Updated Feb. 2023

2023 GreenStep Step 4 & 5 Performance Metrics

In order to receive Step 4 recognition for a given year, communities report, by April 1 via a Snap Survey link emailed to them, all the data elements in all of the CORE metrics listed in the table below, along with additional metrics chosen by the city or tribal nation depending on their GreenStep Category. Category A, B and C communities, respectively, report an additional 5, 3, or no metrics. Metric elements marked in green below are considered "eligible metric elements" for Step 5 recognition. Communities that report, by April 1, improvement in any three of these eligible metric elements receive recognition for Step 5. Communities that report all data for all the metric elements in blue will have their city operational greenhouse gas number automatically calculated. Learn more about Step 4 and Step 5 at https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/page/steps-4-and-5.

LEED for Cities and Communities Alignment with GreenStep Step 4/5 Metrics

Like the GreenStep Cities metrics, certification is available through the national LEED for Cities & Communities program. Many of the metrics in the GreenStep program and the credits for the LEED program cover the same or similar topic areas. In an effort to reduce reporting efforts for communities pursing both GreenStep Cities and LEED for Cities or Communities certification, this document aims to identify the areas of overlap or different requirements of each program.

About LEED for Cities and Communities:

LEED for Cities and Communities helps local leaders create and operationalize responsible, sustainable and specific plans for natural systems, energy, water, waste, transportation and many other factors that contribute to quality of life—revolutionizing the way cities and communities are planned, developed and operated to improve their overall sustainability and quality of life.

The LEED framework encompasses social, economic and environmental performance indicators and strategies with a clear, data-driven means of benchmarking and communicating progress.

Key:

GreenStep metrics meet LEED for Cities & Communities reporting requirements (or involve a very simple calculation to do so).	GreenStep metrics provide some information for LEED for Cities & Communities reporting requirements and will assist in further documentation necessary for meeting criteria.

NOTE: Some GreenStep metrics may have alignment with multiple LEED for Cities & Communities credits. See the LEED for Cities & Communities and GreenStep Cities & Tribal Nations Crosswalk for more detailed information.

Metric #1: City Building & Lighting CORE METRIC

			LEED for Cities Criteria
1.1	**kBTU per square foot, per year:**	**kBTU/ft2-year**	IP Credit: Green Building Policy and Incentives - Option 3
1.2	Dollars spent on energy per square foot, per year:	$/ft2-year	
1.3	Ratio of actual energy use to predicted energy use:	Actual:Predicted	
A. CO2e	Electricity consumption for all buildings	kWh/Year	IP Credit: Green Building Policy and Incentives - Option 3
B. CO2e	Natural gas consumption for all buildings	Therms/Year	
1.4	**Street lights owned by the city & utility**	**% LEDs**	EN Credit: Energy Efficiency – Option 1
1.5	Traffic Signals:	% LEDs	
1.6	City buildings and property:	% LEDs	
C. CO2e	Electricity consumption for streetlights and traffic signals	kWh/Year	

Metric #2: Green Buildings OPTIONAL METRIC

Public Buildings:

2.1	**Number of city-owned green certified buildings:**	**Number of buildings**	IP Credit: Green Building Policy and Incentives - Option 1
2.2	Identify specific green building frameworks that have been used for city-owned buildings (e.g. LEED, ENERGY STAR®, etc.):	Program	
2.2a	How many buildings were rated under this program?	Number of buildings	
2.2b	If second rating program was used, enter its name here:	Program	
2.2c	How many buildings were rated under this program?	Number of buildings	
2.2d	List any other green energy building programs that were used and how many buildings were rated under each:	Program	
2.3	Municipal green square footage completed last year:	Square Feet	
2.4	Percent of new municipal square footage that was green building certified in the last year:	%	

Private Buildings:

2.5	**Number of private green certified buildings:**	**Number of buildings**	IP Credit: Green Building Policy and Incentives - Option 3
2.6	Identify specific green building frameworks that have been used for private buildings (e.g. LEED, ENERGY STAR, etc.):	Program	
2.6a	How many buildings were rated under this program?	Number of buildings	
2.6b	If second rating program was used, enter its name here:	Program	
2.6c	How many buildings were rated under this program?	Number of buildings	
2.6d	Enter any other green energy building programs that were used and how many buildings were rated under each:	Program	
2.7	Enter the private green square footage completed last year:	Square Feet	
2.8	Percent of new private square footage that was green building certified in the last year:	%	

