



## *GreenStep City Notables: June 2017*

### Program-wide Facts, Evaluation Notes

- ❖ **42% of the state's population** resides in the 113 GreenStep cities. **70%** of cities over 25,000 population are GreenStep cities, **50%** of cities between 5,000 & 25,000 are GreenStep cities, **15%** of cities between 1,000 & 5,000 are GreenStep cities, and **2%** of 508 cities in Minnesota that have a population under 1,000 are GreenStep cities
- ❖ **Cities are fairly representative** of Minnesota as a whole in terms of geographic distribution, city size (255 to 291,000), politics (a majority of voters in 28% of GreenStep cities favored candidate Trump), language, education and income, as documented in a winter 2016-2017 Program Evaluation and first annual survey of GreenStep city coordinators (78% response rate)
- ❖ **27 cities are now at Step 1**; 49 cities @ Step 2; 26 cities @ Step 3; 5 cities are at Step 4; 6 cities are at Step 5, awarded for the first time in 2017
- ❖ **Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa**, a Tribal Nation, joined as the third Tribe to use the GreenStep framework
- ❖ **3259 actions have been completed**, reported and rated through the GreenStep program web site since 2010, a 2016-2017 increase (23%) almost double that of 2015-2016
- ❖ **Active media covering GreenStep** includes 22 articles in state-wide/regional/local news posted on a link from the GreenStep home page
- ❖ **\$5.254 million per year in direct financial savings to city budgets and taxpayers** is documented from 17 cities
- ❖ **New Hope was recognized** with the third annual LMC/GSC Sustainable City Award
- ❖ **A short video of city accomplishments**, featuring Sherburn, Jordan, Maplewood and Eden Prairie, was shown at the annual 2017 LMC-GreenStep breakfast
- ❖ **3 cities were 2016 Local Government Innovation City Awardees** (5 total) recognized by the University of MN Humphrey School: Eden Prairie, St. Paul, Albert Lea
- ❖ **5 cities were 2016 Clean Energy Community Award winners** (8 total) recognized by the MN Dept. of Commerce: Hutchinson, Morris, St. Cloud, Fergus Falls (& Pelican Rapids), Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe
- ❖ **Cities winning 2016 Best of B3** (city building energy performance) awards were Newport & Ramsey (of 3 Best of Benchmarking awards) and St. Paul (of 3 B3 Leadership awards).
- ❖ **10 cities hosted MN GreenCorps** members during 2016-2017: Leech Lake Band of Ojibwa, Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, Duluth, Elk River, Coon Rapids, St. Paul, Faribault, Bemidji, Winona, Golden Valley
- ❖ **MPCA funded climate adaptation & resilience** community engagement events in Hutchinson, Fridley, LaPrairie, Falcon Heights, St. Anthony, Austin
- ❖ **\$300,000 for LoGoPEP** (Local Government Project for Energy Planning) is helping cities integrate energy plans into comp plans in the Twin Cities metro area, aiming for eliminating the combined energy impacts of Minnesota's third and fourth largest cities through 2040



## 2017 Notables by City -----

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### ALBERT LEA

- ✓ **Nationally-recognized Blue Zones health work** resulted in/includes: 39% increase in walking & biking since 2010 (city added 7 miles of sidewalk & 3 miles of bike lanes); trail counts over 7 years show 69% increase in walking/biking; winner of the 2015 MN Local Government Innovation Award - for Active Living work; downtown Broadway Ave. 4- to 3-lane road diet widening sidewalks, added bike lanes & tree boxes & rain gardens; city helped private company employees use pretax income for transit purposes
- ✓ **Mayor, City Manager, Assistant City Manager went door-to-door** in two parts of town, asking residents what actions could be taken by the city to improve quality of life; appropriate staff responded to issues; city started weekly e-newsletter (900 subscribers), Facebook went from 1,400 to 2,700 followers; program recognized by the national Alliance for Innovation
- ✓ **Anaerobic digester produces biogas, saves \$60-90,000/yr.** in energy savings (70% from reduced electricity & fuel purchases; 30% from reduced maintenance costs) at the 6.7 MGD waste water treatment plant that added a 120kW combined heat & power microturbine system; 2007 I&I project reached 5,500 homes & reduced energy consumption at the WWTP
- ✓ **3 low-interest county loans available for fixing septic when property** is transferred or building permits issued and the county performs routine septic compliance inspections
- ✓ **Businesses & City have run a Chamber Bucks** gift certificate program for over 20 years resulting in over \$150,000/yr. spent in town
- ✓ **County Chamber of Commerce began recognizing businesses** in 2017 for green practices; community members can nominate businesses, Chamber's Green Committee selects annual winners

