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# Assessment 2023

City of Grand Rapids: Category B City

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## About the Program

GreenStep Cities is a five-step program for cities and tribal nations to work towards sustainability. There are 29 best practices which each provide required and recommended actions. Recommended actions are placed into the following categories: buildings and lighting, land use, transportation, environmental management, and resilient economic and community development. Each action submitted by a city receives a ranking based on a three-star system.

## Graphical user interface, text, application  Description automatically generatedInformation and GreenStep Status

**Joined:** May 2012 **Total Best Practices (BPs) Complete**:8

**Status:** Step 2 **Total BP Actions Complete:** 20

**[Grand Rapids GreenStep webpage](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/city-detail/12079)**

## Notable Actions

See all city-reported actions at <https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/city-detail/12079>

* **Recognized by the Blue Star Award program** as one of the leading cities in the state taking action to protect water resources through stormwater management
* **Public library heating supplied from wastewater production** at the Blandin paper mill, reducing natural gas use by nearly 70%

## Guidelines for Step 2:

[Learn more about Step 2](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/page/step-2)

[x] As a Category B city, to be recognized as a Step 2 GreenStep City, **ANY 6 Best Practices** must be reported.

## Guidelines for Step 3:

[Learn more about Step 3](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/page/step-3)

As a Category B city, to be recognized as a Step 3 GreenStep City, the following must be reported, at minimum:

[x]  **Public Buildings:** [x]  [1.1](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81743), [x]  [1.2](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81744) , and [x]  any one other Buildings & Lighting BP

[ ]  **Land Use:** [x]  [6.1](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81775), [x]  [6.2](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81776), and [ ]  any one BP from [7-10](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/best-practices)

[ ]  **Living & Complete Streets:** [ ] [11.1](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81802) and [ ] [ ] any two additional actions from [11.2-11.6](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-detail/81723)

[ ]  **Transportation:** [ ]  any one BP from [11-14](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/best-practices)

[ ]  **Sustainable Purchasing:** [ ] [15.1](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81825) and [ ]  any one additional action from [15.2-15.8](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-detail/81725)

[x]  **Community Forests and Soils:** [x] any one action from [16.1-16.7](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-detail/81726)

[x]  **Environmental Management:** [x]  any one BP from [17-23](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/best-practices)

[ ]  **Benchmarks and Community Engagement:** [ ] [24.1](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81880) and [ ] any one additional action from 24

[ ]  **Green Business Development:** [ ] [ ] any two actions from[25.1-25.7](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-detail/81735)

[ ]  **Climate Adaptation and Community Resilience:** [ ] [29.1](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81912) at a 2- or 3-star rating

## Guidelines for Steps 4 and 5:

[Learn more about Steps 4 & 5](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/page/steps-4-and-5)

Steps 4 and 5 focus on metrics – what are the outcomes of all of the actions that the city has implemented over time?

* **Step 4:** Measure and report a minimum number of core and optional metrics for the previous calendar year or the most recent available data.
	+ Category A communities: In addition to the CORE metrics, include 5 additional metrics of choice.
* **Step 5:** Demonstrate improvement three eligible metrics measured in Step 4, from one data year to the next.
	+ Category A, B, and C communities: Improve upon 3 eligible metric elements.

