

# City of La Prairie

## Background Information

**County:** Itasca

**GreenStep  
Coordinator**

**Population:** 665

**GreenStep City  
category:** B

**Lynn O'Brien  
Elected official  
laprcity@paulbunyan.net  
218-326-8898**

**Full-time equivalent  
city staff (approx.):** 2

**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

**(06/20/2013)**

## **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 }**

**2 Star(s)    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:    12/12/2011**

## **Implementation details:**

Improve the energy efficiency of city hall

## **Outcome measures/metrics:**

In 2008, the energy costs for city hall were \$1637.32. In the summer of 2009 we insulated the ceilings and improved the efficiency of the furnace. In 2009 the energy costs for city hall were \$1,367.26. In the summer of 2010, we added insulation, siding and doors to the wall structure. The energy costs in 2010 were 837.10. In 2011 were 913.42. our energy information is being recorded on the B-3 worksheet to tabulate and document energy savings automatically.

## **Descriptive links:**

### **Partners:**

**Sarah Steinman@cleanenergyresources.org**

**1 Star(s) Action 3: Invest in larger energy efficiency projects through performance contracting or other funding or through smaller retro-commissioning/retrofit projects in city-owned/school buildings.**

**Date action report first entered: 04/14/2011**

## **Implementation details:**

City Hall energy improvements: We contracted with a certified building engineer to conduct an evaluation of our city hall and made the recommended improvements to increase energy efficiency. We installed

new roof vents, added insulation to the ceiling, replaced entry doors, added outside wall insulation and new siding. Additionally we made improvements to our furnace system and improved water runoff with new gutters which drain to a grassy area rather than drain to an impervious surface.

## **Outcome measures/metrics:**

We are comparing our energy expenses currently to energy expenses previous to the improvements.

## **Descriptive links:**

**1 Star(s) Action 6: Improve the operations & maintenance of city-owned/school buildings by using a customized online energy efficiency tool, asset management tool, or a green building framework.**

**Date action report first entered: 01/08/2016**

## **Implementation details:**

Installed new outside lighting at the city maintenance building, the city hall parking lot and warming house with energy efficient LED lighting.  
1/8/2016

## **Outcome measures/metrics:**

## **Descriptive links:**

**For more information contact:  
Lynn O'Brien (Elected official) |  
laprcity@paulbunyan.net | 218-326-8898**

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

**1 Star(s) Action 2: Purchase LEDs for all  
future street lighting and traffic signals .**

**Date action report first entered: 03/12/2014**

### **Implementation details:**

Constructed new traffic signals at intersection of LaPrairie Ave and Highway 169. The signals are powered with LED lights and are electronically operated to reduce idling time. Turn signals have a yellow arrow. 12/15/2015 Installed 16 new street lights on a corridor street that is 1 mile long. The new lights are LED and "Dark Sky" compliant.

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

### **Descriptive links:**

### **Partners:**

**City of Grand Rapids, City of LaPrairie, Itasca  
County, Itasca Community College, IIRB**

**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: 04/14/2011**

**Implementation details:**

We have established a committee to work with our electric utility provider to find a way to replace our current street lights (Mercury Vapor and sodium) with LED lighting. We also have begun to change out city owned lights with more energy efficient lighting on a case by case basis.

**Outcome measures/metrics:**

This is a work in progress. However we did replace the light at city hall that illuminates the flag and we replaced it with an LED light which our electric indicates will have an 18 month payback.

**Descriptive links:**

**1 Star(s) Action 6: Relamp/improve exterior building lighting for city-owned buildings/facilities with energy efficient, Dark-Sky compliant lighting.**

**Date action report first entered: 12/15/2015**

**Implementation details:**

1/8/2015 installed 16 new street lights on a corridor street that is 1 mile long. The new lights are LED and “Dark Sky” compliant.

