently been reconfigured and will be a standing commission of the city and will have their membership appointed annually by the Mayor.

## **Outcome measures/metrics:**

## **Descriptive links:**

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**2 Star(s) Action 2: Conduct an Active Living campaign such as a Safe Routes to School program.**

**Date action report first entered: 01/14/2016**

## **Implementation details:**

The City of Fergus Falls adopted Resolution #180-2012 approving a Safe Routes to School comprehensive plan. In 2009 the City was recognized as a Governor's Fit City.

## **Outcome measures/metrics:**

### **Descriptive links:**

#### **For more information contact:**

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**1 Star(s) Action 3: Prominently identify mobility options: transit; paratransit/Dial-A-Ride; ridesharing/cab services; rental cars; bikes.**

**Date action report first entered: 01/14/2016**

### **Implementation details:**

The City of Fergus Falls licenses taxicab services and three taxi businesses are running on a daily basis. Productive Alternatives runs their transit services throughout the city Monday-Saturday. Bike sharrows were painted along the downtown area roadways in 2015. There are a number of nursing homes and assisted living facilities that also provide transportation options to their residents.

## **Outcome measures/metrics:**

### **Descriptive links:**

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**1 Star(s) Action 6: Add/expand transit service, or**

**promote car/bike sharing.**

**Date action report first entered: 01/14/2016**

**Implementation details:**

The City of Fergus Falls annually provides Productive Alternatives \$50,000 for transportation needs within the city. The company evaluates the demand and needs for their services and periodically has added additional routes or earlier/later time slots. The City of Fergus Falls was recently named a Bronze Level Bicycle Friendly Community.

**Outcome measures/metrics:**

**Descriptive links:**

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**Efficient City Fleets { BP no. 13 }**

**2 Star(s) Action 1: Efficiently use your existing fleet of city vehicles by encouraging trip bundling, video conferencing, carpooling, vehicle sharing and incentives/technology.**

**Date action report first entered: 01/14/2016**

**Implementation details:**

The City of Fergus Falls has a Fleet and Facilities Manager. The fleet is inventoried and evaluated often. Employees are encouraged to bundle trips throughout the

work day. The city utilizes webinar and teleconference options whenever possible to avoid unnecessary travel. If multiple employees attend a conference, they are encouraged to carpool. There is a fleet of four vehicles available for employee and councils to check out on a daily basis.

## **Outcome measures/metrics:**

### **Descriptive links:**

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**2 Star(s) Action 2: Right-size/down-size the city fleet with the most fuel-efficient vehicles that are of an optimal size and capacity for their intended functions.**

**Date action report first entered: 01/14/2016**

### **Implementation details:**

A number of vehicles in the city's fleet are E-85 or flex fuel vehicles. The Ford police squads are reported to be 25% more fuel efficient than last year's model.

## **Outcome measures/metrics:**

### **Descriptive links:**

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**1 Star(s) Action 3: Phase-in no-idling practices, operational and fuel changes, and equipment changes including electric vehicles, for city or local transit fleets.**

**Date action report first entered: 01/14/2016**

**Implementation details:**

The stoplights in the downtown area go into a blinking mode at night to help with idling of vehicles. The Police Department and Public Works Departments each have no-idling policies. In November there is a planned grand opening of the Compressed Natural Gas facility in the City of Fergus Falls.

**Outcome measures/metrics:**

**Descriptive links:**

**For more information contact:**

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**1 Star(s) Action 4: Phase in bike, e-bike, foot or horseback modes for police, inspectors and other city staff.**

**Date action report first entered: 01/14/2016**

**Implementation details:**

In 2015 the city had two Community Service Officers patrolling the city on their bicycles.

## **Outcome measures/metrics:**

## **Descriptive links:**

### **For more information contact:**

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**1 Star(s) Action 5: Document that the local school bus fleet has optimized routes, start times, boundaries, vehicle efficiency and fuels, driver actions to cut costs including idling reduction, and shifting students from the bus to walking, biking and city transit.**

**Date action report first entered: 01/14/2016**

## **Implementation details:**

Parent volunteers at one of the local elementary schools organize a “Walking School Bus” to and from school each day to promote walking to school.

## **Outcome measures/metrics:**

## **Descriptive links:**

### **For more information contact:**

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Action 6: Retrofit **city diesel engines** or install auxiliary power units and/or electrified parking spaces, utilizing Project GreenFleet or the like.

**Date action report first entered: 01/14/2016**

**Implementation details:**

As fleet vehicles reach beyond their useful life with the city, more efficient vehicles are purchased whenever possible.