## Best Practice Actions

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| Buildings and Lighting[**BP 1**: Efficient Existing Public Buildings](#_Best_Practice_1:)[**BP 2**: Efficient Existing Private Buildings](#_Best_Practice_2:)[**BP 3**: New Green Buildings](#_Best_Practice_3:)[**BP 4**: Efficient Outdoor Lighting and Signals](#_Best_Practice_4:)[**BP 5**: Building Redevelopment](#_Best_Practice_5:) |
| Best Practice 1: Efficient Existing Public BuildingsBP 1 Completed? **YES**  Total actions completed: **5** |
| **Best Practice Action:**  | **Completed:***(Star Level out of three stars)* | **Action Description:** *(View on GreenStep Website for full description)*  | **Action Summary:** *(Provided by GreenStep Staff)* | **Date of Last Entry:** |
| [1.1](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81743)  | ★★ | Enter/update building information and monthly usage data into the [**MN B3 Benchmarking database**](https://mn.b3benchmarking.com/Report?r=1)**.**  | Grand Rapids Public Library began using B-3Benchmarking in Feb. 2010. As of 12/5/2012 The City of Grand Rapids has implemented B3 benchmarking on five additional city buildings. These six buildings are the six main buildings owned by the City of Grand Rapids. At least three years of data has been entered for each building. | 7/11/2012 |
| [1.2](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81744) | ★ | Make no/low cost indoor lighting and operational changes in city-owned/school buildings. | Yearly boiler inspection is Performed by Gartner Refrigeration and Temperature controls to ensure that all city boilers are running at their maximum efficiency. B3 is used in all major city building to monitor energy use and is update monthly. | 7/11/2012 |
| [1.3](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81745) | ★ | Invest in larger energy efficiency projects.  | 3 new 97% high efficiency mini boilers were installed in the Grand Rapids Fire Hall in 2011 replacing the 78% ribbon type boiler that was 25 years old. | 7/11/2012 |
| [1.4](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81746) | ★ | Implement IT efforts and city employee engagement to reduce plug loads, building energy use and workflow efficiency. | Building management program installed to manage all heating and cooling units in all major city buildings from office computer or home laptop. Allows us to program units for evening set back temp, none work days, holidays and occupancy sensors to shut rooftop units off. | 10/3/2012 |
| [1.5](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81747) |  | Meet the [SB 2030 energy standard](https://www.b3mn.org/2030energystandard/) or qualify under a green building or energy framework. |  |  |
| [1.6](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81748) |  | Improve operations & maintenance of city-owned/school buildings and leased buildings.  |  |  |
| [1.7](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81749) | ★★ | Install one or more of the following:-A ground-source, closed loop geothermal system.-A district energy/microgrid system.-A rainwater harvesting system | In December of 2011 a wide gap plate heat exchanger was installed at the Grand Rapids Public Library which utilizes waste water from the Blandin Paper Co. | 7/11/2012 |
| Best Practice 2: Efficient Existing Private BuildingsBP 2 Completed? **NO** Total BP actions completed: **0** |
| **Best Practice Action:**  | **Completed:***(Star Level out of three stars)* | **Action Description:** *(View on GreenStep Website for full description)*  | **Action Summary:** *(Provided by GreenStep Staff)* | **Date of Last Entry:** |
| [2.1](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81750)  |  | Create or participate in a program to promote energy and water efficiency. |  |  |
| [2.2](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81751) |  | Integrate green building and EV charging best practices information and assistance into the building permit process. |  |  |
| [2.3](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81752) |  | Implement an energy rating/disclosure policy for residential/commercial buildings. |  |  |
| [2.4](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81753) |  | Describe energy/water efficiency outcomes and other green building practices at local businesses and not-for-profit organizations. |  |  |
| [2.5](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81754) |  | Create one of the following:-Water-wise landscaping ordinance/ guidance-WaterSense purchasing program-Guidance on rainwater harvesting and home water softener use |  |  |
| [2.6](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81755) |  | Provide a financial or other incentive to private parties who add energy/sustainability improvements, meet the [SB 2030 energy standard](https://www.b3mn.org/2030energystandard/), or renovate using a green building or energy framework. |  |  |
| [2.7](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81756) |  | Customize a model sustainable building renovation policy that includes the SB 2030 energy standard and adopt the language to govern private renovation projects. (See [here](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81756) for specifications.) |  |  |
| Best Practice 3: New Green BuildingsBP 3 Completed? **NO** Total BP actions completed: **0** |
| **Best Practice Action:**  | **Completed:***(Star Level out of three stars)* | **Action Description:** *(View on GreenStep Website for full description)*  | **Action Summary:** *(Provided by GreenStep Staff)* | **Date of Last Entry:** |
| [3.1](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81757)  |  | Require by city policy that new city-owned buildings be built using the SB 2030 energy standard and/or a green building framework.  |  |  |
| [3.2](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81758) |  | Work with the local school district to ensure that future new schools are built using the SB 2030 energy standard and/or a green building framework. |  |  |
| [3.3](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81759) |  | Adopt a sustainable building policy for private buildings; include the SB 2030 energy standard; adopt language governing new development projects (see [here](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81759) for specifications) |  |  |
| [3.4](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81760) |  | Provide a financial or other incentive to private parties who build new buildings that utilize the SB 2030 energy standard and/or a green building framework. |  |  |
| [3.5](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81761) |  | Adopt environmentally preferable covenant guidelines for new common interest communities addressing issues such as stormwater, greywater, native vegetation, growing food, clothes lines, electric vehicle charging, and renewable energy.  |  |  |
| Best Practice 4: Efficient Outdoor Lighting and SignalsBP 4 Completed? **YES** Total BP actions completed: **2** |
| **Best Practice Action:**  | **Completed:***(Star Level out of three stars)* | **Action Description:** *(View on GreenStep Website for full description)*  | **Action Summary:** *(Provided by GreenStep Staff)* | **Date of Last Entry:** |
| [4.1](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81762)  |  | Require energy efficient, Dark-Sky compliant new or replacement outdoor lighting fixtures on city-owned/private buildings and facilities. |  |  |
| [4.2](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81763) |  | Purchase LEDs for all future street lighting and traffic signals. |  |  |
| [4.3](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81764) |  | Replace the city's street lighting with Dark Sky-compliant LEDs, modifying any city franchise/utility agreement and adding smart grid attributes. |  |  |
| [4.4](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81765) | ★★★ | Coordinate traffic signals and/or optimize signal timing to minimize car idling at intersections yet maintain safe and publicly acceptable vehicle speeds. | The traffic signal system is owned/operated by MNDOT. MNDOT has recently upgraded and interconnected the city wide signal system to optimize the flow of traffic through the city. | 12/29/2012 |
| [4.5](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81766) | ★ | Use LED/solar-powered lighting for a flashing sign or in a street, parking lot or park project. | The City of Grand Rapids utilizes solar powered led lights as warning signal in residential areas to identify approaching intersections. They are also used at crosswalks at school road entrances. | 12/20/2012 |
| [4.6](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81767) |  | Relamp/improve exterior building lighting for city-owned buildings/facilities with energy efficient, Dark-Sky compliant lighting. |  |  |
| [4.7](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81768) |  | Replace city-owned parking lot/ramp lighting with Dark-Sky compliant, energy efficient, automatic dimming lighting technologies. |  |  |
| [4.8](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81769) |  | Replace the city's existing traffic signal indications with LEDs. |  |  |
| Best Practice 5: Building RedevelopmentBP 5 Completed? **NO** Total BP actions completed: **0** |
| **Best Practice Action:**  | **Completed:***(Star Level out of three stars)* | **Action Description:** *(View on GreenStep Website for full description)*  | **Action Summary:** *(Provided by GreenStep Staff)* | **Date of Last Entry:** |
| [5.1](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81770)  |  | Adopt an historic preservation ordinance/regulations and encourage adaptive reuse. |  |  |
| [5.2](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81771) |  | Implement the Minnesota Main Street model for commercial revitalization. |  |  |
| [5.3](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81772) |  | Plan for reuse of large-format retail buildings, or work with a local school, church or commercial building to either add-on space or repurpose space into new uses. |  |  |
| [5.4](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81773) |  | Create/modify a green residential remodeling assistance/financing program to assist homeowners in adding space or features such as EV charging, renewables to their existing homes.  |  |  |
| [5.5](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81774) |  | Adopt development/design standards and programs that facilitate infill, redevelopment, and adaptable buildings.  |  |  |