**Outcome measures/metrics:**

**Descriptive links:**

**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: 01/04/2013**

## **Implementation details:**

Comprehensive Plan: In 2008 we hired a consultant and developed a Comprehensive Plan. We review and update the Comprehensive Plan annually, most recently on April 6 2010 and in March of 2011. The city council reviewed and updated the comp plan in April 2012. Because we have completed most of the goals on the comp plan, we have sent out RFPs for the development of a new comp plan. That renewed comp plan is scheduled for completion in 2014.

## **Outcome measures/metrics:**

Our reviews have indicated that we were meeting our goals and we updated our plans. The Zoning ordinance has been amended in 2012 to reflect inclusion of reference to the comp plan in the ordinance

## **Descriptive links:**

**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:    03/20/2012**

## **Implementation details:**

Amend the Zoning Ordinance to reflect inclusion of a reference to the comp plan



## **Outcome measures/metrics:**

Completed January 2012

## **Descriptive links:**

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

Action 1: **Limit barriers to higher density housing** by including in the city zoning ordinance and zoning map:

**a. Neighborhood single-family density at 7 units/acre or greater.**

**b. Multi-family housing at a gross density of at least 15 units/acre adjacent to a commercial zoning district or transit node.**

**Date action report first entered: 01/08/2016**

## **Implementation details:**

Zoning Committee is revising the Zoning Ordinance to remove barriers to higher density housing. 1/8/2016

## **Outcome measures/metrics:**

## **Descriptive links:**

## **For more information contact:**

**Lynn O'Brien (Elected official) |  
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## **Mixed Uses { BP no. 8 }**

**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: 04/14/2011**

### **Implementation details:**

Land Use: In 2010, we revised our zoning ordinances by having public hearings and changing ordinances to reflect a mixed land use. We re-drew our industrial, commercial and residential areas zone lines. We added in the geographic areas that represented a newly annexed part of the old Grand Rapids Township.

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

We have clearly defined areas for development of commercial and residential

### **Descriptive links:**

# **Efficient Highway- and Auto-Oriented Development { BP no. 9 }**

**1 Star(s) Action 1: Establish design goals for at least one highway/auto-oriented corridor/cluster.**

**Date action report first entered: 01/04/2013**

## **Implementation details:**

Corridor Highway. Our Comprehensive Plan indicates an improvement to one of city streets which connects two State Highways. The plan calls for an adjacent corridor for pedestrian and bicycle traffic. Additionally we will be making arrangements for storm water runoff that will return water to the soil. The design work is completed and funding is in place. the construction of a new roadway with an adjacent 11 foot trail and storm sewer will be constructed in 2015. The plans call for a storm sewer that returns the rainwater to the aquifer using a large french drain as opposed to running the water to the river.

## **Outcome measures/metrics:**

We have been in negotiation with the county to obtain a CSAH status for this city street to be re-built to our standards. We have scheduled a public hearing on this project in July 2011. Itasca County has agreed to designate this street as CSAH. The street will be redesigned to include a safe pedestrian and bicycle corridor and rebuilt in accordance with community input and in accordance with the Comprehensive Plan. The county has agreed to make this street a county state aid roadway and has agreed to reconstruct the roadway in conformance with our comp plan. The county has contracted with our city engineer to design the road and

as of 01/01/13 the design work is underway. Once the design work is complete, we will have public meeting. That meeting is scheduled for February 13.

## **Descriptive links:**

### **Partners:**

**Itasca County**

**1 Star(s) Action 2: Participate in regional economic development planning with representatives from surrounding townships, cities, the county and business interests to:**

**a. Estimate commercial/industrial needs among all jurisdictions.**

**b. Jointly implement recommendations to stage highway/auto-oriented commercial development in order to avoid overbuilding and expensive low-density development.**