**Outcome measures/metrics:**

**Descriptive links:**

**For more information contact:**

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## **Environmental Management**

### **Sustainable Purchasing { BP no. 15 }**

**1 Star(s) Action 1: Adopt a sustainable purchasing policy or administrative guidelines/practices directing that the city purchase at least:**

- a. EnergyStar certified equipment and appliances and**
- b. Paper containing at least 30% post-consumer recycled content.**

**Date action report first entered: 01/14/2016**

**Implementation details:**

The City of Fergus Falls purchases our computer paper through Lakes Country Service Cooperative. The paper does contain at least 30% post-consumer recycled content. The refrigerator recently purchased for an employee breakroom is EnergyStar certified.

**Outcome measures/metrics:**

**Descriptive links:**

**For more information contact:**

**Len Taylor (City staff) |  
len.taylor@ci.fergus-falls.mn.us | 218-332-5418**

**1 Star(s) Action 3: Establish a local purchasing preference and, working with a local business association, develop a list of locally-produced products and suppliers for common purchases.**

**Date action report first entered: 01/14/2016**

**Implementation details:**

The City of Fergus Falls purchases many of our office supply items from the two local office supply stores in the city. We encourage our staff members to purchase routine supplies from the locally owned businesses whenever possible and we are members of the Chamber of Commerce as well.

**Outcome measures/metrics:**

**Descriptive links:**



**For more information contact:**

**Len Taylor (City staff) |**

**len.taylor@ci.fergus-falls.mn.us | 218-332-5418**

Action 5: Set minimum standards for the percentage of **recycled-content material** in asphalt and roadbed aggregate or other construction materials, and for compost and warm mix asphalt use.

**Date action report first entered: 01/14/2016**

**Implementation details:**

Otter Tail County is using recycled shingles in some of its road repair. Used oil taken in at their household hazardous waste from residents and eastside oil locations at transfer stations is shipped to asphalt companies to make new roads.

**Outcome measures/metrics:**

**Descriptive links:**

**For more information contact:**

**Len Taylor (City staff) |**

**len.taylor@ci.fergus-falls.mn.us | 218-332-5418**

**1 Star(s) Action 7: Lower the environmental footprint of meetings and events in the city.**

**Date action report first entered: 01/14/2016**

**Implementation details:**

M-State is recycling three items at athletic events. Otter Tail County has portable recycling bins that are loaned to civic organizations at no charge. The county has

suggested removing Styrofoam from meetings. The city will be providing recycling containers for large community events such as SummerFest and the weekly Concerts in the Park. The City of Fergus Falls uses paperless agenda packets for all council and committee meetings.

## **Outcome measures/metrics:**

## **Descriptive links:**

### **For more information contact:**

**Len Taylor (City staff) |  
len.taylor@ci.fergus-falls.mn.us | 218-332-5418**

### **Partners:**

**Otter Tail County**

## **Urban Forests and Soils { BP no. 16 }**

**3 Star(s)      Action 1: Certify as a Tree City USA.**

**Date action report first entered: 01/14/2016**

### **Implementation details:**

The City of Fergus Falls was the first city in Minnesota to be recognized as a Tree City, USA. We were awarded this designation in 1978 and have been annually recognized for this honor the past 37 years.

## **Outcome measures/metrics:**

## **Descriptive links:**

### **For more information contact:**

**Len Taylor (City staff) |**

**len.taylor@ci.fergus-falls.mn.us | 218-332-5418**

**1 Star(s) Action 2: Adopt best practices for urban tree planting/quality; require them in private developments and/or use them in at least one development project.**

**Date action report first entered: 01/14/2016**

**Implementation details:**

The City of Fergus Falls has both a Dutch Elm and an Emerald Ash Borer program to monitor and remove effective and diseased trees. We annually plant 180 – 200 boulevard trees to replace affected areas.

**Outcome measures/metrics:**

**Descriptive links:**

**For more information contact:**

**Len Taylor (City staff) |  
len.taylor@ci.fergus-falls.mn.us | 218-332-5418**

**1 Star(s) Action 3: Budget for and achieve resilient urban canopy/tree planting goals.**

**Date action report first entered: 01/14/2016**

**Implementation details:**

The City of Fergus Falls has a dedicated forestry budget to remove, plant and

monitor all city trees and inspect private trees for disease.

**Outcome measures/metrics:**

**Descriptive links:**

**For more information contact:**

**Len Taylor (City staff) |  
len.taylor@ci.fergus-falls.mn.us | 218-332-5418**

**1 Star(s) Action 4: Maximize tree planting along  
your main downtown street or throughout the city.**

**Date action report first entered: 01/14/2016**

**Implementation details:**

The trees in the downtown area are ash trees. The city is systematically replacing them with the ornamental Japanese Lilac Tree which is better for an urban environment.

