



Notables Actions

Updated August 2026

The following summaries are taken from city action reports and are considered **unique or above and beyond**. Full reports are available by clicking on a city name located on the "All Cities" page at <https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us>

Alexandria

- **GreenStep City Task Force** includes residents, Mayor, and Alexandria Utility rep formed in 2025
- **Incentive program for purchasing efficient water softening systems** that reduce water and salt usage through the Alexandria Lake Area Sanitary District
- **Stormwater Management Program** includes a public education and outreach program with topics including: Car Care for Cleaner Water, Residents Guide to Stormwater, Construction Infiltration Systems, Lawn Care Tips that Work, Don't rake into the lake, Concrete Washout Guidance
- **Sidewalks/trails are required** in all city street reconstruction projects and new development
- **FIRST in Minnesota to pioneer temporary traffic calming islands** during the summer months that can be removed for plowing in the winter. Islands use bio-logs, woodchips, and planters and residents can request them annually

Apple Valley

- **First BRT (bus rapid transit) system in Minnesota**
- Longstanding recognition of **business waste reduction** via the ARROW program
- **Apple Valley businesses cut over \$285,000/yr.** in energy bills since 2007, working with Dakota Electric and Center Point Energy on over 100 efficiency projects promoted by the city's Better Energy Apple Valley effort
- **Better Energy Apple Valley 2-yr. campaign: \$437,000 lifetime savings;** 793 homeowners attended workshops, 98% completed audits, installing 16,680 CFLs, 759 low-flow shower heads, 1,491 low-flow aerators; 149 homes completed major upgrades (attic insulation, furnace, water heaters)
- **4 e-bikes** purchased in 2025 for police department to use during special and community events and patrol parks and business districts
- Liquor Store #3 and Hayes Community and Senior Center, Police Operations Building are **GreenGlobes certified**

Arden Hills

- **Town Center District** within the TCAAP redevelopment area allows mixed-use, requires a minimum density of 15 units per acres.
- **Project Circulation Plan** is required for larger projects in the TCAAP Redevelopment Code and must show how the plan considers all modes of transportation and integrates with existing/planned streets, bicycle and pedestrian facilities, and trails in the surrounding area.
- **Bicycle parking** required for every 20 automobile parking spaces for properties located in B-2 and B-3 Zoning Districts and all multi-family residential developments are required to provide enclosed bicycle parking at a ratio of 0.5 spaces for every dwelling unit.
- **Native meadow vegetation** is allowed by city code in place of turf grass.

Austin

- **Austin Chamber's "Buy Mower Grow Mower" shop local campaign includes Chamber Bucks** for local spending and TV promotion; increased retail sales tax collections are double initial projections
- **City provided location for the La Surena Cooperative**, a Latino Economic Development Center-sponsored project growing organic produce

Bemidji

- **Sustainability Committee reports** their initiatives to the city council on a quarterly basis; goals & key measures by department included in yearly budget highlights
- **Sustainable Tuesdays** offers free weekly learning opportunities to the public, in partnership program with the Indigenous Environmental Network, the Minnesota GreenCorps, the Rail River Folk School, and Bemidji State University's Sustainability Office

Bloomington

- **Asset management software for park buildings** calculates facility condition index that includes energy efficiency factors and optimizes capital planning evaluating different improvement scenarios; software tracks work orders, service requests, preventive maintenance
- **I&I projects costing \$500,000 save \$157,000/yr.**, add 40-70 years to sanitary sewers, cut an estimated 63M gal. of annual I&I. 1993-2017 saw a reduction of over one billion gallons in sewer flow – a 27% decline - due to cutting I&I and water-conserving plumbing fixtures. City inspects about 200,000 feet of wastewater collection mains annually; manhole inspection program spends \$300,000/yr. for manhole rehabilitation during street projects

Brooklyn Center

- **Treatment plant cost-cutting** with electricity peak-shaving strategies, reduced fluoride levels, reclaiming 90% of backwash water
- **2015 brooklynk, a youth employment program** for 21st century skill building and training, experiential employment opportunities, and development of social capital
- **City-owned big-box commercial site** provided in 2020 to Free Bikes 4 Kids MN as warehouse space to collect and distribute 7-10,000 bikes and salvage/recycle bikes that are unrepairable.

