

## June 2015 GreenStep City Notables

### Cumulative: 2010 – 2015

#### Program-wide Facts and Evaluation Notes -----

- ❖ **36% of the state's population** resides in the 83 GreenStep cities
- ❖ **27 cities have either joined the program or advanced** one or two recognition steps in the past year
- ❖ **The Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe**, a Tribal Nation, has been using the GreenStep best practices framework and formally joined the program this past year
- ❖ **818 best practices have been implemented**, a one-third increase over last year. (Implementation of some best practices involves completing more than one best practice action.)
- ❖ **2331 actions have been completed** and reported through the GreenStep program web site since 2010, a 38% increase over last year
  
- ❖ **GreenStep cities are located in all** regions of the state
- ❖ **GreenStep cities range from** Milan, population 326, to St. Paul, population 291,000
- ❖ **Just over half** of the 83 GreenStep cities are in Greater Minnesota, outside the Twin Cities metro area
- ❖ **Half** of the cities in the Regional Council of Mayors are GreenStep cities
  
- ❖ **GreenStep cities skew younger**, with a higher proportion of 15-34 year olds
- ❖ **Politically, GreenStep city residents lean** Republican, Democratic and Independent just like the average MN city
- ❖ **GreenStep cities had lower unemployment** (5% vs. 5.4% in March 2013) coming out of the Great Recession, compared to the average MN city
- ❖ **35% of the state's 545 Energy Star buildings** are in GreenStep cities (192 commercial buildings as of May 2013)
  
- ❖ **GreenStep cities are motivated by** cost savings, peer recognition and the program's sustainability framework
- ❖ **GreenStep cities' achievements are generally driven by** a strong internal city organizational culture, which includes citizen commissions

#### 2015 Notables -----

- ❖ The first annual LMC/GSC **Sustainable City Award** goes to the City of Oakdale
- ❖ **B3 (city building energy tracking) awards** were given to large and small cities. Shoreview and Pierz won in the highest performing (most energy efficient) category, and Rochester and Pierz won in the most improved category
- ❖ **6 cities are recognized as Step Four Pilot Cities:** Burnsville, Eden Prairie, Elk River, Maplewood, Saint Anthony, Shoreview
- ❖ **A national Engineering Excellence Award was earned by the Regional Indicators Initiative** and given to LHB, Inc., the GreenStep consultant, by the American Council of Engineering Companies
- ❖ **10 MN GreenCorps members** were placed in GreenStep cities: Coon Rapids, Duluth, Fridley, Hutchinson, Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe, Northfield, Rochester, St. Anthony, St. Louis Park, St. Paul
- ❖ **3 NE MN cities participated in a City Leadership in Commercial Energy Project:** Grand Marais, Mt. Iron, Pine City
- ❖ **5 metro cities participated in a City Leadership in Commercial Energy Project:** Edina, Maplewood, Oakdale, St. Anthony, North Saint Paul
- ❖ **A behavior-based energy conservation program** with Elk River, Minnetonka and Northfield, run by Class 5 Energy (under a state CARD grant) resulted in measureable energy and costs savings

- ❖ GreenStep helped convene a **Twin Cities Metro Area Mayors Roundtable** on Regional Energy and Climate Resilience
- ❖ **A GS listserv** was created for city contacts to exchange information and to network
- ❖ **Two city evaluation reports** were completed by CR Planning and Vanessa Perry (formerly of Envision MN), who (respectively) produced interviewed 11 GSC and 11 recipients of Envision technical assistance. Four 'return on investment' case studies were prepared, along with recommendations for building city capacity for sustained city improvement, and for future technical assistance to GS cities

#### APPLE VALLEY

- ✓ **Apple Valley businesses cut over \$285,000/yr.** in energy bills since 2007, working with Dakota Electric and Center Point Energy on over 100 efficiency projects promoted by the city's Better Energy Apple Valley effort
- ✓ **Better Energy Apple Valley 2-yr. campaign: \$437,000 lifetime savings;** 793 homeowners attended workshops, 98% completed audits, installing 16,680 CFLs, 759 low-flow shower heads, 1,491 low-flow aerators; 149 homes completed major upgrades (attic insulation, furnace, water heaters)