**Outcome measures/metrics:**

**Descriptive links:**

**For more information contact:**

**Len Taylor (City staff) |  
len.taylor@ci.fergus-falls.mn.us | 218-332-5418**

**3 Star(s) Action 6: Build community capacity to  
protect existing trees by one or more of:**

**a. Having trained tree specialists.**

**c. Adopting an EAB/forest management plan or climate adaptation plan for the urban forest.**

**b. Supporting volunteer forestry efforts.**

**Date action report first entered: 01/14/2016**

**Implementation details:**

The City of Fergus Falls has an active Master Gardener's group and also a Beautiful Fergus Falls Committee with a wide variety of expertise in horticulture and native plants. We also have two certified foresters on our Park, Recreation and Forestry staff.

**Outcome measures/metrics:**

**Descriptive links:**

**For more information contact:**

**Len Taylor (City staff) |  
len.taylor@ci.fergus-falls.mn.us | 218-332-5418**

**Parks and Trails { BP no. 18 }**

**2 Star(s) Action 1: Make improvements within your city's system of parks, offroad trails and open spaces.**

**Date action report first entered: 01/14/2016**

**Implementation details:**

The City of Fergus Falls has a master trail map and a bicycle trail committee which make recommendations to the City Council and help plan city-wide multi-use

trails.

**Outcome measures/metrics:**

**Descriptive links:**

**For more information contact:**

**Len Taylor (City staff) |  
len.taylor@ci.fergus-falls.mn.us | 218-332-5418**

**1 Star(s) Action 2: Plan and budget for a network of parks, green spaces, water features and trails for areas where new development is planned.**

**Date action report first entered: 01/14/2016**

**Implementation details:**

The Parks and Recreation Department is continually looking for ways to develop and improve our city parks and green spaces. In 2015 we completed a vital path between Broadway & Fir Ave. for bikes and walkers that was identified in the 1980's.

**Outcome measures/metrics:**

**Descriptive links:**

**For more information contact:**

**Len Taylor (City staff) |  
len.taylor@ci.fergus-falls.mn.us | 218-332-5418**

**1 Star(s) Action 3: Achieve minimum levels of city green space and maximize the percent within a**

**ten-minute walk of community members.**

**Date action report first entered: 01/14/2016**

**Implementation details:**

The City has 24 parks and over 300 acres of mowed grass. Additionally we have natural areas which are not mowed.

**Outcome measures/metrics:**

**Descriptive links:**

**For more information contact:**

**Len Taylor (City staff) |  
len.taylor@ci.fergus-falls.mn.us | 218-332-5418**

**1 Star(s) Action 4: Adopt low-impact design standards in parks and trails that infiltrate or retain all 2 inch, 24-hour stormwater events on site.**

**Date action report first entered: 01/14/2016**

**Implementation details:**

There is a rain garden located in Adams Park and additional rain gardens are being planned throughout the city. We are moving toward natural grasses along river banks to reduce the water flow and filter the water prior to the water entering the river.

**Outcome measures/metrics:**

**Descriptive links:**

**For more information contact:**

**Len Taylor (City staff) |**

**len.taylor@ci.fergus-falls.mn.us | 218-332-5418**

**3 Star(s) Action 5: Create park/city land management standards/practices that maximize at least one of the following:**

**a. Low maintenance turf management; native landscaping; organic or integrated pest management; pollinator/monarch-safe policies.**

**b. Recycling/compostables collection; use of compost as a soil amendment.**

**c. Sources of nonpotable water, or surface/rain water, for irrigation.**

**Date action report first entered: 01/14/2016**

**Implementation details:**

The City of Fergus Falls is looking into this type of planning for all new projects and converting once manicured grass into natural grasses. Recycling cans have been placed in the downtown areas and we amended our city code to allow for composting in residential areas. Otter Tail County is working with the community college and high school to place recycling containers at their sporting venues. The City of Fergus Falls pumps water from Pebble Lake and uses it to irrigate areas of nearby Delagoon Park.

**Outcome measures/metrics:**

**Descriptive links:**

**For more information contact:**

**Len Taylor (City staff) |**



**1 Star(s) Action 7: Document that the operation and maintenance, or construction / remodeling, of at least one park building used an asset management tool, the SB 2030 energy standard, or a green building framework.**

**Date action report first entered: 04/26/2017**

**Implementation details:**

Rain gardens have been built in two city parks. In Adams Park a smaller raingarden was installed in 2014. This is a hilly park and the raingarden was installed above the stormdrain. In 2016 the city worked cooperatively with the Rotary Club and the West Otter Tail Soil and Water Conservation District to put a large raingarden in City Hall Park. The rainwater from the roof and parking lot of City Hall is filtered through the raingarden prior to it going into the Otter Tail River.

**Outcome measures/metrics:**

**Descriptive links:**

**Partners:**

**West Otter Tail Soil and Water Conservation District,  
Rotary Club**

**2 Star(s) Action 8: Develop a program to involve community members in hands-on land restoration and stewardship projects.**

**Date action report first entered: 01/14/2016**

**Implementation details:**

The City of Fergus Falls has an Adopt-A-Park program where community members and service clubs assist in park projects. Many groups have helped plant native plants and the Conservation Corps has made trail improvements throughout the town. The Beautiful Fergus Falls group has taken a special interest into the improvements around Lake Alice.

