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# Assessment 2026

City of La Crescent: Category B City

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## About the Program

The GreenSteps Cities program 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.

## Information and GreenStep StatusGraphical user interface, text, application  Description automatically generated

**Joined:** October 2015

**Status:** Step 5

**Total Best Practices (BPs) Complete**: 20

**Total BP Actions Complete:** 54

[La Crescent’s GreenStep Page](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/city-detail/12177)

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| **Step 4** | 2022-2023 |
| **Step 5** | 2023 |

**Current Distribution of BP Categories:****Star-Rating of Actions:**

The star-rating system represents the rating of the city’s action, where Not Rated (NR) is an uncompleted action, 1-star represents basic completion, 2-star is full completion, and 3-star is the maximum completion of the given action.

## Notable Actions

See all city-reported actions at <https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/city-detail/12177>

* **Savings of $1 million over 25 years** anticipated for 2019 solar panel installations at Vetsch Park and the La Crescent Animal Shelter; 120kw at 4 sites
* **Added Saturday bus service in 2016, and other transportation improvements** championed by the La Crosse Area Planning Commission include: building a large walking/bike bridge over Highway 61 in a bike corridor to connect city to La Crosse; updating 2013 bike/ped plan; applied to be a Bicycle Friendly community; Bicycle Shoppe supported by city
* **Annual Neighbors Day** in April organizes neighbors to help each other in work around the community, at their homes, and in public spaces
* **2020 policy for the protection of pollinators** and enhancement of pollinator habitat for bees and butterflies
* **2 student members** on the city’s GreenStep committee
* **2019 SolSmart** designation at the Bronze level
* **2020 Bird City** designation encourage restoration, protection, and improvement of bird habitat and community engagement
* **Police use an electric-bicycle** for patrol
* **Tree Steward** program uses volunteers to help monitor and take care of community trees
* **Planned Unit Development (PUD)** ordinance may require on-site renewable energy systems or zero-net-energy or zero-net-carbon building designs as a condition for approval

## Notable Metrics

* Reduced kBTU per square foot per year in city buildings from 70.48 in 2021 to 65.38 in 2022.

See more on the [Step 4 & 5 Metrics Dashboard](https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/mpca.data.services/viz/GreenStepCitiesMetrics-2015-2020/Overview/)

* 100% of La Crescent’s traffic signals are LED.
* 100% of housing is located within 1 mile of a bicycle route and the city scored a 75 Bike Score, making it very bikeable for most trips.
* La Crescent planted 100 net new trees in 2022, up from 80 in 2021.
* Improved Stormwater Assessment scores from 34 in 2021 to 42 in 2022; adaptation scores from 43 to 52.
* 100% of water bodies in the city show at least "good" clarity readings.
* Increased the number of city owned and private renewable energy generation sites from 40 (262.42 kW) in 2021 to 46 (326.6 kW) in 2022.
* 87% of La Crescent’s total city operations use renewable energy (generated and purchased).
* 100% of La Crescent’s housing is located within 1 mile of a local food venue and fresh fruits and vegetables.

## Project Accomplishments

* EV Landscape Equipment Grant – replace gas landscape equipment with battery electric
* CERTS Grant EV Chargers Veterans Park – 2 L2 chargers
* Xcel Fleet Study – EV fleet study city vehicles
* Solar PV Systems – Radium Plant, Fire Station, Public Works Building, and Animal Shelter
* Rain Garden John S. Harris Park
* Rain Garden McIntosh and Eagles Bluff Road
* South 1st street planting flowers/trees/fescue
* Prairie plantings city wide– HELP Grant
* Stormwater study grant funded MPCA
* SRTS Boost grant community bike fleet
* SRTS Infrastructure Grants
* CPL Stoney Point/Pine Creek Prairie grant
* CPL Pine Creek stream restoration grant
* Transportation alternatives grant SRTS infrastructure
* Stormwater murals (Source Water Protection Grant)
* Pine Creek Prairie – Xerces and PF Donation
* LED Lighting almost city wide
* CRP Funds – Police EV Cruiser
* Police E-bike
* ReLeaf grant - 325 bareroot trees
* MnDOT Landscape partnership projects
	+ Sportsman’s Landing prairie and trees
	+ Highway 14/61 median prairie and trees
	+ MnDOT stormwater ponds South Chestnut
	+ Bike/bridge planting trees and natives
* SHIP Grants
	+ Bike Racks
	+ Trail Signs
	+ Map the Experience
	+ Neighborhood bikeway signs
	+ Park navigation signs - brown
	+ Bike Fleet Trailer lettering
	+ DriftCyle funding
	+ Park Entrance Signs