### AUSTIN

- ✓ **Climate Resilience & Population Vulnerability Report** produced and worked into updated Comprehensive Plan

### BEMIDJI

- ✓ **Savings of \$126,000/yr. in energy & maintenance costs** from a \$2.5 million dollar efficiency project for 8 city buildings, streetlights and wastewater treatment plant, based on RETAP audit; the first-in-the-state State of MN GESP-funded project, using a \$122,000 rebate

### COLUMBIA HEIGHTS

- ✓ **Winner of MN Brownfields' 2016 ReScape award** (Small City Impact category) is the new city library, a well-positioned hub that is sparking revitalization of the community's main street
- ✓ **National recognition (2<sup>nd</sup> time) for Sister City** Program work with Lomianki, Poland
- ✓ **Named a 2016 All-American City** (1 of 10) by the National Civic League

### CROOKSTON

- ✓ **30 trained volunteers for contacting residents** is part of the city Severe Weather Emergency Management Plan, which includes opening designated shelters, and using annually updated resident lists, broken down by Ward, that identify individuals with special needs

### DULUTH

- ✓ **Unified Development Code** provides "for more sustainable development within the city by reducing carbon emissions, vehicle miles travelled, energy consumption, and water consumption, and by encouraging production of renewable energy and food"
- ✓ **26.2 million gallons/day of I&I water eliminated** during work from 1995 to 2013; regular sewer maintenance continues to prevent sewer overflows

## EDEN PRAIRIE

- ✓ **Performance measurement dashboard** (edenprairie.org/EdenPrairiePromise) tracks performance & progress toward the six goal areas, including 6 measures under Innovative and Sustainable Practices

## GOLDEN VALLEY

- ✓ **Detailed annual Environmental State of the City** report: tracking data and costs savings on buildings, lighting, forestry
- ✓ **Narrowed roadway widths & reduced impervious surfaces** are part of almost every street reconstruction project the City has completed for the last 15 years
- ✓ **Green complete street project** (Douglas Drive: 2016-17) included sidewalks, bike lanes, roundabouts, stormwater infiltrated & for irrigation of nearby ballfields, duct banks/conduits for future utility expansions added to undergrounding of utilities
- ✓ **Bike promotion/parking minimums** includes bike parking required at 12+ unit developments, and for all other developments at 5% of the required vehicle parking; up to 15% of required car parking spaces at bars can be for bikes; interactive bike/ped maps; Bike/Ped Planning Task force; 2 Bronze-level Bicycle Friendly Businesses; park & ride lot

## HASTINGS

- ✓ **Accessory dwellings allowed** on lots of a minimum size in R-2 & R-3 zoning districts
- ✓ **Form-based code** in the Downtown Core zoning district
- ✓ **Stand-out plans and programs** include Heart of Hastings Neighborhood Plan, Vermillion Street Development Guidelines, A Healthier Hastings, dial-a-ride/circulator city bus service, maximum parking standards, the civic group Hastings Environmental Protectors, park-and-ride lot downtown

## HUTCHINSON

- ✓ **Significant savings in maintenance costs from burying all power lines**; multi-year project completed

## JORDAN

- ✓ **Savings of \$2.7 million over 25 years** due to a community solar garden offsetting 120% of city operations electricity
- ✓ **Saved \$6,000 & cut road salt in half** (by 170 tons) during 2017 by use of a brine mixture (one of the city's sustainability metrics)
- ✓ **New city-contracted waste hauler saving** "a considerable amount of money for its residents" while offering them additional services including organics collection
- ✓ **Planted parking islands required** in 20+ stall parking lots
- ✓ **City as the regional hub for trails** spelled out in the Parks Master Plan, with six types of pathways defined

## LA CRESCENT

- ✓ **Added Saturday bus service in 2016, and other transportation improvements** championed by the La Crosse Area Planning Commission include: building a large walking/bike bridge over Highway 61 in a bike corridor to connect city to La Crosse; updating 2013 bike/ped plan; applied to be a Bicycle Friendly community; Bicycle Shoppe supported by city
- ✓ **Annual Neighbors Day** in April organizes neighbors to help each other in work around the community, at their homes, and in public spaces