**Outcome measures/metrics:**

**Descriptive links:**

**For more information contact:**

**Len Taylor (City staff) |  
len.taylor@ci.fergus-falls.mn.us | 218-332-5418**

**Surface Water { BP no. 19 }**

**2 Star(s) Action 2: Conduct or support multi-party community conversations around improving local water quality and quantity.**

**Date action report first entered: 01/14/2016**

**Implementation details:**

The City of Fergus Falls holds an annual MS4 meeting to inform the public about the city's local stormwater management and a public hearing is open for anyone to come and express their concerns. The mayor has appointed a citizen led commission (Beautiful Fergus Falls) who recently made recommendations that were adopted by the City Council regarding water quality issues at Lake Alice.

**Outcome measures/metrics:**

## **Descriptive links:**

### **For more information contact:**

**Len Taylor (City staff) |  
len.taylor@ci.fergus-falls.mn.us | 218-332-5418**

**2 Star(s) Action 3: Adopt and report on measurable, publicly announced surface water improvement targets for water bodies, including the percent of lake, river, wetland and ditch shoreline with at least a 50-foot vegetation buffer.**

**Date action report first entered: 01/14/2016**

## **Implementation details:**

The City of Fergus Falls has been involved in a comprehensive plan for Lake Alice for a number of years. Interstate Engineering has been working with the city to develop targets for the water improvements and holds public meetings to report on their findings and take in public input.

## **Outcome measures/metrics:**

## **Descriptive links:**

### **For more information contact:**

**Len Taylor (City staff) |  
len.taylor@ci.fergus-falls.mn.us | 218-332-5418**

**1 Star(s) Action 4: Adopt a shoreland ordinance for all river and lake shoreland areas; reduce flooding**

**and costs through The National Flood Insurance Program's Community Rating System.**

**Date action report first entered: 01/14/2016**

**Implementation details:**

The City of Fergus Falls has a shoreline ordinance which is currently under review by the Building and Zoning Department.

**Outcome measures/metrics:**

**Descriptive links:**

**For more information contact:**

**Len Taylor (City staff) |  
len.taylor@ci.fergus-falls.mn.us | 218-332-5418**

Action 7: Create/assist a **Lake Improvement District** .

**Date action report first entered: 01/14/2016**

**Implementation details:**

The Beautiful Fergus Falls committee has been focusing on improvements to Lake Alice

**Outcome measures/metrics:**

**Descriptive links:**

**For more information contact:**

**Len Taylor (City staff) |  
len.taylor@ci.fergus-falls.mn.us | 218-332-5418**

# **Efficient Water and Wastewater Systems { BP no. 20 }**

**1 Star(s)    Action 2: Plan and budget for motor maintenance and upgrades so as to assure the most energy efficient, durable and appropriate equipment is available when upgrades or break downs occur.**

**Date action report first entered:    01/14/2016**

## **Implementation details:**

More efficient motors have been incorporated into the city's maintenance plans.

## **Outcome measures/metrics:**

## **Descriptive links:**

## **For more information contact:**

**Len Taylor (City staff) |  
len.taylor@ci.fergus-falls.mn.us    |    218-332-5418**

Action 3: Establish an on-going budget and program for decreasing **inflow and infiltration** into sewer lines and **losses in drinking water systems** .

**Date action report first entered:    01/14/2016**

## **Implementation details:**

This has not been a huge problem in the City of Fergus Falls due to our current operations at the sewer plant.

## **Outcome measures/metrics:**

## **Descriptive links:**

## **For more information contact:**

**Len Taylor (City staff) |**  
**len.taylor@ci.fergus-falls.mn.us | 218-332-5418**

Action 4: Optimize **energy and chemicals** use at drinking water / wastewater facilities and decrease chloride in wastewater discharges.

**Date action report first entered: 01/14/2016**

## **Implementation details:**

The City of Fergus Falls is conducting a study on the water plant and will likely be bringing forth a recommendation for a new plant.

## **Outcome measures/metrics:**

## **Descriptive links:**

## **For more information contact:**

**Len Taylor (City staff) |**  
**len.taylor@ci.fergus-falls.mn.us | 218-332-5418**

## **Septic Systems { BP no. 21 }**

Action 1: Report to landowners suspected noncompliant or failing septic systems as part of an educational, informational and financial **assistance and outreach program** designed to trigger voluntary landowner action to improve septic

systems.

**Date action report first entered: 01/14/2016**

**Implementation details:**

The City of Fergus Falls does not allow voluntary action by the landowners if there are problems with septic systems. If homeowners have a failing system we require the landowners upgrade or connect into the city sewer system.