#### BEMIDJI

- ✓ Yearly budget highlights **goals & key measures by department**
- ✓ Luekens Village Grocery built and is selling from a **large-scale aquaponics greenhouse**

#### BRAINERD

- ✓ Adopted a **small house (500 sq.ft.) conditional use permit** option, one of MN's first, as a tool to help encourage infill development on non-conforming vacant city lots
- ✓ *Showcasing Brainerd* at monthly televised council meetings **introduces good & services from local retail** and industrial businesses
- ✓ Brainerd owns and operates a **3.3 MW hydro facility**
- ✓ **Brainerd Public Utility regularly meets its annual 1.5% energy savings goal** and provides no-cost commercial energy audits
- ✓ **Farm to School program** delivers local foods to the Brainerd School District schools
- ✓ **Brainerd is home to the organization Strong Towns**

#### BROOKLYN CENTER

- ✓ **Formal complete streets policy** includes a project worksheet

#### BURNSVILLE

- ✓ **Encourages proper solar orientation** and passive solar construction in their 2011 GHG Reduction Goals and Implementation Priorities

#### COON RAPIDS

- ✓ **Home for Generations program** helps residents add space during green remodeling
- ✓ **City-wide water use cut 50%** during 2006-2011
- ✓ **Planned unit developments** focused on compact, vigorous, mixed use development

#### COTTAGE GROVE

- ✓ **Density bonus for innovative energy conservation efforts**, including orientation of lots and/or units for maximum use of passive solar energy, earth sheltering, alternative energy sources and preservation of solar access
- ✓ **Multiple trails connect cul-de-sacs** to main roadways and to transpiration trails within the community

#### CRYSTAL

- ✓ **PUD ordinance encourages energy conservation** through site and building design
- ✓ **4 road diets installed** - 4-lane roads converted into 3-lane roads, with one travel lane in each direction and a center turn lane
- ✓ **Residents can request rain gardens** installed in their boulevard as part of local street reconstructions
- ✓ **Chickens permitted** in residential zones

#### ELK RIVER

- ✓ **Energy City tourism** averages 20 tours/yr.; 500 visitors in 2014

#### FRIDLEY

- ✓ **Local East African community** started the city's first farmers market in 2015 on behalf of healthy food and art for kids
- ✓ **Active transportation plan** includes: bike trails plowed in winter; SRTS team; active city-school-health care interaction; active living classes; public/private partnership with area bike shops

#### GILBERT

- ✓ **Toxic reduction campaign** to reduce harmful products going to the waste water treatment plant
- ✓ **60% increase in city fleet MPG** to 16 MPG average; number of vehicles reduced, multi-purpose vehicles added

#### HERMANTOWN

- ✓ **Bees and fowl by permit**; agriculture, particularly subsistence farming, is a part of the communities heritage and is viewed as a valuable community resource

#### HUTCHINSON

- ✓ **Public street trees calculated to produce \$710,000/yr. in benefits**
- ✓ **20% reduction in gas/electric** use in city buildings, 2006-2014
- ✓ **\$60,000/yr. savings** through lighting project in city buildings since 2011
- ✓ **\$1,000,000 savings since 2009** through all city building energy reduction projects
- ✓ **Shoreland ordinance** includes a menu of mitigation measures
- ✓ **\$60,000/yr. savings** through energy efficiency at water & wastewater plants; 28% cut since 2006 at wastewater plant
- ✓ **800 improperly connected sump pumps** and perimeter tiles disconnected from sanitary sewer since 2001
- ✓ that have been rerouted from discharging to the sanitary sewer.