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| Land Use[**BP 6**: Comprehensive, Climate and Energy Plans](#_Best_Practice_6:)[**BP 7**: Resilient City Growth](#_Best_Practice_7:)[**BP 8**: Mixed Uses](#_Best_Practice_8:)[**BP 9**: Efficient Highway and Auto-Oriented Development](#_Best_Practice_9:)[**BP 10**: Design for Natural Resource Conservation](#_Best_Practice_10:) |
| Best Practice 6: Comprehensive, Climate and Energy PlansBP 6 Completed? **YES** Total BP actions completed: **2** |
| **Best Practice Action:**  | **Completed:***(Star Level out of three stars)* | **Action Description:** *(View on GreenStep Website for full description)*  | **Action Summary:** *(Provided by GreenStep Staff)* | **Date of Last Entry:** |
| [6.1](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81775)  | ★ | Adopt a comprehensive plan or (for Category B & C cities) adopt a future land use plan adopted by the county or a regional entity. | The City of Grand Rapids has recently updated its Comprehensive Plan. The 2011 Comprehensive Plan articulates our community’s values and vision for the future. | 5/15/2014 |
| [6.2](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81776) | ★ | Demonstrate that regulatory ordinances comply with the comprehensive plan. | Sec 30-32-Duties and Responsibilities: “Upon the adoption of the city plan or section thereof in order that they will serve as a pattern and guide for the orderly physical development of the city and as a basis or the efficient expenditure of the funds thereof relating to the subjects of such city plan. Such means shall consist of a zoning ordinance, the control of subdivision plats, a plan of future streets, coordination of the normal public improvements of the city, a long-term program of capital expenditures and such other matters as will accomplish the purpose of this article.” | 12/20/2012 |
| [6.3](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81777) |  | Include requirements in comprehensive and/or other plans for intergovernmental coordination addressing regional land use and watershed / wellhead impacts, infrastructure, transportation, economic development and city/regional services. |  |  |
| [6.4](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81778) |  | Include ecological provisions in the comprehensive plan that explicitly aim to minimize open space fragmentation and/or establish a growth area with expansion criteria. |  |  |
| [6.5](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81779) |  | Adopt climate mitigation and/or energy independence goals and objectives in the comprehensive plan or in a separate policy document, and include transportation recommendations. |  |  |
| Best Practice 7: Resilient City GrowthBP 7 Completed? **NO** Total BP actions completed: **0** |
| **Best Practice Action:**  | **Completed:***(Star Level out of three stars)* | **Action Description:** *(View on GreenStep Website for full description)*  | **Action Summary:** *(Provided by GreenStep Staff)* | **Date of Last Entry:** |
| [7.1](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81780)  |  | Eliminate barriers and actively encourage higher density housing by including Neighborhood single-family density at 7 units/acre or greater wherever urban services are available and multi-family housing at a gross density of at least 15 units/acre adjacent to a commercial zoning district or transit node.in the city zoning ordinance and zoning map. |  |  |
| [7.2](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81781) |  | Achieve higher density housing with one of the following:a. Incorporate a flexible lot size/frontage requirement for infill development.b. Use density and floor area ratio (FAR) bonuses in selected residential zoning districts.c. Clustered residential development; tie a regulatory standard to comprehensive plan language defining compact city expansion zones that limit low-density development.d. Allowing accessory dwelling units, single-room occupancy housing, senior housing, co-housing or tiny houses / apartments by right in selected zoning districts.e. Implement a vacation rental property registration policy and/or special tax. |  |  |
| [7.3](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81782) |  | Achieve higher intensity commercial/industrial land uses through at least one of the following strategies:a. Include in the city zoning ordinance and zoning map a commercial district with zero-lot-line setbacks and a FAR minimum of 1.b. Set targets for the minimum number of employees/acre in different commercial zones.  |  |  |
| [7.4](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81783) |  | Provide incentives for affordable housing, workforce housing, infill projects, or for life-cycle housing at or near job or retail centers, or for achieving an average net residential density of seven units per acre. |  |  |
| [7.5](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81784) |  | Use design to create social trust and interaction among neighbors and allow developments that meet the prerequisites for LEED for Neighborhood Development certification. |  |  |
| Best Practice 8: Mixed UsesBP 8 Completed? **NO** Total BP actions completed: **0** |
| **Best Practice Action:**  | **Completed:***(Star Level out of three stars)* | **Action Description:** *(View on GreenStep Website for full description)*  | **Action Summary:** *(Provided by GreenStep Staff)* | **Date of Last Entry:** |
| [8.1](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81785) |  | Organize or participate in a community planning process for the city/a mixed-use district, including specific community engagement practices that engage cultural and income diverse community members. |  |  |
| [8.2](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81786) |  | Locate or lease a property for use as a school, city building or other government facility that has at least two of these attributes:a. Adjacent to an existing employment or residential center.b. Designed to facilitate and encourage access by walking, biking, or other non-vehicle travel modes.c. Accessible by regular transit service. |  |  |
| [8.3](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81787) |  | Modify a planned unit development (PUD) ordinance to emphasize or require mixed-use development or affordable housing, to limit residential PUDs to areas adjacent to commercial development, and/or to add sustainability features. |  |  |
| [8.4](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81788) |  | Report that a (re)development meets a city/community-determined minimum point threshold under the Equitable Development Scorecard or LEED-ND (Neighborhood Development). |  |  |
| [8.5](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81789) |  | Have a downtown zoning district that emphasizes small and destination business, entrepreneurial spaces, and allows or requires residential and residential-compatible commercial development. |  |  |
| [8.6](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81790) |  | Incorporate form-based zoning approaches into the zoning code, in those areas where a diverse mix of uses is desired. |  |  |
| [8.7](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81791) |  | Create incentives for vertical mixed-use development in appropriate locations (downtown, commercial districts near colleges or universities, historic commercial districts, commercial districts with minority-owned businesses). |  |  |
| Best Practice 9: Efficient Highway and Auto-Oriented DevelopmentBP 9 Completed? **NO** Total BP actions completed: **0** |
| **Best Practice Action:**  | **Completed:***(Star Level out of three stars)* | **Action Description:** *(View on GreenStep Website for full description)*  | **Action Summary:** *(Provided by GreenStep Staff)* | **Date of Last Entry:** |
| [9.1](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81792) |  | Establish design goals for at least one highway/auto-oriented corridor/cluster. |  |  |
| [9.2](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81793) |  | Participate in regional economic development planning with representatives from surrounding townships, cities, the county and business interests to:a. Estimate commercial/industrial needs among all jurisdictions.b. Jointly implement recommendations to stage highway/auto-oriented commercial development  |  |  |
| [9.3](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81794) |  | Adopt infrastructure design standards that protect the economic and ecologic functions of the highway corridor through clustering of development, native plantings and incorporating access management standards. |  |  |
| [9.4](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81795) |  | Adopt development policies for large-format developments, zoning for auto-oriented commercial districts at the sub-urban edge and/or in tightly defined and smaller urban development corridors/nodes that have some bike/walk/transit access. |  |  |
| Best Practice 10: Design for Natural Resource ConservationBP 10 Completed? **NO** Total BP actions completed: **0** |
| **Best Practice Action:**  | **Completed:***(Star Level out of three stars)* | **Action Description:** *(View on GreenStep Website for full description)*  | **Action Summary:** *(Provided by GreenStep Staff)* | **Date of Last Entry:** |
| [10.1](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81797) |  | Conduct a Natural Resource Inventory or Assessment (NRI or NRA); incorporate protection of priority natural systems or resources such as groundwater through the subdivision or development process. |  |  |
| [10.2](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81797) |  | For cities outside or on the fringe of metropolitan areas, conduct a build-out analysis, fiscal impact study, or adopt an urban growth boundary and a consistent capital improvement plan that provides long-term protection of natural resources and natural systems, and agricultural practices outside the boundary. |  |  |
| [10.3](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81799) |  | For cities within metropolitan areas, incorporate woodland best management practices addressing protection of wooded areas into zoning or development review. |  |  |
| [10.4](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81800) |  | Adopt a conservation design policy; use a conservation design tool for pre-design meetings with developers and for negotiating development agreements in cities with undeveloped natural resource areas. |  |  |
| [10.5](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81801) |  | Preserve environmentally sensitive, community-valued land by placing a conservation easement on city lands, and by encouraging/funding private landowners to place land in conservation easements. |  |  |
| [10.6](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81920) |  | Conserve natural, cultural, historic resources by adopting or amending city codes and ordinances to support sustainable sites, including roadsides, and environmentally protective land use development. |  |  |
| [10.7](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81919) |  | Receive recognition under the Bird City Minnesota, Bee City USA, or Community Wildlife Habitat program. |  |  |