**Outcome measures/metrics:**

**Descriptive links:**

**For more information contact:**

**Len Taylor (City staff) |  
len.taylor@ci.fergus-falls.mn.us | 218-332-5418**

Action 2: Use a **community process** to address failing septic systems.

**Date action report first entered: 01/14/2016**

**Implementation details:**

Staff is currently researching this program.

**Outcome measures/metrics:**

**Descriptive links:**

**For more information contact:**

**Len Taylor (City staff) |  
len.taylor@ci.fergus-falls.mn.us | 218-332-5418**

**1 Star(s) Action 3: Clarify/establish one or more responsible management entities for the proper design, siting, installation, operation, monitoring and maintenance of septic systems.**

**Date action report first entered: 01/14/2016**

**Implementation details:**

Otter Tail County is the entity responsible for the management of these systems.

**Outcome measures/metrics:**

**Descriptive links:**

**For more information contact:**

**Len Taylor (City staff) |  
len.taylor@ci.fergus-falls.mn.us | 218-332-5418**

**2 Star(s) Action 4: Adopt a subsurface sewage treatment system ordinance based on the Association of Minnesota Counties' model ordinance.**

**Date action report first entered: 01/14/2016**

**Implementation details:**

The City of Fergus Falls has an ordinance in place that refers to state statutes.

**Outcome measures/metrics:**



## **Descriptive links:**

### **For more information contact:**

**Len Taylor (City staff) |  
len.taylor@ci.fergus-falls.mn.us | 218-332-5418**

Action 5: Create a program to **finance septic system upgrades**.

**Date action report first entered: 01/14/2016**

## **Implementation details:**

There are currently less than 75 homes in the city limits that have private septic systems. When these systems fail, they are being hooked up into the city's septic system.

## **Outcome measures/metrics:**

## **Descriptive links:**

### **For more information contact:**

**Len Taylor (City staff) |  
len.taylor@ci.fergus-falls.mn.us | 218-332-5418**

Action 7: Arrange for **assistance to commercial, retail and industrial businesses** with water use reduction, pollution prevention and pretreatment prior to discharge to septics.

**Date action report first entered: 01/14/2016**

## **Implementation details:**

The City of Fergus Falls is unaware of any commercial, retail or industrial business

in the area that is not currently served by the city's sewer system.

**Outcome measures/metrics:**

**Descriptive links:**

**For more information contact:**

**Len Taylor (City staff) |  
len.taylor@ci.fergus-falls.mn.us | 218-332-5418**

**Sustainable Consumption and Waste { BP  
no. 22 }**

**1 Star(s) Action 1: Improve city operations and procurement to prevent and reuse, recycle and compost waste from all public facilities (including libraries, parks, schools, municipal health care facilities), and minimize use of toxics and generation of hazardous waste.**

**Date action report first entered: 01/14/2016**

**Implementation details:**

The City of Fergus Falls and Otter Tail County are working together to increase local recycling efforts. M-State is implementing curbside recycling with the city at college housing.

**Outcome measures/metrics:**

**Descriptive links:**

**For more information contact:**

**Len Taylor (City staff) |**

**len.taylor@ci.fergus-falls.mn.us | 218-332-5418**

**Partners:**

**Otter Tail County**

Action 2: Address concerns over **consumer products and packaging** through encouragement/implementation of one or more of:

**a. Education on needless consumption, waste prevention and alternatives, including product stewardship / producer responsibility.**

**b. Reuse options.**

**c. Recycling / composting options.**

**d. Credits, fees.**

**e. Mandates, bans.**

**Date action report first entered: 01/14/2016**

**Implementation details:**

The Otter Tail County Solid Waste Department is working with businesses to recycle cardboard. The City of Fergus Falls operates a curbside recycling service that picks up office paper/cardboard products.

**Outcome measures/metrics:**

**Descriptive links:**

**For more information contact:**

**Len Taylor (City staff) |**

**len.taylor@ci.fergus-falls.mn.us | 218-332-5418**

**Partners:**  
**Otter Tail County**

**1 Star(s) Action 3: Improve profitability, legal compliance and conserve resources through adoption of ordinance language, licensing and resource management contracts.**

**Date action report first entered: 01/14/2016**

**Implementation details:**

The City of Fergus Falls operates a street side service to pick up residential refuse and recycling. We provide refuse containers for all homeowners.

**Outcome measures/metrics:**

**Descriptive links:**

**For more information contact:**

**Len Taylor (City staff) |  
len.taylor@ci.fergus-falls.mn.us | 218-332-5418**

**1 Star(s) Action 4: Publicize, promote and use the varied businesses/services collecting and marketing used, repaired and rental consumer goods, especially electronics, in the city/county.**

**Date action report first entered: 01/14/2016**

## **Implementation details:**

Otter Tail County operates a household hazardous waste product exchange facility in Fergus Falls. Free books and a materials exchange list is promoted on the county's website, but most of the businesses using the facility are located within Fergus Falls.