#### LAKE CRYSTAL

- ✓ **Use of floating islands explored** via Crystal Waters Project to cleanse local lake

#### LAUDERDALE

- ✓ **Public buildings 25% more energy efficient** than if they were performing just at the MN Building Code level
- ✓ **"Swedish Soil" used in complete streets project** to ensure long-term health/cost savings in plantings
- ✓ **Bees and hen chickens** allowed by code

#### LEECH LAKE BAND OF OJIBWE

- ✓ **Dark Sky, energy efficient outdoor lighting** required for new construction on Tribal Lands
- ✓ **25% reduction in solid waste** achieved through organics composting projects
- ✓ The Leech Lake Band is a national leader in the **Tribal Brownfield program** arena

#### MAPLEWOOD

- ✓ **2015 Community Action Plan: Towards Carbon Neutrality** adopted by city; 2-yr. outreach partnership with Xcel Energy will reduce energy costs for high residential/commercial users

- ✓ **International Green Construction Code** required for new city buildings
- ✓ **136,000 kWh/yr. savings & one new green job** resulting from \$10,000 city grant to Maplewood Mall for 107 parking lot lighting retrofits
- ✓ **\$800+/yr. in trash hauler fee reductions** for several businesses resulting from close city/Waste Wise staff visits
- ✓ **RFID chips on trash carts** allow city to offer bi-weekly garbage rates and price breaks for 3+ week resident vacations

#### NEW HOPE

- ✓ **\$96,000 first-year savings** in city buildings improved via an energy performance contract
- ✓ **Density bonuses in residential districts** for attributes including underground parking, proximity to public transit, incorporating outdoor play areas in multi-family projects
- ✓ **A detailed complete streets policy**
- ✓ **Bicycle parking requirements** for commercial land uses
- ✓ **Grocery/prescription delivery options** for residents listed on city website
- ✓ **2015 infrastructure projects include** rain gardens, option for residents to install rain gardens during street reconstruction, cistern to irrigate the nearby ball fields, permeable pavers

#### NEWPORT

- ✓ **Transit-oriented mixed-use district** for the Red Rock Corridor transit station that opened in 2014
- ✓ **Express bus service** added to downtown St. Paul
- ✓ **Chickens and bees** allowed by ordinance

#### PIERZ

- ✓ **Comp plan goals** for a traditional downtown and for fiscally sustainable annexation
- ✓ **4,200 feet of sidewalks** and other Safe Routes to School improvements

#### PINE CITY

- ✓ **2020 goals** to cut water use/person by 20%; to cut GHG from city operations by 40% by increasing renewable energy use

#### RED WING

- ✓ **Energy consumption cut 37%** in 12 city buildings since 2011; GHG emissions reduced by 50%

#### ROSEMOUNT

- ✓ **First MN city to be certified by the national STAR community rating system**
- ✓ Partnered with the University of MN's **Resilient Communities Project** in 2014-2015 to advance 38 sustainability projects

#### ROSEVILLE

- ✓ **New fire station equivalent to LEED silver**, with geothermal heating, maximum use of daylight
- ✓ **A Water Sense Partner city**, working with the EPA to conserve water
- ✓ **City promotes residential plan books** that emphasize green remodeling & historic remodeling; residential energy efficiency incentives established
- ✓ **Code requires bicycle parking** spaces equal to 10% of the automobile parking requirement
- ✓ **Code permit chicken coops** in residential zones

#### ROYALTON

- ✓ **Detailed lighting ordinance** to reduce light pollution/skyglow and to promote high quality, energy-efficient lighting

- ✓ **Community Energy Challenge** with MN Power, Royalton Hardware & Franklin Energy challenged/rewarded K-12 students to cut home/school energy use (\$1,000 earned) and assisted 25 local businesses to cut energy use; community Green Fair at school showcased successes

#### SAINT CLOUD

- ✓ **\$18.5 million calculated savings** over 40 years by 5-yr. LED street lighting plan for 5,000 street light changeouts
- ✓ **\$210,530/yr. savings by using ductile iron** drinking water mains vs. PVC; elimination of any potential to leach carcinogens into the public water supply

#### SAINT LOUIS PARK

- ✓ **Bee-friendly resolution** covers 8 parks and includes public education and other bee-friendly practices

