**2020 Category A City: DULUTH**

Currently a Step 2 GreenStep City as of June 2015

(joined April 2014)

X

***Which assessment****? Preliminary: for city review Final: May 1st recommendation to LMC*

***Assessor and date****: Philipp Muessig, 4/27/20*

**24**

**YES**

**YES**

***Total BPs done: All required\* BPs done? BP distribution requirement\* met?***

X

***Recommend new 2020 recognition at: Step 3***

*\* note: requirements are for Step 3 recognition*

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Best practices (**required in bold**) BP implemented? Action summary by # and star level achieved  Action rules (req. actions in **bold**) | | |
| **BUILDINGS: distribution requirement is 2 BPs ; are 2 BPs done? YES** | | |
| **1. Public**  **Actions 1 & 2; & one action from actions 3-7** | **YES** | 1.1 — 3 STARS: energy and water data  1.2 COMPLETE @ 3 STARS – low-cost items listed in 1.3  1.3 COMPLETE @ 3 STARS – impressive detail on savings!  1.4 COMPLETE @ 2 STARS – EPA Low-Carbon IT participant; reduced 100 printers: new centralized devices all Energy Star-rated  1.6 — 3 STARS: automated tool that schedules all necessary maintenance  1.7 — 3 STARS: solar wall on Nature Center; steam plant switching to a closed loop hot water system |
| 2. Private  any two actions | **YES** | 2.1 — 2 STARS: free basic in-home energy assessments; grants/loans  2.4 — 2 STARS: University of MN, Duluth campus has decreased water use across campus by 30% in the last 11 years; Lake Superior Community College has reduced their energy consumption by 11% and water by 57% since 2009  2.5 — 1 STAR  2.6 — 2 STARS: $200 rebates are also available for boiler and furnace upgrades |
| 3. New  action 1 or 2; one from 3-5 | **NO** | 3.3 COMPLETE @ 2 STARS -- UDC requires all developments above a certain size accrue a certain number of points from a listed Sustainability Point System or achieve LEED silver or above  3.5 — 2 STARS: community gardens are permitted uses in all urban residential zones, and urban agriculture is allowed with a special use permit. Energy generation in the form of solar, wind, or geothermal are permitted uses in all urban residential zones |
| 4. Lighting/Signals  2 actions with one from 5-8 | **YES** | 4.1 — 3 STARS: thorough, detailed UD code on outdoor lighting applies to all city-owned, multi-family, mixed use, commercial, and/or industrial buildings in the city as well as all parking lots  4.2 — 2 STARS  4.3 — 2 STARS  4.4 COMPLETE @ 3 STARS -- utilize a continuous signal timing optimization program, Synchro traffic  4.5 — 3 STARS  4.6 — 3 STARS  4.7 COMPLETE @ 3 STARS -- Dark-Sky, auto-dimming in 2 parking ramps  4.8 COMPLETE @ 3 STARS |
| 5. Reuse  any one action | **YES** | 5.1 — 3 STARS: HPC; 2 designated historic districts; has been a Certified Local Government since 1990  5.5 — 1 STAR: reuse of previously developed lands as the #1 principle that should guide development; all new development must achieve a certain number of points from a sustainability scorecard; parking minimums lowered if businesses share parking with neighboring businesses or existing parking structures |
| **LAND USE: 2 BPs required; are 2 BPs done? YES** | | |
| **6. Comp Plan**  **Actions 1 & 2** | **YES** | 6.1 — 3 STARS  6.2 — 3 STARS: Unified Development Code updated 2019  6.3 COMPLETE @ 3 STARS -- ARDC Regional Planning (includes including transportation, emergency planning), Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council (incl. joint service, investment in infrastructure), Arrowhead Area Agency on Aging; WLSSD; County coordination (police, fire, foreclosures, housing programs & services)  6.4 COMPLETE @ 3 STARS -- Comp plan staging map: highest priority is infill; order of development moves to 2 other land categories; design is to "retain the integrity of the City's green infrastructure"  6.5 — 3 STARS: goal of 80% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from municipal operations by 2050; plan to reduce emissions from the city owned steam plant by 50% over 30 years |
| 7. Density  any one action | **YES** | 7.1 — 3 STARS: MF allowed in all residential and mixed use zones (except Rural Residentials 1 and 2); efficiency units (min 380 sq. ft.) allowed in all mixed use neighborhoods; all residential and mixed use zones allow at least 10 units per acre, with many allowing far greater  7.2 — 2 STARS: accessory dwelling units are allowed in all Residential zones  7.3 — 2 STARS: multiple Coworking spaces  7.4 — 1 STAR |
| 8. Mixed Uses  any two actions | **YES** | 8.1 COMPLETE @ 1 STAR  8.2 — 2 STARS  8.3 COMPLETE @ 1 STAR -- PUDs can be used for mixed-use devlp.  8.5 COMPLETE @ 3 STARS  8.6 — 3 STARS: 9 Form Based Districts  8.7 COMPLETE @ 2 STARS -- Some zone districts have height incentives |
| 9. Highway Development  any one action | **YES** | 9.1 — 2 STARS: 2015 Skyline Parkway Corridor Management Plan  9.2 — 2 STARS: Arrowhead Regional Development Commission; Northeast Minnesota Area Transportation Partnership; Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council  9.3 — 2 STARS: Auto-Oriented Commercial zone replaced by Mixed Use-Commercial to facilitate clustering of development and reduce sprawl  9.4 — 2 STARS: malls and big box stores-are located on the outskirts of the city along the main highway corridors |
| 10. Conservation Development  any one action | **YES** | 10.1 — 1 STAR: comprehensive tree inventory was completed in the summer of 2019; 4 NR Inventories done; NR Overlay  10.3 COMPLETE @ 2 STARS -- Individual stands protected under UDC; subdivision design protects "natural resources… to degree practicable"  10.5 — 2 STARS: 2002 Duluth Natural Areas Program to permanently protect city/private significant natural resources  10.6 — 2 STARS: Natural Resources Overlay is a zoning overlay designed to help protect water resources |
| **TRANSPORTATION: 2 BPs required; are 2 BPs done? YES** | | |
| **11. Complete Green Streets**  **1; & two additional actions** | **YES** | 11.1 COMPLETE @ 1 STAR  11.3 COMPLETE @ 2 STARS -- road diet on London Road  11.4 COMPLETE @ 2 STARS  11.5 COMPLETE @ 3 STARS -- adopted Plan for Duluth's Bikeway System; Duluth Lakewalk connects to the Gitchee Gammi Park; constructing Cross-town trail - Lake Walk to the Northern MnMunger Trail.  11.6 COMPLETE @ 2 STARS -- roundabout |