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| Transportation[**BP 11**: Living & Complete Streets](#_Best_Practice_11:)[**BP 12**: Mobility Options](#_Best_Practice_12:)[**BP 13**: Efficient City Fleets](#_Best_Practice_13:)[**BP 14**: Demand-Side Travel Planning](#_Best_Practice_14:) |
| Best Practice 11: Living & Complete StreetsBP 11 Completed? **NO** Total BP actions completed: **0** |
| **Best Practice Action:**  | **Completed:***(Star Level out of three stars)* | **Action Description:** *(View on GreenStep Website for full description)*  | **Action Summary:** *(Provided by GreenStep Staff)* | **Date of Last Entry:** |
| [11.1](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-detail/81723) |  | Adopt a complete streets policy, or a living streets policy, which addresses landscaping and stormwater. |  |  |
| [11.2](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81803) |  | Adopt zoning language or approve a skinny street/development project that follows green street and/or walkable streets principles. |  |  |
| [11.3](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81804) |  | Modify a street in compliance with the city's complete streets policy. |  |  |
| [11.4](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81805) |  | Identify, prioritize, and remedy complete streets gaps and lack of connectivity/safety within your road network by, for example, bike/pedestrian plan, adding a bike route/lane, truck route, sidewalk, or mid-block alley. |  |  |
| [11.5](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81806) |  | Identify and remedy street-trail gaps between city streets and off-road trails/bike trails to better facilitate walking and biking. |  |  |
| [11.6](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81807) |  | Implement traffic calming policy/measures, including lane conversions (road diets), roundabouts, low-speed streets, shared space, and depaving in at least one street redevelopment project. |  |  |
| Best Practice 12: Mobility OptionsBP 12 Completed? **NO** Total BP actions completed: **0** |
| **Best Practice Action:**  | **Completed:***(Star Level out of three stars)* | **Action Description:** *(View on GreenStep Website for full description)*  | **Action Summary:** *(Provided by GreenStep Staff)* | **Date of Last Entry:** |
| [12.1](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81808) |  | Increase walking, biking and transit by following recommendations on GreenStep website.  |  |  |
| [12.2](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81809) |  | Conduct an Active Living campaign such as a Safe Routes to School program. |  |  |
| [12.3](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81810) |  | Prominently identify mobility options: transit; paratransit/Dial-A-Ride; ridesharing/cab services; rental cars; bikes; airports. |  |  |
| [12.4](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81811) |  | Promote carpooling or ridesharing among community members, city employees, businesses, high schools and institutions of higher education. |  |  |
| [12.5](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81812) |  | Implement workplace multi-modal transportation best management practices - including telework/flexwork - in city government, businesses or at a local health care provider. |  |  |
| [12.6](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81813) |  | Add/expand transit service, or promote car/bike sharing. |  |  |
| Best Practice 13: Efficient City FleetsBP 13 Completed? **NO** Total BP actions completed: **0** |
| **Best Practice Action:**  | **Completed:***(Star Level out of three stars)* | **Action Description:** *(View on GreenStep Website for full description)*  | **Action Summary:** *(Provided by GreenStep Staff)* | **Date of Last Entry:** |
| [13.1](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81814) |  | Efficiently use your existing fleet of city vehicles by encouraging trip bundling, video conferencing, carpooling, vehicle sharing and incentives/technology. |  |  |
| [13.2](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81815) |  | Right-size/down-size the city fleet with the most fuel-efficient vehicles that are of an optimal size and capacity for their intended functions. |  |  |
| [13.3](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81816) |  | Phase-in operational changes, equipment changes including electric vehicles, and no-idling practices for city or local transit fleets. |  |  |
| [13.4](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81817) |  | Phase in bike, e-bike, foot or horseback modes for police, inspectors and other city staff. |  |  |
| [13.5](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81818) |  | Document that the local school bus fleet has optimized routes, start times, boundaries, vehicle efficiency and fuels, driver actions to cut costs including idling reduction, and shifting students from the bus to walking, biking and city transit. |  |  |
| [13.6](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81819) |  | Retrofit city diesel engines or install auxiliary power units and/or electrified parking spaces, utilizing Project GreenFleet or the like. |  |  |
| Best Practice 14: Demand-Side Travel PlanningBP 14 Completed? **NO**  Total BP actions completed: **0** |
| **Best Practice Action:**  | **Completed:***(Star Level out of three stars)* | **Action Description:** *(View on GreenStep Website for full description)*  | **Action Summary:** *(Provided by GreenStep Staff)* | **Date of Last Entry:** |
| [14.1](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81820) |  | Reduce or eliminate parking minimums; add parking maximums; develop district parking; install meters and charge for parking at curb and city-owned lots/ramps. |  |  |
| [14.2](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81821) |  | For cities with regular transit service, require or provide incentives for the siting of retail services at transit/density nodes. |  |  |
| [14.3](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81822) |  | For cities with regular transit service, require or provide incentives for the siting of higher density housing at transit/density nodes. |  |  |
| [14.4](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81823) |  | Require new developments or redevelopments to prepare a travel demand management plan or transit-oriented development standards or LEED for Neighborhood Development certification. |  |  |
| Environmental Management[**BP 15**: Sustainable Purchasing](#_Best_Practice_15:)[**BP 16**: Community Forests and Soil](#_Best_Practice_16:)[**BP 17**: Stormwater Management](#_Best_Practice_17:)[**BP 18**: Parks and Trails](#_Best_Practice_18:)[**BP 19**: Surface Water](#_Best_Practice_19:)[**BP 20**: Efficient Water and Wastewater Systems](#_Best_Practice_20:)[**BP 21**: Septic Systems](#_Best_Practice_21:)[**BP 22**: Sustainable Consumption and Waste](#_Best_Practice_22:)[**BP 23**: Local Air Quality](#_Best_Practice_23:) |
| Best Practice 15: Sustainable PurchasingBP 15 Completed? **NO**  Total BP actions completed: **0** |
| **Best Practice Action:**  | **Completed:***(Star Level out of three stars)* | **Action Description:** *(View on GreenStep Website for full description)*  | **Action Summary:** *(Provided by GreenStep Staff)* | **Date of Last Entry:** |