**Date action report first entered: 12/12/2011**

### **Implementation details:**

Regional Economic Development and collaboration

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

The city has become a member of the Iron Range Economic Alliance (IREA). the mission of IREA is to create a collaborative environment for

economic prosperity, provide leadership, foster partnerships and employing economic development plans. Memberships include professionals, communities, school districts, government agencies and economic development agencies. In 2013 the city became a member of the West Range Mine Planning Board. The purpose of this organization is to regionally plan for the impacts of new mining as result of new mining techniques (Magnetation) and to plan for the reclamation of previously mined areas. The city also participates in a collaborative with Grand Rapids, Cohasset, Coleraine, Arbo Twp, Harris Twp, Calumet and Marble in an effort to create efficiencies in the delivery of services. The efficiencies include cooperative snowplowing, improving fire services, ice rink use and maintenance etc..the result has been to reduce the operation of equipment and fuel.

## **Descriptive links:**

# **Transportation**

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

**1 Star(s)      Action 3: Modify a street in compliance with the city's complete streets policy.**

**Date action report first entered:    01/08/2016**

**Implementation details:**

Re-constructed a major arterial city street in collaboration with the county in compliance with the complete street policy.1/8/2016

## **Outcome measures/metrics:**

## **Descriptive links:**

**For more information contact:**

**Lynn O'Brien (Elected official) |  
laprcity@paulbunyan.net | 218-326-8898**

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

**Date action report first entered: 12/15/2015**

## **Implementation details:**

12/15/2015 Remedied a street –trail gap by constructing an 11 ft trail, that is one mile long to accommodate pedestrian and bike traffic. The trail was constructed to provide connectivity to the larger Mesabi Trail system. Constructed a sidewalk to accommodate wheel chairs which leads to newly purchased handicapped playground equipment.1/8/2016

## **Outcome measures/metrics:**

## **Descriptive links:**

**For more information contact:**

**Lynn O'Brien (Elected official) |  
laprcity@paulbunyan.net | 218-326-8898**

**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: 01/04/2013**

## **Implementation details:**

Widen a city street (Pleasant Avenue) to accommodate increased pedestrian and bicycle as an approach to the construction of our new connection trail to Grand Rapids and to eventually make a connection to the redesigned and rebuilt CSAH road which will have a pedestrian corridor. In 2013, the city obtained funding to add a trail along Fraser Street that will increase trail connections. The result will be that loop will be completed that will increase the connectivity to the college and to the Mesabi trail. Remedied a street-trail gap by constructing an 11 ft trail, that is one mile long to accommodate pedestrian and bike traffic. The trail was constructed to provide connectivity to the larger Mesabi Trail system. 1/8/2016

## **Outcome measures/metrics:**

Greensteps Committee made the recommendation to city council and on March 19 voted to include this project in the RFP's for the trail construction. This project has been completed and provides a safe

walking, biking area alongside Pleasant Avenue to accommodate transportation to a trail connection. The Laprairie Ave trail will connect to the Pleasant ave trail which connects to the City of Grand Rapids, the college and the Mesabi Trail. The design work is complete and construction will occur in 2015.

## **Descriptive links:**

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

**Lynn O'Brien (Elected official) |  
laprcity@paulbunyan.net | 218-326-8898**

### **Partners:**

**City of Grand Rapids, Itasca County, Mesabi Trail**

**1 Star(s) Action 6: Implement traffic calming policy/measures, including road diets, roundabouts, shared space and depaving, in at least one street redevelopment project.**

**Date action report first entered: 04/14/2011**

### **Implementation details:**

Traffic Calming: In 2010, we rebuilt and resurfaced one of our longest city street. In this construction was the inclusion of a series of speed humps intended to slow traffic. Plans are being discussed with the county to include a roundabout for traffic calming on the reconstruction of the proposed CSAH roadway. A public meeting to obtain resident input. Built



a temporary roundabout on a city intersection to evaluate the impact of speed reduction before and after the installation in cooperation with Get Fit Itasca and the Wilder Foundation. 1/8/2016

## **Outcome measures/metrics:**

Residents have reported a noticeable difference in the speed of auto traffic on this street which has resulted in additional pedestrian traffic.