#### SAINT PAUL

- ✓ **1.1 MW solar thermal system** installed with city help at the RiverCentre convention hall to augment hot water from District Energy St. Paul serving downtown buildings
- ✓ **Street Design Manual** for implementing adopted complete streets policy
- ✓ **Green building policy** for all projects receiving \$200,000+ in public funds
- ✓ **30% energy use reduction** since 2009 from over 100 energy efficiency projects in 60 city facilities; most have a projected payback period under 5 yrs.
- ✓ **Public Housing Authority** will install community vegetable gardens at any of its 20 sites when requested by residents
- ✓ **50% of city parking meters** are solar-powered
- ✓ **8-80 Vitality Fund**; adopted Bike Plan; bike rack program; city telework policy; NiceRide bike-sharing; Car2Go & HourCar licensed car-sharing
- ✓ **60% fewer CO emissions** from 66 propane school buses
- ✓ **33% tree canopy cover** in 2010

#### SHERBURN

- ✓ **Organized collection** by one hauler of garbage and recyclables

#### SHOREWOOD

- ✓ **Passes state's first 'bee-safe' policy** whereby the city will avoid certain pesticides, plant bee-supporting plants, and educate/encourage residents to do the same

#### TWO HARBORS

- ✓ **Reuse of effluent** at waste water treatment plant
- ✓ **35-bed community garden** makes donations to the area food shelf

#### VICTORIA

- ✓ **\$50-\$100 rebates** for purchase of ENERGY STAR® , WaterSense labeled products
- ✓ **Conservation development plans required** that demonstrate comp plan conservation/preservation objectives; supportive density transfers negotiated

#### 2010 - 2014 Notables -----

#### APPLE VALLEY

- ✓ First BRT (bus rapid transit) system in MN.

- ✓ Longstanding recognition of business waste reduction via the ARROW program

#### **AUSTIN**

- ✓ Bi-monthly home energy reports included in the utility bill with customized energy saving advice.
- ✓ Recognized as a Tree City USA for 34 years.
- ✓ Austin Utilities currently offers an extensive rebate program promoting the purchase of Energy Star and Water Sense appliances.
- ✓ Waste water plant saves energy by biodigesting waste to produce needed heat and electricity.

#### **BEMIDJI**

- ✓ Bemidji was recognized by the League of American Bicyclists as a Bicycle Friendly Community at the Bronze level in October of 2012.
- ✓ NiceRide bike-sharing service launches summer 2014
- ✓ Sustainability Committee reports their initiatives to the city council on a quarterly basis
- ✓ Sustainable Tuesdays offers free weekly learning opportunities to the public, in partnership program with the Indigenous Environmental Network, the Minnesota GreenCorps, the Rail River Folk School, and Bemidji State University's Sustainability Office.

#### **BURNSVILLE**

- ✓ First city sustainability plan in Minnesota.
- ✓ 17% cut in greenhouse gases from city operations: 2005-2014
- ✓ Established an Energy Efficiency Fund to match rebates and purchase energy efficient products with longer payback periods.
- ✓ Heart of the City redeveloped a former large format commercial area in a mixed use commercial and residential area
- ✓ Uses stormwater to irrigate several parks and converted four acres of turf grass to native grass.
- ✓ Adopted a Sustainable Infrastructure Policy that to review and consider sustainability features for infrastructure projects.

#### **COLUMBIA HEIGHTS**

- ✓ Grading permit required for sites over 5,000 sq ft

#### **COON RAPIDS**

- ✓ Activity Impact Measurement tool assures city values and sustainability are reflected in city decision-making

#### **COTTAGE GROVE**

- ✓ New Public Safety/City Hall building has daylighting sensors and Sage electrochromic glass to reduce energy consumption

#### **DELANO**

- ✓ Park and Ride lot will allow users to gather and to carpool to surrounding areas

#### **EAGAN**

- ✓ Nation's first Green Globes-certified fire station
- ✓ Reduced parks' mowed area by 10%

