

RESOLUTION NO. 24-04-18

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF VADNAIS HEIGHTS
TO PARTICIPATE IN THE MINNESOTA GREENSTEP CITIES PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, Minnesota GreenStep Cities is a voluntary challenge, assistance and recognition program to help cities achieve their sustainability and quality-of-life goals. GreenStep is a free continuous improvement program managed by a State agency-non-profit partnership and based upon 29 best practices. Each best practice can be implemented by completing one or more actions at a 1, 2 or 3-star level, from a list of four to eight actions. These actions are tailored to all Minnesota cities, focus on cost savings and energy use reduction and encourage civic innovation; and

WHEREAS, steps taken toward sustainable solutions aim to improve community quality of life, building community capital and increasing government efficiency, accountability and transparency; and

WHEREAS, local governments have the unique opportunity to achieve both energy use and greenhouse gas reductions and cost savings through building and facilities management; land use and transportation planning; environmental management; and through economic and community development; and

WHEREAS, efforts to address energy and climate issues provide an opportunity to move toward energy self-reliance and greater community resiliency and quality of life; provide environmentally healthy and cheaper-to-operate public buildings; encourage new economic development and local jobs; and support local food and renewable energy production; and

WHEREAS, climate changes have been observed in Minnesota and have the potential to negatively impact local, regional and state economies; infrastructure development; habitat; ecological communities, including native fish and wildlife populations; spread invasive species and exotic diseases; reduce drinking water supplies and recreational opportunities; and pose flooding, drought and health threats to our citizens.

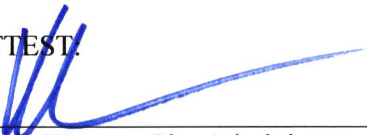
BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Vadnais Heights does hereby authorize the City of Vadnais Heights (the City) to participate in the Minnesota GreenStep Cities program that offers a free, voluntary continuous improvement framework. Passage of this participation resolution allows the City to be recognized as a Step One GreenStep City by the League of Minnesota Cities. Be it further resolved that the City:

1. Appoints Erin Spry, Natural Resource Specialist to serve as the City's GreenStep coordinator for best practice documentation/implementation; and
2. Will facilitate the involvement of community members and other units of government as appropriate in the planning, promoting and/or implementing of GreenStep Cities best practices; and
3. Grants to the GreenStep program staff review access to the City's B3 Benchmarking Database so as to facilitate analysis and cost-saving technical assistance to the City regarding its buildings' energy use; and
4. Will provide feedback once a year on how well the GreenStep program is serving the city and on city needs from the program; and
5. Will claim credit for having implemented and will work at its own pace toward implementing any 6 GreenStep best practices that will result in energy use reduction, economic savings, quality of life

improvement, reduction in the City's greenhouse gas footprint, and recognition by the League of Minnesota Cities as a Step Two GreenStep City. An on-going summary of the City's implementation of best practices will be posted by the City on the Minnesota GreenStep Cities web site.

Adopted by the City Council of Vadnais Heights, Minnesota, on this 2nd day of April, 2024.

By: 
Mike Krachmer, Mayor

ATTEST:

Kevin Watson, City Administrator