| [15.1](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81825) |  | Adopt a sustainable purchasing policy or administrative guidelines/practices directing that the city purchase at least:a. EnergyStar and EPEAT certified equipment and appliances.b. Paper containing post-consumer recycled content. |  |  |
| [15.2](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81826) |  | Purchase energy used by city government - via the municipal utility, green tags, community solar garden, 3rd party - with a higher renewable percentage than required by Minnesota law. |  |  |
| [15.3](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81827) |  | Establish purchasing preferences that support local, Minority, Disability, and Women-Owned businesses and, working with a local business association, develop a list of locally-produced products and suppliers for common purchases. |  |  |
| [15.4](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81828) |  | Require purchase of U.S. EPA WaterSense-certified products. |  |  |
| [15.5](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81829) |  | Set minimum sustainability standards to reduce the impact of your concrete use, asphalt, roadbed aggregate, or other construction materials. |  |  |
| [15.6](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81830) |  | Require printing services to be purchased from companies participating in Printing Industry Midwest’s Great Green Printer initiative, or certified by the Sustainable Green Printing Partnership. |  |  |
| [15.7](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81831) |  | Lower the environmental footprint of meetings and events in the city. |  |  |
| [15.8](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81832) |  | Use national green standards/guidelines for purchasing/investments such as cleaning products, furniture, flooring/coatings.  |  |  |
| Best Practice 16: Community Forests and SoilBP 16 Completed? **YES** Total BP actions completed: **2** |
| **Best Practice Action:**  | **Completed:***(Star Level out of three stars)* | **Action Description:** *(View on GreenStep Website for full description)*  | **Action Summary:** *(Provided by GreenStep Staff)* | **Date of Last Entry:** |
| [16.1](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81833) | ★ | Certify as a Tree City USA. | First certified as a Tree City in 1989. | 12/20/2012 |
| [16.2](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81834) |  | Adopt best practices for urban tree planting/quality; require them in private developments and/or use them in at least one development project. |  |  |
| [16.3](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81835) |  | Budget for and achieve resilient urban canopy/tree planting goals. |  |  |
| [16.4](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81836) |  | Maximize tree planting along your main downtown street or throughout the city. |  |  |
| [16.5](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81837) |  | Adopt a tree preservation or native landscaping ordinance. |  |  |
| [16.6](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81906) | ★★ | Build community capacity to protect existing trees by one or more of:a. Having trained tree specialists.b. Supporting volunteer forestry efforts.c. Adopting an EAB/forest management plan or climate adaptation plan for the urban forest. | The City of Grand Rapids currently have two certified tree inspectors. One staff is also a member of the International Society of Arboriculture:Kelly Morris Mn. Dept. of Natural Resources Certified Tree inspector.#20064920 Kelly Morris International Society of Arboriculture #MN-4041AJim Columbus Mn. Dept of Natural Resources Certified Tree Inspector #20073056 | 1/3/2013 |
| [16.7](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/101876) |  | Conduct a tree inventory or canopy study for public and private trees. |  |  |
| Best Practice 17: Stormwater ManagementBP 17 Completed? **YES**  Total BP actions completed: **3** |
| **Best Practice Action:**  | **Completed:***(Star Level out of three stars)* | **Action Description:** *(View on GreenStep Website for full description)*  | **Action Summary:** *(Provided by GreenStep Staff)* | **Date of Last Entry:** |
| [17.1](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81840) |  | Adopt and use Minnesota's Minimal Impact Design Standards (MIDS). |  |  |
| [17.2](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81838) | ★★★ | Complete the GreenStep Municipal Stormwater Management Assessment. | The City of Grand Rapids has been recognized on the Leader Board of the Blue Star Award program. | 6/21/2012 |
| [17.3](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81839) | ★★ | Adopt by ordinance one or more stormwater infiltration/management strategies to reduce impervious surface. | The City's Stormwater Utility Ordinance combines 1.5-inch rainfall on-site rainwater infiltration design requirement for construction sites and a stormwater runoff volume limit to pre-development volumes for the 5-year, 24-hour rainfall maximum event. | 6/21/2012 |
| [17.4](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81841) | ★★ | Create a stormwater utility that uses variable fees to incentivize stormwater infiltration, minimize the volume of and pollutants in runoff, and educate property owners and renters on the importance of managing stormwater runoff. | The City's stormwater utility fees are variable on residential, multi-family, institutional, commercial and industrial parcels. Fees are variable on all parcels with the exception of residential. | 6/21/2012 |
| [17.5](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81842) |  | Adopt and implement guidelines or design standards/incentives for stormwater infiltration/reuse practices. |  |  |
| [17.6](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81843) |  | Reduce de-icing and dust suppressant salt use to prevent permanent surface water and groundwater pollution. |  |  |
| Best Practice 18: Parks and TrailsBP 18 Completed? **YES** Total BP actions completed: **3** |
| **Best Practice Action:**  | **Completed:***(Star Level out of three stars)* | **Action Description:** *(View on GreenStep Website for full description)*  | **Action Summary:** *(Provided by GreenStep Staff)* | **Date of Last Entry:** |
| [18.1](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81844) | ★★★ | Make improvements within your city's system of parks, offroad trails and open spaces. | Improvements to the sidewalk system around Southwest Elementary School were made using solar-powered crosswalk signs, a pedestrian bridge, and 1.5 miles of paths to connect the school and Grussendorf Park to the neighborhoods in the SW quadrant of town.Over 4 miles of paved trails were developed to connect the Horseshow Lake/Isleview area of road pedestrian travel to the amenities of Grand Rapids.North Pokegama Ave and 1st Ave NE sidewalks were connected with a third sidewalks to increase connectivity to Crystal Lake Park.The SW, SE, and NE quadrants of the city were connected with paths, including over major highways, the Mississippi River, and the BNSF railroad.The Mesabi Trail begins in Grand Rapids, continues for over 150 miles, and connects 25 communities. |  |
| [18.2](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81845) |  | Plan and budget for a network of parks, green spaces, water features and trails for areas where new development is planned. |  |  |