## MANKATO

- ✓ **Nearly \$2 million in savings projected over 25 years** due to subscriptions to solar energy projects that will power city assets: street lighting, civic center, sewage treatment plant

## MAPLEWOOD

- ✓ **Fire Station No. 1 cut 2015 natural gas use 38%** (\$5,000/yr. savings) below other fire stations in the city; first station in the nation built to 2012 IgCC ( International Green Construction Code - the basis of the 2013 Maplewood Green Building Program)
- ✓ **City fleet eliminated 4 vehicles** by means of policy that spurred more effective carpooling & sharing between departments
- ✓ **Holistic asset management program** for pavement, storm water, lighting, sewer, buildings: assets mapped & condition-rated in the Cartegraph system; an issue can be reported by citizens via smart phone app

## MOUNDS VIEW

- ✓ **Rain gardens along 68% (26 miles) of streets**; gardens begun in 2008 and added as streets are reconstructed; inspection by watershed district & a citizen education program to assist residents with maintenance and upkeep
- ✓ **Multi-pronged I&I projects**: inspections over last 10 years to disconnect sump pumps from sanitary sewer; annual camera review of 25% of of city sanitary lines; 1 mile/yr. (complete in 2028) sanitary sewer relining/replacement project (complete by 2028) during street repairs

## MORRIS

- ✓ **Climate Resilience Report** developed by the Morris Model team specifies 9 main goals for the city, county, and schools.

## NEW BRIGHTON

- ✓ **Winner of MN Brownfields' 2016 ReScope award** (Community Impact category) is the New Brighton Exchange, a 100-acre mixed-use project of 124 rental units, 56 single-family homes, 525 new commercial jobs, all adding \$625,000 in net tax capacity

## NEW HOPE

- ✓ **Winner of the 2017 LMC/GSC Sustainable City Award** for its lake water quality improvements and savings of over \$10,000/yr. from storm water reuse

## PINE CITY

- ✓ **Largest rain garden of its kind in greater MN cost less** than curb and gutter during Woodpecker Ridge street reconstruction project; residents involved in planning and installation; sediment run-off decreased to nearby Snake River and Cross Lake

## RED LAKE BAND OF CHIPPEWA

- ✓ **Extensive local food projects**: high tunnel greenhouse grants, loans, trainings; community garden and orchard; New Beginnings kitchen for employees & for traditional foods cooking classes; training for starting a farmers market and individual garden plots; a flower & wild flower area

## RED WING

- ✓ **Savings of \$6.6 million over 25 yrs.** to be saved by the city (additional savings to school district & others) subscribing to a solar garden in 2016 for 5.7M kWh annually, nearly 100% of city operations' electrical use
- ✓ **2015 Green Wing Action Plan** to increase energy efficiency in homes (10% or 700 households in 2 years) & small-mid-sized commercial (10% or 100 businesses in 3 years). Current efforts are home energy audit discounts through a utility billing flier, a business outreach campaign, a competition between community congregations
- ✓ **One of 8 national Small Business Revolution finalists**, chosen from over 14,000 entries to the Deluxe Corp.

## **RICHFIELD**

- ✓ **Road diet saved about \$2 million** in reconstruction costs (1/3 of the original cost estimated for 76th St.)
- ✓ **Road salt application cut over 50%** due to calibration of salters, attention to temperature, and alternative types of salt
- ✓ **MN Housing's Green Communities standards** used in rehab loans to 21 buyers of foreclosed homes (through mid-2013)
- ✓ **1 LEED home & 3 MN Green Path homes** built using a \$5,000 credit through the Richfield Rediscovered Lot Sale Program (through mid-2013)

## **ROCHESTER**

- ✓ **\$185,000/yr. in energy costs** to be saved by a GESP energy performance contract through the state with the city's civic center on energy efficiency upgrades which will reduce energy use by 28% and net \$110,000 in Rochester Public Utility rebates

## **ST. LOUIS PARK**

- ✓ ***Ready and Resilient: A Guide to Extreme Weather***, based upon a Macalester College brochure, mailed to city residents & shared at a community workshop
- ✓ **Bicycle Friendly Community** recognition at the Bronze level

## **ST. PAUL**

- ✓ **Green development: \$525,710,597 & 2,744,746 sq. ft.** in 40 private & public developments built through 2016 under the city's Sustainable Building Policy, which governs private projects receiving \$200,00 or more in city funds; projects built to SB2030 (on the path to net-zero) energy targets, divert 75% construction waste from landfills, mimic pre-settlement stormwater infiltration rates, receive approval by 1 of 6 3<sup>rd</sup>-party green building programs