## **Outcome measures/metrics:**

## **Descriptive links:**

## **For more information contact:**

**Len Taylor (City staff) |**  
**len.taylor@ci.fergus-falls.mn.us | 218-332-5418**

## **Partners:**

**Otter Tail County**

Action 5: Arrange for a residential and/or business/institutional **source-separated organics** collection/management program.

**Date action report first entered: 01/14/2016**

## **Implementation details:**

Otter Tail County recently hired a Public Information and Education Officer in their Solid Waste Department. She has indicated this is the project she plans to focus on in 2016.

## **Outcome measures/metrics:**

## **Descriptive links:**

## **For more information contact:**

**Len Taylor (City staff) |**  
**len.taylor@ci.fergus-falls.mn.us | 218-332-5418**

**Partners:  
Otter Tail County**

Action 6: Improve **recycling services and expand** to multi-unit housing and commercial businesses.

**Date action report first entered: 01/14/2016**

**Implementation details:**

Otter Tail County has mobile collections of household hazardous waste in the county, but not within the City of Fergus Falls. There is a facility located within the city that is open daily in the winter and twice a week during the summer months.

**Outcome measures/metrics:**

**Descriptive links:**

**For more information contact:**

**Len Taylor (City staff) |  
len.taylor@ci.fergus-falls.mn.us | 218-332-5418**

**Partners:  
Otter Tail County**

**1 Star(s) Action 7: Improve/organize residential trash, recycling and organics collection by private and/or public operations and offer significant volume-based pricing on residential garbage and/or incentives for recycling.**

**Date action report first entered: 01/14/2016**

**Implementation details:**

Smaller containers are available upon request.

**Outcome measures/metrics:**

**Descriptive links:**

**For more information contact:**

**Len Taylor (City staff) |  
len.taylor@ci.fergus-falls.mn.us | 218-332-5418**

Action 8: Adopt a **construction and demolition ordinance** governing demolition permits that requires a level of recycling and reuse for building materials and soil/land-clearing debris.

**Date action report first entered: 01/14/2016**

**Implementation details:**

Otter Tail County has these ordinances in place. The City of Fergus Falls is researching this option.

**Outcome measures/metrics:**

**Descriptive links:**

**For more information contact:**

**Len Taylor (City staff) |  
len.taylor@ci.fergus-falls.mn.us | 218-332-5418**

**Partners:**

**Otter Tail County**

## **Local Air Quality { BP no. 23 }**

**2 Star(s) Action 2: Regulate outdoor residential wood burning, using ordinance language, performance standards and bans as appropriate, for at least one of the following:**

- a. Recreational burning.**
- b. Outdoor residential wood boilers.**

**Date action report first entered: 01/14/2016**

### **Implementation details:**

The City of Fergus Falls has ordinances in place regulating both recreational burning and outdoor wood boilers.

### **Outcome measures/metrics:**

### **Descriptive links:**

### **For more information contact:**

**Len Taylor (City staff) |  
len.taylor@ci.fergus-falls.mn.us | 218-332-5418**

**1 Star(s) Action 3: Conduct one or more policy or education/behavior change campaigns on the topics below and document:**

- a. Decreased vehicle idling, pollutants/noise from stationary engines/back-up generators.**



**b. Participation in the Air Aware Employers program.**

**c. Adoption of a smoking-free policy at one or more multi-unit housing buildings, private or public.**

**d. Replacement of gasoline-powered small equipment with lower polluting equipment.**

**e. Increased sales by retail stores of low and no-VOC household products.**

**Date action report first entered: 01/14/2016**

**Implementation details:**

The City of Fergus Falls turns the downtown street lights to a flashing mode during the overnight hours to reduce the amount of idling. City policies against idling of vehicles are in place for the Public Works Department and the Police Department. The City of Fergus Falls is working with Partnership4 Health regarding a tobacco free policy.

**Outcome measures/metrics:**

**Descriptive links:**

**For more information contact:**

**Len Taylor (City staff) |  
len.taylor@ci.fergus-falls.mn.us | 218-332-5418**

**1 Star(s) Action 5: Install, assist with and promote one or more public fueling stations for plug-in hybrid and full electric vehicles, flex-fuel ethanol vehicles, CNG vehicles.**

**Date action report first entered: 01/14/2016**

## **Implementation details:**

The City of Fergus Falls has added flex-fuel vehicles into our fleet. A CNG facility has recently opened in the city and we will be working closely with them as technology evolves.

