**2022 Category A City: BEMIDJI**

Currently a Step Three GreenStep City as of June 2015

- joined February 2012 -

***Assessor and date****: Kristin Mroz, 11/5/21*

**19**

***Total BPs done:***

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Best practices (**required in bold**)  Action rules (req. actions in **bold**) | BP implemented? | | | Action summary by # and star level achieved |
| **BUILDINGS:** | | | | |
| **1. Public**  **1 & 2; & one action from 3-7** | | **YES** | 1.1 @ 2 STARS  1.2 @ 2 STARS -- proposed enhancements via GESP underway to the mechanical, electrical, structural and temperature control systems  1.3 @ 3 STARS -- one of the first in the state to utilize GESP to undertake a $2.5 million efficiency project for 9 buildings, based on RETAP audit. 1-time rebate of $122,000 and savings of $120,000/yr. in energy and maintenance costs. Also, much of the cities outdoor lighting was upgraded to LEDs  1.4 @ 1 STAR -- computer controlled HVAC units | |
| 2. Private  any two actions | | **YES** | 2.1 @ 1 star  2.4 @ 3 STARS -- Luekens Village Grocery built/is selling from a large-scale aquaponics greenhouse; Harmony Food Coop installed city's first solar awning array | |
| 3. New  1 or 2; one from 3-5 | |  |  | |
| 4. Lighting/Signals  2 actions with one from 5-8 | | **YES** | 4.4 @ 2 STARS  4.8 @ 2 STARS | |
| 5. Reuse  any one action | |  |  | |
| **LAND USE:** | | | | |
| **6. Comp Plan**  **Actions 1 & 2** | | **YES** | 6.1 @ 1 STAR -- Greater Bemidji Area Land Use Plan 2007; revised March 9, 2011 to include Active Living  6.2 @ 1 STAR – policy for land use and development ordinances be enforced, amended and administered with due consideration of the Greater Bemidji Area Land Use Plan  6.3 @ 2 STARS -- Joint Powers Board with 2 townships & orderly annexation agreements | |
| 7. Density  any one action | | **YES** | 7.1 @ 1 STAR  7.2 @ 2 STARS – May 2015 adoption of tiny houses: are these zoned by right and what is the minimum house & lot size?  7.3 @ 1 STAR  7.5 @ NOT RATED zoning code does not reference LEED-ND for as a of-right development | |
| 8. Mixed Uses  any two actions | | **YES** | 8.1 @ 3 STARS MN Design Team visit 2012  8.2 @ 2 STARS  8.3 @ 1 STAR  8.5 @ 3 STARS -- Downtown Zoning Urban Renaissance allows retail, recreational, governmental functions, high amenity setting, conducive to bike/ped, vertical mixed-use is very common (typically retail land uses with residential units on the upper level) | |
| 9. Highway Development  any one action | |  |  | |
| 10. Conservation Development  any one action | | **YES** | 10.7 @ 3 STARs – MN Audubon-designated 2017 state’s third Bird City: 18 specific Bird City criteria, including initiative called "Birds, Bees, & Butterflies - Bemidji" (BBBB); # volunteer hours (850); # demo gardens/landscapes (8); # plants planted/sold (2500); # people engaged in BBBB events and activities (400). | |
| **TRANSPORTATION:** | | | | |
| **11. Complete Green Streets**  **1; & two additional actions** | | **YES** | 11.1 @ 1 STAR  11.5 @ 3 STARS  11.6 @ 2 STARS | |
| **12. Mobility Options**  **any two actions** | | **YES** | 12.1 @ 3 STARS Bemidji was recognized by the League of American Bicyclists as a Bicycle Friendly Community at the Bronze level in October of 2012.  12.2 @ 2 STARS Active Living Bemidji program, which is in its 4th year of implementation.  12.6 @ 2 STARS – NiceRide launches in June! | |
| 13. Fleets  any two actions | |  |  | |
| 14. TOD / TDM  any two actions | |  |  | |
| **ENVIRONMENTAL MANGAMENT:** | | | | |
| **15. Purchasing**  **1; and one additional action** | | **YES** | 15.1 @ 1 STAR  15.7 @ 1 STAR – council packets on city-supplied IPAD | |
| **16. Trees**  **any two actions** | | **YES** | 16.1 @ 1 STAR  16.6 @ 3 STARS | |
| **17. Stormwater**  **any one action** | | **YES** | 17.2 @ 1 STAR  17.4 @ 1 STAR  17.5 @ 1 STAR -- impervious surface limitations for storm water; coal tar banned  17.6 @ 2 STARS -- every applicant for a building permit … must submit an erosion and sediment control plan | |
| 18. Parks & Trails  any three actions | | **YES** | 18.1@ 1 STAR  18.2 @ 1 STAR  18.8 @ 2 STARS | |
| 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 @ 1 STAR | |
| 20. Water / Wastewater  1 & 2; and one additional | | **NO** | 20.1 @ 2 STARS -- Data on energy consumption from the Waste Water Treatment Plant has been on B3 Benchmarking since ’07  20.6 @ 1 STAR -- grease waste reduction project aiming for 10% cut in fats, oils and greases entering the Wastewater plant | |
| 21. Septics  any one action | | **YES** | 21.4 @ 2 STARs -- JPB enforces its own ordinance regarding SSTS | |
| 22. Solid Waste  1 or 2; & one from 4-8 | |  |  | |
| 23. Local Air Quality  any two actions | | **NO** | 23.3 @ 3 STARS – BSU smoke-free policy in residence halls | |
| **RESILIENT ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:** | | | | |
| **24. Benchmarks & Involvement**  **Actions 1 & 2** | | **YES** | 24.1 @ 2 STARS -- Sustainability Committee reports their initiatives to the council on a quarterly basis  24.2 @ 2 STARS – goals & key measures by department – very nice format in budget  24.4 @ 2 STARS Sustainable Tuesdays is a partnership program with the Indigenous Environmental Network, the Minnesota GreenCorps, the Rail River Folk School, and Bemidji State University’s Sustainability Office.  24.5 @ 3 STARS -- Sustainability Committee articles 1/mo. in local paper (e.g., permaculture) + S. Tuesdays | |
| **25. Green Businesses**  **any two actions** | | **YES** | 25.1 @ 1 STAR  25.7 @ 1 STAR -- Greater Bemidji Area Joint Planning Board working to produce a "local campaign" – post details when available | |
| 26. Renewable Energy  any two actions | | **YES** | 26.1 @ 1 STAR  26.2 @ 1 STAR – nice outreach in city hall  26.3 @ 3 STARS -- Beltrami Co. signed JPA with St. Paul Port establishing the county as a PACE district, so any business, non-profit, or multi-family housing unit in the county (therefore in Bemidji) can utilize PACE to cover the up-front financing for renewable energy and energy efficiency projects | |
| 27. Local Food  any one action | | **YES** | 27.2 @ 2 STARS -- beekeeping is allowed within city limits by ordinance with several rules attached to that permission  27.3 @ 1 STAR | |
| 28. Business Synergies  action 2, 3 or 4 | |  |  | |
| 29. Climate Adaptation  Action 1 | |  |  | |

**BEMIDJI** – notable actions

* **2017 MN Audubon-designated Bird City** (3rd in state): best practice actions include 400 "Bemidji Birds, Bees, & Butterflies” events & activities, 850 volunteer hours, 8 demonstration gardens/landscapes, 2500 bird-friendly plants planted/sold
* **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
* **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