Brooklyn Park

- **Emerging leaders** (ages 18-24) serve on city commissions. Community partners help recruit and train young adults.
- **Energy efficient ice rinks** were updated in 2010 using a geothermal system to cool the rinks and heat portions of the buildings. The project is considered one of the most energy efficient ice rinks in the world and extended the life of the rink by 20+ years. The project has a savings of \$70,000-90,000/year and has a payback of 12 years.
- **Converted 731 high pressure sodium street lights** to induction and LED lights at no cost to the city and paid via energy savings (over 50%) in 2010; approximately \$50,000 in annual energy costs.
- **Switched 64 fixtures to LED** lights at Operations & Maintenance Facility in 2020 estimated to save \$253.84/year.

- **Built community capacity and resilience** with affordable housing stakeholders in 2018. Working with Metro Blooms, the city implemented pollinator habitat, healthy tree canopies, and clean water projects through participatory design, installation, and long-term care practices WITH multifamily residents, owners, and managers.
- **Switching all street lights and traffic signals to LED** lights, completed in 2010, has saved the city approximately \$50,000 in annual energy costs.

Burnsville

- **First city sustainability plan** in Minnesota
- **Established an Energy Efficiency Fund** to match rebates and purchase energy efficient products with longer payback periods
- **Adopted a Sustainable Infrastructure Policy** that guides review and consideration of sustainability features for infrastructure projects
- **Organics dropsite** at city park was estimated to divert 202,748 pounds of organics in 2022.

Carver

- **PHEV building inspection vehicle** purchased in 2021
- **Non-potable surface/rain water used to irrigate** city's largest park and adjacent neighborhood. The park was able to continue to be irrigated during a watering ban during the summer 2021 drought and avoided damage.

Champlin

- **Ordinance restricting lawn watering** from May 1st to Labor Day. Additionally, the City sponsors a grant where rain barrels are an eligible purchase.
- **Conservation Districts** that provide special protections to all areas within the Mississippi River Corridor as established in the city's comprehensive plan.
- Woodland and significant tree protection ordinance.
- **Environmental Improvement and Education Grant** supports landscaping practices that improve water quality, promote water conservation, expand pollinator habitat, or engages in environmental education.
- **Four solar arrays** located on City Hall (39.6kW), Ice Forum (39.78kW), Public Works (39.6kW), and Water Treatment (26.4kW) which total 145.38kW of production.
- **Curbside pick up of both organics recycling to all single family properties** in July 2025.

Chanhassen

- **Environmental Academy** offers a free short series of educational courses and tours to community members.
- **Lawn/water actions:** rebates to residents who remove irrigated lawn & plant un-irrigated perennial landscaping; free city irrigation audits; past rebates for Smart Controllers
- **PUD density bonus** up to 25% for affordable housing; Bluff Creek Overlay District requires density transfer to preserve the primary creek corridor; RLM district permits smaller lot sizes with the preservation of significant, natural, upland areas
- **Urban forestry subdivision ordinance** requires woodland inventory, protection plan & conservation easements; canopy coverage retention requirement & woodland replacement plan as needed; non-

residential development encouraged to preserve woodlands as buffers; planting in groupings as extensions of existing woodlands required

- **Businesses required to install boulevard trees** and parking lot landscaping along city's main street, which has center islands and boulevards planted with trees & shrubs
- **EAB SLAM** (Slow Ash Mortality) Plan developed
- **Mobile bike repair clinic** provided for residents

Circle Pines

- **13 Parks** located in city (2 square miles); 100% of residents live within a ten minute walk of a city park.
- **City-wide organized collection since 1990** for solid waste, recycling, yard waste, and organics (added 2022).

Columbia Heights

- **Library built on brownfields site** revitalized community's "main street" and recognized with 2016 ReScape award.
- **Sump pump inspection program** reviewed every property and removed sump pump and roof drain cross-connections to the sanitary sewer.
- **Sustainability Commission** started in 2023 includes 9 members and a Councilmember liaison.
- **Youth Commission** includes 7-13 members with students between 14 and 18 years of age.
- **City Hall vertical mixed-use development** built in 2023 includes 266 apartments, 3,500 sf café space, and community room.
- **Employee bikes** available for staff to travel from City Hall to other City offices located within one mile.
- **Emergency communications to residents** provided options for a language translation line and the multi-cultural liaison.