Metric #3: City Fleets CORE METRIC

3.1	Annual vehicle miles traveled (VMT) for gasoline fleet:	Miles per year	
3.2	**Average miles per gallon for gasoline fleet**	**Miles per gallon**	
3.3	Annual vehicle miles traveled for diesel fleet	Miles per year	
3.4	**Average miles per gallon for diesel fleet**	**Miles per gallon**	
3.5	Number of city-owned/leased electric vehicles in city fleet	Number of EVs	
D. CO2e	Gallons of diesel consumed	Gallons/Year	
E. CO2e	Gallons of gasoline consumed	Gallons/Year	
F. CO2e	Gallons of e85 consumed	Gallons/Year	

Metric #4: Infrastructure for Walking and Biking OPTIONAL METRIC

4.1	Miles of new or reconstructed sidewalks & trails completed in the past year	Miles of sidewalk & trails	TR Credit: Compact, Mixed Use and Transit Oriented Development
4.2	**Percentage of housing within 1 mile of a bicycle route**	**%**	
4.3a	Walk Score for your city or downtown	Walk score	
4.3b	Transit Score for your city or downtown	Transit score	

4.3c	Bike Score for your city or downtown	Bike score	

Metric #5: Car, Transit and Bike Options OPTIONAL METRIC

5.1	**Number of public electric vehicle charging station plugs:**	**Number of plugs**	TR Credit: Alternative Fuel Vehicles – Option 1
5.2	Number of public alternative fueling stations (e.g. e85, CNG):	Number of stations	TR Credit: Alternative Fuel Vehicles – Option 2

Shared Services:

5.3	Does your city have a bike sharing service? Enter yes or no:	Yes or No	
5.4	Does your city enable car or ride-sharing services? Enter yes or no:	Yes or No	
5.5	Number of telecommuting businesses/services:	Number of services	
5.6	Is the city served by weekday transit? Enter yes or no:	Yes or No	TR Credit: Access to Quality Transit – Option 3
5.7	Does the city have structured transit routes? Enter yes or no:	Yes or No	
5.8	Percent of housing units within 3/4 miles of transit routes:	%	TR Credit: Compact, Mixed Use and Transit Oriented Development

Metric #6: Transportation Miles & Modes CORE for Category A & B Cities; OPTIONAL for Category C Cities

Vehicle Miles Traveled:

6.1	**City population: Vehicle miles traveled/person, per day:**	**Miles/person/day**	TR Prerequisite: Transportation Performance
6.2	**City employees in single occupancy vehicles: Vehicle miles traveled per person, per day – round trip:**	**Miles/person/day**	
6.3	City population: mean travel time to work (one-way)	Minutes	
6.4	Percent of city employees commuting fewer than 20 minutes:	%	

Transportation Mode of Commuters:

6.5	Percent who "drove alone":	%	TR Credit: Access to Quality Transit
6.6	Percent using a "carpool":	%	
6.7	Percent using "public transportation":	%	
6.8	Percent who "walk":	%	
6.8a	Percent "bicycling"	%	
6.9	Percent who "worked at home":	%	

Metric #7: Land use OPTIONAL METRIC

7.1	Percent of land within commercial/mixed zoning districts built with a FAR at/above 1.0	%	
7.2	Percent of land within residential or mixed zoning districts with dwelling units per acre at/above 7.0	%	
7.3	Net Tax Capacity	Dollars per acre	
7.4a	Location affordability index number: housing + transportation	Index number	QL Credit: Housing and Transportation Affordability – Option 2
7.4b	Location affordability index number: housing	Index number	
7.5	Acres of new development on previously developed land	Acres	TL Credit: High-Priority Site – Option 2
7.6	**New affordable housing units added as a percent of all new housing units**	**%**	QL Credit: Housing and Transportation Affordability – Option 3

Metric #8: Open Space, Parks, Trees CORE METRIC

8.1	Percent of total city acres in open space:	%	NS Credit: Green Spaces
8.2	Acres of parkland:	Acres	
8.3	Percent of housing within 1/2 mile (a 10 minute walk) of parkland:	%	
8.4	Percent canopy coverage:	%	NR Prerequisite: Ecosystem Assessment
8.5	Three most prevalent tree species (by percent genus):	Genus	
8.5a	What percent of canopy coverage is made up by the most prevalent genus?	%	