## **SARTELL**

- ✓ **2016 Comp Plan sustainability chapter** uses the state's 2007 Next Generation goals as a guide for reducing GHGs in city operations; chapter also promotes energy efficiency and renewables, prioritizes infill areas to leverage existing infrastructure, and identified primary growth areas to discourage leapfrog development proposed in annexation requests

## **SAUK RAPIDS**

- ✓ **Sauk Rapids Green** is an independent advisory committee for the City, meeting as-needed; a SR Green member supports the green committees at the high school and middle school (which has a school garden)

## **SHOREVIEW**

- ✓ **2016 James F. Miller Leadership Award** from LMC went to long-time city manager Terry Schwerm

## 2010 - 2016 Notables by City -----

### APPLE VALLEY

- ✓ **First BRT** (bus rapid transit) system in MN.
- ✓ **Longstanding recognition of business** waste reduction via the ARROW program
- ✓ **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)

### ARLINGTON

- ✓ **Downtown design standards** compatible with historic building patterns; EDA working on Facade Improvement Grant Program to support standards
- ✓ **2016 accessory dwelling unit** survey and ordinance discussion
- ✓ **2016 Mayoral water conservation challenge** of 40 gal./person/day; current pledges to save over 900 gal./day
- ✓ **City coordinates annual business visits** with an electric utility staff to discuss potential energy saving projects
- ✓ **The local currency "Arlington Dollars"** created by Arlington Area Chamber of Commerce; City has pictures of businesses on its web page

### AUSTIN

- ✓ **Austin Chamber's "Buy Mower Grow Mower" shop local campaign includes Chamber Bucks** for local spending and TV promotion; increased retail sales tax collections are double initial projections
- ✓ **City provided location for the La Surena Cooperative,** a Latino Economic Development Center-sponsored project growing organic produce
- ✓ **Over \$70,000 in energy efficiency equipment rebates** since 2011 in city buildings saved 617,898 kWh and 30,885 therms of gas; 4 buildings reduced energy by more than 10%; city building LED retrofit costs paid for themselves in under 2 years; energy use at city office building increased 11% prior to adoption of employee energy policy, decreased 3% after
- ✓ **17% energy use reduction** from boiler/water heater upgrades at elementary school via energy performance contract achieved; 2013 middle school utilized LEED standards: scored 96 on Energy Star rating; includes thermal energy storage, intelligent toilet flush valves, hydration stations, daylight harvesting, chilled beam ventilation, LEDs; 77 kbtu/SF/yr. cut in 2nd yr. to 60 kbtu/SF/yr
- ✓ **Green Seal cleaning supplies** used in school buildings; average Energy Star score across 8 school buildings of 93; building automation upgrades at each school building; monthly energy reports on school buildings identify operations and maintenance needs and behavior changes needed
- ✓ **Bi-monthly home energy reports** included in the utility bill with customized energy saving advice
- ✓ **Recognized as a Tree City USA** for 34 years
- ✓ **Purchase of Energy Star and Water Sense appliances** promoted by Austin Utilities via extensive rebate program
- ✓ **Waste water plant saves energy by biodigesting** waste to produce heat and electricity used on-site

### BEMIDJI

- ✓ **Bicycle Friendly Community** recognition at the Bronze level in 2012
- ✓ **NiceRide bike-sharing service** launches summer 2014

- ✓ **Sustainability Committee reports** their initiatives to the city council on a quarterly basis; goals & key measures by department included in yearly budget highlights
- ✓ **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
- ✓ **Local large-scale aquaponics greenhouse** supplied Luekens Village Grocery

#### **BRAINERD**

- ✓ **A small house (500 sq.ft.) conditional use permit option adopted, one of MN's first**, as a tool to help encourage infill development on non-conforming vacant city lots
- ✓ **Good & services from local retail** and industrial businesses promoted in *Showcasing Brainerd* at monthly televised council meetings
- ✓ **3.3 MW hydro facility** owned and operated by the city
- ✓ **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
- ✓ **2015 Travel Demand Management policy** for redevelopment has a two-tier system: a required TDM plan for employers with 200 car parking stalls or more, and a good-faith component for all others

#### **BURNSVILLE**

- ✓ **Encourages proper solar orientation** and passive solar construction in their 2011 GHG Reduction Goals and Implementation Priorities
- ✓ **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 guides review and consideration of sustainability features for infrastructure projects