## Awards/Designations

* GreenSteps Cities Level 5
* SolSmart Platinum
* Tree City USA
* Bird City USA
* EV Smart Silver

## Ordinances

* EV ordinance
* Beekeeping ordinance

## Leaf with solid fillGold Leaf Actions

Actions reported under the Gold Leaf program focus on pathways for communities to take local climate action through the GreenStep program. Participants of the Gold Leaf program are recognized as they achieve ‘gold leaves’ for completing new actions in that year from 44 high-priority, high-impact climate actions under the categories of:

[Learn more about the Gold Leaf Pilot](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/page/gold-leaf-pilot)

* Climate mitigation (CM)
* Climate planning (CP)
* Climate adaptation (CA)
* Community connectedness for Minnesota's changing climate (CC)

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| **Year Reported** | **Gold Leaf Action** | **Action Reported** (find [action reports](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/city-detail/12177) for more information) |
| 2024 | **CA7 – Drought Tolerance:**  Newly implement a strategy to minimize the impacts of drought and/or recharge groundwater storage with projects such as: incentives to use water conserving fixtures, harvesting rainwater, reusing water, restricting the use of water for non-essential uses, infiltrating stormwater, etc. | Constructed WinLac rain garden with native and drought-resistant plants. See BPA 17.5.  |
| 2024 | **CC5 – Community Restoration:** Host one or more events that engage community members in annual restoration or cleanup of natural areas. | Annual garlic mustard-pulling event hosted by City Natural Resources Advisory Group invited volunteers 4/23 and 4/27 to Vetsch Park. See BPA 18.8.  |
| 2024 | **CA5 – Resilient Trees:** Plant and maintain at least 2-3 climate resilient trees for each public tree lost. | In 2024 the city removed 12 trees that were damaged by storms or died. The city planted 130 trees (hackberry, honey locust, ironwood, white oak, swamp white oak, linden, and hybrid elm) on Arbor Day in 2024. See BPA 16.3.  |
| 2024 | **CC1 – Combined Green Team:** Have a green team with government and community member representation that meets regularly (at least 4 times every year) and address topics related to Minnesota’s changing climate. | GreenSteps team has 4 community members and meets at least 4 times per year. Topics include addressing Minnesota’s changing climate. See BPA 24.1. |
| 2024 | **CP10 – Climate Staff:** Have a new or rehire a paid staff position with climate action as a main responsibility. | Sustainability Coordinator for the City of La Crescent on board for 2024. See BPA 24.1. |
| 2025 | **CP10 – Climate Staff:** Have a new or rehire a paid staff position with climate action as a main responsibility. | Sustainability Coordinator for the City of La Crescent on board for 2025. See BPA 24.1. |
| 2025 | **CC4 – Student Internship:** A student internship includes issues related to Minnesota’s changing climate in their work. | Hosted UMN Sustainability Corps interns for 3 summers, including 2025, focused on supporting Gold Leaf actions. See BPA 24.6. |
| 2025 | **CC6 – Community Science:** Create or participate in a community science program related to the environment and Minnesota’s changing climate. | City staff participate in MPCA Water Monitoring Program for Pine Creek. See BPA 18.8. |
| City staff report precipitation to CoCORhs regularly. See BPA 18.8. |

## Step Advancement Guidelines

### Guidelines for Step 2:

Learn more about Step 2

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

[x]  **Any 6 Best Practices**

### Guidelines for Step 3:

Learn more about Step 3

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

[x]  **Any 12 Best Practices**

[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)

[x]  **Buildings & Lighting:** [x]  any one additional Buildings & Lighting BP (2-5)

[x]  **Comprehensive, Climate & Energy Plans:** [x]  [6.1](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81775) and [x]  [6.2](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81776)

[x]  **Land Use:** [x]  any one additional Land Use BP (7-10)

[x]  **Transportation:** [x]  any one Transportation BP (11-14)

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

[x]  **Community Forests & 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 additional Environmental Management BP (17-23)

[x]  **Benchmarks & Community Engagement:** [x] [24.1](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81880) and [x] any one additional action from [24.2-24.7](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-detail/81734)

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

[x]  **Climate Adaptation & Community Resilience:** [x] [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

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 of three eligible metrics measured in Step 4, from one year to next.
	+ Category A, B, and C communities: Improve upon 3 eligible metric elements.

