

3-20-2025

Summary

GreenStep Cities Task Force

<https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/>

Sponsor: ALP Utilities Board of Public Works

Members: 5 citizens chosen from applications

Focus: Achieve GreenStep Cities recognition from the MPCA <https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/>

Objective:

Establish an inventory of actions the City of Alexandria has taken and determine future best practices to implement to achieve Minnesota GreenStep Cities recognition. MN GreenStep Cities is a voluntary challenge, assistance and recognition program to help cities achieve their sustainability and quality-of-life goals. It is a free continuous improvement program, managed by a public-private partnership, based upon a menu of 29 optional best practices. Each best practice can be implemented, as decided by city elected officials, staff and community members, by completing one or more actions at a 1, 2 or 3-star level, from a list of four to eight actions. These voluntary actions are tailored to all Minnesota cities, focus on cost savings and energy use reduction, and encourage civic innovation and engagement.

Background:

A group of citizens have expressed interest in being engaged in activities that put/keep the City of Alexandria on a purposeful path of stewardship of natural and economic resources for future generations.

The City of Alexandria has made investments that show our community is aware of the importance of protection and planning for these resources.

The City of Alexandria has already achieved many of the Best Practices through the efforts of other (City of Alexandria) committees that considered preservation of natural and economic resources as part of their decision-making process. The ideas were then supported by the Council through budgeting, motions and resolutions to make it happen. Most notable are recommendations and achievements fostered by ALASD, ALP Utilities, Planning Commission, Highway Committee and Stormwater Management Committee.

Recommendations:

The singular focus will be to review the initiatives required to achieve GreenStep Cities recognition. The GreenStep program provides an in-depth collection of initiatives that qualify a community for recognition. Currently, 146 cities and tribal nations in MN have achieved this status.

Action steps and timeline:

- The first requirement to participate in the GreenStep Cities program is the passage of a Resolution of support by the City Council.

- The working group will make contact with the GreenStep staff for direction. The first goal for the City of Alexandria will be to take the list of GreenStep initiatives and review each one to determine if Alexandria has already included the effort in its policies or actions. This will establish the inventory.
- The working group will review the inventory and work with the MPCA to determine if Alexandria meets the criteria for the designation. If yes, submit the application.
- The Board of Public Utilities will consider initiatives that should be considered for its next phase.
- The working group may also recommend initiatives that fall outside the scope of ALP Utilities responsibility. Example: Community resiliency during natural or human-caused disasters.
- Determine if the group is to continue.
 - If yes. Determine goals.

Financial Considerations:

- Cost of marketing. Social media will be used in all marketing efforts.
- No project funds were budgeted for 2025. The cost of new projects, if any in 2025, will be financed from existing department budgets.

Recommendation: Approval of the Resolution of support

Contact Bobbie Osterberg at BOSTERBERG@ALEXANDRIAMN.CITY with questions.