#### **COLOGNE**

- ✓ **First city in MN to use a community solar garden to power 100% of its city operations**, with 2,700 solar panels

#### **COLUMBIA HEIGHTS**

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

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

#### CRYSTAL

- ✓ **PUD ordinance encourages energy conservation** through site and building design
- ✓ **Residents can request rain gardens** installed in their boulevard as part of local street reconstructions
- ✓ **Chickens permitted** in residential zones
- ✓ **2016 public works building used LEED** green building standards and includes Energy Star appliances and a ground-source geothermal heating/cooling system
- ✓ **Bike racks are required** in redevelopment projects
- ✓ **4 road-diet projects completed**, redoing former 4-lane roads into 3-lane roads

#### 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
- ✓ **National Mayor's Challenge for Water Conservation** participant
- ✓ **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
- ✓ **Bike-Friendly Community** recognition in 2014

#### ELK RIVER

- ✓ **First MN city to replace all traffic signals** with cost-saving LED lights
- ✓ **20% renewable energy** used by city operations
- ✓ **Recognizes business excellence** under its Energy City High Five award program
- ✓ **Energy City tourism** averages 20 tours/yr.; 500 visitors in 2014
- ✓ **2013 road project financing change from property tax assessments to franchise fees on utility bills** (modeled after 2003 St. Louis Park program) cuts hundreds of thousands of dollars in interest payments, allows more frequent and regular street maintenance, which increases the lifespan of roads

#### FALCON HEIGHTS



- ✓ **Frequent shopping at local businesses** rewarded by quarterly drawing for a prize
- ✓ **Resiliency analysis** prepared in 2015 to assess both the city's vulnerabilities to climate change and areas in which to build on existing strengths. Resiliency goals include having rooftop solar panels on 25% of new residential developments and 20% of commercial buildings
- ✓ **Home to a 2015 food hub**, The Good Acre, which purchases organic food from low-income and immigrant farmers for sales to institutions and a CSA. Includes space to wash or process produce, refrigerated/freezer storage, a classroom and commercial kitchen, and a small weekly farmers market

#### **FARIBAULT**

- ✓ **Main Street program hosted a building energy efficiency event** in 2016, with speakers from the City and the Preservation Alliance of Minnesota

#### **FERGUS FALL**

- ✓ **Silver LEED** rating for 2015 police station
- ✓ **First MN city to become a Tree City, USA**, in 1978; annually recognized for the past 37 years
- ✓ **Bicycle Friendly Community** recognition at the Bronze level

#### **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

#### **GRAND MARAIS**

- ✓ **2012 City/County Joint Energy Conservation and Renewable Energy Plan** produced with Cook County Local Energy Project
- ✓ **North House Folk School**, partly on city land, trains/educates on low-impact, traditional, local-resource-based trades and skills
- ✓ **2015 "Coolest Small Town in America" and "Top 100 Adventure Town;" Grand Marais Art Colony ranked in the top 10** of US artist colonies
- ✓ **Northwood's Food project** works to increase Cook County's long term food sustainability and self-reliance; education on seasonal eating, low-tech water usage, composting, food preservation, root cellaring and cooking with unprocessed foods; training potential food micro-enterprises; education for local youth; research on uniquely suited fruits/veggies

#### **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%

#### **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
- ✓ **\$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

#### HOFFMAN

- ✓ **One tree for each resident** (672) supplied by the local Lions Club

#### HOPKINS

- ✓ **2012 forestry budget** of \$210,000 well-exceeds Tree City USA minimum
- ✓ **Strongest US Town runner-up** in 2016 Strong Towns competition

#### HUTCHINSON

- ✓ **Bicycle Friendly Community** recognition at the Bronze level in 2014
- ✓ **City's Global Ends Statement** and commitment to sustainability recognized in its 2016 purchasing policy
- ✓ **On all road reconstruction projects**, 100% of asphalt is either reused in the project, or recycled; 100% of concrete from reconstruction projects is recycled and reused
- ✓ **Public street trees calculated to produce \$710,000/yr. in benefits**; Tree City USA for 36 consecutive years, beginning in 1979, 2nd longest consecutive award winner in Minnesota; City Forestry serves boulevard & private trees, partners with the local utility to promote energy conservation through proper tree species selection and placement guidance; 2015 program budget was \$11.50/resident
- ✓ **Multi-year project of burying all power lines results in significant savings** in maintenance costs realized in 2016
- ✓ **Depot Marketplace - finalist in Minnesota Brownfields' annual ReScape Awards** in the category of Small City Impact Award
- ✓ **A model state program since 2001: 90% resident participation results in landfill diversion** of 2,000 tons per year of source separated organics and yard-waste, which is processed by a local business and sold as soil and mulch products
- ✓ **Largest PV array on an old landfill to date in Minnesota** (2015) to help power the adjacent wastewater treatment plant
- ✓ **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

