**2019 Category A City: ALBERT LEA**

a Step 3 GreenStep City as of June 2017

(joined April 2016)

***Assessor and date****: Philipp Muessig, 12/19/19*

**20**

***Total BPs implemented:***

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Best practices (**required in bold**) BP implemented? Action summary by # and star level achieved  Action rules (req. actions in **bold**) | | |
| **YES**  **BUILDINGS: distribution requirement is 2 BPs ; are 2 BPs done?** | | |
| **1. Public**  **Actions 1 & 2; & one action from actions 3-7** | **YES** | 1.1 COMPLETE @ 1 STAR  1.2 COMPLETE @ 2 STARS – smaller items from 2012 audit  1.3 COMPLETE @ 2 STARS -- based on 2012 audit, ~50 changes: LEDs, HVAC, new doors, fans, timers, sensors, weather stripping, motors  1.4 COMPLETE @ 1 STAR -- City's Green Committee sent memo to employees reminding them to turn off equipment while they are away; energy-saving light switches installed in City Hall |
| 2. Private  any two actions |  |  |
| 3. New  action 1 or 2; one from 3-5 |  |  |
| 4. Lighting/Signals  2 actions with one from 5-8 | **YES** | 4.2 COMPLETE @ 3 STARS  4.4 COMPLETE @ 3 STARS -- All new traffic signals are synchronized with existing traffic signals  4.5 COMPLETE @ 1 STAR -- solar-powered speed sign  4.8 COMPLETE @ 3 STARS |
| 5. Reuse  any one action | **YES** | 5.1 COMPLETE @ 3 STARS -- DT Albert Lea is designated as a historic commercial district of 91 contributing buildings; 2005 designation as a Certified Local Government (CLG) for historic preservation  5.2 COMPLETE @ 1 STAR -- Staff has attended 2 national Main Street conferences, will submit an application to join in 2018  5.3 COMPLETE @ 1 STAR – MN Housing Finance Agency to repurpose a school for 12 housing units |
| **YES**  **LAND USE: 2 BPs required; are 2 BPs done?** | | |
| **6. Comp Plan**  **Actions 1 & 2** | **YES** | 6.1 COMPLETE @ 2 STARS – 2014 plan includes sustainability goals & strategies  6.2 COMPLETE @ 3 STARS |
| 7. Density  any one action | **YES** | 7.3 COMPLETE @ 1 STAR -- B3 Central Business District has reduced lot sizes and zero-lot-line setbacks |
| 8. Mixed Uses  any two actions | **YES** | 8.2 COMPLETE @ 2 STARS -- Senior Center (owned/operated by City) is located in a shopping mall, right near the largest apartment building in the city, and like city hall, on the SMART public transit route  8.5 COMPLETE @ 2 STARS -- B3 CBD allows commercial, light industrial, and multi-family residential |
| 9. Highway Development  any one action | **YES** | 9.2 COMPLETE @ 1 STAR -- Members of the City of Albert Lea, Freeborn County Administration, Albert Lea Economic Development Agency (ALEDA) and the Chamber of Commerce meet on a monthly basis |
| 10. Conservation Development  any one action |  |  |
| **YES**  **TRANSPORTATION: 2 BPs required; are 2 BPs done?** | | |
| **11. Complete Green Streets**  **1; & two additional actions** | **YES** | 11.1 COMPLETE @ 2 STARS -- Ordinance 129(t) adopted in 2009 declaring that all subdivisions will be designed with complete streets  11.3 COMPLETE @ 2 STARS -- 2013 narrowing DT Broadway Ave: widening sidewalks, + bicycle lanes, tree boxes, rain garden  11.6 COMPLETE @ 2 STARS -- 2015 4-3 road diet on Broadway, + bike lanes |
| **12. Mobility Options**  **any two actions** | **YES** | 12.1 COMPLETE @ 3 STARS -- walking & biking in city has increased 39% since 2010 (annual trail counts; Gallup Wellbeing Index done in city in 2014 & 2016; 2015 Local Government Innovation Award winner for Active Living work; city prompted WorkForce Development staff to help private company employees use pretax income for transit purposes; city added 7+ miles of sidewalk & 3 miles of bike lanes added since 2009  12.2 COMPLETE @ 3 STARS -- Nationally-recognized Blue Zones health work; Family Bike Rodeo since 2010 anchors open streets ciclovia event called Just Play; in 2015 Walk & Roll program implemented in all 6 schools – part of SRTS; 2010 Front Street bike lane connection to elementary & middle school - trail counts show 69% increase in walking & biking in 7 years  12.3 COMPLETE @ 2 STARS – city web link to S. MN Area Rural Transit; ridership increase over past years; city Facebook posts about SMART, which won Transit System of the Year; free rides to Vets; expanded hrs.  12.6 COMPLETE @ 2 STARS -- 2017 SMART (reg. transit) added 7 hrs/day so M-F 7a-9p & demand response on weekends; city coordinated press |
| 13. Fleets  any two actions | **YES** | 13.4 COMPLETE @ 1 STAR -- Bike Police Patrol (1998) 24/7 throughout all of Albert Lea  13.5 COMPLETE @ 1 STAR -- optimized for efficiency per industry BP |
| 14. TOD / TDM  any two actions |  | **YES** |
| **ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT: 4 BPs required; are 4 done?** | | |
| **15. Purchasing**  **1; and one additional action** | **YES** | 15.1 COMPLETE @ 1 STAR – 30% paper, formalizing policy on purchasing Energy Star equipment  15.2 COMPLETE @ 1 STAR – purchases from a 517 kW solar array partly owned by a local electric coop  15.5 COMPLETE @ 2 STARS -- recycled asphalt for all road projects, up to 30% of the asphalt content may be RAP  15.7 COMPLETE @ 1 STAR -- iPads bought for Councilors in 2013:  10,000 sheets of paper not printed every year |