#### **EDEN PRAIRIE**

- ✓ Fuel misers committee challenges city employees to cut costs
- ✓ Participant in the National Mayor's Challenge for Water Conservation
- ✓ 8-acre Green Path-certified neighborhood under development

- ✓ Town center design guide and streetscape details shape quality private development
- ✓ On target to achieve 40% fuel efficiency savings of the city fleet by the end of 2015
- ✓ Participating in the PACE financing program for renewable energy with the St. Paul Port Authority
- ✓ Adopted a very thorough bee-keeping application for residents

#### **EDINA**

- ✓ First commercial PACE (property assessed clean energy) program in MN, recognized by Environmental Initiative with a 2012 award.
- ✓ Community greenhouse gas reduction goal of 15% by 2015 from 2007 baseline
- ✓ 2013 living streets policy adopted = complete streets + green streets
- ✓ National sustainable infrastructure tool Envision used for street reconstruction project

#### **ELK RIVER**

- ✓ First MN city to replace all traffic signals with cost-saving LED lights.
- ✓ Renewables account for about 20% of energy used by city operations
- ✓ Recognizes business excellence under its Energy City High Five award program

#### **FALCON HEIGHTS**

- ✓ Residents entered into a quarterly drawing for a prize to reward frequent shopping at local businesses

#### **GRAND RAPIDS**

- ✓ Recognized by the Blue Star Award program as one of the leading cities in the state taking action to protect water resources through stormwater management.
- ✓ Public Library heating supplied from waste water production at the Blandin paper mill, reducing natural gas use by nearly 70%.

#### **HOFFMAN**

- ✓ The local Lions Club ordered 672 trees, one for each resident

#### **HOPKINS**

- ✓ 2012 forestry budget of \$210,000 well-exceeds Tree City USA minimum

#### **LA PRAIRIE**

- ✓ City is a member of the Iron Range Economic Alliance
- ✓ Waste management and recycling changes have increased recycling by 80%
- ✓ Community improved recycling by an estimated 80%, expanded items that can be recycled and implemented volume-based pricing

#### **LAKE CRYSTAL**

- ✓ Renewables account for about 15% of energy used by city operations
- ✓ 0% interest business loans for energy efficiency improvements

#### **LAKE ELMO**

- ✓ Established over 20 nationally recognized open space preservation developments, partnering with the MN Land Trust to purchase large conservation easements
- ✓ 10% and 5% density bonus given to planned unit developments that preserve historic structures and adaptively reuse buildings
- ✓ City includes an agricultural zoning district

#### **MAHTOMEDI**

- ✓ Participates in the area chamber of commerce program “Doing Our Part, Saving the Lake”

## **MANKATO**

- ✓ LED street lighting saving \$19,000 annually
- ✓ LED traffic signals saving \$50,000 annually
- ✓ City's water reclamation facility has reduced deep well water use by 50%. Between 1.5 and 2 million gallons of treated wastewater is being used by the Mankato Energy Center for cooling, which saves the city nearly 700 million gallons of water annually (about as much water as a population of 18,000 might use) and has significantly reduced phosphorous levels. Reused water is also used for activities like street sweeping, park irrigation, and sold (at \$2.50/750 gal.) to landscapers and others for reuse.
- ✓ Urban Design Guidelines created for downtown and for gateways into the city
- ✓ Orderly annexation agreements with townships limit or prohibit new urban development so as to allow for planned and most efficient infrastructure investments
- ✓ Downtown density bonuses have catalyzed commercial and residential development
- ✓ Adopted a Highway Gateway Overlay District to guide and improve quality of development
- ✓ Implements a neighborhood traffic calming program
- ✓ Honorable mention as a Bicycle-Friendly Community in 2011; required bike parking for new commercial and multi-unit residential that can cut required car stalls
- ✓ Parking lot requirements for shade trees every 50 feet along perimeter
- ✓ Stormwater infiltration-to-sanitary sewer inspection required upon property transfer
- ✓ Annual State-of-the-City report outlines progress on –year strategic plan
- ✓ Participating in the PACE financing program for renewable energy with the St. Paul Port Authority
- ✓ Staff has adopted policy that gardens in residential areas have no requirement for setback and no maximum lot coverage for garden areas.