8.5b	What percent of canopy coverage is made up by the second most prevalent genus?	%	
8.5c	What percent of canopy coverage is made up by the third most prevalent genus?	%	
8.6	**Net number of new trees planted:**	**Number of trees**	
8.6a	Percent of 8.6 trees that are "likely to thrive"	%	

Metric #9: Storm Water CORE METRIC

9.1	**Assessment number from the GreenStep Municipal Stormwater Management Assessment**	**%**	WE Credit: Stormwater Management – Option 2
9.2	**Climate Adaptation Stormwater Score** [collected with 9.1]	**%**	

Metric #10: Drinking Water OPTIONAL METRIC

10.1	**Residential gallons used per person per day**	**Gallons/person/ day**	WE Prerequisite: Water Performance
10.2	**Non-residential gallons used per job per day**	**Gallons/job/day**	
10.3a	**Annual city operations gallons: summer** (June-October)	**Gallons/year**	WE Credit: Smart Water Systems – Option 1
10.3b	**Annual city operations gallons: non-summer** (Nov-May)	**Gallons/year**	
10.4	Ratio of maximum day use to average daily use	Peak:Average	WE Credit: Smart Water Systems – Option 1
10.5	Annual energy used per million gallons of water distributed	MMBtus	
10.6	Annual cost in $ spent per million gallons of water distributed	$/million gallons	
10.7	**Percent of annual losses in drinking water system**	**%**	WE Credit: Smart Water Systems – Option 1
10.8	Trend of source water levels: falling, stable, or rising		WE Credit: Integrated Water Management
G. CO2e	Annual electricity used to treat and distribute water	MWh/Year	
H. CO2e	Annual Natural gas used to treat and distribute water	Therms/Year	

Metric #11: Waste Water CORE METRIC

11.1	Residential gallons of waste water produced/person per day	Gallons/person/day	
11.2	Non-residential gallons of waste water produced per job, per day	Gallons/ job/day	
11.3	Annual energy used per million gallons treated (report only if you own a treatment facility)	MMBtu/million gallons	
11.4	Annual operating cost in dollars per million gallons treated (report only if you own a treatment facility)	$/Million gallons	
11.5	**Ratio of Inflow and Infiltration volume to total volume entering the wastewater collection system**	**I&I:total volume**	
11.5b	Peaking factor for total wastewater collection system	Peaking Factor	
11.5c	Percent of total sanitary sewer pipe and manholes that have been lined or replaced	%	
I. CO2e	Annual electricity used to treat wastewater	MWh/Year	
J. CO2e	Annual natural gas used to treat wastewater	Therms/Year	

Metric #12: Surface Water OPTIONAL METRIC

12.1	Percent of lake, river, and wetland shoreline with at least 50' vegetation buffer	%	NS Credit: Natural Resources Conservation and Restoration – Option 2
12.2a	Percent of water bodies in the city showing at least good clarity readings OR	%	NS Prerequisite: Ecosystem Assessment
12.2b	Number of citizen lake/river monitors	Number of monitors	
12.3	***One city-defined metric or index number concerning surface water*** *(ex. % impaired waters, or other)*		NS Prerequisite: Ecosystem Assessment

Metric #13: Solid Waste OPTIONAL METRIC

13.1	**Residential solid waste generated/city resident per day:**	**Lbs**	MR Prerequisite: Waste Management
13.2	**Commercial solid waste generated per job, per day:**	**Lbs**	
13.3	**Percent of residential solid waste recycled**	**%**	

13.4	**Percent of residential solid waste composted**	**%**	
13.5	City operations solid waste generated per year	Tons per year	
13.6	City operations construction & demolition waste per year	Tons per year	MR Prerequisite: Solid Waste Management – Case 2
13.6a	What percent of city operations construction and demolition waste is reused?	%	
13.6b	What percent is recycled?	%	
13.6c	What percent is landfilled?	%	
K. CO2e	City operations landfilled each year	Tons per year	
L. CO2e	City operations incinerated each year	Tons per year	