## Best Practice Actions: Detailed Descriptions

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| Buildings and Lighting[**BP 1**: Efficient Existing Public Buildings](#_heading=h.26in1rg)[**BP 2**: Efficient Existing Private Buildings](#_heading=h.lnxbz9)[**BP 3**: New Green Buildings](#_heading=h.35nkun2)[**BP 4**: Efficient Outdoor Lighting and Signals](#_heading=h.1ksv4uv)[**BP 5**: Building Redevelopment](#_heading=h.44sinio) |
| Best Practice 1: Efficient Existing Public BuildingsBP 1 Completed? YES Total actions completed: 3**Actions to Complete BP 1**: ~~1.1 and 1.2~~  |
| **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:** |
| [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). | 2 years of data collected; .36 ratio; all buildings/meters included  | 11/2/2016 |
| [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. | Fire Station and Community Building renovation: all LEDs, weather stripping, HVAC replacements and controls; Ice Arena converted to LED lighting  | 11/2/2016 |
| [1.3](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81745) | ★★ | Invest in larger energy efficiency projects.  | Solar PV on Fire Hall | 11/2/2016 |
| [1.4](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81746) | Choose an item. | Implement IT efforts and city employee engagement to reduce plug loads, building energy use and workflow efficiency. |  |  |
| [1.5](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81747) | Choose an item. | 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) | Choose an item. | Improve operations and maintenance of city-owned/school buildings and leased buildings.  |  |  |
| [1.7](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81749) | Choose an item. | Install one or more of the following:-A ground-source, closed loop geothermal system.-A district energy/microgrid system.-A rainwater harvesting system  |  |  |
| Best Practice 2: Efficient Existing Private BuildingsBP 2 Completed? YES Total actions completed: 1**Actions to Complete BP 2:** ~~Any one action~~ |
| **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. | Energy Action Plan with Partners in Energy completed in 2021 includes promoting energy efficiency and renewable energy to residents | 7/15/2023 |
| [2.2](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81751) | Choose an item. | 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) | Choose an item. | Implement an energy rating/disclosure policy for residential/commercial buildings. |  |  |
| [2.4](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81753) | Choose an item. | 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) | Choose an item. | 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) | Choose an item. | 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) | Choose an item. | Customize a model sustainable building renovation policy that includes the SB 2030 energy standard and adopt the language to govern private renovation projects.  |  |  |
| Best Practice 3: New Green BuildingsBP 3 Completed? NO Total actions completed: 0**Actions to Complete BP 3:** Any one action |
| **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)  | Choose an item. | Require by city policy that new city-owned buildings be built using the [SB 2030 energy standard](https://www.b3mn.org/2030energystandard/) and/or a green building framework.  |  |  |
| [3.2](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81758) | Choose an item. | 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) | Choose an item. | Adopt a sustainable building policy for private buildings; include the [SB 2030 energy standard](https://www.b3mn.org/2030energystandard/); adopt language governing new development projects.  |  |  |
| [3.4](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81760) | Choose an item. | Provide a financial or other incentive to private parties who build new buildings that utilize the [SB 2030 energy standard](https://www.b3mn.org/2030energystandard/) and/or a green building framework. |  |  |
| [3.5](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81761) | Choose an item. | Adopt environmentally preferable covenant guidelines for new common interest communities addressing sustainability.  |  |  |
| Best Practice 4: Efficient Outdoor Lighting and SignalsBP 4 Completed? YES Total actions completed: 5**Actions to Complete BP 4:** ~~2 actions (including one from 4.5-4.8)~~ |
| **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/facilities. | All new lighting required to be Dark Sky lighting in ordinance  | 7/18/2023 |
| [4.2](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81763) | ★★★ | Purchase LEDs for all future street lighting and traffic signals. | City's only traffic signal is LED; Xcel is transitioning to all LED street lights | 4/3/2017 |
| [4.3](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81764) | Choose an item. | Replace city 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; optimize signal timing to minimize car idling at intersections yet maintain safe and publicly acceptable vehicle speeds. | Only traffic signal optimized using signal timing & sensors to minimize car idling and maintain safe and publicly acceptable vehicle speeds | 4/3/2017 |
| [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/park project. | LED lighting in ice arena parking lot; transitioned all holiday lights to LEDs; warning flashers, rotated to different areas, powered by solar energy | 4/3/2017 |
| [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. | City upgraded to LEDs on the bridge, city welcome sign, and several city facilities | 3/10/2020 |
| [4.7](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81768) | Choose an item. | 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 city's existing traffic signal indications with LEDs. |  | 4/3/2017 |