## **MAPLE GROVE**

- ✓ Government Center uses a closed loop geothermal system that utilizes groundwater ponds dug in a gravel mining area.
- ✓ Grant money for new construction homes that achieve an energy efficiency (HERS) rating of 40 or below
- ✓ Town Center area along Main Street - Arbor Lakes – includes retail and office uses vertically mixed
- ✓ City council has chartered a Lake Quality Commission
- ✓ Created a renewable energy financing (PACE) district covering the city
- ✓ City contributes staff time to assist with the farmer’s market

## **MAPLEWOOD**

- ✓ First MN city in 20 years to shift to organized residential waste collection, estimated to save residents approximately \$1 million per year and to save the city money spent on excessive road wear and tear.
- ✓ By using living streets design in a street reconstruction project, less pavement saved the city \$100,000.
- ✓ International Green Construction Code governs commercial renovation projects that require city regulatory approval
- ✓ For all of Maplewood's street reconstruction projects, the City installs rain gardens; there exist over 620 home rain gardens and over 60 rain gardens on city land
- ✓ City covers 50% or \$100 of any street shade tree purchased by a resident
- ✓ One of the city's naturalists also works as the community garden coordinator for all city community gardens
- ✓ Adopted “Living Streets” policy addressing rain gardens, traffic calming, improved walking and biking conditions, and boulevard tree standards.

## **MARSHALL**

- ✓ Over 70 WaterSense toilet rebates given out since 2010; over 2,600 low flow shower heads distributed
- ✓ Renewable energy supplies 32% of total purchases by the City of Marshall



- ✓ \$100,000 in local dollars sold annually, redeemable at over 380 local businesses
- ✓ Launched Marshall GreenStep Business program to recognize local businesses implementing sustainability best practices

#### **MILAN**

- ✓ First rural MN year-round community-supported lettuce business.

#### **MINNETONKA**

- ✓ Development limitations in I-39 corridor based on p.m. peak hour trip generation
- ✓ Tree replacement required for removal of trees 20 ft or more beyond a building
- ✓ Partnered with the University of MN's Resilient Communities Project in 2012-2013 to advance 14 sustainability projects

#### **MOUNTAIN IRON**

- ✓ Rebates provided as an incentive to purchase Energy Star appliances and lighting
- ✓ Adopted a green streets policy in 2013
- ✓ Renewable and Sustainable Energy Park created to cluster and develop green companies that specialize in renewable energy

#### **NEWPORT**

- ✓ Excellent communication to residents on utility rates, zoning codes, business resources and completed GreenStep actions
- ✓ Parking maximums and minimums established; shared parking allowed
- ✓ 30% city tree canopy calculated using iTree software
- ✓ Prizes given out to residents for local shopping, using a punchcard
- ✓ Adopted Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Guidelines addressing recycled paper products, energy and water efficient products, fuel efficient vehicles, and printing services.

#### **NORTH ST PAUL**

- ✓ The city's Comprehensive Plan Vision, Living Streets Vision and other redevelopment infrastructure plans make a holistic master plan for downtown redevelopment
- ✓ Converted half of the city's street lights to LED technology, with plans to convert the remainder in 2013.
- ✓ Partnered with the University of MN Resilient Communities Project in 2013-2014 to advance 16 sustainability projects

#### **NORTHFIELD**

- ✓ First Transition Town effort in MN, involving alumni of the Blandin Community Leadership Program
- ✓ Nationally recognized complete streets policy
- ✓ Priority growth areas and an urban growth boundary established
- ✓ One police officer, now retired lost over 50 lbs of weight by volunteering to be on the city's bike patrol

#### **OAKDALE**

- ✓ New construction or major remodel of a city facility is required to be built using Oakdale's own Generation Green building program standards
- ✓ Oakdale Environmental Commission updates its Generation Green Sustainability Plan annually, which addresses energy, water, transportation, waste, health and food, open space and urban forests; includes greenhouse gas reduction goals for city operations
- ✓ City building upgrades save over \$18,000 each year: new geothermal heating and cooling system and energy-efficient lighting for the public works building, an energy-saving rooftop air conditioner, new boilers, and solar panels for city hall.