#### ISANTI

- ✓ **Isanti-Cambridge Joint Planning Advisory Board** created, open to other public entities
- ✓ **City employees cut down on car travel** by car pooling to trainings/meetings, sharing vehicles, live video streaming of meetings and trainings
- ✓ **Promotes Put Your Money Where Your Heart Is**, a keep it local campaign of the North 65 Chamber of Commerce
- ✓ **City recruited/assisted Ever Cat Fuels** (production of biodiesel from local grease traps, waste cooking oils and seed crops): 9,000 sq. ft. \$6M investment; 20 employees; wages over \$15/hr.
- ✓ **City-facilitated building energy efficiency** evaluation by Connexus helps SnoBear purchase building: \$3.5M investment; 23 new employees

#### LA PRAIRIE

- ✓ **Iron Range Economic Alliance** member
- ✓ **Community improved recycling by an estimated 80%**, expanded items that can be recycled and implemented volume-based pricing
- ✓ **Non-profit group employing handicapped adults** chips and sells brush from community brush pile
- ✓ **Renewables account for about 15%** of energy used by city operations
- ✓ **0% interest business loans** for energy efficiency improvements
- ✓ **Use of floating islands explored** via Crystal Waters Project to cleanse local lake

- ✓ **The city's recreation center saves roughly \$900/month** in energy savings due to a 2014 retrofit; retrofits in other city buildings decreased energy use up to 63%, with an 18% decrease in the city hall/library

#### 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
- ✓ **Agricultural zoning** district in city

#### 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

- ✓ **First community solar garden in an Indian Nation in the country.** The electricity will be designated to recipients of Minnesota's Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). Leech Lake Tribal College graduates will install the solar panels.
- ✓ **Dark Sky, energy efficient outdoor lighting** required for new construction on Tribal Lands
- ✓ **25% reduction in solid waste** achieved through organics composting projects
- ✓ **National leader in the Tribal Brownfield program arena**

#### 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
- ✓ **Highway Gateway Overlay District** guides and improves quality of development
- ✓ **Neighborhood traffic calming** program
- ✓ **Required bike parking** for new commercial and multi-unit residential that can cut required car stalls
- ✓ **Bicycle-Friendly Community** 2011 Honorable Mention
- ✓ **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 strategic plan
- ✓ **Participating in the PACE financing** program for renewable energy with the St. Paul Port Authority
- ✓ **Gardens in residential areas** have no requirement for setback and no maximum lot coverage

#### MAPLE GROVE

- ✓ **Government Center uses a closed loop geothermal** system that utilizes groundwater ponds dug in a gravel mining area
- ✓ **Homes designed to achieve an energy efficiency (HERS)** rating of 40 or below receive grant money for new construction
- ✓ **Retail and office uses vertically mixed** in Arbor Lakes Town Center area along Main Street
- ✓ **Lake Quality Commission** chartered by city council
- ✓ **PACE district** created for renewable energy financing covering the city
- ✓ **Farmer's market aided** by city contribution of staff time

#### 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
- ✓ **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
- ✓ **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
- ✓ **Adopted "Living Streets" policy** addressing rain gardens, traffic calming, improved walking and biking conditions, and boulevard tree standards
- ✓ **\$100,000 saved by using living streets design** in a street reconstruction project with less pavement
- ✓ **International Green Construction Code** governs all new city buildings, all commercial renovation projects that require city regulatory approval
- ✓ **City installs rain gardens in all street reconstruction** projects; 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
- ✓ **Chickens and bees** allowed by ordinance; city community garden coordinator for all city community gardens

#### MARINE ON ST. CROIX

- ✓ **Use of Retiree Environmental experts** in 2015 results in installation in city buildings of LEDs, new gas furnaces, new air conditioning, programmable thermostats

