**2023 Category A City: BLOOMINGTON**

Currently a Step 5 GreenStep City as of June 2022

(joined August 2017)

***Assessor and date****: Kristin Mroz, 6/29/2022*

**19**

**YES**

**YES**

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

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Best practices (**required in bold**) Action rules (req. actions in **bold**)  | BP implemented?  | Action summary by # and star level achieved |

|  |
| --- |
| **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 @ 1 STAR – 100% complete sites, footage, meter, at least 12 months energy data, current w/in 90 days; EUI from good to poor, so room for building efficiency improvements1.2 @ 2 STARS – Indoor light upgrades to LED in Civic Plaza Art gallery, theater, council chambers; weather stripping, exterior expansion joints on City Buildings and Fire Stations are inspected annually and repaired as needed1.3 @ 1 STAR – demand-based CO2 controls manage large air handling units in the Civic Plaza; occupancy sensors have been installed to control lighting in offices, park buildings and vehicle storage garages |
| 2. Private any two actions | **YES** | 2.3 @ 3 STARS – 2021 Large Building Energy Benchmarking ordinance adopted; 2022 Time of Sale Energy Disclosure Ordinance adopted (second city in MN)2.4 @ 2 STARS – 5 businesses with LEED-certified (or to-be certified) buildings listed on city web2.5 @ 2 STARS – rain barrel guidance to residents; 2011-2016 average residential water use an impressively low 73.9 gallons/person /day; in 2017 city lowered the threshold for residents to move into Tier 2 water rates to encourage conservation |
| 3. New action 1 or 2; one from 3-5 |  |  |
| 4. Lighting/Signals 2 actions with one from 5-8 | **YES** | 4.4 @ 3 STARS – 4 city-Co.-MnDOT Signal Timing Optimization projects; estimates for results from 37 signalized intersections are annual savings of 112,600 gal. gas, 9,900,071 fewer vehicle stops, 113,137 fewer hours of vehicle delay - overall project benefit to cost ratio of 24 4.5 @ 2 STARS – several PV ped-activated flashing crosswalks; also PV-powered electronic radar speed display signs 4.6 @ 1 STAR -- exterior light fixtures on buildings, in walkway bollards replaced c/ Dark Sky LEDs @ Civic Plaza, Public Health bldgs. 4.7 @ 2 STARS – ongoing replacement with LEDs in parking lots, along trails; 2-level lighting controls, motion detectors and automatic dimming technology incorporated as appropriate |
| 5. Reuse any one action |  |  |
| **YES** **LAND USE: 2 BPs required; are 2 BPs done?** |
| **6. Comp Plan** **Actions 1 & 2** | **YES** | 6.1 @ 1 STAR – 2009 comp plan being updated for 2018 submittal to Met. Council 6.2 @ 2 STARS – comp plan referenced throughout zoning code; zoning decisions are required to be in compliance with comp plan 6.4 @ 2 STARS – MN River Valley Strategic – and Resources – Plan; currently setting priorities for maintenance, enhancement & restoration6.5 @ 2 STARS – 2018 Partners in Energy Action Plan (with Xcel) has clear goals to reduce electrical, gas and transportation emissions, in the areas of municipal, commercial, residential, and transportation |
| 7. Density any one action | **YES** | 7.1 @ 3 STARS – several zoning districts allow much higher density than 15 unites/acre, near commercial zoning districts and transit nodes: e.g., South Loop district, near the Mall of America7.2 @ 2 STARS – FAR bonuses in high-intensity mixed use zones; accessory dwelling units allowed by right in some districts7.3 @ 1 STAR -- some zoning districts where a minimum FAR of 1 is required |
| 8. Mixed Uses any two actions |  |  |
| 9. Highway Development any one action |  |  |
| 10. Conservation Development any one action | **YES** | 10.1 @ 3 STARS – 2007 NRI; adopted Conservation zoning district and several natural resource-oriented overlay zoning districts10.6 @ 2 STARS **YES** |
|  **TRANSPORTATION: 2 BPs required; are 2 BPs done?**  |
| **11. Complete Green Streets** **1; & two additional actions** | **YES** | 11.1 @ 2 STARS – 2012 complete streets policy; Pavement Management Plan used to incorporate CS goals into existing construction budgets where possible; CS supported by Alternative Transportation Plan, street striping reconfigurations, Neighborhood Traffic Calming & TDM policy11.3 @ 1 STAR – 2011 86th Street Corridor (3.5 miles) put on road diet with bike lanes connecting to across town to an on-road bikeway network that connects to Hyland Regional Park to the west 11.6 @ 2 STARS -- 2016 W 98th Street (Nesbitt-Normandale): narrowed road, cut 2 lanes, increased green space in parkway center, added on-street bikeway |
| **12. Mobility Options** **any two actions** | **YES** | 12.1 @ 1 STAR – Beautiful and engaging Active Living Biking and Hiking Guide12.2 @ 1 STAR -- City has worked with Public Schools to develop a SRTS plan for all K-8 public schools; SRTS committee with members from the City and School District meets twice a year12.5 @ 1 STAR -- city Flex/telework program started in 2017 |
| 13. Fleets any two actions |  |  |
| 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 @ 1 STAR -- administrative practices to purchase recycled-content office paper, other office supplies to reduce waste; Finance Dept. has energy efficiency purchasing standards for maintenance equipment, fleet vehicles, and appliances 15.5 @ 3 STARS – most City projects incorporate RAP, recycled plastic manhole adjustment rings and MnDOT compost specs; also follow MnDOT specs for RAP and shingles in asphalt15.7 @ 1 STAR – Council, boards/commissions use online meeting systems; developing more online forms for residents to use |
| **16. Trees** **any two actions** | **YES** | 16.1 @ 2 STARS – 2017 is 31st year of Tree City recognition; twice received the growth award’ Arbor Day celebrated each spring with pre-order bare-root tree sale for residents16.2 @ 2 STARS – MN DOT standards used to ensure proper soil composition, plant installation; Code guidelines for tree/shrub planting on private developments; City gravel bed nursery with a diverse mix of 15 tree species16.3 @ 1 STAR -- funding for removal/replacement of 8000 public ash trees16.4 @ 3 STARS – variety of streetscapes, pocket parks: sidewalk tree plantings using structural soil, rain gardens, pervious pavements, benches, public art, place making16.5 @ 2 STARS – tree preservation ordinance; native landscaping allowed on residential lots not to exceed 50% of pervious surface, set back from property line, annual moving/burns 16.6 @ 3 STARS – urban forestry plan/program manages DED, OW, EAB on public & private prop; inspectors available to help residents |
