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**Assessment Date:** 7/14/2025

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# Assessment 2026

City of Saint Cloud: Category A City

**Table of Contents**

[Information and GreenStep Status 2](#_Toc108009797)

[Notable Actions 2](#_Toc108009798)

[Step Advancement Guidelines 4](#_Toc108009799)

[Best Practice Actions: 5](#_Toc108009803)

[Buildings and Lighting (BPs 1-5) 5](#_Toc108009804)

[Land Use (BPs 6-10) 10](#_Toc108009810)

[Transportation (BPs 11-14) 15](#_Toc108009816)

[Environmental Management (BPs 15-23) 19](#_Toc108009821)

[Resilient Economic and Community Development (BPs 24-29) 28](#_Toc108009831)

## About the Program

The GreenStep 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:** November 2010

**Status:** Step 3

**Total Best Practices (BPs) Complete**: 25

**Total BP Actions Complete:** 89

[Saint Cloud’s GreenStep Page](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/city-detail/12423)

**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/12423>

* **4.5+ million kWh/yr. savings** from recent building lighting improvement projects, most done at no cost/short paybacks through use of utility rebates/guaranteed energy savings programs
* **$400,000/yr. energy savings** from an energy efficiency and biofuel recovery project at the wastewater treatment facility; biofuel recovery generates 5M kWh/yr.; treatment plant generates 80% of its electrical demand onsite through solar and anaerobic digestion
* **2.8M kWh/yr. savings** from 2017 project to convert all streetlights & traffic signals to LEDs
* **$18.5 million calculated savings** over 40 years by 5-yr. LED street lighting plan for 5,000 street light changeouts
* **4 solar arrays on city property** generate 0.44M kWh/yr.; 600 kW wind turbine at VA hospital produces 15% of facility need, saving $98,000/yr.
* **Nation’s first public bus powered by recycled vegetable oil** @ $2.30/gal.
* **St. Cloud State campus bike-share** service established
* **Green roof, green parking lot** and rain garden design standards
* **St. Cloud Area Sustainability Plan** adopted
* **Shop Local, Eat Local, Invest Local, Stay Local** program of St. Cloud Area Chamber of Commerce
* **$210,530/yr. savings by using ductile iron** drinking water mains vs. PVC; elimination of any potential to leach carcinogens into the public water supply
* **Bicycle-Friendly Community** recognition at the Bronze level in 2018
* **Renewable energy supplied 83%** of city operational demand during 2018
* **$35 million estimated savings** from city investments in renewable energy during 2020-2045
* **City Hall building reuse** when it moved into 1930’s-built junior high school in the 1980’s and again moved in 2022 to the former Technical High School built in 1917.

## Step Advancement Guidelines

### Guidelines for Step 2:

Learn more about Step 2

As a Category A city, to be recognized as a Step 2 GreenStep City, **ANY 8 Best Practices** must be reported.

**Any 8 Best Practices**

### Guidelines for Step 3:

Learn more about Step 3

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

**Any 16 Best Practices**

**Public Buildings:**  [1.1](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81743),  [1.2](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81744), and  any one additional action from [1.3-1.7](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-detail/81714)

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

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

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

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

**Mobility Options:**  any two actions from [12.1-12.6](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-detail/81724)

**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)

**Community Forests & Soils:**  any two actions from [16.1-16.7](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-detail/81726)

**Stormwater Management:**  any one action from [17.1-17.6](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-detail/81727)

**Environmental Management:**  any one additional Environmental Management BP (18-23)

**Benchmarks & Community Engagement:** [24.1](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81880) and [24.2](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81881)

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

**Climate Adaptation & 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

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 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: Detailed Descriptions