| **12. Mobility Options**  **any two actions** | **YES** | 12.1 COMPLETE @ 3 STARS -- a Bicycle Friendly Community at the Bronze level  12.2 COMPLETE @ 2 STARS – SRTS plan for 5 schools; active living campaigns and events that promote biking, walking, art, public transit  12.3 — 3 STARS  12.5 — 1 STAR: in 2019 Duluth purchased 4 E-Bikes for employees  12.6 — 3 STARS: UMD student-developed scooter co.; focus on on increasing bus service frequency on currently existing lines; 96% of Duluth addresses lie within 1/2 mile of one of Duluth's 1640 transit stops |
| 13. Fleets  any two actions | **YES** | 13.2 — 2 STARS: since 2016 5 hybrid vehicles purchased for parking enforcement replacing all old vehicles  13.3 — 1 STAR  13.4 — 3 STARS — 3 e-bikes; Police Department regularly uses bike patrols |
| 14. TOD / TDM  any two actions | **YES** | 14.1 — 2 STARS — parking max. of 150% of calculated parking minimums; no minimum for DT, Canal Park  14.2 — 2 STARS |
| **ENVIRON MGT: 4 BPs required; are 4 done? YES** | | |
| **15. Purchasing**  **1; and one additional action** | **YES** | 15.1 COMPLETE @ 1 STAR  15.4 — 2 STARS  15.5 — 2 STARS: recycled asphalt used in new paving  15.7 — 1 STAR |
| **16. Trees**  **any two actions** | **YES** | 16.1 — 2 STARS  16.3 — 1 STAR: Development projects that remove trees must replace 10-50% DBH  16.5 COMPLETE @ 3 STARS -- UDC has metric standards for landscaping and tree preservation during all development  16.6 COMPLETE @ 3 STARS |
| **17. Stormwater**  **any one action** | **YES** | 17.2 COMPLETE @ 1 STAR  17.3 — 3 STARS: any development that creates or redeveloped more than 3,000 sq ft of impervious surface are required to meet runoff standards; new/re-development required to match or reduce pre-redevelopment peak flow rates  17.4 COMPLETE @ 3 STARS  17.5 COMPLETE @ 2 STARS -- UDC uses PCA guidelines for rain gardens, grid pavers, green walls, among others; some BMPs required for building permit  17.6 — 1 STAR: pre-wet granular is used at all times; experimental brine |
| 18. Parks & Trails  any three actions | **YES** | 18.1 3 STARS: 82% complete on over 104 miles of multi-use trails so that every resident will be within 3 miles of a trail access, with many living much closer  18.3 — 3 STARS  18.5 — 2 STARS  18.8 3 STARS: Community organizations include Duluth Invaders working to replace invasive with natives; ReLEAF; Clean and Green |
| 19. Surface Water  if state public water: 4; and one additional action  if no state water: any one action | **YES** | 19.2 — 1 STAR  19.4 — 3 STARS: restrictions apply within 1,000 feet of Lake Superior or within 300 feet of rivers and streams and special permits are required before construction, grading, or removal of natural vegetation  19.5 — 2 STARS: unique challenges presented by the lake are forcing city staff and landowners to look for innovative new ways to protect the shoreline  19.6 — 2 STARS: stormwater engineer works to insure there are BMPs in place to help reduce temperature (Miller Creek TMDL for temp.) |
| 20. Water / Wastewater  1 & 2; and one additional | **NO** | 20.1 — 3 STARS: 4 yrs. data for treatment plant; sewer/water enterprise fund had positive net income for last 5 yrs.  20.3 COMPLETE @ 3 STARS -- total GPD I/I removed '9-'13 = 26.2M; overflows ceased; regular maintenance |
| 21. Septics  any one action |  |  |
| 22. Solid Waste  1 or 2; & one from 4-8 | **YES** | 22.2 — 1 STAR  22.3 — 2 STARS: Code requires separation of recyclables from trash; City licensing for haulers  23.5 — 3 STARS  22.6 — 2 STARS: MF required to recycle  22.8 — 2 stars: projects can get points on the sustainability scorecard if construction materials come from recycled products or from things made or recovered within 500 miles of the sit |
| 23. Local Air Quality  any two actions | **NO** | 23.5 — 3 STARS: Canal Park now has 7 level 2 chargers and 1 DC fast charger that are connected to a 45kW PV solar array |
| **ECON & COMM DVLP: 3 BPs required; are 3 done? YES** | | |
| **24. Benchmarks & Involvement**  **Actions 1 & 2** | **YES** | 24.1 — 3 STARS: 2019 Energy Plan Commission  24.2 — 3 STARS  24.3 — 1 STAR  24.6 — 3 STARS: EPC includes 2 college student members |
| **25. Green Businesses**  **any two actions** | **YES** | 25.1 — 1 STAR  25.3 COMPLETE @ 1 STAR -- 1/2% tourism tax to fund future development and enhancements to the St. Louis River Corridor ( world’s largest freshwater estuary): trails connectivity, walkability  25.5 COMPLETE # 3 STARS -- Old U.S. Steel Plant, Atlas Cement Plant, Clyde Iron Works; new Loll Designs, Duluth Heritage Sports Center |
| 26. Renewable Energy  any two actions | **YES** | 26.1 — 2 STARS: wind power generation allowed as accessory use in all zoning districts; biomass a primary use in industrial zones  26.2 — 1 STAR  26.3 COMPLETE @ 3 STARS – PACE JPA with St. Paul Port; 1 deal close to close  26.5 — 2 STARS  26.7 — 3 STARS: SolSmart Gold city since 2017 |
| 27. Local Food  any one action | **YES** | 27.1 COMPLETE @ 2 STARS – UDC permits by right agriculture of some sort in several zone districts, including all residential zone districts  27.2 COMPLETE @ 2 STARS  27.3 COMPLETE @ 2 STARS -- 6 school forests; Duluth Farmers' Market since 1911, & 2 other FMs; Duluth Community Garden program on city-owned property; Duluth Park & Rec’s Edible Duluth program "aims to promote, develop and create sustainable and maintained edible landscapes on public property" (147 trees at 16 different locations) |
| 28. Business Synergies  action 2, 3 or 4 |  |  |
| **29. Climate Adaptation**  **Action 1 @ a 2- or 3-star level**  (includes targeted emergency communications in appropriate languages to address vulnerable populations) | **YES** | 29.1 — 3 STARS: Emergency Operations Plans of various entities reviewed with the City to insure that regional responses can be coordinated; mass sheltering options are listed (all are ADA compliant) as are the locations of all backup generators in the city along with their tank size, fuel type, and maximum run times; multiple EM communications venues  29.2 — 2 STARS: 2018 Population Vulnerability Assessment and Climate Adaptation Framework looks out 100 yrs.  29.5 — 3 STARS: significant resilient rebuilding of the Duluth Lake Walk |