## **Descriptive links:**

**For more information contact:**

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

**2 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: 01/04/2013**

### **Implementation details:**

Non-motorized Trail-We have engineered a trail that will provide a non-motorized method of travel that will connect our city to the City of Grand Rapids Trail system. Once this connection is made, travel to commercial areas, the clinic etc in Grand Rapids will possible. Additionally their trail system connects to the Mesaba Trail. 12/15/2015 Purchased and installed a bike rack at the city hall and city park to encourage the use of bicycles.

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

We obtained a grant of \$10,000 which paid for the engineering costs and we have obtained the right of way. The project is shovel ready and we are awaiting the results of our grant application for Legacy funding. We have subsequently obtained Legacy Grant money for the construction of the trail. This trail is scheduled for construction in 2012 and our engineer is requesting RFP's. This project has been completed. The trail is paved and connects the City of LaPrairie to the City of Grand Rapids. Furthermore, the trail connects to the Grand Rapids trail system allowing for year round safe biking and walking to the entire business and government areas in the city. This project is now completed and we are working with the group Get Fit Itasca to encourage use of the trail and to create events the promote our inter-connected trail system.

### **Descriptive links:**

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

**Date action report first entered: 01/08/2016**

**Implementation details:**

In partnership with Get Fit Itasca, revised the city's Comprehensive Plan with significant resident participation. We brought in a consultant, walkability expert Dan Burden of Walkable and Livable Communities Institute. We conducted a visual preference survey and walking audits, small group discussions and facilitated public input exercises. Converted part of the tennis courts to a pickle ball court to encourage active lifestyles.1/8/2016

**Outcome measures/metrics:**

**Descriptive links:**

**For more information contact:**

**Lynn O'Brien (Elected official) |  
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**Efficient City Fleets { BP no. 13 }**

**1 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: 01/08/2016**

**Implementation details:**

Right sized the city maintenance truck by purchasing an equipment trailer that can be towed by a replacement vehicle that is more fuel efficient. 1/8/2016

**Outcome measures/metrics:**

**Descriptive links:**

**For more information contact:**

**Lynn O'Brien (Elected official) |  
laprcity@paulbunyan.net | 218-326-8898**

**Environmental Management**

**Stormwater Management { BP no.**

**1 Star(s) Action 5: Adopt and implement guidelines or design standards/incentives for at least one of the following stormwater infiltration/reuse practices:**

- a. Rain gardens/infiltration practices.**
- b. Rainwater harvesting practices.**
- c. Green alleys or green parking lots.**
- d. Pervious/permeable pavement or pavers.**
- e. Green roofs / green walls.**
- f. Tree trenches / tree boxes.**
- g. Incorporate compost and/or native plants into landscape design.**

**Date action report first entered: 04/14/2011**

**Implementation details:**

Stormwater Management: In 2010, we installed a large French Drain in our city park to allow for the return of storm water runoff from our parking lot in order return water to the ground as opposed to the prior practice of allowing the runoff water to enter the Mississippi/Prairie River. The design for stormwater runoff and new road construction includes the use of a large french drain which will gather the water and allow it to return to the aquifer. In another section of the city near Glenwood Ave, we

have storm water the drains to the prairie River. We have designed a new system that will infiltrate the water prior to reaching the river. Green stormwater infrastructure, built a new stormwater system as part of a street reconstruction project that returns water to the ground through an infiltration pond and an infiltration ditch that protects runoff from reaching the river.

## **Outcome measures/metrics:**

The drain worked to perfection 2010 by capturing a huge snow melt and runoff from the parking lot and as a result no water ran to the river. The construction of the storm drain on LaPrairie Ave will be completed in 2015 at the same time the road is reconstructed. Glenwood Ave storm water constuction will be completed in 2015.