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 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 Buildings BP 1 Completed? YES Total actions completed: 5  **Actions to Complete BP 1**: ~~1.1, 1.2, 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:** |
| [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). | 2004 assessment; current data for 400+ citywide meters inc. drinking/WW plants; used to develop annual energy reports for each department/facility to ID potential energy efficiency opportunities and savings | 4/18/2024 |
| [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. | Lighting assessments completed at nearly all city facilities/buildings; with rebates/guaranteed savings funding options most projects have been no cost or short paybacks; 4.5+ million kWh are being saved each year due to the most recent lighting improvement projects | 4/18/2024 |
| [1.3](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81745) | ★★★ | Invest in larger energy efficiency projects. | Performance contracting used for Energy Efficiency and Biofuel Project at NEW Recovery Facility (1.6 million kWh/year saved); Street Light Improvement Project (2.4 million kWh/year saved) | 4/18/2024 |
| [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) | ★★ | Meet the [SB 2030 energy standard](https://www.b3mn.org/2030energystandard/) or qualify under a green building or energy framework. | Daylight harvesting, light sensors/controls, stormwater management, etc. at St. Cloud Public Library, PD, Kennedy Community School, Stearns Co. Westside Service Center | 5/13/2011 |
| [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) | ★★★ | Install one or more of the following:  -A ground-source, closed loop geothermal system.  -A district energy/microgrid system.  -A rainwater harvesting system | 1.26 MW CHP at Recovery Facility uses renewable biofuel; GeoExchange system at Municipal Athletic Complex | 4/18/2024 |
| Best Practice 2: Efficient Existing Private Buildings BP 2 Completed? YES Total actions completed: 3  **Actions to Complete BP 2:** ~~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:** |
| [2.1](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81750) | ★★★ | Create or participate in a program to promote energy and water efficiency. | Participation in Xcel's Partners in Energy Program; Energy Action Plan developed 2016, has goals and strategies related to promoting energy efficiency for the residents of St. Cloud; water meter upgrades | 4/18/2024 |
| [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) | ★ | Implement an energy rating/disclosure policy for residential/commercial buildings. | Energy use customer statements for electric and natural gas; water use information provided; real time meters | 4/18/2024 |
| [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) | ★ | Create one of the following:  -Water-wise landscaping ordinance/ guidance  -WaterSense purchasing program  -Guidance on rainwater harvesting and home water softener use | Water ban ordinance | 5/13/2011 |
| [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 Buildings BP 3 Completed? NO Total actions completed: 0  **Actions to Complete BP 3:** Any one action from 3.1-3.2 and any one action from 3.3-3.5 | | | | |
| **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:** |
| [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 Signals BP 4 Completed? YES Total actions completed: 6  **Actions to Complete BP 4:** ~~Any two 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) | Choose an item. | Require energy efficient, Dark-Sky compliant new or replacement outdoor lighting fixtures on city-owned/private buildings/facilities. |  |  |
| [4.2](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81763) | ★★★ | Purchase LEDs for all future street lighting and traffic signals. | All streetlights & traffic signals are LED, 2.8M kWh/yr. savings | 5/9/2024 |
| [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. | Electric Light Management System to promote traffic efficiency and safety and minimize car idling; 5 roundabouts replaced lighted stops | 5/12/2011 |
| [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. | All city parking lots & parking ramps lighting have been converted to LEDs | 5/9/2024 |
| [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. | All city facilities have outdoor LED/Dark Sky lighting | 5/17/2017 |
| [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. | All city-owned parking lot/ramp lighting replaced with LED/Dark Sky lighting | 5/17/2017 |
| [4.8](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81769) | ★★★ | Replace city's existing traffic signal indications with LEDs. | 100% traffic signals are LED | 5/17/2017 |
| Best Practice 5: Building Redevelopment BP 5 Completed? YES Total actions completed: 4  **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) | ★★★ | Adopt an historic preservation ordinance/ regulations and encourage adaptive reuse. | Historic Preservation Ordinance adopted 1990; Residential Historic District Preservation Design Manual and Downtown Preservation Design Manual adopted 2003; Certified Local Govt. | 5/9/2024 |
| [5.2](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81771) | ★ | Implement the Minnesota Main Street model for commercial revitalization. | St. Cloud Downtown Council associate member of MN Main Street Association; parking and transportation options; beautification; Advocacy Services | 6/3/2011 |
| [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. | City Hall moved into former Technical HS building in 2022; COP House in repurposed church space; department store turned into office use | 5/9/2024 |
| [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) | ★ | Adopt development/design standards and programs that facilitate infill, redevelopment, and adaptable buildings. | Residential Historic District & Downtown Preservation Design Manuals adopted 2003 encourage infill and redevelopment with green building info | 5/9/2024 |