**DULULTH - notable actions**

* **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
* **Outdoor lighting code** applies to all city-owned, multi-family, mixed use, commercial, and/or industrial buildings in the city as well as all parking lots; Dark Sky and auto-dimming provisions
* **Reuse of previously developed lands** #1 principle guiding development; all new development must achieve a certain number of points from a sustainability scorecard; parking minimums lowered if businesses share parking with neighboring businesses or existing parking structures
* **Goal of 80% reduction** in greenhouse gas emissions from municipal operations by 2050; plan to reduce emissions from the city owned steam plant by 50% over 30 years
* **Multi-family housing, ADUs allowed** in all residential (except Rural) distsricts; efficiency units (min 380 sq. ft.) allowed in all mixed use neighborhoods
* **Bike-Friendly Community** at the Bronze level
* **UMN student-developed scooter** co.; focus on increasing bus service frequency on currently existing lines; 96% of Duluth addresses lie within 1/2 mile of one of Duluth's 1640 transit stops
* **Parking maximum** of 150% of calculated parking minimums; no minimum for DT, Canal Park
* **Any re/development** that creates more than 3,000 sq ft of impervious surface is required to meet runoff standards; new/re-development required to match or reduce pre-redevelopment peak flow rates
* **82% complete on over 104 miles** of multi-use trails so that every resident will be within 3 miles of a trail access, with many living much closer
* **Community organizations include** Duluth Invaders working to replace invasive with natives; ReLEAF; Clean and Green
* **2019 Energy Plan Commission** includes 2 college student members
* **SolSmart PV-ready city** at the Gold level since 2017
* **2018 Population Vulnerability Assessment and Climate Adaptation Framework** looks out 100 yrs.