## **Descriptive links:**

**For more information contact:**

**Lynn O'Brien (Elected official) |  
laprcity@paulbunyan.net | 218-326-8898**

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

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

**Date action report first entered: 01/04/2013**

**Implementation details:**

Increase the amount of green space in two separate areas of the city. The goal is to add two more park/green spaces to the city. Contributed financial aid to assist a local snowmobile club in the relocation of a snowmobile trail in order to make it more compatible with our existing walking trail which allows the city to keep the walking trail open all winter for pedestrians. Purchased easements for the construction of an additional walking/biking trail to be constructed in 2016 and will have connection to existing trails.1/8/2016

## **Outcome measures/metrics:**

The Greensteps Committee has identified possible locations and have been contacting landowners to determine the availability of the parcels. The city has obtained property in one of the two identified gap areas. This property is located along the Mississippi River. Our Park and Rec committee is exploring possible uses of the property and will making a green recommendation to the council. Currently the property is undeveloped and has grass and trees.

## **Descriptive links:**

**For more information contact:**

**Lynn O'Brien (Elected official) |  
laprcity@paulbunyan.net | 218-326-8898**

**2 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: 03/12/2014**

## **Implementation details:**

Acquiring Green Space: The city has been able to obtain some tax forfeited property along the Mississippi River that we are dedicating to green space. The park and Rec committee is discussing how best to use and preserve that space. The Greenstep Committee continues an ongoing effort to locate such properties, particularly in the north end of the city.

## **Outcome measures/metrics:**

Land obtained from Itasca County

## **Descriptive links:**

### **Partners:**

**Itasca County**

**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:    12/12/2011**

## **Implementation details:**

Green Space

## **Outcome measures/metrics:**

80% of all city owned land has been established and is protected



greenspace as a park which includes ballfields, a picnic area with open spaces and trees.

## **Descriptive links:**

**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:    04/14/2011**

## **Implementation details:**

Park enhancement: Not only is all water collected in the park returned to the ground, we have a plan in place to add trees and shrubs that will further aid water absorption.

## **Outcome measures/metrics:**

We obtained a grant from GABA to purchase trees and shrubs and have volunteers that plan on completing this project in 2011.

## **Descriptive links:**

**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: 01/04/2013**

**Implementation details:**

sewer upgrades and expansion of city sewer to an area of the city that has failing septic systems and undrinkable water.

**Outcome measures/metrics:**

The city has initiated the replacement of all pumps, rails and electronics in all of its lift stations. The city budgeted 50% of the costs and applied for and received a matching grant to complete the other 50%. Two of the lift stations have already been upgraded and the other four will be completed in 2012. This improvement is the beginning step to the expansion of sewer and water to an area of the city which has failed septic systems and polluted wells. Our current system needed to be upgraded to handle the additional flow of the expansion. The city has increased its sewer fees to accommodate future regular maintenance. A commitment from IRRR has been made to support the expansion of city water and sewer in the amount of \$500,000. The city is pursuing other grant opportunities for another \$600,000. The city has also lobbied the legislature to include this in the state bonding bill. This project is scheduled to be in construction in 2013. In 2012, we extended sewer and water to three businesses. One of those businesses employs a hundred persons, one of the other businesses is a mobile home park. We have obtained funding to extend water lines to residences and businesses in another currently unserved area. This construction will occur in 2013. We have plan to extend sewer to this same area in 2014 in conjunction with a road restructure. As of December 2013, the city has completed a water system expansion to a previously unserved portion of the city that had failing wells and poor quality

drinking water. This project has provided clean drinking water and fire hydrants to more than 15 residences and 8 businesses, government offices and a church. The sewer portion of the project is on track for completion in 2015.

## **Descriptive links:**

### **Partners:**

**IIRB, Itasca County, GRPUC**

**1 Star(s)      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:    01/04/2013**

### **Implementation details:**

sealed manholes Camered our existing sewer lines and cleaned our lift stations as part of our ongoing efforts to maintain our sewer system1/8/2016

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

All of the city's manholes have been inspected for infiltration. Those manholes that had infiltration were repaired by raising the manholes above the ground level in order to avoid rainwater infiltration. All of the city's sewer lines have been televised in order to search for leaks and root infiltration. All of the problem areas have been repaired or on a schedule to be repaired. The final leak in the sewer line was repaired in October 2012.