## **Outcome measures/metrics:**

## **Descriptive links:**

### **For more information contact:**

**Len Taylor (City staff) |**

**len.taylor@ci.fergus-falls.mn.us | 218-332-5418**

# **Resilient Economic & Community Development**

## **Green Business Development { BP no. 25 }**

**1 Star(s) Action 2: Create or participate in a marketing/outreach program to connect businesses with assistance providers, including utilities, who provide personalized energy, waste or sustainability audits and assistance.**

**Date action report first entered: 01/14/2016**

## **Implementation details:**

The Otter Tail County Solid Waste Department can conduct free waste audits.

## **Outcome measures/metrics:**

## **Descriptive links:**

## **For more information contact:**

**Len Taylor (City staff) |**  
**len.taylor@ci.fergus-falls.mn.us | 218-332-5418**

## **Partners:**

**Otter Tail County**

**1 Star(s) Action 3: Promote sustainable tourism in your city, and green tourism resources to tourism and hospitality businesses in/around the city.**

**Date action report first entered: 01/14/2016**

## **Implementation details:**

Fit City running trails are mapped per mile.

## **Outcome measures/metrics:**

## **Descriptive links:**

## **For more information contact:**

**Len Taylor (City staff) |**  
**len.taylor@ci.fergus-falls.mn.us | 218-332-5418**

**1 Star(s) Action 4: Strengthen value-added businesses utilizing local "waste" material.**

**Date action report first entered: 01/14/2016**

**Implementation details:**

Otter Tail County has a materials exchange program that is using Fergus Falls businesses to exchange unwanted/wanted goods.

**Outcome measures/metrics:**

**Descriptive links:**

**For more information contact:**

**Len Taylor (City staff) |  
len.taylor@ci.fergus-falls.mn.us | 218-332-5418**

Action 5: Lower the environmental and health risk footprint of a **brownfield remediation/redevelopment** project; report brightfield projects.

**Date action report first entered: 01/14/2016**

**Implementation details:**

The school district worked with Otter Tail County to use green building methods during their construction project.

**Outcome measures/metrics:**

**Descriptive links:**

**For more information contact:**

**Len Taylor (City staff) |  
len.taylor@ci.fergus-falls.mn.us | 218-332-5418**

**Partners:  
Fergus Falls Public School, Otter Tail County**

**1 Star(s) Action 6: Promote green businesses that are recognized under a local, regional or national program.**

**Date action report first entered: 01/14/2016**

**Implementation details:**

The Otter Tail County Public Information Officer is working on a Green Otter business program and a “caught green handed campaign” to reward residents and businesses for environmentally friendly behaviors. The SMART (Save Money and Reduce Trash) campaign can be promoted.

**Outcome measures/metrics:**

**Descriptive links:**

**For more information contact:  
Len Taylor (City staff) |  
len.taylor@ci.fergus-falls.mn.us | 218-332-5418**

**Partners:  
Otter Tail County**

Action 7: Conduct or participate in a **buy local campaign** for community members and local businesses.

**Date action report first entered: 01/14/2016**

**Implementation details:**

The City of Fergus Falls is partnering with Otter Tail County in their reduce/reuse/recycle campaigns.

**Outcome measures/metrics:**

**Descriptive links:**

**For more information contact:**

**Len Taylor (City staff) |  
len.taylor@ci.fergus-falls.mn.us | 218-332-5418**

**Partners:**

**Otter Tail County**

**Renewable Energy { BP no. 26 }**

**1 Star(s) Action 1: Adopt wind energy and/or biomass ordinances that allow, enable, or encourage appropriate renewable energy installations.**

**Date action report first entered: 01/14/2016**

**Implementation details:**

The City of Fergus Falls has both a Wind Energy Conservation System and a Solar Energy Systems ordinances already incorporated into our City Code.

**Outcome measures/metrics:**

## **Descriptive links:**

**For more information contact:**

**Len Taylor (City staff) |  
len.taylor@ci.fergus-falls.mn.us | 218-332-5418**

**1 Star(s) Action 3: Promote financing and incentive programs such as PACE for clean energy:**

- a. PACE for commercial property owners to install renewable energy systems, energy efficiency measures and EV charging infrastructure.**
- b. Local, state and federal financial incentives for property owners to install renewable energy systems.**
- c. Local/municipal utility renewable energy production incentives and rebates.**

**Date action report first entered: 01/14/2016**

## **Implementation details:**

Although we don't have a PACE program, the Intermediary Relending Program, the Minnesota Innovation Fund and Business Development of Fergus Falls funds would all fund programs that would request funding for such equipment

## **Outcome measures/metrics:**

## **Descriptive links:**

**For more information contact:**

**Len Taylor (City staff) |  
len.taylor@ci.fergus-falls.mn.us | 218-332-5418**

**1 Star(s) Action 5: Install a public sector/municipally-owned renewable energy technology, such as solar electric (PV), wind, biomass, solar hot water/air, or micro-hydro.**

**Date action report first entered: 01/14/2016**

**Implementation details:**

The Wastewater Treatment Plant in Fergus Falls burns methane (biogas) at our plant.