Coon Rapids

- **Community Sustainability Partnership program**, run by the City and it's Sustainability Commission, recognizes/promotes sustainable practices implemented in businesses, faith and civic organizations, and other non-profits
- **Home for Generations program** helps residents add space during green remodeling
- **Bikes purchased** in 2020 for use at Senior Center to ride nearby trail system.

Cottage Grove

- **Density bonus for innovative energy conservation efforts**, including orientation of lots and/or units for maximum use of passive solar energy, earth sheltering, alternative energy sources and preservation of solar access.
- **Public Safety/City Hall building** has daylighting sensors and Sage electrochromic glass to reduce energy consumption.

Crosslake

- **Annual Tree Sale** started in 2015 has resulted in 16,000 trees and shrubs sold and planted in critical watershed areas to reduce water runoff.
- **Emergency Shelter** designed in 2019 city hall basement for nearby campground visitors.

Detroit Lakes

- **\$1.8M energy conservation** project to improve retrofit lighting and insulation at the Community and Cultural Center
- **Municipal Solar Garden** participation offered via the city utility
- **Meetings twice/yr. With major local businesses**, by Public Utilities staff, to encourage energy conservation and to promote new programs

Dilworth

- **Regional bus offers discounted passes for students** (elementary school stop), elderly, disabled; free passes for college students, personal care attendants, service-connected veterans
- **Shovel Dilworth encouragement effort**; streetsalve festival twice a year; walking paths indicated by sidewalk stencils, signage, maps; 2010 SRTS survey resulted in 2014 shared use path; 2016 sidewalk condition inventory

Dodge Center

- **Goal of city-wide sidewalks**; policy of installing new/replacing old sidewalk whenever there is a road construction project. \$5M in projects planned during 2020
- **Extensive public-private SRTS** (Safe Routes to School) working committee

Duluth

- **Unified Development Code** provides "for more sustainable development within the city by reducing carbon emissions, vehicle miles travelled, energy consumption, and water consumption, and by encouraging production of renewable energy and food"
- **Outdoor lighting code** applies to all city-owned, multi-family, mixed use, commercial, and/or industrial buildings in the city as well as all parking lots; Dark Sky and auto-dimming provisions
- **Reuse of previously developed lands** #1 principle guiding development; all new development must achieve a certain number of points from a sustainability scorecard; parking minimums lowered if businesses share parking with neighboring businesses or existing parking structures
- **Goal of 80% reduction** in greenhouse gas emissions from municipal operations by 2050; plan to reduce emissions from the city owned steam plant by 50% over 30 years
- **Multi-family housing, ADUs allowed** in all residential (except Rural) districts; efficiency units (min 380 sq. Ft.) Allowed in all mixed use neighborhoods
- **UMN student-developed scooter** co.; focus on increasing bus service frequency on currently existing lines; 96% of Duluth addresses lie within 1/2 mile of one of Duluth's 1640 transit stops
- **Parking maximum** of 150% of calculated parking minimums; no minimum for DT, Canal Park
- **Any re/development** that creates more than 3,000 sq ft of impervious surface is required to meet runoff standards; new/re-development required to match or reduce pre-redevelopment peak flow rates
- **Community organizations include** Duluth Invaders working to replace invasive with natives; releaf; Clean and Green
- **2019 Energy Plan Commission** includes 2 college student members
- **Solsmart PV-ready city** at the Gold level since 2017
- **2018 Population Vulnerability Assessment and Climate Adaptation Framework** looks out 100 yrs.