| Best Practice 5: Building RedevelopmentBP 5 Completed? NO Total actions completed: 0**Actions to Complete BP 5:** Any one action  |
| **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)  | Choose an item. | Adopt an historic preservation ordinance/ regulations and encourage adaptive reuse. |  |  |
| [5.2](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81771) | Choose an item. | Implement the Minnesota Main Street model for commercial revitalization. |  |  |
| [5.3](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81772) | Choose an item. | 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) | Choose an item. | Create/modify a green residential remodeling assistance/financing program to assist homeowners in adding space or sustainable features.  |  |  |
| [5.5](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81774) | Choose an item. | 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](#_heading=h.3j2qqm3)[**BP 7**: Resilient City Growth](#_heading=h.1y810tw)[**BP 8**: Mixed Uses](#_heading=h.4i7ojhp)[**BP 9**: Efficient Highway and Auto-Oriented Development](#_heading=h.2xcytpi)[**BP 10**: Design for Natural Resource Conservation](#_heading=h.1ci93xb) |
| Best Practice 6: Comprehensive, Climate and Energy PlansBP 6 Completed? YES Total actions completed: 2**Actions to Complete BP 6:** ~~6.1 and 6.2~~ |
| **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 a future land use plan adopted by the county or a regional entity. | 2016; GreenStep in comp plan | 4/3/2017 |
| [6.2](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81776) | ★ | Demonstrate that regulatory ordinances comply with the comprehensive plan. | Incorporating comp plan references into all ordinance text | 4/4/2017 |
| [6.3](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81777) | Choose an item. | Include requirements in comprehensive and/or other plans for intergovernmental coordination. |  |  |
| [6.4](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81778) | Choose an item. | 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) | Choose an item. | Adopt climate mitigation and/or energy independence goals/objectives in the comprehensive plan or in a separate policy document; include transportation recommendations. |  |  |
| Best Practice 7: Resilient City GrowthBP 7 Completed? NO Total actions completed: 0**Actions to Complete BP 7:** Any one action |
| **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)  | Choose an item. | Eliminate barriers and actively encourage higher density housing in city zoning ordinance and map.  |  |  |
| [7.2](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81781) | Choose an item. | Achieve higher density housing with one of the following:a. Flexible lot size/frontage requirement for infill development.b. Density and floor area ratio (FAR) bonuses in selected residential zoning districts.c. Clustered residential 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) | Choose an item. | Achieve higher intensity commercial/industrial land uses through at least one of the following strategies:a. Include 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) | Choose an item. | 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) | Choose an item. | 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? YES Total actions completed: 1**Actions to Complete BP 8:** ~~Any one action~~ |
| **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) | Choose an item. | 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) | Choose an item. | 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. | PUD ordinance includes options for non-standard lot sizes, reduce ROW widths, housing types, zero lot/ building setbacks, mixed-use, affordable housing, renewable energy systems, sustainable building design, etc.  | 8/6/2023 |
| [8.4](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81788) | Choose an item. | Report that a (re)development meets a city/community-determined minimum point threshold under the Equitable Development Scorecard or LEED-Neighborhood Development. |  |  |
| [8.5](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81789) | In-Process | Have a downtown zoning district that emphasizes small and destination business, entrepreneurial spaces, and allows or requires residential and residential-compatible commercial development. | Downtown Plan under development  | 4/4/2017 |
| [8.6](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81790) | Choose an item. | 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) | Choose an item. | Create incentives for vertical mixed-use development in appropriate locations. |  |  |
| Best Practice 9: Efficient Highway and Auto-Oriented DevelopmentBP 9 Completed? YES Total actions completed: 1**Actions to Complete BP 9:** ~~Any one action~~ |
| **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) | Choose an item. | 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 in order to avoid overbuilding and expensive low-density development. | Part of La Crosse Area Planning Commission  | 4/4/2017 |
| [9.3](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81794) | Choose an item. | 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) | Choose an item. | 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? YES Total actions completed: 2**Actions to Complete BP 10:** ~~Any one action~~ |
| **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) | Choose an item. | Conduct a Natural Resource Inventory or Assessment; 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/81798) | Choose an item. | 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 capital improvement plan that provides long-term protection of natural resources/systems, and agriculture outside the boundary. |  |  |