## **Descriptive links:**

**For more information contact:**

**Lynn O'Brien (Elected official) |  
laprcity@paulbunyan.net | 218-326-8898**

**1 Star(s) Action 7: Create a demand-side pricing program to reduce demands on water and wastewater systems.**

**Date action report first entered: 01/04/2013**

## **Implementation details:**

Move from a flat rate to a usage based water and sewer billing

## **Outcome measures/metrics:**

This project has been completed. All homes and businesses are now billed on usage for water and sewer. We have streamlined the billing process to allow for the electronic reading of meters and contracted with GRPUC to provide the billing on the same bill as electric. In 2014 we will have rate increase, but the entire increase will be on the usage.

## **Descriptive links:**

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

**1 Star(s) Action 6: Work with homeowners and businesses in environmentally sensitive areas and areas where standard septic systems are not the least-cost option to promote innovative waste water systems, including central sewer extensions.**

**Date action report first entered: 12/15/2015**

**Implementation details:**

this action might be able to go under multiple other actions? 12/15/2015  
Improved infrastructure by extending city water and sewer to an area of the city that was previously an un-served area of the city. The result was 45 new services for sewer and 45 for water. This action replaced failing private septic systems that were leeching into the Prairie River and provided safe drinking water to replace contaminated wells. This project also added two new lift stations that will complement our other 6 lift stations that were retrofitted in 2013.

**Outcome measures/metrics:**

**Descriptive links:**

**Solid Waste Prevention and Reduction { 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: 12/15/2015**

**Implementation details:**

12/15/2015 Instituted a recycling center at city hall to accommodate the recycling of small electronics, printers, batteries etc.

**Outcome measures/metrics:**

**Descriptive links:**

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

**Date action report first entered: 12/12/2011**

## **Implementation details:**

Re-use of building materials, furniture and appliances.

## **Outcome measures/metrics:**

Habitat for Humanity established a RESTORE operation in the city of LaPrairie. The purpose of this facility to gather and resale the above mentioned items. The city encourages residents and businesses to donate items and shop at the RESTORE. Funds collected for the re-purchased items are used for Habitat for Humanity projects.

## **Descriptive links:**

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

**Date action report first entered:    06/21/2011**

## **Implementation details:**

We have contracted with a non-profit group (Deer River Hired Hands) to pick up the brush from our community brush pile and chip the branches for recycling.

## **Outcome measures/metrics:**

Rather than taking our brush to the landfill, recycling it by chipping it also offers an opportunity for a local non-profit to employ handicapped adults by their ability to sell the wood chips. This project is ongoing.

## **Descriptive links:**

Environmental Management

**3 Star(s) Action 6: Improve recycling services and expand to multi-unit housing and commercial businesses.**

**Date action report first entered: 12/12/2011**

## **Implementation details:**

recycling Instituted a recycling center at city hall to accommodate the recycling of small electronics, printers, batteries etc. 1/8/2016

## **Outcome measures/metrics:**

The city contract with Waste management provides for free recycling of bottles, cans, and paper products and free curbside pickup recyclables twice a month. Waste Management has provided larger recycling bins for each resident and increased and has implemented a single sort recycling system. This new program has increased the variety of items that can be recycled including mixed plastics 1-7. Waste Management has further agreed with the city to exchange large garbage containers for smaller garbage containers at no cost and to reflect the savings in the bills to residents. The mayor advised the residents of this new recycling effort in the city newsletter and encouraged residents to recycle more and save more on garbage hauling fees. The process of educating and encouragement for recycling is an ongoing task that we promote in our newsletter.

## **Descriptive links:**

**For more information contact:**



**Lynn O'Brien (Elected official) |  
laprcity@paulbunyan.net | 218-326-8898**

**Partners:  
Waste Management**

**2 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: 01/04/2013**

**Implementation details:**

Encourage recycling by developing our contract to include a recycle option.