- ✓ Permit fee reduction and expedited plan review for private buildings built to city green building or LEED standards
- ✓ Adopted mixed use design standards
- ✓ Engineering Design Guidelines for stormwater installations
- ✓ A connection required to existing trail infrastructure as part of subdivision approval
- ✓ City staff person assigned as the farmers market manager
- ✓ City staff encouraged to proposed energy saving ideas to an Innovation Committee. Staff who submit actions that are implemented city-wide are rewarded with a gift card.

#### **PINE RIVER**

- ✓ First GreenStep City and home to first hot air panels paid for by low-income heating assistance.

#### **RED WING**

- ✓ 1987-2010 electricity & natural gas savings of \$365,000 in city buildings due to energy efficiency upgrades
- ✓ Comp plan has broad energy independence goals
- ✓ Industrial pre-treatment program for businesses keeps sewer rates lower; 1 water reuse system in the city
- ✓ Higher density development encouraged in highway access management study
- ✓ No-smoking policy adopted for public housing units
- ✓ Waives parking requirements in the Central Business District and allows for shared parking in all other developments.

#### **ROCHESTER**

- ✓ Refuse-derived combined heat & power district energy system in the city
- ✓ Public utility runs a Conserve & Save Water Rebate program
- ✓ A cooperative agreement among townships, the County and the city coordinates zoning enforcement and planning; an urban growth boundary adopted
- ✓ A road diet street project converted 4 traffic lanes to 3 and includes bike lanes, parking, bumpouts, trees, sidewalks, permeable pavement and stormwater capture
- ✓ School buses optimize routes and cost savings using Transfinder software
- ✓ Building orientation incentivized to optimize passive solar energy
- ✓ Commuter plan is to shift single-occupancy car trips from 71% of all downtown-bound work trips in 2008 to 60% in 2020
- ✓ Working in older township subdivision with small lots to construct a cluster septic system
- ✓ Regulation for construction sites to separate recyclable materials and waste
- ✓ MN Bio Business Center project, built on a former downtown parking lot with contaminated soil, supported brownfield remediation, redevelopment, and serves as a center for innovation in biotechnology

#### **ROGERS**

- ✓ at least one tree and landscape island required for every 12 parking spots in all parking lots

#### **ROSEMOUNT**

- ✓ Energy conservation addressed in city's planned unit development ordinance
- ✓ Cluster development allows at least 50% of the developable land to be permanently protected
- ✓ Point-of-sale compliance check required for septic systems
- ✓ Community gardens at public parks

#### **ROYALTON**

- ✓ 3 rain gardens be installed to handle the storm water runoff from new school parking lot
- ✓ Outdoor wood boilers regulated

## **ST. ANTHONY**

- ✓ First MN multi-source parkland watering system (stormwater and filter backwash from drinking water plant) that reduces groundwater draws by 7 million gal./yr.
- ✓ 95 contiguous months of city building energy tracking data available for analysis to pinpoint the most cost-effective energy conservation improvements
- ✓ City has a Vital Aging Committee
- ✓ Silver Lake Village redevelopment incorporated transit as a major element
- ✓ Recycled-content materials considered as equals to virgin consumer products

## **ST. CLOUD**

- ✓ Nation's first public bus powered by recycled vegetable oil @ \$2.30/gal.
- ✓ St. Cloud State campus bike-share service established
- ✓ Design standards adopted for rain gardens, green roofs, and green parking lots
- ✓ St. Cloud Area Sustainability Plan adopted
- ✓ St. Cloud Area Chamber of Commerce operates a Shop Local, Eat Local, Invest Local, Stay Local program

## **ST. LOUIS PARK**

- ✓ City matches 50% of the utility rebates for energy efficient furnaces & other energy improvements
- ✓ Traffic management plans prepared by owners may require shared parking, ridesharing, bike/ped/transit incentive programs, variable work hours, flex-time, other SOV-reduction measures
- ✓ Thresholds for erosion control permits: 50 cubic yards or 500 square feet of site disturbance
- ✓ Developing a comprehensive city-wide system of trails and sidewalks via an initiative, "Connect the Park!"
- ✓ Developed design guidelines, addressing zoning changings, stormwater, traffic and green spaces for the Beltline, a mixed use area on the Southwest Light Rail line.