Eagan

- **Nation's first Green Globes-certified fire station**

- **Reduced parks' mowed area** by 10%
- **\$1.2 million in energy** improvements to city buildings
- **2024 Climate Vulnerability Assessment** evaluated projected impacts on local infrastructure and ecosystems
- **Climate Action Plan** adopted in April 2025 sets out to reduce communitywide emissions by 55% by 2035 and achieve net zero emissions by 2050
- **Sustainable Eagan Academy** invites students to speak about sustainability of each session, receiving support from city staff, volunteer hours, and a certificate for presenting

Eden Prairie

- **FIRST in MN all-electric police patrol vehicle** in city fleet
- **Students on Commissions Program** allows high school juniors and seniors to attend meetings, provide feedback, present at the City Council, participate in community environmental events, and work on student-led projects during their term.
- **Purchase 120% of the city's average annual electricity use from a community solar garden**, roughly 18,000 MWh per year.
- **ReACT Eden Prairie Tool** shows residents and businesses their solar suitability and other helpful sustainability tips.
- **Lease city building rooftop for 1.084 MW community solar garden**, with requirement that 25% of production is reserved for residents who are: low to moderate-income (LMI), renters, or immigrant community members.
- **720.46 kW on-site solar installed** at four city facilities (Water Treatment Plant, Maintenance Facility, City Center, Community Center) with an annual average production of 939.5 MWh/year from solar.
- **SolSmart Gold** designee in 2019.
- **Fuel misers committee** challenges city employees to cut costs
- **8-acre Green Path-certified neighborhood**
- **Performance measurement dashboard** (edenprairie.org/EdenPrairiePromise) tracks performance & progress toward the six goal areas, including 6 measures under Innovative and Sustainable Practices

Edina

- **First commercial PACE (property assessed clean energy) program in MN**, recognized by Environmental Initiative with a 2012 award
- **Community greenhouse gas reduction goal** of 15% by 2015 from 2007 baseline
- **2013 living streets policy** adopted = complete streets + green streets
- **Franchise Fee funds non-motorized transportation improvements** that make the community more walkable and bikeable.
- **National sustainable infrastructure tool** Envision used for street reconstruction project
- **Bike-Friendly Community** recognition in 2014
- **Guaranteed Energy Savings Program project** in 2011 audited 14 largest municipal buildings and improved \$469,000 in building envelop updates, water conservation measures, and interior lighting retrofits, saving an estimated annual 540,000 kWh and 19,600 terms of gas, reducing carbon footprint by 540 metric tons of CO2 annually, and saving approximately \$54,000 each year.
- **Green Fleet Purchasing Policy** adopted in 2022 requires all new light-duty fleet vehicles and off-road or lawn equipment vehicles be phased-out and replaced with electric and low-carbon fuel alternative options, eliminating 122 metric tons of GHG for every 1% of the fleet transitioned to EV.
- **Ground Cover Survey and Carbon Sequestration Study** published in 2021 provided a city-wide inventory and recommendations for improvements.

- **Decreased chlorine use in water treatment** by switching to chloramine in 2017, reducing associated energy usage by 30-40% from less pumping requirement.
- **Edina's Community Solar Garden** opened in 2018 and includes 76 residential subscriptions (with total bill credits of \$120,168 in 2021) and produced 761,461 kWh of energy in 2021 (equivalent to removing 71 gasoline-powered cars off the road).
- **Park referendum** passed in 2022 to include a .5% sales tax for park improvements including new 43 acre park, restoration, trails, amenities, infrastructure, and more.
- **Efficient Buildings Ordinance** passed in 2019 for buildings 25,000 sq. feet or larger must comply with annual reporting of energy use intensity (EUI), greenhouse gas emissions, and an energy performance score (Energy Star Portfolio).

Elk River

- **Public Library uses half the energy** of a normal library of same size, is certified LEED Gold by the USGBC
- **First MN city** to replace all traffic signals with cost-saving LED lights
- **Energy City tourism** averages 20 tours/yr.; 500 visitors in 2014

Elko New Market

- **Parking minimums eliminated** within the city

Ely

- **Zoning code encourages** space above businesses to be used as residential and office space
- **Energy retrofit grants** for businesses
- **Incredible Ely & Ely Health and Wellness** work to develop walking and biking route maps & signs
- **City renewables purchases include hydropower** through Lake County Power, increasing beyond 2016

Falcon Heights

- **Building permit fee rebate program** for Energy Star and water conserving improvements.
- **Streetscape project** included the addition of 100+ trees, native plantings, and decorative concrete for pedestrian and cyclist safety.
- **All residential parcels within ½ mile of a public park.**
- **Environmental Commission** includes residents, a youth commissioner, and a commissioner from the University of Minnesota.
- **Adopt-a-Crop program** helps community gardeners donate extra produce to local food shelf.
- **Resiliency event** held in 2016 engaged residents on resilience efforts including pollinator protection, clean energy, stormwater contamination, and a resiliency analysis overview.
- **Climate Action Plan** adopted in 2024.