| [10.3](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81799) | Choose an item. | 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) | Choose an item. | 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. | Easements on Vetsch and Eagles Bluff Park properties with MN Land Trust  | 8/6/2023 |
| [10.6](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81920) | Choose an item. | 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) | ★★★ | Support and protect wildlife through habitat rehabilitation, preservation and recognition programs. | Bird City designated since 2020 | 7/13/2023 |
| Transportation[**BP 11**: Living & Complete Streets](#_heading=h.qsh70q)[**BP 12**: Mobility Options](#_heading=h.3as4poj)[**BP 13**: Efficient City Fleets](#_heading=h.1pxezwc)[**BP 14**: Demand-Side Travel Planning](#_heading=h.49x2ik5) |
| Best Practice 11: Living & Complete StreetsBP 11 Completed? YES Total actions completed: 4**Actions to Complete BP 11:** ~~11.1 and one additional action~~  |
| **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. | Complete Streets Policy adopted 2019 addresses landscaping and stormwater drainage | 7/15/2023 |
| [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. | Complete Streets Ordinance adopted 2019; N 3rd St. narrowed with street reconstruction and pedestrian bump-out added  | 8/2/2023 |
| [11.3](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81804) | Choose an item. | 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. | Bike/Pedestrian Plan adopted 2017 includes network recommendations  | 7/15/2023 |
| [11.5](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81806) | Choose an item. | Identify and remedy street-trail gaps between city streets and off-road trails/bike trails. |  |  |
| [11.6](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81807) | ★ | Implement traffic calming policy/measures in at least one street redevelopment project. | Striped 10 ft. lanes on North 4th St. and Jonathan Lane; traffic calming measures at N 3rd St.; school speed zones reduced | 8/2/2023 |
| Best Practice 12: Mobility OptionsBP 12 Completed? YES Total actions completed: 3**Actions to Complete BP 12:** ~~Any one action~~ |
| **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.  | Updating 2013 bike/ped plan; applied to be a Bicycle Friendly community; Bicycle Shoppe supported by city | 4/4/2017 |
| [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. | SRTS Plan implemented in 2020 | 7/13/2023 |
| [12.3](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81810) | Choose an item. | 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) | Choose an item. | 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) | Choose an item. | 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. | Added Saturday bus service in 2016; building a large walking/bike bridge over Highway 61 to help connect City to La Crosse through a biking corridor | 4/4/2017 |
| Best Practice 13: Efficient City FleetsBP 13 Completed? YES Total actions completed: 2**Actions to Complete BP 13:** ~~Any one action~~ |
| **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) | Choose an item. | 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) | Choose an item. | Right-size/down-size 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. | PD implemented no-idling policy | 8/6/2023 |
| [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. | E-bike used on police patrol  | 7/18/2023 |
| [13.5](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81818) | Choose an item. | Document that 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) | Choose an item. | Retrofit city diesel engines or install auxiliary power units and/or electrified parking spaces. |  |  |
| Best Practice 14: Demand-Side Travel PlanningBP 14 Completed? NO Total actions completed: 0**Actions to Complete BP 14:** Any two actions |
| **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) | Choose an item. | Reduce/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) | Choose an item. | For cities with regular transit service, require/provide incentives for the siting of retail services at transit/ density nodes. |  |  |
| [14.3](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81822) | Choose an item. | For cities with regular transit service, require/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) | Choose an item. | Require new (re)developments to prepare a travel demand management plan or transit-oriented development standards or LEED for Neighborhood Development certification. |  |  |
| Environmental Management[**BP 15**: Sustainable Purchasing](#_heading=h.3o7alnk)[**BP 16**: Community Forests and Soil](#_heading=h.23ckvvd)[**BP 17**: Stormwater Management](#_heading=h.ihv636)[**BP 18**: Parks and Trails](#_heading=h.32hioqz)[**BP 19**: Surface Water](#_heading=h.1hmsyys)[**BP 20**: Efficient Water and Wastewater Systems](#_heading=h.41mghml)[**BP 21**: Septic Systems](#_heading=h.2grqrue)[**BP 22**: Sustainable Consumption and Waste](#_heading=h.vx1227)[**BP 23**: Local Air Quality](#_heading=h.3fwokq0) |
| Best Practice 15: Sustainable PurchasingBP 15 Completed? YES Total actions completed: 3**Actions to Complete BP 15:** ~~15.1 and any one additional action~~  |
| **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 the city purchase at least:a. EnergyStar and EPEAT certified equipment and appliances.b. Paper containing post-consumer recycled content. | 2019 policy covering waste minimization, energy efficiency/Dark Sky lighting, recycled content paper | 1/3/2020 |
| [15.2](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81826) | ★★ | Purchase energy used by city government with a higher renewable percentage than required by MN law. | 3rd party community solar subscriber; 87% of city energy is renewable generated or purchased  | 8/4/2023 |