#### MARSHALL

- ✓ **\$10,000 and 1.7M gallons per month saved by reusing water** in stormwater ponds for athletic fields; over 70 WaterSense toilet rebates given out since 2010; over 2,600 low flow shower heads distributed
- ✓ **14-mile paved trail connects** Marshall, Lynd, Camden State Park in 2015
- ✓ **City incentives to repurpose a big box store** empty for 4 years results in home of Brau Brothers, a regional brewery
- ✓ **Health Impact Analysis** conducted on benefits of selected GreenStep actions, garnering the Southwest Regional Development Commission's award of 2016 Regional Project of the Year
- ✓ **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

- ✓ **Travel demand management 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
- ✓ **University of MN's Resilient Communities Project** partner in 2012-2013 to advance 14 sustainability projects
- ✓ **Less than 1 year payback** on \$15,000 lighting project within tennis building

#### **MOUNTAIN IRON**

- ✓ **Energy Star rebates** provided for appliance and lighting purchases
- ✓ **Green streets policy** adopted in 2013
- ✓ **Renewable and Sustainable Energy Park** created to cluster and develop green companies that specialize in renewable energy

#### **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
- ✓ **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
- ✓ **Local shopping prizes** given out to residents who use a punch card
- ✓ **Adopted Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Guidelines** addressing recycled paper products, energy and water efficient products, fuel efficient vehicles, and printing services

#### **NORTH ST PAUL**

- ✓ **Living Streets Vision, Comprehensive Plan 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.
- ✓ **University of MN Resilient Communities Project** partner in 2013-2014 to advance 16 sustainability projects
- ✓ **Natural gas usage drops of 6% to 48%** in City Hall due to set-back thermostats, equipment power-downs, employee conservation efforts

#### **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
- ✓ **50 lbs. lost by one police officer**, now retired, who was on the city's bike patrol

#### **OAKDALE**

- ✓ **Generation Green building program standards** govern new construction or major remodels of a city facility

- ✓ **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
- ✓ **Subdivision approvals require** a connection to existing trail infrastructure
- ✓ **City staff is the farmers market manager**
- ✓ **Innovation Committee** receives city staff proposed energy saving ideas; actions that are implemented city-wide are rewarded with a gift card

#### 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

- ✓ **First DC electric vehicle fast charger** between the Twin Cities and Duluth-Superior
- ✓ **2020 goals** to cut water use/person by 20%; to cut GHG from city operations by 40% by increasing renewable energy use

#### PINE RIVER

- ✓ **First GreenStep City**
- ✓ **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
- ✓ **Energy consumption cut 37%** in 12 city buildings since 2011; GHG emissions reduced by 50%
- ✓ **Broad energy independence goals** in comp plan
- ✓ **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

- ✓ **First mayor in Minnesota to set a city-wide 100% renewable energy goal** (by 2031) for its electricity, its heating and cooling, and its transportation
- ✓ **Refuse-derived combined heat & power district energy** system in the city
- ✓ **Conserve & Save Water Rebate** program run by public utility
- ✓ **Urban growth boundary adopted;** cooperative agreement among townships, the County and the city coordinates zoning enforcement and planning
- ✓ **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
- ✓ **Cluster septic system** being worked into older township subdivision with small lots
- ✓ **Regulation for construction waste** separation of recyclable materials and waste
- ✓ **MN Bio Business Center brownfield 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

- ✓ **Planned unit development** ordinance addresses energy conservation
- ✓ **Cluster development** allows at least 50% of the developable land to be permanently protected
- ✓ **Point-of-sale septic compliance** check required
- ✓ **Community gardens** allowed at public parks
- ✓ **First MN city to be certified by the national STAR community rating system**
- ✓ **University of MN's Resilient Communities Project** partner in 2014-2015 to advance 38 sustainability projects

#### ROSEVILLE

- ✓ **Green Remodeling Plan Book, nationally recognized**, is for interior and exterior homes, historic remodeling, and has recommendations and tips for sustainable and financially savvy home updating (revised in 2016)
- ✓ **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
- ✓ **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
- ✓ **3 rain gardens** 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.
- ✓ **City building energy tracking data** available for 95 months allowed analysis to pinpoint the most cost-effective energy conservation improvements
- ✓ **Vital Aging Committee** chartered by city
- ✓ **Transit incorporated as major element** in Silver Lake Village redevelopment
- ✓ **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
- ✓ **Green roof, green parking lot** and rain garden design standards
- ✓ **St. Cloud Area Sustainability Plan** adopted
- ✓ **Shop Local, Eat Local, Invest Local, Stay Local** program of St. Cloud Area Chamber of Commerce