Farmington

- **Energy System Saver** program from Xcel Energy allowed City Hall and Rambling River Center cooling systems to be cycled on and off every 15 minutes during peak demand times.
- **City Comprehensive Plan updates** occur every 2-3 years.
- **Moved City Hall to downtown** when building in 2006 to facilitate downtown business prosperity and create a walkable downtown.
- **City Fleet fuel usage and costs monitored** and reported monthly.
- **Paperless city council meetings** resulted in eliminating over 162,000 copies over five years.

- **City-owned and -operated residential waste and recycling service** includes volume-based pricing.
- **Green Steps Committee formed** to report to city council and community on implementation of program best practices.
- **Recreational fires** are not permitted when a burning ban or air quality alert is in effect and waste and yard waste are prohibited materials.
- **Farmland is preserved** through an Agricultural Zoning District and Agricultural Preserve Program.
- **Updated the city's Emergency Operations Plan** in 2024, to be reviewed annually. Public information in relation to emergency operations must be accessible including in multiple languages and in Braille. The plan also includes a list of designated shelters in the city.

Fergus Falls

- **First MN city to become a Tree City, USA**, in 1978
- **Use of bicycles** by 2 Community Service Officers in 2015
- **Green Otter business program** with County runs a “caught green handed campaign” to reward residents and businesses for environmentally friendly behaviors including SMART (Save Money and Reduce Trash)

Fond Du Lac Band

- **\$722,403/yr. Savings**, 6 yr. Payback on 20 tribal building upgrades; commercial audits by MN Power resulted in 15% energy reduction
- **Research & demo garden includes** individual community member growing plots, a greenhouse, high tunnel & cold frames, and food and medicines are provided to the Ojibwe School, Elderly Nutrition Program, community centers, and community feasts. A weekly farmer's market @ FDL Gas & Grocery; a summer Journey Garden Program for ages 14-18 teaches gardening, nutrition, cooking, business, science, math, community, language, Ojibwe culture
- **The Resource Management Division and Tribal Court building** constructed in 2010 was the first LEED certified building in Carlton County; features a 12.5KW solar array, utilizes passive solar and daytime lighting, low-flow water fixtures, and a greenroof and storm garden.
- **Gitigaan** is a program that offers gardening and food-related workshops throughout spring and summer. It provides 140 Fond du Lac households with over 40 varieties of seeds and vegetable plants, has tilling service available, and ends the season with a fall feast celebration.
- **Black Bear Casino** has about 10% of its electricity needs met by a one megawatt ground mounted solar PV project. At peak irradiance, this project can meet 50% of Black Bear's energy needs.
- **Renewables have helped reduce fossil fuel use** by 40% (2018) since 2007 (double the 2020 goal set by the reservation business committee) include: ground-mount and rooftop solar, biomass boiler using self-sourced wood chips, solar-electric hot-water system, solar hot air systems.
- **Tree inventories** are conducted annually to ensure that 45,000+ acres of tribally owned, private, and federal lands within reservation do not go more than 10 years without being inventoried.
 - **Invasive Species Department manages 116 acres** of land to mitigate the spread of non-native species, including a Pollinator Corridor Restoration Project.
 - **Promote sustainable behavior change and engage the public at events** such as the Ganawenjigewin Maawanjidiwin (Taking Care of Things Gathering), and Earth Day Ceremony, and the Gichi Manidoo Giizis Powwoe.

Fridley

- **MN Brownfields' Rescape Award winner** and the largest infill commercial redevelopment in Minnesota was a former Superfund site: Northern Stacks
- **\$98,000/yr. Energy savings** in PW & Civic campus buildings due to Xcel Energy Design Assistance that cut electric/gas consumption 27-55% below baseline
- **28% increase in recycling tonnage** due to single-sort introduction 2012-2014
- **Living Streets policy & worksheet** completed for every road project and presented to the City Council

Gilbert

- **Toxic reduction campaign** to reduce harmful products going to the waste water treatment plant.
- **60% increase in city fleet MPG** to 16 MPG average; number of vehicles reduced, multi-purpose vehicles added.