| [15.3](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81827) | Choose an item. | 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) | Choose an item. | Require purchase of U.S. EPA WaterSense-certified products. |  |  |
| [15.5](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81829) | Choose an item. | 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) | Choose an item. | Require printing services to be purchased from companies using sustainable practices. |  |  |
| [15.7](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81831) | ★ | Lower the environmental footprint of meetings and events in the city. | Transitioning to paperless city council & planning commission packets; $10,000 2017 budget  | 4/3/2017 |
| [15.8](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81832) | Choose an item. | 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 actions completed: 4**Actions to Complete BP 16:** ~~Any one action~~ |
| **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. | Tree City USA since 2018 | 7/13/2023 |
| [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. | Zoning ordinance outlines BPs for tree planting, maintenance, preservation; City is the Apple Capital of MN | 4/4/2017 |
| [16.3](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81835) | ★ | Budget for and achieve resilient urban canopy/tree planting goals. | 2023 DNR grant to plant 345 trees (hackberry, honey locust, ironwood, white oak, swamp white oak, linden, and hybrid elm) over three years | 7/30/2024 |
| [16.4](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81836) | Choose an item. | Maximize tree planting along your main downtown street or throughout the city. |  |  |
| [16.5](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81837) | Choose an item. | 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. | 4 volunteer Tree Stewards monitor and care for trees  | 7/13/2023 |
| [16.7](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/101876) | Choose an item. | Conduct a tree inventory or canopy study for public and private trees. |  |  |
| Best Practice 17: Stormwater ManagementBP 17 Completed? YES Total actions completed: 3**Actions to Complete BP 17:** ~~Any one action~~ |
| **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) | Choose an item. | 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. | 47% overall; 56% Climate Adaptation scores completed 2023 | 7/31/2023 |
| [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. | Activities disturbing 20k+ cu. ft. must submit a storm water pollution control plan and a grading plan | 4/3/2023 |
| [17.4](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81841) | Choose an item. | Create a stormwater utility that uses variable fees to incentivize and educate property owners.  |  |  |
| [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. | Native plants located in Veterans Park, Kistler Park, Vetsch Park, and within MnDOT Landscape Partnership  | 7/31/2023 |
| [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. | All public works staff have completed Smart Salting Training  | 7/18/2023 |
| Best Practice 18: Parks and TrailsBP 18 Completed? YES Total actions completed: 4**Actions to Complete BP 18:** ~~Any two actions~~ |
| **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. | Wagon Wheel Trail along the Mississippi; bridge connection for pedestrians; Stoney Point Park over sixty acres of new park, wilderness, and trails | 4/4/2017 |
| [18.2](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81845) | Choose an item. | 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. | Park and Recreation Plan 2022 analysis shows 8.5% land use is parks and recreation; 40+% of land area is green space; 21.8 acres of parkland per 1,000 res. | 8/6/2023 |
| [18.4](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81847) | Choose an item. | 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. | 2020 policy for the protection of pollinators and enhancement of pollinator habitat for bees and butterflies | 1/7/2020 |
| [18.6](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81849) | Choose an item. | Certify at least one golf course in the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program. |  |  |
| [18.7](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81850) | Choose an item. | 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. | Annual Neighbors Day event organizes neighbors to help each other in work around the community, at their homes, and in public spaces; a group of community members doing prairie restoration; community science through MN Water Monitoring and CoCoRhs | 6/25/2025 |
| Best Practice 19: Surface WaterBP 19 Completed? NO Total actions completed: 0**Actions to Complete BP 19:** If the city has a State public water, 19.4 and any one additional action.  If the city does not have a State public water, any one action.  |
| **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) | Choose an item. | Consistently monitor surface water quality/clarity and report findings to community members. |  |  |
| [19.2](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81852) | Choose an item. | Conduct/support multi-party community conversations, assessments, plans, and actions to improve local water quality/quantity. |  |  |
| [19.3](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81853) | Choose an item. | 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) | Choose an item. | Adopt a shoreland ordinance for all river and lake shoreland areas. |  |  |
| [19.5](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81909) | Choose an item. | 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) | Choose an item. | Implement an existing TMDL implementation plan. |  |  |