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 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 Plans BP 6 Completed? YES Total actions completed: 3  **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. | 2015 updates to comprehensive plan | 7/11/2024 |
| [6.2](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81776) | ★★ | Demonstrate that regulatory ordinances comply with the comprehensive plan. | Land Development Code adopted 2009 to comply with 2003 Comprehensive Plan | 5/13/2011 |
| [6.3](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81777) | ★★ | Include requirements in comprehensive and/or other plans for intergovernmental coordination. | St. Cloud Joint Planning District Plan | 5/13/2011 |
| [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. | Adopted Natural Areas Inventory and Planning Framework which protects naturally sensitive areas. Environmentally sensitive areas are in comprehensive plan/regulated to protect areas susceptible to damage by growth | 7/11/24 |
| [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 Growth BP 7 Completed? YES Total actions completed: 2  **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) | ★★★ | Eliminate barriers and actively encourage higher density housing in city zoning ordinance and map. | 8/10 residential zoning districts allow single-family density of 6 units/acre and multi-family at 7.26 units/acre and above | 6/6/2011 |
| [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) | ★ | 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. | High density commercial allowed in downtown core and fringe areas; no minimum lot size; zero-lot-line setback | 5/5/2011 |
| [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 Uses BP 8 Completed? YES Total actions completed: 3  **Actions to Complete BP 8:** ~~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:** |
| [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) | ★ | 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. | City Hall located in downtown urban center and 1/10th of a mile of Metro Bus Transit Center | 5/10/2011 |
| [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 District encourages flexibility through mixed-use, setbacks, etc. | 5/10/2011 |
| [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) | ★ | Have a downtown zoning district that emphasizes small and destination business, entrepreneurial spaces, and allows or requires residential and residential-compatible commercial development. | Central Business Zoning District allows residential units, assisted living facilities, convalescent homes, dormitories and independent living facilities; no offstreet parking required | 5/10/2011 |
| [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 Development BP 9 Completed? YES Total actions completed: 3  **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) | ★★ | Establish design goals for at least one highway/auto-oriented corridor/cluster. | Goals for 5 highway corridors in comprehensive plan | 6/6/2011 |
| [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. | Joint district planning with counties and cities; 1-94 corridor master plan | 5/12/2011 |
| [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) | ★ | 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. | C-5 Highway Commercial Zoning District provides service areas adjacent to arterial traffic routes | 5/12/2011 |
| Best Practice 10: Design for Natural Resource Conservation BP 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) | ★★ | Conduct a Natural Resource Inventory or Assessment; incorporate protection of priority natural systems or resources such as groundwater through the subdivision or development process. | 137 natural areas inventoried and prioritized; Environmentally Sensitive Areas Ordinance | 5/5/2011 |
| [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) | ★★ | For cities within metropolitan areas, incorporate woodland best management practices addressing protection of wooded areas into zoning or development review. | Woodland Best Management Practice ordinance | 6/6/2011 |
| [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) | Choose an item. | 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) | 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) | Choose an item. | Support and protect wildlife through habitat rehabilitation, preservation and recognition programs. |  |  |
| 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 Streets BP 11 Completed? YES Total actions completed: 4  **Actions to Complete BP 11:** ~~11.1 and two additional 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:** |
| [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. | Policy passed 2011 | 5/13/2011 |
| [11.2](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81803) | Choose an item. | 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. | Pervious pavers, tree planting with engineered soils, adjacent to large parking area at regional library constructed 2009 | 5/27/2011 |
| [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. | Neighborhood Revitaliztion Projects comply with City Sidewalk and Boulevard Use Policy | 5/11/2011 |
| [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. | Narrower streets (Westwood Parkway), speed humps, gateway island, 5 roundabouts, diversions installed | 5/11/2011 |