| [18.3](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81846) | ★★★ | Achieve minimum levels of city green space and maximize the percent within a ten-minute walk of community members. | The city of Grand Rapids contains 15,613 acres. Inside the city limits there are 23 parks containing 226.4 acres, nearly 1400 acres of lakes and rivers and countless acres of county tax forfeit land. This is nearly 22.6 acres per 1000 residents based on parks alone and a city population of 10,000. All city residents are within one half mile of park, river or lake. |  |
| [18.4](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81847) |  | Adopt low-impact design standards in parks and trails that infiltrate or retain all 2 inch, 24-hour stormwater events on site. |  |  |
| [18.5](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81848) |  | Create park/city land management standards/practices that maximize at least one of the following:a. Low maintenance turf management; native landscaping; organic or integrated pest management; pollinator/monarch-safe policies.b. Recycling/compostables collection; use of compost as a soil amendment.c. Sources of nonpotable water, or surface/rain water, for irrigation. |  |  |
| [18.6](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81849) |  | Certify at least one golf course in the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program. |  |  |
| [18.7](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81850) |  | Document that the operation and maintenance, or construction / remodeling, of at least one park building used an asset management tool, the SB 2030 energy standard, or a green building framework. |  |  |
| [18.8](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81851) | ★ | Develop a program to involve community members in hands-on land restoration, invasive species management and stewardship projects. | Established as a subcommittee under the Economic Development Committee, the Mississippi River Front Committee was established in January of 2010. The group is responsible for the clean-up of trash along the banks of the Mississippi with in the city limits of Grand Rapids. | 12/13/2012 |
| Best Practice 19: Surface WaterBP 19 Completed? **NO** Total BP actions completed: **0** |
| **Best Practice Action:**  | **Completed:***(Star Level out of three stars)* | **Action Description:** *(View on GreenStep Website for full description)*  | **Action Summary:** *(Provided by GreenStep Staff)* | **Date of Last Entry:** |
| [19.1](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/93541) |  | Consistently monitor surface water quality/clarity and report findings to community members. |  |  |
| [19.2](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81852) |  | Conduct or support multi-party community conversations, assessments, plans and actions around improving local water quality and quantity. |  |  |
| [19.3](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81853) |  | Adopt and publicly report on measurable surface water improvement targets for lake, river, wetland and ditches. |  |  |
| [19.4](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81854) |  | Adopt a shoreland ordinance for all river and lake shoreland areas. |  |  |
| [19.5](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81909) |  | Adopt goals to revegetate shoreland and create a local program or outreach effort to help property owners with revegetation. |  |  |
| [19.6](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81910) |  | Implement an existing TMDL implementation plan. |  |  |
| [19.7](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81911) |  | Create/assist a Lake Improvement District. |  |  |
| [19.8](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/101661) |  | Reduce flooding damage and costs through the National Flood Insurance Programs and the NFIP’s Community Rating System. |  |  |
| Best Practice 20: Efficient Water and Wastewater SystemsBP 20 Completed? **NO** Total BP actions completed: **0** |
| **Best Practice Action:**  | **Completed:***(Star Level out of three stars)* | **Action Description:** *(View on GreenStep Website for full description)*  | **Action Summary:** *(Provided by GreenStep Staff)* | **Date of Last Entry:** |
| [20.1](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-detail/81731) |  | Compare the energy use and financial performance of your facilities with other peer facilities using standardized, free tools. |  |  |
| [20.2](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81856) |  | Plan and budget for motor maintenance and upgrades to assure the most energy efficient, durable and appropriate equipment is available when upgrades or breakdowns occur. |  |  |
| [20.3](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81857) |  | Establish an on-going budget and program for decreasing inflow and infiltration into sewer lines and losses in drinking water systems. |  |  |
| [20.4](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81858) |  | Optimize energy and chemical use at drinking water/wastewater facilities and decrease chloride in wastewater discharges. |  |  |
| [20.6](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81859) |  | 6. Implement a wastewater plant efficiency project (co-generation, water reuse) or a program for local private business operations (water conservation, water reuse, business co-location). |  |  |
| [20.7](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81907) |  | Create a demand-side pricing program to reduce demands on water and wastewater systems. |  |  |
| Best Practice 21: Septic SystemsBP 21 Completed? **NO**  Total BP actions completed: **0** |
| **Best Practice Action:**  | **Completed:***(Star Level out of three stars)* | **Action Description:** *(View on GreenStep Website for full description)*  | **Action Summary:** *(Provided by GreenStep Staff)* | **Date of Last Entry:** |
| [21.1](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81860) |  | Report to landowners suspected noncompliant or failing septic systems as part of an educational, informational and financial assistance and outreach program. |  |  |
| [21.2](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81861) |  | Use a community process to address failing septic systems. |  |  |
| [21.3](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81862) |  | Clarify/establish one or more responsible management entities (RMEs) for the proper design, siting, installation, operation, monitoring and maintenance of septic systems. |  |  |
| [21.4](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81863) |  | Adopt a subsurface sewage treatment system ordinance based on the Association of Minnesota Counties' model ordinance. |  |  |
| [21.5](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81864) |  | Create a program to finance septic system upgrades. |  |  |
| [21.6](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81865) |  | Work with homeowners and businesses in environmentally sensitive areas and areas where standard septic systems are not the least-cost option to promote innovative waste water systems, including central sewer extensions. |  |  |
| [21.7](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81866) |  | Arrange for assistance to commercial, retail and industrial businesses with water use reduction, pollution prevention and pretreatment prior to discharge to septics. |  |  |
| Best Practice 22: Sustainable Consumption and WasteBP 22 Completed? **YES**  Total BP actions completed: **2** |