| [19.7](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81911) | Choose an item. | Create/assist a Lake Improvement District. |  |  |
| [19.8](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/101661) | Choose an item. | 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 actions completed: 0**Actions to Complete BP 20:** 20.1, 20.2, and any one additional action |
| **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) | Choose an item. | Compare the energy use and financial performance of your facilities with other peer facilities. |  |  |
| [20.2](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81856) | Choose an item. | Plan and budget for motor maintenance and upgrades. |  |  |
| [20.3](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81857) | Choose an item. | 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) | Choose an item. | 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) | Choose an item. | Implement a wastewater plant efficiency project or a program for local private business operations. |  |  |
| [20.7](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81907) | Choose an item. | Create a demand-side pricing program. |  |  |
| Best Practice 21: Septic SystemsBP 21 Completed? NO Total actions completed: 0**Actions to Complete BP 21:** Any one action |
| **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) | Choose an item. | 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) | Choose an item. | Use a community process to address failing septic systems. |  |  |
| [21.3](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81862) | Choose an item. | Clarify/establish one or more responsible management entities 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) | Choose an item. | Adopt a subsurface sewage treatment system ordinance. |  |  |
| [21.5](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81864) | Choose an item. | Create a program to finance septic system upgrades. |  |  |
| [21.6](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81865) | Choose an item. | Work with homeowners/ businesses in environmentally sensitive areas to promote innovative waste water systems. |  |  |
| [21.7](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81866) | Choose an item. | 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? NO Total actions completed: 1**Actions to Complete BP 22:** Any one action from 22.1-22.3 ~~and any one action from 22.4-22.8~~ |
| **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) | Choose an item. | Improve city operations/ procurement to prevent/reuse/recycle/compost waste from all public facilities, and minimize use of toxics and generation of hazardous waste. |  |  |
| [22.2](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81868) | Choose an item. | 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) | Choose an item. | 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) | Choose an item. | 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) | Choose an item. | 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/expand to multi-unit housing and commercial businesses. | Recycling units provided to all properties  | 8/6/2023 |
| [22.7](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81873) | Choose an item. | Improve/organize residential trash/ recycling/organics collection by private/public operations and offer significant volume-based pricing on residential garbage and/or incentives for recycling. |  |  |
| [22.8](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81874) | Choose an item. | Adopt a construction and demolition 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? YES Total actions completed: 3**Actions to Complete BP 23:** ~~Any one action~~  |
| **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/garden equipment with lower polluting equipment. | Grant used to purchase Alternative Landscaping Equipment | 7/15/2023 |
| [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. | Ordinances banning and regulating burning of a variety of substances | 4/4/2017 |
| [23.3](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81877) | Choose an item. | 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. | Level 2 EV charger at the Best Western | 12/5/2019 |
| Resilient Economic and Community Development[**BP 24**: Benchmarks and Community Engagement](#_heading=h.4f1mdlm)[**BP 25**: Green Business Development](#_heading=h.2u6wntf)[**BP 26**: Renewable Energy](#_heading=h.19c6y18)[**BP 27**: Local Food](#_heading=h.3tbugp1)[**BP 28**: Business Synergies and Ecodistricts](#_heading=h.28h4qwu)[**BP 29**: Climate Adaptation and Community Resilience](#_heading=h.nmf14n) |
| Best Practice 24: Benchmarks and Community EngagementBP 24 Completed? YES Total actions completed: 2**Actions to Complete BP 24:** ~~24.1 and any one additional action~~  |
| **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/committee to lead, coordinate, report and engage community members on sustainability best practices. | 12-member Green Team active since 2016 includes city staff, community members, school staff; continued work on communicating & engaging citizens; Full-time Sustainability Coordinator | 12/20/2024 |
| [24.2](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81881) | Choose an item. | Organize goals/outcome measures from all city plans 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) | Choose an item. | Engage community members/ 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) | Choose an item. | Conduct/support a broad sustainability education/action campaign.  |  |  |