| Best Practice 12: Mobility Options BP 12 Completed? YES Total actions completed: 4  **Actions to Complete BP 12:** ~~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:** |
| [12.1](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81808) | ★★★ | Increase walking, biking and transit. | Park & ride lot for commuter rail; bronze bike friendly community. | 9/28/2018 |
| [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 program; 2006 Madison Elementary routes to three local school facilities; Westwood Elementary upgrades to park adjacent to school | 5/11/2011 |
| [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. | Transit information for Metro Transit Bus, Dial-A-Ride, Northstar Link Commuter Bus information on website | 5/10/2011 |
| [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. | Campus bike share Yellow Bike Project 2004; Husky Ride Green Initiative 2010 | 5/10/2011 |
| Best Practice 13: Efficient City Fleets BP 13 Completed? YES Total actions completed: 3  **Actions to Complete BP 13:** ~~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:** |
| [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) | ★ | Right-size/down-size city fleet with the most fuel-efficient vehicles that are of an optimal size and capacity for their intended functions. | Tracking operations CO2 emissions since 2008; maintenance and consolidation efforts; replacement | 5/12/2011 |
| [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. | 2011 St. Cloud Metro Bus is home to the nation’s first public bus powered by recycled vegetable oil coming directly from St. Cloud State University’s on-campus dining, saving an estimated $2.30 per gallon | 5/12/2011 |
| [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. | Bike police patrols | 5/12/2011 |
| [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 Planning BP 14 Completed? YES Total actions completed: 2  **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) | ★★ | For cities with regular transit service, require/provide incentives for the siting of retail services at transit/ density nodes. | Transit service routes are routinely revised to accommodate new, expanding and relocating retail centers | 6/6/2011 |
| [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) | ★ | Require new (re)developments to prepare a travel demand management plan or transit-oriented development standards or LEED for Neighborhood Development certification. | North Star Commuter Rail Transit-Oriented Development sites | 6/3/2011 |
| 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 Purchasing BP 15 Completed? NO Total actions completed: 1  **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. | St. Cloud Area Joint Planning District 2009 Sustainability Framework includs an action plan with initiatives to "vote for the environment with your dollars" by purchasing recycled or verified green products | 6/13/2024 |
| [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. | 100% of electrical demand to provide City services is powered by renewable energy through onsite solar and biofuel generation and subscriptions to community solar gardens. Natural gas demand for recovery facility decreased by 40% | 6/13/24 |
| [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. | Provides council packets and agendas electronically, recycling provided at Rivers Edge Convention Center (owned by City) | 6/13/24 |
| [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 Soil BP 16 Completed? YES Total actions completed: 3  **Actions to Complete BP 16:** ~~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:** |
| [16.1](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81833) | ★★ | Certify as a Tree City USA. | 31 years of Tree City USA; Growth Awards 3 separate years since 2004 | 5/5/2011 |
| [16.2](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81834) | Choose an item. | 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) | Choose an item. | 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. | Streetscape Guidelines; Urban Design Plan; Downtown Framework Plan | 5/12/2011 |
| [16.5](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81837) | ★ | Adopt a tree preservation or native landscaping ordinance. | Environmentally Sensitive Areas Ordinance; Disease Tree Ordinance | 5/12/2011 |
| [16.6](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81906) | Choose an item. | 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. |  |  |
| [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 Management BP 17 Completed? YES Total actions completed: 4  **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) | ★ | Adopt and use Minnesota's Minimal Impact Design Standards (MIDS). | Use MIDS calculator | 6/06/2024 |
| [17.2](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81838) | Choose an item. | Complete the GreenStep Municipal Stormwater Management Assessment. |  |  |
| [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. | Post construction stormwater standards in Land Development Code include infiltration/volume reduction and runoff standards | 5/11/2011 |