## **SAUK RAPIDS**

- ✓ All new private parking lot lighting must be dark sky compliant
- ✓ Infill design standards for residential and downtown areas

## **SHOREVIEW**

- ✓ Environmental Quality Commission reviews all new development plans to suggest green building practices including greywater reuse and rain water capture for irrigation
- ✓ 5% density bonus for a building employing a passive energy system, 10% for an active solar energy system
- ✓ Recognized as a Bike Friendly Community
- ✓ 100% of electricity used by city operations is renewably generated, purchased via Xcel Energy's Windsource program
- ✓ City has joined the national WaterSense program to increase water conservation efforts
- ✓ Garbage haulers follow the recycling contractor's "zones" so residents can put out all their bins on the same day
- ✓ Participant in the Regional Indicator Initiative
- ✓ Environmental Quality Committee gives Green Community Awards annually to recognize individual and corporate efforts in three general areas: Water, Energy, and other General Initiatives
- ✓ Maintenance Facility achieved LEED Gold rating—the first city owned building in the nation to achieve that status under the 2009 rating system.

## **SHOREWOOD**

- ✓ Narrow – 24 ft. – street allowed
- ✓ Outdoor wood boilers regulated to improve local air quality and public health

## **SILVER BAY**

- ✓ 100 acre eco-park raises fish and vegetables year round, creates algae for biodiesel; creating and diversify living wage employment a goal
- ✓ Sustainability in elementary education curriculum includes gardens for students (growing and selling) and forestry

#### **VICTORIA**

- ✓ Downtown developments can share the public parking available to all uses in order to meet required parking
- ✓ Participant in the national Mayor's Water Conservation Challenge

#### **WARREN**

- ✓ Utilized an adjacent city lot for installation of a geothermal heating/cooling system to allow a new group home to have lower costs

#### **WHITE BEAR LAKE**

- ✓ Won 4th nationally in the national Mayor's Challenge to Save Water; is a WaterSense promotional member
- ✓ 2010 public works building was constructed to the equivalent of LEED silver
- ✓ Over two years the average energy savings in participating restaurants was 5.8%
- ✓ Supports the Rambler Revolution Demonstration project to efficiently update older homes
- ✓ Shares water, sewer, police, fire and inspections services with surrounding communities
- ✓ Infill projects are incentivized and are promoted in the comp plan
- ✓ Modifications to the City Hall and Public Safety Building cut parking by 11%
- ✓ Density bonuses for including affordable housing
- ✓ 1.5 inch infiltration standard for rainwater events

#### **WILLMAR**

- ✓ A designated MN Main Street community
- ✓ Willmar Design Center formed after a MN Design Team visit

#### **WOODBURY**

- ✓ Density bonus for including assisted living units in a development project, and for transferring contiguous wooded areas to the city free as outlots
- ✓ Planned Unit Development ordinance emphasizes mixed uses
- ✓ New/renovated commercial developments required to install bike racks
- ✓ Sustainability adopted by the city council as one of the city's seven Critical Success Factors
- ✓ Adopted a Greenway Corridor Policy striving to connect Woodbury's natural systems and areas and voters approved over \$11 million in bonding to preserve open space.
- ✓ Preserves 90% of the land surrounding city lakes with native vegetation surrounding lakeshores.
- ✓ Rainwater reuse system being installed for two golf courses as part of a stormwater management system for a road expansion project.
- ✓ City Council resolution adopted B3-State of Minnesota Sustainable Building Guidelines for the planning, design, construction and commission of new buildings and major renovations owned by the city.