**Outcome measures/metrics:**

**Descriptive links:**

**For more information contact:**

**Len Taylor (City staff) |  
len.taylor@ci.fergus-falls.mn.us | 218-332-5418**

Action 7: Become a **solar-ready community**, including an expedited permit process for residents and businesses to install solar energy systems.

**Date action report first entered: 01/14/2016**

**Implementation details:**

The City Code allowing solar energy is already in place which would speed up the process for anyone looking to install such a system.

**Outcome measures/metrics:**

**Descriptive links:**



**For more information contact:**

**Len Taylor (City staff) |**

**len.taylor@ci.fergus-falls.mn.us | 218-332-5418**

## **Local Food { BP no. 27 }**

**1 Star(s) Action 1: Incorporate working landscapes - agriculture and forestry - into the city by adopting an ordinance for one or more of the following:**

**a. An agriculture and forest protection district.**

**b. A local food production district.**

**c. Performance standards for minor and major agricultural retail.**

**Date action report first entered: 01/14/2016**

### **Implementation details:**

The City of Fergus Falls has a 50+ acre conservation easement on Port Authority land. We have been a Tree City USA since 1978 and have a boulevard tree replacement policy. Lakes Country Service Cooperative is located in the City of Fergus Falls and they started a food hub program for the nine county region they serve. There is a Farmer's Market open twice a week for local vendors to sell their food products to our residents and visitors.

### **Outcome measures/metrics:**

### **Descriptive links:**

**For more information contact:**

**Len Taylor (City staff) |**

**len.taylor@ci.fergus-falls.mn.us | 218-332-5418**

**2 Star(s) Action 2: Facilitate creation of home/community gardens, chicken & bee keeping, and incorporation of food growing areas/access in multifamily residential developments.**

**Date action report first entered: 01/14/2016**

**Implementation details:**

In 2009 the city passed an ordinance allowing chickens to be kept in R-1 zones. The ordinance was updated in 2016 to allow an additional 10 permits to keep chickens (20 total). The keeping of bees is allowed in R-A zones. The Parks and Recreation Department has a community garden with 12 garden plots available for residents to use annually. The Fergus Falls School District often operates a garden for students and Lake Region Healthcare opened a large community garden plot in 2014 that helps support our local food shelf. A Farmers Market is now operational on city property twice a week during the spring, summer and fall months.

**Outcome measures/metrics:**

**Descriptive links:**

**For more information contact:**

**Len Taylor (City staff) |  
len.taylor@ci.fergus-falls.mn.us | 218-332-5418**

**2 Star(s) Action 3: Create, assist with and promote local food production/distribution within the city:**

**a. A farmer's market or co-op buying club.**

**b. An urban agriculture business or a**

**community-supported agriculture (CSA) arrangement between farmers and community members/employees.**

**c. A community or school garden, orchard or forest.**

**Date action report first entered: 01/14/2016**

**Implementation details:**

Local residents have formed a Farmer's Market that is open twice a week for local vendors to sell their food products in a city park. Bluebird Gardens is located just outside of the city and they operate a large CSA. Several businesses within the city are drop-off points for their product line. Lake Region Healthcare, the City of Fergus Falls and the Fergus Falls School District all have community garden plots.

**Outcome measures/metrics:**

**Descriptive links:**

**For more information contact:**

**Len Taylor (City staff) |**

**len.taylor@ci.fergus-falls.mn.us | 218-332-5418**

**3 Star(s) Action 4: Measurably increase institutional buying, and sales through groceries and restaurants.**

**a. Purchasing of local/organic/humane/equitable foods by schools, hospitals, nursing homes and event centers.**

**b. Sales of local/organic/humane/equitable food in markets, retail food co-ops, rural grocery stores, urban convenience stores, food carts/trucks, hotels and restaurants.**

**Date action report first entered: 01/14/2016**

## **Implementation details:**

Lakes Country Service Cooperative started a food hub for the school districts they serve. Meadow Farm Foods, Premier Meats and Seafood and The Market all sell locally grown food products in their local stores.

## **Outcome measures/metrics:**

## **Descriptive links:**

### **For more information contact:**

**Len Taylor (City staff) |**

**len.taylor@ci.fergus-falls.mn.us | 218-332-5418**

## **Business Synergies and EcoDistricts { BP no. 28 }**

**1 Star(s) Action 2: Document that at least one business/building uses waste heat or water discharge from another business.**

**Date action report first entered: 01/14/2016**

## **Implementation details:**

The City Shop takes their used oil to create a floor heating source.

## **Outcome measures/metrics:**

## **Descriptive links:**

### **For more information contact:**

**Len Taylor (City staff) |**

**len.taylor@ci.fergus-falls.mn.us | 218-332-5418**