| [17.4](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81841) | ★★ | Create a stormwater utility that uses variable fees to incentivize and educate property owners. | Stormwater System Use Code fees; education efforts | 5/11/2011 |
| [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. | Design standards for rain gardens, green roofs, green parking lots | 5/11/2011 |
| [17.6](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81843) | Choose an item. | Reduce de-icing and dust suppressant salt use to prevent permanent surface water and groundwater pollution. |  |  |
| Best Practice 18: Parks and Trails BP 18 Completed? YES Total actions completed: 5  **Actions to Complete BP 18:** ~~Any three 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. | River Bluffs Regional Park and Trail project construction of 1 mile of accessible trail | 5/27/2011 |
| [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. | Park land dedication requirements | 5/27/2011 |
| [18.3](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81846) | Choose an item. | Achieve minimum levels of city green space and maximize the percent within a ten-minute walk of community members. |  |  |
| [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. | 1 inch, 24 hour stormwater on site standard; project exceed with wet/dry native vegetation ponds/gardens | 5/27/2011 |
| [18.5](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81848) | Choose an item. | 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) | 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) | ★ | 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. | Skate plaza at Heritage Park drains 20,000 SF hard surface into designed rain water features and green and tree plantings; park shelter green roof with native plants | 5/27/2011 |
| [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. | Adopt-A-Park program; high school student native plant buffer around Lake George; Master Gardener rain gardens along Mississippi River | 5/27/2011 |
| Best Practice 19: Surface Water BP 19 Completed? YES Total actions completed: 2  **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) | ★★ | Consistently monitor surface water quality/clarity and report findings to community members. | Sauk River Watershed District and MPCA conduct water sampling. Water quality projects available on City’s website. | 8/07/2024 |
| [19.2](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81852) | ★ | Conduct/support multi-party community conversations, assessments, plans, and actions to improve local water quality/quantity. | Member of the Central Minnesota Water Education Alliance that provide education outreach to promote water quality stewardship. Outreach through Storm Drain Art Program, Adopt-a-Drain, rain garden promotion, and community clean-ups | 8/07/2024 |
| [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. | Active member of the Central Minnesota Water Education Alliance | 5/12/2011 |
| [19.4](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81854) | ★★ | Adopt a shoreland ordinance for all river and lake shoreland areas. | Shoreland Overlay District ordinance as a part of the Land Development Code | 5/12/2011 |
| [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 Systems BP 20 Completed? YES Total actions completed: 4  **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) | ★★ | Compare the energy use and financial performance of your facilities with other peer facilities. | Utility billing data entered into B3 for drinking/WW plants & used to benchmark WWTP against peers | 5/17/2017 |
| [20.2](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81856) | ★ | Plan and budget for motor maintenance and upgrades. | Eergy efficiency is a key criteria when selecting equipment replacement options | 5/17/2017 |
| [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) | ★ | Optimize energy and chemical use at drinking water/wastewater facilities and decrease chloride in wastewater discharges. | Energy & chemical efficiency evaluations are completed daily at both DW & WW treatment facilities | 5/17/2017 |
| [20.6](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81859) | ★★★ | Implement a wastewater plant efficiency project or a program for local private business operations. | WWTP generates on average 80% of its electrical demand onsite through solar and anaerobic digestion | 5/17/2017 |
| [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 Systems BP 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 Waste BP 22 Completed? NO Total actions completed: 0  **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. | Has City ordinance related to recycling, recycling information on website, and recycling reminders are available | 8/07/2024 |
| [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 Quality BP 23 Completed? YES Total actions completed: 2  **Actions to Complete BP 23:** ~~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:** |
| [23.1](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81875) | Choose an item. | Replace small internal combustion engine lawn/garden equipment 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. | Recreational Burning Permit includes setbacks, material bans, burning ban consideration | 6/2/2011 |
| [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. | Idling longer than 5 min. prohibited in two-block downtown area; Public Works No Idling Policy | 6/2/2011 |