Golden Valley

- **PUD approval includes sustainability elements; requires** minimum options that must total 5 points; options include a green roof (5 pts.), a renewable energy source (4 pts.), LEED gold (3 pts.) or platinum (4 pts.) building, community garden (3 pts.), enhanced storm water.
- **Detailed annual Environmental State of the City** report: tracking data and costs savings on buildings, lighting, forestry.
- **City-facilitated shared commercial parking**, commercial parking minimum reduced in exchange for evidence of adjacent shared parking.
- **2021 updates to Medley Park** included a 40-plot ADA-accessible raised garden and supplies, added 8.8 acre-feet of additional flood storage for residents (removing 11 from 25- and 100-year flood risk), removes an additional 16.4 pounds of phosphorus, adds 1.2 acres of open water habitat, and restored 0.6 acres of wetland prairie and 0.6 acres of upland prairie habitat.

Grand Marais

- **2012 City/County Joint Energy Conservation and Renewable Energy Plan** produced with Cook County Local Energy Project
- **North House Folk School**, partly on city land, trains/educates on low-impact, traditional, local-resource-based trades and skills
- **2015 "Coolest Small Town in America" and "Top 100 Adventure Town;" Grand Marais Art Colony ranked in the top 10** of US artist colonies
- **Northwood's Food project** works to increase Cook County's long term food sustainability and self-reliance; education on seasonal eating, low-tech water usage, composting, food preservation, root cellaring and cooking with unprocessed foods; training potential food micro-enterprises; education for local youth; research on uniquely suited fruits/veggies
- **Local iMatter youth** key to 2017 Climate Inheritance Resolution; led to hiring a Climate Action Plan Coordinator & 2019 adopted Climate Action Plan

Grand Rapids

- **Recognized by the Blue Star Award program** as one of the leading cities in the state taking action to protect water resources through stormwater management

- **Public library heating supplied from wastewater production** at the Blandin paper mill, reducing natural gas use by nearly 70%
- **FIRST solar-storage project** installed in 2021 is a 15-acre, pollinator-friendly, 2 MW and 1MW/2.5 hour energy storage battery site and the largest solar installation operated by a municipal utility in Minnesota.
- **Free bike share program** available for anyone in several locations across the city.

Granite Falls

- **Artist in Residency** program engages community members, reaches out to underserved populations, and creates social inclusion activities.
- **Granite Falls Energy uses water run-off from tiling** on an adjacent farm site for cooling at the local ethanol plant.
- **Solar powered speed monitoring sign**; policy to purchase any new signs with solar
- **Bike station**; trail infrastructure between neighborhoods; replaced sidewalks downtown with ADA compliant pedramps

Hackensack

- **First Street Reconstruction** project in 2021 included new sidewalks and improved pedestrian safety, bump-outs, 25 diverse trees planted, decorative LED street lighting, EV charger, and stormwater management.

Hallock

- **City is replacing the existing** dam with a spillway that will restore and enhance fish passage and habitat, reduce erosion and sedimentation and support expansion of water-based activities

Hastings

- **Stand-out plans and programs** include Heart of Hastings Neighborhood Plan, Vermillion Street Development Guidelines, A Healthier Hastings, dial-a-ride/circulator city bus service, maximum parking standards, the civic group Hastings Environmental Protectors, park-and-ride lot downtown
- **Minnesota's 1st official Bird City** as of April 2016; 33 Park & Rec sites for bird watching

Hewitt

- **\$1,900/yr. Savings** from solar panel array installed on the roof of the city office

Hopkins

- **City typically buys from local manufacturers** whenever possible

Hugo

- **10 stormwater projects used to store and reuse water for irrigation** on public and private land. For example, in 2021 the City partnered with the Water's Edge Homeowners Association to connect the development's existing irrigation system to a nearby stormwater pond. Educational signage at the Water's Edge stormwater pond and other project sites informs citizens on how stormwater reuse serves the community.

