



Minnesota GreenStep Cities

www.mnGreenStep.org

Taking action with proven best practices

Need a roadmap? Take a look at GreenStep Cities.

Mission: GreenStep Cities is a free and voluntary program that provides a simple pathway to help cities achieve their sustainability goals through implementation of best practices focused on cost savings, energy use reduction, and innovation.

What are the benefits?

- Resilient communities
- Efficient use of resources
- Healthier environments
- Active community members

What are the best practices?

A full set of 29 best practices, organized into the following categories, is available on the program website at www.mnGreenStep.org.



- **Buildings & Lighting:** Focuses on energy- and cost-saving strategies addressing public and private buildings, and other city facilities such as street lighting and traffic signals.
- **Transportation:** Encourages efficient city vehicle fleets and infrastructure that enhances connectivity, mobility options, and active living.
- **Land Use:** Provides best practices to promote green infrastructure, natural resource preservation, efficient city growth, and walkable and bikeable neighborhoods.
- **Environmental Management:** Tackles actions ranging from environmentally-preferable purchasing and urban forests to water quality and solid waste.
- **Economic & Community Development:** Targets best practices that promote community resiliency, sustainable economic development and engage local community members to improve quality of life.



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A simple and flexible program

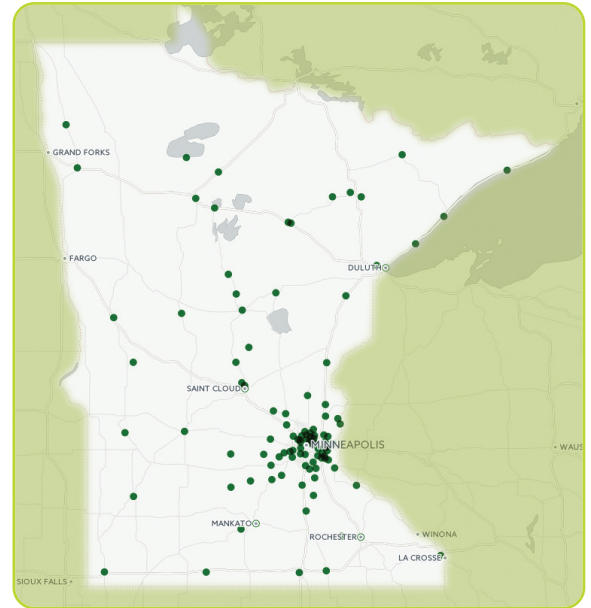
The best practices are straightforward and draw on actions that other cities have already taken. Best practices are constructed to allow cities the flexibility to meet sustainability goals in a variety of ways, recognizing that cities of different sizes and locales have differing access to both staff support and resources. Recognition criteria for a small city in Greater Minnesota, for example, are different than criteria for a larger city near a major metro area.

Technical assistance to take action

Each best practice lists a GreenStep Advisor—with specific contact information—who can help guide a city through implementing that best practice. Additional technical assistance options include workshops, agency staff, Clean Energy Resource Teams, nonprofit groups, Americorps, utilities, businesses, retired engineers, and student interns.

Recognition for past actions

Cities will be recognized for sustainability actions that they have already completed. Every year cities are recognized for their progress at the League of Minnesota Cities Annual Conference. Step One recognizes cities for formally joining the program through a city resolution. Cities that implement a minimum number of best practices of their choice will be recognized as Step Two Cities. Completion of a few high-priority actions merits Step Three recognition. Measuring city performance metrics will garner Step Four and Step Five recognition.



Over 40% of Minnesotans live in a Minnesota GreenStep City

Learn more & get started today at www.mnGreenStep.org!

Program Partners:



Minnesota Pollution
Control Agency



GREAT PLAINS
INSTITUTE



MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF
COMMERCE



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