Metric #14: Renewable Energy CORE METRIC

14.1	**Number of city-owned and private renewable energy generation sites**	**Number of sites**	EN Credit: Renewable Energy
14.2	**Generation capacity of city-owned and private renewable energy sites**	**kW**	
14.2a	**Storage and off-grid capacity of renewable energy, generated by city-owned and private renewable energy sites**	**kW**	NS Credit: Resilience Planning
M. CO2e	Annual production at city-owned renewable energy generation sites	MWhr/year	EN Credit: Renewable Energy
14.4	**Annual renewable energy purchases for city operations**	**MWhr/year**	
14.5	Number of non-city entities participating in renewable energy purchasing/green power programs	Number of entities	
14.6	Percent of total city operations energy use that is generated and purchased renewable energy	%	
14.7	Percent of total city operations energy use that is purchased from a community solar garden	%	

Metric #15: Local Food OPTIONAL METRIC

15.1	**Number of local food venues**	**Number of venues**	
15.2	Percent of housing within 1 mile of a local food venue	%	NS Credit: Natural Resources Conservation and Restoration – Option 2
15.3	Percent of housing within 1 mile of fresh fruits and vegetables	%	

Metric #16: Jobs & Employment OPTIONAL METRIC

16.1	Jobs		QL Prerequisite – Quality of Life Performance
16.2	Employment		QL Credit: Trend Improvements
16.3	Income		QL Prerequisite – Quality of Life Performance
16.4	Poverty		QL Credit: Trend Improvements

Metric #17: Climate CORE METRIC for Regional Indicator Cities

17.1	**Greenhouse gas emissions from travel**	**Tonnes CO2e**	EN Prerequisite: Energy and Greenhouse Gas Emissions Performance
17.2	**Greenhouse gas emissions from waste**	**Tonnes CO2e**	
17.3	**Greenhouse gas emissions from (non-transportation) energy**	**Tonnes CO2e**	
17.4	Total citywide GHG emissions	Tonnes CO2e	
17.5	Total city operations GHG emissions	Tonnes CO2e	

Metric #18: Additional Metrics OPTIONAL METRICS

18.1	Social vulnerability		NS Credit: Resilience Planning
18.2	Livability Score		TR Credit: Compact, Mixed Use and Transit Oriented Development
18.3	Civic Participation/ Civic Capital		QL Credit: Civic and Community Engagement
18.4			
18.5			

Additional LEED for Cities and Communities Credits:

IN Credit: Innovation

1-6 Points

This credit applies to
• Cities
• Communities

Intent

To encourage cities to achieve exceptional or innovative performance.

Requirements

Cities, Communities

One point is awarded for each Innovation credit achieved, up to a maximum of six. A city or community may use any combination of the options below. Each option is equivalent to one point.

Option 1. Innovation (1-6 points)

Achieve significant, measurable environmental performance using a strategy not addressed in the LEED for Cities and Communities rating system.
Identify all of the following:
• Intent of the proposed innovation credit
• Proposed requirements for compliance
• Proposed submittals to demonstrate compliance
• Design approach or strategies used to meet the requirements.

AND / OR

Option 2. Exemplary Performance (1-6 points)

Achieve exemplary performance in any of the LEED for Cities and Communities prerequisite or credit.

AND / OR

Option 3. GBCI Rating Systems (1-6 points)

Meet all of the requirements of a prerequisite or credit from any of the below rating systems at the city or utility level. Credits included in their entirety in the LEED for Cities and Communities rating system are not eligible.
• STAR Community Rating System v2, October 2016
• PEER Rating System v2, February 2018
• LEED v4 Transit, November 2018

RP Credit: Regional Priority

1-4 Points

This credit applies to
• Cities
• Communities

Intent

To provide an incentive for the achievement of credits that address geographically specific socio-economic and environmental priorities.

Requirements

Cities, Communities

Option 1. Regional Priority

One point is awarded for each Regional Priority credit achieved, up to a maximum of four.
• Identify the credit that is a regional priority. Refer to the credits under Regional Priority Credit Lookup website (https://www.usgbc.org/rpc) for credits identified as regional priorities for specific locations.
• Provide Background and context outlining the regional priority.

AND/OR

Option 2. Innovative Regional Priority

One point is awarded for each strategy, up to a maximum of four.
Achieve significant, measurable environmental performance for a regional priority using a strategy not addressed in the LEED for Cities and Communities rating system.
Identify all of the following:

- Intent of the proposed regional priority credit
- Provide Background and context outlining the regional priority.
- Proposed requirements for compliance
- Proposed submittals to demonstrate compliance
- Design approach or strategies used to meet the requirements.