- **City Hall and Hanifl Shelter include rain gardens and rain barrels**, with educational signage and City website content to educate and encourage residents to pursue similar practices.
- **Downtown Plan and Design Guidelines** that include discouraging auto-dominated commercial development, preserving downtown character, expanding civic space, and maintaining pedestrian-oriented downtown. Horizontal mixed use is permitted in the central business district and desired in 2040 comprehensive plan.

Hutchinson

- **Multi-year project of burying all power lines results in significant savings** in maintenance costs realized in 2016
- **90% resident participation results in landfill diversion** of 2,000 tons per year of source separated organics and yard-waste, which is processed by a local business and sold as soil and mulch products
- **Largest PV array on an old landfill to date in Minnesota** (2015) to help power the adjacent wastewater treatment plant

Inver Grove Heights

- **City solar panels, geothermal**: 2012 installation at City Hall of a city-owned ground-source, closed-loop geothermal system; 2016 installation of 796,000 kwh of a third-party-owned PV array on City Hall & Community Center
- **10 solar gardens** supplying city operations with 3 million kwh annually, \$3,840,000 savings over 25-yr. Contracts (net savings after year 3)
- **Sustainable Workplace Guide** produced for city staff, covering printing, saving energy, recycling, reducing paper use and solid waste

Kasson

- **Library designed as a community shelter** in 2016, meeting FEMA design standards for temporary shelter from extreme weather events
- **Local purchasing policy** for city purchases of up to \$5000 with quotes within 10% of lowest price are given primary consideration to benefit taxpayer dollars and support local businesses.
- **Several rental bike stations** installed using State Health Improvement Program (SHIP) funds
- **30 refurbished cobrahead LED streetlights** installed via a pilot program offered to GreenStep cities by the national firm CoreCentric Solutions

La Crescent

- **1st in the Midwest to adopt a Solar Ready Home Certification** that incentivizes property owners to make low-cost installations of the infrastructure needed to make buildings solar-ready.
- **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
- **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

La Prairie

- **Community improved recycling by an estimated 80%**, expanded items that can be recycled and implemented volume-based pricing
- **Non-profit group employing handicapped adults** chips and sells brush from community brush pile
- **0% interest business loans** for energy efficiency improvements

Lake City

- **Energy efficiency upgrades in Library, Public Safety Building, and Public Works Building** to remodel with LED lighting.
- **Conservation easement located on Woodland Way** helps protect the natural landscape and prevent future development that could negatively impact the environment; safeguards open spaces and ensures the preservation of local habitats.
- **Eagle Vista Lane incorporates green street principles and prioritizes walkability** through reduced pavement width, improved pedestrian pathways, and the integration of sustainable landscaping features.
- **Purchased an electric vehicle for use by the Public Works Department** that helps reduce emissions during routine trips between the Public Works building and other City locations, such as City Hall, which is located on the opposite side of the city.

Lake Crystal

- **1st MN iron-sand filter installed at the end of a field's drainage tile** to trap phosphorus before it pollutes the lake
- **2019 strategic plan for an industrial park** with design goals (including walkability, aesthetics, lake pollution remediation) and community input, for an auto-oriented corridor
- **Landscaping for Crystal Waters** launched by citizens Crystal Waters Project in 2019 to assist residents (including \$150-\$500 grants) in planting rain gardens and restoring/preserving their shorelines
- **0% interest loans** for commercial energy efficiency improvements
- **Public/private tree inventory** completed in 2022 informed the city that 31% of trees are ash and aided in the completion of an Emerald Ash Borer Management Plan
- **Hosted a styrofoam recycling event** in 2023 for residents and businesses to drop off materials

Lake Elmo

- **Parking standards can be waived** in the Village Mixed Use District to recognize the availability of on-street and shared parking facilities
- **Established over 20 nationally recognized open space preservation developments**, partnering with the MN Land Trust to purchase large conservation easements
- **10% and 5% density bonus** given to planned unit developments that preserve historic structures and adaptively reuse buildings
- **Agricultural zoning** district in city
- **100% of city operations electricity** supplied by a community solar garden
- **City Center maximizes natural light** using design and automatic dimmers that account for sunlight
- **High school and college students** appointed to Parks Commission and aid in finding new modes of communication to reach younger generations

