New Strategic Plan that outlines six recommended strategies to help guide the program over the next five years:

- Improve communication to and between participating communities
- Ensure equity and inclusion are incorporated into program design and delivery
- Match technical assistance and resources to Best Practice Actions (BPAs)
- Work to improve data collection and sharing metrics; support communities that want to display their own data
- Explore and support the development of additional GreenStep programs
- Better coordinate with state agencies to address challenges

49% of the state’s population resides in the 139 GreenStep cities and 4 GreenStep tribes; 16% of MN’s 853 cities are GreenStep cities.

GreenStep communities are fairly representative of Minnesota as a whole in terms of geographic distribution, politics, education & income, and city size (255 to 302,398). 34% of GreenStep communities are smaller than 5,000 people.

29 cities (20%) are now at Step 5; 5 cities are at Step 4; 26 cities @ Step 3; 57 cities @ Step 2; 26 cities @ Step 1.

4745 actions have been completed, reported and rated through the program web site since 2010.

High satisfaction reported in annual survey (85% response rate), for “your city/tribal nation’s own expectations and involvement” (3.5/5) and “with GreenStep Program” (3.9/5).

54% utilize Green Teams to support sustainability efforts (of 100 replied to the question in the annual survey).

80% of GreenStep Cities use B3 Benchmarking. Only 32% of all Minnesota cities use B3.

8 virtual workshops conducted on Safe Routes to School, cultural and behavior change, Smart Salting, reducing energy burdens, construction/demolition and building material reuse, healthy soils, urban trees for a changing climate, supporting MN pollinators; 244 attendees; 550 registered (recording sent).

GreenStep Cities – Decade of Growth video produced to celebrate 10-year anniversary.

Community Highlight articles featured Cross Lake, Elk River, Falcon Heights, Grand Marais, Isanti, La Crescent, Hutchinson, Marshall, Morris, Scandia, Shoreview, and Warren.

Ongoing outreach/education included a quarterly e-newsletter, LMC’s MemberLink messages, social media, CERT regional coordinator visits, road signs, several dozen state-wide/local media articles.

25 GreenCorps and Forestry Corps members were located in GreenStep cities/tribes during 2020-2021.

The Climate Smart Municipalities program continued working with 6 GreenStep Cities.

Sustainable States Network active member; co-chair steering committee.

Kristin Mroz, program coordinator hired at the MPCA in January 2021.
Best Practice Actions Completed

June 2021: 4745 total actions

2021 GreenStep Communities @ Steps

Total unique communities advancing a step in 2021:
38 (27% of total GSCs)

Total number of awards in 2021:
63

Total GreenStep Communities by Step

June 2021: 143 Total Communities
Annual GreenStep Community Recognitions

GreenStep Communities by Category

GreenStep Communities by Location
GreenStep Communities by Population

- Under 1000: 12, 9%
- 1000-5000: 32, 22%
- 5001-25000: 62, 43%
- More than 25000: 37, 26%

GreenStep participation by City Size

- Under 1000: 12 cities (2%)
- 1000-5000: 205 cities (18%)
- 5001-25000: 107 cities (58%)
- More than 25000: 35 cities (91%)

GreenStep Cities vs Non-GreenStep Cities