| [24.5](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81884) | Choose an item. | Conduct a community visioning/ 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/students by creating opportunities to participate in city government. | City council has approved 2 students as members of the city green steps committee; hosted 3 UMN Sustainability Corps summer interns to support Gold Leaf climate actions  | 6/25/2025 |
| [24.7](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/101611) | Choose an item. | Engage Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC), renters, low-income, new Americans, differently abled and other traditionally under-represented community members. |  |  |
| Best Practice 25: Green Business DevelopmentBP 25 Completed? YES Total actions completed: 2**Actions to Complete BP 25:** ~~Any two actions~~ |
| **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) | Choose an item. | 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) | Choose an item. | Create/participate in a marketing/ outreach program to connect businesses with assistance providers. |  |  |
| [25.3](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81887) | Choose an item. | Promote sustainable tourism. |  |  |
| [25.4](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81888) | ★★ | Strengthen value-added businesses utilizing local "waste" material. | Public Works brings yard waste to a locally run compost site & buys the compost to use in public works projects | 12/5/2019 |
| [25.5](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81889) | Choose an item. | Lower the environmental and health risk footprint of a brownfield remediation/redevelopment project; 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. | Green business award - annual recognition | 3/10/2020 |
| [25.7](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81891) | Choose an item. | Conduct/ participate in a buy local campaign for community members and local businesses. |  |  |
| Best Practice 26: Renewable EnergyBP 26 Completed? YES Total actions completed: 3**Actions to Complete BP 26:** ~~Any two actions~~ |
| **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) | Choose an item. | Adopt wind/biomass ordinances that allow, enable, or encourage appropriate renewable energy installations. |  |  |
| [26.2](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81893) | Choose an item. | 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 for clean energy. | Website provides information on utility rebates for residents | 7/18/2023 |
| [26.4](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81895) | Choose an item. | 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. | Solar PV at Animal Rescue, Maintenance, Radium Plant, and FD – 140kw capacity total  | 7/31/2023 |
| [26.6](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81897) | Choose an item. | 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. | 2019 SolSmart designation at the Bronze level | 1/7/2020 |
| Best Practice 27: Local FoodBP 27 Completed? YES Total actions completed: 2**Actions to Complete BP 27:** ~~Any one action~~ |
| **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) | Choose an item. | 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. | Chicken Ordinance and Beekeeping Ordinance adopted  | 8/6/2023 |
| [27.3](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81900) | ★★ | Create, assist with and promote local food production/distribution within the city. | Local Food Shelf run by Healthy Community Partnership; community garden; Veterans Park weekly farmers market  | 8/6/2023 |
| [27.4](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81901) | Choose an item. | Measurably increase institutional buying, and sales through groceries and restaurants. |  |  |
| [27.5](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/106281) | Choose an item. | Assess, plan for, and enhance the community’s local food system.  |  |  |
| Best Practice 28: Business Synergies and EcodistrictsBP 28 Completed? NO Total actions completed: 0**Actions to Complete BP 28:** Any one action |
| **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) | Choose an item. | Document that at least one business/ building uses waste heat or water discharge from another business or conducts materials exchange activities with another organization. |  |  |
| [28.3](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81904) | Choose an item. | 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) | Choose an item. | 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. |  |  |
| Best Practice 29: Climate Adaptation and Community ResilienceBP 29 Completed? YES Total actions completed: 1**Actions to Complete BP 29:** ~~29.1 at 2- or 3-star level~~ |
| **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. | Works with Houston County to develop All-Hazard Mitigation plan with goals, objectives, strategies, and emergency response for city; use County CodeRed communication system | 5/6/2020 |
| [29.2](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81913) | Choose an item. | 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) | Choose an item. | Increase social connectedness through engagement, capacity building, public investment, and opportunities for economically vulnerable residents. |  |  |
| [29.4](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81915) | Choose an item. | Encourage private sector action and incentivize investment in preventive approaches that reduce risk and minimize impacts. |  |  |
| [29.5](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81916) | Choose an item. | 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) | Choose an item. | Reduce the urban heat impacts of public buildings/sites/infrastructure. |  |  |
| [29.7](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81918) | Choose an item. | 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) | Choose an item. | Improve local energy resilience. |  |  |