| **17. Stormwater** **any one action** | **YES** | 17.3 @ 1 STAR -- code allows 22-24’ streets 17.4 @ 3 STARS -- variable stormwater utility fee based on parcel reported infiltration ability 17.5 @ 2 STARS – extensive Surface Water Management Plan include policies, ordinances, guidance17.6 @ 3 STAR – Primary winter maintenance staff certified MPCA Level 1; Plow operators Level 2; efficient plows, brine tanks; Chloride/salt management plan; tracks salt usage; educational materials to residents.  |
| 18. Parks & Trails any three actions | **YES** | 18.1 @ 3 STARS – 86th St Multi-Modal Traffic Study, Nokomis- Minnesota River Regional Trail, Old Cedar Ave Bridge reconstruction, Hyland Trail Project; much needed trail connection was obtained across the Bethany Church property18.2 @ 2 STARS – new parks/trails where redevelopment is planned (Lyndale Green, Bloomington Central Station, in collaboration with adjacent residential and commercial developments18.3 @ 3 STARS – 36% of city is park/open space; nearly 100 separate parks sites; over 90% of the residents live within one-half mile of protected public green space18.5 @ 2 STARS – low-maintenance turf mgt; native land-scaping (parks and golf); organic/IP mgt; pollinator/monarch-safe policies; wetland buffer strips throughout parks, rain gardens; garbage & recycling collection in park; is installing two organic drop-off park sites 18.6 @ 1 STAR -- Dwan Golf Club, City-owned, certified in 2011 as a Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary golf course18.7 @ 2 STARS – software asset management tool tracks all park buildings, energy efficiency, preventive maintenance 18.8 @ 3 STARS – Parks’ volunteer coordinator; Adopt a Park Program; annual Buckthorn Bust; coordination of tree donation and planting efforts with civic organizations, corporate groups |
| 19. Surface Water if state public water: 4; and one additional actionif no state water: any one action | **YES** | 19.2 @ 1 STAR – WQ education/discussion at annual Public Works open house, Home Improvement Fair (1/2 ykrs.), partners with local water shed districts on training and community outreach events (Storm drain stenciling, Adopt-a-storm-drain, Pop-up Education cart)19.4 @ 2 STARS – on ‘18 workplan to update shoreland ord. consistent with recently released DNR model ordinance19.5 @ 2 STARS – 1997 Wetland Vegetation Treatment Policy incl. incentives for WQ improvements by prop. owners around wetlands 19.6 @ Not Rated - Nine Mile Creek Chloride TMDL study underway  |
| 20. Water / Wastewater 1 & 2; and one additional | **NO** | 20.2 @ 1 STAR – City uses electric utility CI Program for regular well and pump/motor rehab work 20.3 @ 3 STARS – 3 Met Council I&I grant programs, $0.5M, cut an est. 63M gal. of annual I&I and saving $157k annually, adding 40-70 years of additional life to sanitary sewers. 1993-2017 reduction of over one billion gallons in sewer flow - 27% decline - due to cutting I&I and water-conserving plumbing fixtures. City inspects ~200,000’ of wastewater collection mains annually; manhole inspection program spends $300,000/yr. for manhole rehabilitation during street projects; CityTime-of-Sale Housing Inspection Program discloses/fixes illegal sump pump connections; City assures new parking ramps/garages direct rainwater to storm sewer; Cured-In-Place-Pipe (2003-2009: 48,000’) to repair damaged leaking wastewater collection mains at a cost of just over $1.4 million20.4 @ 1 STAR – water plant lighting upgraded in 2015 to motion-senored LEDs 20.6 @ Not Rated - tiered water rate structure is in place to help encourage efficient water use20.7 @ 1 STAR -- tiered water rate structure |
| 21. Septics any one action | **YES** | 21.1 @ 1 STAR – outreach to homesteads on septics: must use a licensed pumping service and repair/replace the system to meet current state rules21.2 @ Not Rated - between 100 &150 households using septics as of late 1980’s21.3 @ 3 STARS – now fewer than 40 households on septics: they are monitored by City Utilities Division & Hennepin County Environmental Health Management21.4 @ 2 STARS – households required to connect to city sewer system within 2 yrs of availability; HHs evaluated case-by- case.21.6 @ 1 STAR – city prohibits non-stormwater discharges in environmentally sensitive areas |
| 22. Solid Waste 1 or 2; & one from 4-8 | **YES** | 22.2 @ 1 STAR 22.6 @ 1 STAR – rental properties required (following International Code Council) to have access to curbside recycling & garbage collection; city follows state law to ensure all commercial entities provide recycling collection22.7 @ 3 STARS – organized garbage, recycling & yard waste collection in 2016 for all single family homes, handled by a 6-member consortium; post-2016 garbage prices dropped to $10.14/month (35 gal), $13.67/mo (689 gal), $17.18/mo (90 gal)  |
| 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 @ 3 STARS – Bloomington Sustainability Commission formed 2017, includes diverse community members + 1 CM member; 24.2 @ 1 STAR -- annual workplan on web; annual report to CC24.3 @ 2 STARS – participates in the Regional Indicators program |
| **25. Green Businesses** **any two actions** | **YES** | 25.3 @ 1 STAR -- Bloomington Convention and Visitors Bureau promotes outdoor activities, transportation via bus, rail, bike, taxi, train & over a dozen bus/coach services25.7 @ 1 STAR -- Bloomington coordinates a Farmer's Market that incorporates local businesses beyond farms & bakers: home decor, clothing companies, pet food businesses, toys, arts and crafts, and beauty/healthcare items |
| 26. Renewable Energy any two actions | **NO** |  26.1 @ 1 STAR -- updated solar codes in 2013 allow solar panels (roof/freestanding) to be administratively approved |
| 27. Local Food any one action | **YES** | 27.2 @ 2 STARS – beekeeping allowed by right by ordinance27.3 @ 2 STARS – City hosts weekly farmers market, has a number of community gardens |
| 28. Business Synergies action 2, 3 or 4 |  |  |
| **29. Climate Adaptation** **action 1**(includes targeted emergency communications in appropriate languages for vulnerable populations) | **YES** | 29.1 @ 2 STARS – Fire Chief is emergency manager; City uses All-Hazards emergency plan approach; every 5 years City assesses risks with input from hospitals, public health, local business; 6 languages used in emergency communication coordinated with ECHO (TPT TV, incl. radio, telephone, internet, other media) & in translation services provided by Language Line or Garden & Associates; Community Emergency Response Team, Medical Reserve Corps, preparedness resources online for community members 29.2 @ 2 STARS – workshops/public process recommending adaptation strategies for incorporation in comp plan; nice infographic |