**Outcome measures/metrics:**

Waste Management has provided special 64 gallon carts to each residence and picks up the containers bi-weekly. Additionally we have expanded the number of items that can be recycled. The economic incentive is that residents can reduce their garbage output from a large container to a small container which reduces their garbage expense from \$19.04 per month to \$12.30 per month. Furthermore, it allows residents to go from a once a week pickup to once every other week which reduces their cost from \$12.30 to \$8.98 per month. We educated residents about this recycling opportunity in our newsletter and at public meetings. The community response has been terrific and we estimate that we have improved our

recycling by 80%. Currently we are in discussion with our contractor to expand this recycling effort to businesses and to expand the amount and type of materials that the contractor will agree to pickup.

## **Descriptive links:**

# **Resilient Economic & Community Development**

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

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: 03/20/2012**

## **Implementation details:**

Allow for native vegetation

## **Outcome measures/metrics:**

The Zoning Committee is considering a recommendation to amend the Zoning Ordinance to allow for native vegetation. The Greensteps Committee has chosen to educate and encourage the use of native vegetation and this process is ongoing with public speakers and our city newsletter.

## **Descriptive links:**

### **Partners:**

**University of Minnesota**

**1 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:    04/14/2011**

## **Implementation details:**

Local Food: We revised our residential development code to reflect lots large enough to allow for gardens. Educate residents about the opportunities of cooperative gardening. We amended our Zoning Ordinance to allow for the raising of chickens by residents. Bee-keeping: In April the Greenstep Committee will begin the discussion about backyard beekeeping.

## **Outcome measures/metrics:**

One of the city residents has developed two large garden spaces and has made it available for free gardening for senior citizens that live in apartment buildings. This resident also provides free tilling and free water for irrigation. Those seniors are making use of this opportunity and donating excess vegetables to the food shelf which is located in our city. The spring 2012 city newsletter featured an article from the Mayor urging residents to consider cooperative gardening and describing the benefits of cooperative gardening. We have a few residents that have chosen to raise chickens and we established some chicken raising rules which lessened the impact to neighbors.

## **Descriptive links:**

**1 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:    03/20/2012**

## **Implementation details:**

Adopt an ordinance allowing chickens to be raised in the city.

## **Outcome measures/metrics:**

The Zoning Committee held a public meeting, studied the raising of chickens and recommended to the city council a chicken ordinance. That ordinance was adopted by the council in March of 2012.

## **Descriptive links:**

# **Climate Adaptation and Community Resilience { BP no. 29 }**

**1 Star(s)    Action 4: Encourage private sector action and incentivize investment in preventive approaches that reduce risk and minimize impacts of extreme weather and the changing climate for human health and the built environment.**

**Date action report first entered:    12/13/2016**

## **Implementation details:**

Six trained volunteers spent four hours replacing 100 fluorescent T8 and T12 bulbs with LED bulbs, and four traditional thermostats with programmable thermostats in the City office, shop and warming house, as part of a Best Practice 29 Sponsored Event. This effort was followed by a community-wide event in Ryan Park on June 23, 2016 (in conjunction with the farmers' market and a youth baseball game) to promote the City's biking/walking trails, farmers' market, energy retrofit cost savings and

environmental impact, Firewise tips, extreme weather resilience and mitigation information, community solar gardens, and GreenStep call to action for next steps with GreenStep committee to make Best Practice 29 ideas for climate adaptation and community resilience a reality.

## **Outcome measures/metrics:**

The city retrofit will save 85,000 Kwh over the life of the bulbs, which is the same as GHG emissions from 12.6 passenger vehicles driven for one year or 6,722 gallons of gasoline consumed. At least 100 people attended the event and engaged on these topics. Support was fostered leading up to the event and momentum for more action was created moving forward.

## **Descriptive links:**

**For more information contact:**

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