| **16. Trees**  **any two actions** | **YES** | 16.1 COMPLETE @ 3 STARS -- 22 yrs; 2016 tree budget averages $8.45 per resident  16.2 COMPLETE @ 1 STAR -- Forestry Department follows industry best management practices  16.4 COMPLETE @ 1 STAR – trees added DT to Broadway Avenue on both sides at intervals averaging no more than 40 feet  16.6 COMPLETE @ 2 STARS – 2 certified arborists & 4 certified inspectors |
| **17. Stormwater**  **any one action** | **YES** | 17.5 COMPLETE @ 1 STAR -- WD offers incentives/info for purchasing water barrels and installing water gardens, permeable pavement; tree boxes installed along main street  17.6 COMPLETE @ 1 STAR -- Shell Rock River Watershed District hosted 2018 Smart Salting road training workshop; workshop focused on parking lots and sidewalks is being planned for Spring 2019 |
| 18. Parks & Trails  any three actions |  |  |
| 19. Surface Water  if state public water: 4; and one additional action  if no state water: any one action | **YES** | 19.2 COMPLETE @ 2 STARS -- Albert Lea Lakes Foundation hosted a 2016 series of talks about water quality attended by members of the Shell Rock River Watershed District & Mayor and City Manager; 15-year goals discussed  19.4 COMPLETE @ 1 STAR |
| 20. Water / Wastewater  1 & 2; and one additional | **YES** | 20.1 COMPLETE @ 1 STAR – 2012 energy audit; using B3 to compare energy usage to peer plants  20.2 COMPLETE @ 1 STAR -- maintenance & replacement budget for key equipment to be replaced with most efficient/effective alternatives  20.3 COMPLETE @ 2 STARS -- 2007 I&I project targets 5,500 homes; has reduced energy consumption at the WWTP and increased efficiency; 50 homes remaining in noncompliance with I/I standards  20.6 COMPLETE @ 3 STARS -- an anaerobic digester at the 6.7 MGD waste water treatment plant supplies biogas to a 120kW combined heat and power microturbine system that generates ~$60-90,000 in annual energy savings: 70% from reduced electricity and fuel purchases; 30% from reduced maintenance costs |
| 21. Septics  any one action | **YES** | 21.1 COMPLETE @ 3 STARS -- County performs compliance inspections when property is transferred or building permits are issued; owners are eligible for three low interest loan programs  21.3 COMPLETE @ 1 STAR -- County offers an in depth list of licensed septic service providers  21.5 COMPLETE @ 1 STAR -- owners are eligible for Co., state. federal low interest loan programs  21.6 COMPLETE @ 1 STAR |
| 22. Solid Waste  1 or 2; & one from 4-8 |  |  |
| 23. Local Air Quality  any two actions |  | **YES** |
| **ECON & COMM DVLP: 3 BPs required; are 3 done?** | | |
| **24. Benchmarks & Involvement**  **Actions 1 & 2** | **YES** | 24.1 COMPLETE @ 1 STAR -- GreenStep work led by group of City staff known as the Green Committee  24.2 COMPLETE @ 1 STAR -- five goals for the community in newsletter; progress publicized and promoted |
| **25. Green Businesses**  **any two actions** | **YES** | 25.1 COMPLETE @ 3 STARS -- Riverland Community College offers a solar installer certification and a wind turbine technician degree  25.6 COMPLETE @ 2 STARS -- Albert Lea Freeborn County Chamber of Commerce beginning in 2017 an awards program that recognizes businesses for green practices. Citizens can nominate businesses & the Chamber's Green Committee will select the winner, announced at the Chamber's Annual Dinner.  25.7 COMPLETE @ 3 STARS – the Chamber & City undertake many initiatives together; Chamber Bucks - gift certificate program running for over 20 years – results in over $150,000 spent in town each year. |
| 26. Renewable Energy  any two actions |  |  |
| 27. Local Food  any one action | **YES** | 27.3 COMPLETE @ 3 STARS -- city land for farmer's market; 3 Community Gardens (120 plots) administered by city; at least 80% of the total population is within 1 mile of some form of food access |
| 28. Business Synergies  action 2, 3 or 4 |  |  |
| **29. Climate Adaptation**  **action 1** | **YES** | 29.1 COMPLETE @ 2 STARS -- County has Hazard Mitigation Plan that applies to City; plan & emergency procedures reviewed 1/4ly by city reps; developing materials useful in emergency situations, for sizable Latino & Karen population  29.2 COMPLETE @ 2 STARS – 2018 high-level assessment of climate vulnerabilities, used for website, discussion of impervious surfaces, and to engage residents on how space is used within downtown AL  29.3 COMPLETE @ 1 STAR – 2015: Mayor, City Manager, Assist. Manager went door-to-door in 2 parts of town that rated the city lowest in a city survey, asking residents what actions would improve quality of life. Appropriate staff responded to issues; city started weekly e-newsletter (900 subscribers), FB went from 1,400 to 2,700 followers; program recognized by the Alliance for Innovation |

**ALBERT LEA** – notable actions

* **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 septics 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