**BLOOMINGTON –** notable actions

* **2011-2016 average residential water use an impressively low** 74 gallons/person/day; in 2017 city lowered the threshold for residents who move into higher-cost Tier 2 water rates to encourage conservation
* **City organized garbage, recycling and yard waste collection** by a 6-member consortium, in 2016; prices are less than the average price a Bloomington resident was paying before organized collection
* **Annual savings from 4 Signal Timing Optimization projects** at 37 intersections: 113,000 gal. of gasoline;  9,900,000 fewer vehicle stops; 113,000 fewer hours of vehicle delay; overall project benefit/cost ratio of 24/1
* **Pavement Management Plan incorporates 2012 complete streets** policy goals into existing construction budgets where possible
* **36% of city is park/open space**; nearly 100 separate parks sites; over 90% of residents live within one-half mile of protected public green space
* **Asset management software for park buildings** calculates facility condition index that includes energy efficiency factors and optimizes capital planning evaluating different improvement scenarios; software tracks work orders, service requests, preventive maintenance
* **Sanitary sewer cost-reduction (infill & infiltration) strategies include** city Time-of-Sale Housing Inspection Program to discover/fix illegal sump pump connections; new parking ramps/garages direct rainwater to storm sewer;  Cured-In-Place-Pipe (48,000 feet in 2003-2009; $1.4 million) to repair damaged wastewater collection mains
* **I&I projects costing $500,000 save $157,000/yr**., add 40-70 years to sanitary sewers, cut an estimated 63M gal. of annual I&I. 1993-2017 saw a reduction of over one billion gallons in sewer flow – a 27% decline - due to cutting I&I and water-conserving plumbing fixtures. City inspects about 200,000 feet of wastewater collection mains annually; manhole inspection program spends $300,000/yr. for manhole rehabilitation during street projects