- ✓ **\$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

- ✓ **Hired an environment and sustainability coordinator and developed a “Ready and Resilient” guide** in 2015 for residents on how to cope with hotter summers, warmer winters, and more severe weather
- ✓ **Sustainable purchasing policy** includes renewable energy, EnergyStar products, green cleaning, divestment of financial assets held in fossil fuels, annual report to citizens commission, implementation by Sustainability Coordinator
- ✓ **City matches 50% of the utility rebates** for energy efficient furnaces and 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
- ✓ **“Connect the Park!”** comprehensive city-wide system of trails and sidewalks initiative
- ✓ **Developed LRT design guidelines**, addressing zoning changings, stormwater, traffic and green spaces for the Beltline, a mixed use area on the Southwest Light Rail line
- ✓ **Bee-friendly resolution** covers 8 parks and includes public education and other bee-friendly practices

#### ST. PAUL

- ✓ **Redeveloping Ford site will be a walkable, mixed use neighborhood** that looks to the future with clean technologies and high quality design for energy, buildings and infrastructure; 2011 “Roadmap to Sustainability” performance thresholds aim to make site a national model for sustainable brownfield redevelopment
- ✓ **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
- ✓ **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

#### SARTELL

- ✓ **MN’s first diverging diamond interchange** to cut traffic delays by 60% and improve safety
- ✓ **New transit hub/new routes** serve biggest retail cluster (Epic Center)

#### SAUK RAPIDS

- ✓ **Dark Sky- compliant** parking lot lighting for all new private installments
- ✓ **Infill design standards** for residential and downtown areas

#### SHERBURN

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

#### SHOREVIEW

- ✓ **Partnered with technology company WaterSmart Software** to provide residents with an easy-to-use online and mobile customer portal that allows access to individualized water consumption reports, timely utility



communications, and water-saving recommendations specific to their household; National WaterSense program member, to increase water conservation efforts

- ✓ **Green building practices including greywater** reuse and rain water capture for irrigation suggested by Environmental Quality Commission review of all new development plans
- ✓ **5% density bonus for passive energy** system in a building, 10% for an active solar energy system
- ✓ **Bike Friendly Community** recognition
- ✓ **100% renewable electricity used by city operations**, purchased via Xcel Energy's Windsoruce program
- ✓ **Garbage haulers follow the recycling contractor's "zones"** so residents can put out all their bins on the same day
- ✓ **Regional Indicator Initiative** participant
- ✓ **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. – streets** allowed
- ✓ **Outdoor wood boilers regulated** to improve local air quality and public health
- ✓ **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

#### 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

#### TWO HARBORS

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

#### VICTORIA

- ✓ **Downtown developments can share the public parking** available to all uses in order to meet required parking
- ✓ **National Mayor's Water Conservation** Challenge participant
- ✓ **\$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

#### WARREN

- ✓ **Geothermal heating/cooling system** installed in adjacent city lot allowing 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 LEED Silver-equivalent public works building**
- ✓ **5.8% restaurant energy savings** over two years average among participants
- ✓ **Rambler Revolution Demonstration project** to efficiently update older homes
- ✓ **Shared services with other cities**: water, sewer, police, fire and inspections services
- ✓ **Infill projects are incentivized** and are promoted in the comp plan
- ✓ **Parking spaces cut by 11%** due to modifications to the City Hall and Public Safety Building

- ✓ **Affordable housing density bonuses**
- ✓ **1.5 inch infiltration standard** for rainwater events

#### WILLMAR

- ✓ **A MN Main Street community**
- ✓ **Willmar Design Center** formed after a MN Design Team visit
- ✓ **Bicycle Friendly Community** recognition at the Bronze level in 2014
- ✓ **City and local advocacy group Willmar Bikes have implemented** a small fleet of yellow-painted cycles for free public use, an annual Mayor's Bike Ride, earn-a-bike programs for low-income youth, bike route connections between new development and a school being built, and bike trail maintenance with a referendum-elected local sales tax

#### WOODBURY

- ✓ **B3 public building benchmarking award winner** in 2015 for excellence in tracking energy use so as to reduce it
- ✓ **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
- ✓ **Bike racks required** in new/renovated commercial developments
- ✓ **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 city lake shore** in native vegetation
- ✓ **Rainwater reuse system** being installed for two golf courses as part of a stormwater management system for a road expansion project
- ✓ **Minnesota Sustainable Building Guidelines** for the planning, design, construction and commission of new buildings and major renovations owned by the city