| [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. | There are two electric vehicle charging stations on city-owned property (level 2) | 8/07/2024 |
| 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 Engagement BP 24 Completed? YES Total actions completed: 4  **Actions to Complete BP 24:** ~~24.1 and 24.2~~ | | | | |
| **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:** |
| [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. | St. Cloud Area Sustainability Committee; Sustainability Framework Plan | 5/13/2011 |
| [24.2](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81881) | ★ | Organize goals/outcome measures from all city plans and report to community members data that show progress toward meeting these goals. | St. Cloud Area Joint District Plan; St. Cloud Area Sustainability Framework Plan | 5/13/2011 |
| [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) | ★★ | Conduct/support a broad sustainability education/action campaign. | St. Cloud Area Sustainability Plan included engagement and educational sessions – Sustainability Event | 5/13/2011 |
| [24.5](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81884) | ★★★ | Conduct a community visioning/ planning initiative that engages a diverse set of community members & stakeholders and uses a sustainability, resilience, or environmental justice framework. | St. Cloud Area Sustainability Plan included engagement and educational sessions – Sustainability Event | 6/2/2011 |
| [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. | Sustainability Coordinator has high school intern for GreenStep, City Council offers internships, city has Youth Commission | 8/07/2024 |
| [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 Development BP 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) | ★ | Create/participate in a marketing/ outreach program to connect businesses with assistance providers. | St. Cloud Area Sustainability Committee worked with Xcel Energy to share programs | 5/13/2011 |
| [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) | Choose an item. | Strengthen value-added businesses utilizing local "waste" material. |  |  |
| [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) | Choose an item. | 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/ participate in a buy local campaign for community members and local businesses. | St. Cloud Area Chamber of Commerce operates Shop Local, Eat Local, Invest LocaL, Stay Local | 5/12/2011 |
| Best Practice 26: Renewable Energy BP 26 Completed? YES Total actions completed: 2  **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) | ★★ | Adopt wind/biomass ordinances that allow, enable, or encourage appropriate renewable energy installations. | Wind Energy Conversion Systems ordinance | 5/12/2011 |
| [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) | Choose an item. | Promote financing and incentive programs for clean energy. |  |  |
| [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. | 2015: 4 solar arrays-0.438M kWh/yr.- on City property; biofuel recovery at WWTP generates 5M kWh/yr.; 600 kW turbine at VA | 5/17/2017 |
| [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) | Choose an item. | 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 Food BP 27 Completed? YES Total actions completed: 3  **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) | ★★ | Incorporate working landscapes - agriculture and forestry - into the city by adopting an ordinance. | Agricultural Zoning District adopted 2008 to establish and preserve suitable area | 6/7/2011 |
| [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. | Central Minnesota Sustainability Project on developing neighborhood organic gardens (some on city park land) with focus on new Americans | 11/15/2010 |
| [27.3](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81900) | ★ | Create, assist with and promote local food production/distribution within the city. | Farmers Market Saturday and Wednesdays during summer; CSA arrangements; community gardens | 5/12/2011 |
| [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. |  |  |
| Best Practice 28: Business Synergies and Ecodistricts BP 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 Resilience BP 29 Completed? NO Total actions completed: 0  **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. | Collaborates on and review annually the regional Hazard Mitigation Plans, part of planning/training with Central MN Emergency Management Advisory Committee, emergency alerts in several different languages (including Somali and Spanish), conducts outreach/communications to community on plan | 7/11/24 |
| [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) | ★ | Increase social connectedness through engagement, capacity building, public investment, and opportunities for economically vulnerable residents. | St Cloud police department program that provides health care, social services, and after school programming; St Cloud public works and public utilities provides programming for refugees and immigrants; and supports several other community organizations | 7/11/24 |
| [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. |  |  |