| **Best Practice Action:**  | **Completed:***(Star Level out of three stars)* | **Action Description:** *(View on GreenStep Website for full description)*  | **Action Summary:** *(Provided by GreenStep Staff)* | **Date of Last Entry:** |
| [22.1](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81867) | ★ | Improve city operations and procurement to prevent and reuse, recycle and compost waste from all public facilities (including libraries, parks, schools, municipal health care facilities), and minimize use of toxics and generation of hazardous waste. | The City of Grand Rapids has gone to paperless agenda packets for the City Council and Planning Commission. The Legistar software was purchased in an effort to reduce the amount of paper used to create agenda packets. The packets are all generated electronically and emailed out to the City Council and Planning Commission. | 1/3/2013 |
| [22.2](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81868) |  | Address concerns over consumer products and packaging through education, reuse options, recycling/composting options, credits, fees, mandates or bans.  |  |  |
| [22.3](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81869) |  | Improve profitability, legal compliance and conserve resources through adoption of ordinance language, licensing and resource management contracts. |  |  |
| [22.4](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81870) |  | Publicize, promote and use the varied businesses/services collecting and marketing used, repaired and rental consumer goods, especially electronics, in the city/county. |  |  |
| [22.5](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81871) |  | Arrange for a residential and/or business/institutional source-separated organics collection/management program. |  |  |
| [22.6](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81872) |  | Improve recycling services and expand to multi-unit housing and commercial businesses. |  |  |
| [22.7](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81873) | ★ | Improve/organize residential trash, recycling and organics collection by private and/or public operations and offer significant volume-based pricing on residential garbage and/or incentives for recycling. | In August 2012 a contract was signed with Waste Management for garbage removal and recyclable materials. Using a 64-gallon cart, recycling volumes have increased typically 35%-40%. Additionally, trash volume has decreased between 18% to23%. By reducing the trash volume, residents are often able to downsize to a smaller trash container, enabling a further reduction in their monthly rate. | 12/20/2012 |
| [22.8](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81874) |  | Adopt a construction and demolition (C&D) ordinance governing demolition permits that requires a level of recycling and reuse for building materials and soil/land-clearing debris. |  |  |
| Best Practice 23: Local Air QualityBP 23 Completed? **NO** Total BP actions completed: **0** |
| **Best Practice Action:**  | **Completed:***(Star Level out of three stars)* | **Action Description:** *(View on GreenStep Website for full description)*  | **Action Summary:** *(Provided by GreenStep Staff)* | **Date of Last Entry:** |
| [23.1](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81875) |  | Replace small internal combustion engine lawn and garden equipment (e.g. lawnmowers, weed whips, etc.) with lower polluting equipment. |  |  |
| [23.2](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81876) |  | Reduce residential burning of wood and yard waste and eliminate ‘backyard’ trash burning. |  |  |
| [23.3](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81877) |  | Decrease air emissions from vehicle idling, business trucking, and pollutants/noise from stationary engines/back-up generators. |  |  |
| [23.5](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81877) |  | Install, assist with, and promote publicly available EV charging stations or public fueling stations for alternative fuel vehicles. |  |  |
| Resilient Economic and Community Development[**BP 24**: Benchmarks and Community Engagement](#_Best_Practice_24:)[**BP 25**: Green Business Development](#_Best_Practice_25:)[**BP 26**: Renewable Energy](#_Best_Practice_26:)[**BP 27**: Local Food](#_Best_Practice_27:)[**BP 28**: Business Synergies and Ecodistricts](#_Best_Practice_28:)[**BP 29**: Climate Adaptation and Community Resilience](#_Best_Practice_29:) |
| Best Practice 24: Benchmarks and Community EngagementBP 24 Completed? **NO** Total BP actions completed: **0** |
| **Best Practice Action:**  | **Completed:***(Star Level out of three stars)* | **Action Description:** *(View on GreenStep Website for full description)*  | **Action Summary:** *(Provided by GreenStep Staff)* | **Date of Last Entry:** |
| [24.1](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81880) |  | Use a city commission or committee to lead, coordinate, report to and engage community members on the identification and equitable implementation of sustainability best practices. |  |  |
| [24.2](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81881) |  | Organize goals/outcome measures from all city plans (social, environmental, economic) and report to community members data that show progress toward meeting these goals. |  |  |
| [24.3](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81882) |  | Engage community members and partners in identifying, measuring, and reporting progress on key sustainability and social indicators. |  |  |
| [24.4](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81883) |  | Conduct or support a broad sustainability education and action campaign, building on existing city & community relationships, networks & events  |  |  |
| [24.5](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81884) |  | Conduct a community visioning and planning initiative that engages a diverse set of community members & stakeholders and uses a sustainability, resilience, or environmental justice framework. |  |  |
| [24.6](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81923) |  | Engage wide representation of community youth and college students by creating opportunities to participate in city government (including commissions). |  |  |
| [24.7](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/101611) |  | Engage Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC), renters, low-income, new Americans, differently abled and other traditionally under-represented community members by encouragement, and support to participate in current and new opportunities in city government. |  |  |
| Best Practice 25: Green Business DevelopmentBP 25 Completed? **NO**  Total BP actions completed: **0** |
| **Best Practice Action:**  | **Completed:***(Star Level out of three stars)* | **Action Description:** *(View on GreenStep Website for full description)*  | **Action Summary:** *(Provided by GreenStep Staff)* | **Date of Last Entry:** |
| [25.1](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81885) |  | Grow new/emerging green businesses and green jobs through targeted assistance and new workforce development. |  |  |
| [25.2](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81886) |  | Create or participate in a marketing/outreach program to connect businesses with assistance providers, including utilities, who provide personalized energy, waste or sustainability audits and assistance. |  |  |
| [25.3](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81887) |  | Promote sustainable tourism in your city, and green tourism resources to tourism and hospitality businesses in/around the city. |  |  |
| [25.4](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81888) |  | Strengthen value-added businesses utilizing local "waste" material. |  |  |
| [25.5](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81889) |  | Lower the environmental and health risk footprint of a brownfield remediation/redevelopment project beyond regulatory requirements; report brightfield projects. |  |  |
| [25.6](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81890) |  | Promote green businesses that are recognized under a local, regional or national program. |  |  |
| [25.7](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81891) |  | Conduct or participate in a buy local campaign for community members and local businesses. |  |  |
| Best Practice 26: Renewable EnergyBP 26 Completed? **NO** Total BP actions completed: **0** |
| **Best Practice Action:**  | **Completed:***(Star Level out of three stars)* | **Action Description:** *(View on GreenStep Website for full description)*  | **Action Summary:** *(Provided by GreenStep Staff)* | **Date of Last Entry:** |
| [26.1](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81892) |  | Adopt wind energy and/or biomass ordinances that allow, enable, or encourage appropriate renewable energy installations. |  |  |
| [26.2](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81893) |  | Promote resident/business purchases and/or generation of clean energy. |  |  |
| [26.3](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81894) |  | Promote financing and incentive programs, such as PACE, for clean energy |  |  |
| [26.4](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81895) |  | Support a community solar garden or help community members participate in a community solar project.  |  |  |
| [26.5](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81896) |  | Install a public sector/municipally-owned renewable energy technology, such as solar electric (PV), wind, biomass, solar hot water/air, or micro-hydro. |  |  |
| [26.6](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81897) |  | Report installed private sector-owned renewable energy/energy efficient generation capacity. |  |  |
| [26.7](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81908) |  | Become a solar-ready community, including adopting ordinance/zoning language and an expedited permit process for residents and businesses to install solar energy systems. |  |  |
| Best Practice 27: Local FoodBP 27 Completed? **NO**  Total BP actions completed: **0** |
| **Best Practice Action:**  | **Completed:***(Star Level out of three stars)* | **Action Description:** *(View on GreenStep Website for full description)*  | **Action Summary:** *(Provided by GreenStep Staff)* | **Date of Last Entry:** |
| [27.1](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81898) |  | Incorporate working landscapes - agriculture and forestry - into the city by adopting an ordinance. |  |  |
| [27.2](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81899) |  | Facilitate creation of home/community gardens, chicken & bee keeping, and incorporation of food growing areas/access in multifamily and residential developments. |  |  |
| [27.3](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81900) |  | Create, assist with, and promote local food production/distribution within the city. |  |  |
| [27.4](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81901) |  | Measurably increase institutional buying, and sales through groceries and restaurants. |  |  |
| Best Practice 28: Business Synergies and EcodistrictsBP 28 Completed? **YES**  Total BP actions completed: **1** |
| **Best Practice Action:**  | **Completed:***(Star Level out of three stars)* | **Action Description:** *(View on GreenStep Website for full description)*  | **Action Summary:** *(Provided by GreenStep Staff)* | **Date of Last Entry:** |
| [28.2](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81903) | ★★ | Document that at least one business/building uses waste heat or water discharge from another business or conducts materials exchange activities with another organization. | In January 2012 the City of Grand Rapids began using waste hot water from paper production at the Blandin Paper Mill to heat the Grand Rapids Public Library. This was accomplished by constructing a new building to house a wide-gap plate heat exchanger, which transfers the heat from the wastewater to the glycol, which circulates through the library. This project has reduced natural gas consumption by nearly 70%. | 1/3/2013 |
| [28.3](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81904) |  | Require, build or facilitate at least four sustainability attributes in a business/industrial park project. |  |  |
| [28.4](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81905) |  | Use 21st century ecodistrict tools to structure, guide and link multiple green and sustainable projects together in a mixed-use neighborhood/development, or innovation district, aiming to deliver superior social, environmental and economic outcomes. |  |  |
| Best Practice 29: Climate Adaptation and Community ResilienceBP 29 Completed? **NO** Total BP actions completed: **0** |
| **Best Practice Action:**  | **Completed:***(Star Level out of three stars)* | **Action Description:** *(View on GreenStep Website for full description)*  | **Action Summary:** *(Provided by GreenStep Staff)* | **Date of Last Entry:** |
| [29.1](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81912) |  | Prepare to maintain public health and safety during extreme weather and climate-change-related events, while also taking a preventive approach to reduce risk for community members. |  |  |
| [29.2](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81913) |  | Integrate climate resilience into city or tribal planning, policy, operations, and budgeting processes. |  |  |
| [29.3](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81914) |  | Increase social connectedness through engagement, capacity building, public investment, and opportunities for economically vulnerable residents to improve their economic prosperity and resilience to climate change. |  |  |
| [29.4](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81915) |  | Encourage private sector action and incentivize investment in preventive approaches that reduce risk and minimize impacts of extreme weather and the changing climate for human health and the built environment. |  |  |
| [29.5](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81916) |  | Protect public buildings and natural/constructed infrastructure to reduce physical damage and sustain their function during extreme weather events. |  |  |
| [29.6](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81917) |  | Reduce the urban heat impacts of public buildings, sites, and infrastructure and provide resiliency co-benefits. |  |  |
| [29.7](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81918) |  | Protect water supply and wastewater treatment facilities to reduce physical damage and sustain their function during extreme weather events. |  |  |
| [29.8](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81922) |  | Improve local energy resilience by minimizing fuel poverty, installing distributed renewable energy systems, and developing microgrids that can improve energy system resiliency. |  |  |