Lakeville

- **Dark Sky-compliant lights required** for City-owned and private parking lots, new street lights, and private and public building exterior lights
- **Extensive lake, wetland monitoring**, and annual reporting, by professionals & volunteers
- **Shoreland overlay district**, CUPs required; for PUDs 50%+ in open space, 50-70% of shore impact zone left in natural state; generally 75%+ pervious required
- **City Parks Commission and Lakeville Friends of the Environment** coordinate and lead efforts to engage the community
- **Envision Lakeville dashboard** gives community members a quick look at the annually updated status of plan goals in five broad categories developed through broad public input

Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe

- **First community solar garden in an Indian Nation in the country**. The electricity will be designated to recipients of Minnesota's Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). Leech Lake Tribal College graduates will install the solar panels.
- **Dark Sky, energy efficient outdoor lighting** required for new construction on Tribal Lands
- **National leader in Tribal Brownfield program**

Lexington

- **Garbage haulers required to provide recycling** containers for all residents, including multi-unit housing, and businesses
- **Business assistance that** explicitly seeks businesses that implement/are interested in implementing sustainability measures
- **Used clothing** collected at City Hall for local reuse store

Long Beach

- **Replaced a 70-year-old city hall with a Community Hub**. The Hub was designed to be city offices, rentable community space, and our wastewater utility shop. The facility is intended to act as a Resiliency Hub for future critical resource distribution and shelter if needed.
- **In 2024, the city partnered with Minnewaska Area HS Agricultural Department for the planning and management of the Morning Glory Gardens Park**. The program acted as part of the Career and College Ready Pathway the school offers to students in the Agriculture, Engineering, Manufacturing & Technology (AEMT) Department. The program provides funding for flowers and materials that the students used to design, install, and maintain the park under the guidance of the city's caretaker and the MAHS department teacher.
- **All existing street lighting was outfitted with LED lightbulbs that are dark sky compliant models**, working in partnership with Xcel Energy.

Mankato

- **City's water reclamation facility has reduced** deep well water use by 50%. Between 1.5 and 2 million gallons of treated wastewater is being used by the Mankato Energy Center for cooling, which saves the city nearly 700 million gallons of water annually (about as much water as a population of 18,000 might use) and has significantly reduced phosphorous levels. Reused water is also used for activities like street sweeping, park irrigation, and sold (at \$2.50/750 gal.) to landscapers and others for reuse

- **Orderly annexation agreements** with townships limit or prohibit new urban development so as to allow for planned and most efficient infrastructure investments
- **Required bike parking** for new commercial and multi-unit residential that can cut required car stalls
- **Parking lot requirements for shade trees** every 50 feet along perimeter
- **Gardens in residential areas** have no requirement for setback and no maximum lot coverage

Maple Grove

- **Citywide energy efficiency upgrade program** in 2015 that resulted in \$132,644 estimated savings and 4.33 year payback.
- **Maple Grove Library** designed to meet SB 2030 guidelines and is LEED Gold compliant.
- **5 Park and Ride locations** with signage, benches, bike racks, bike lockers, and heated shelters.
- **Tree City USA** certified since 1986.
- **27 acres of city park land per 1000 residents**, not including extensive Three River's Park District land.

Maplewood

- **2015 Community Action Plan: Towards Carbon Neutrality** adopted by city; 2-yr. outreach partnership with Xcel Energy will reduce energy costs for high residential/commercial users
- **2017 climate vulnerability assessment**; 2019 funding & outreach to create a Climate Adaptation Plan
- **RFID chips on trash carts** allow city to offer bi-weekly garbage rates and price breaks for 3+ week resident vacations
- **\$100,000 saved by using living streets design** in a street reconstruction project with less pavement
- **City installs rain gardens in all street reconstruction** projects; there exist over 620 home rain gardens and over 60 rain gardens on city land
- **First fire station in the nation built to 2012 IgCC** (International Green Construction Code - the basis of the 2013 Maplewood Green Building Program)

Marshall

- **The Healthy56258 and the GreenStep Cities groups partnered** in 2019 to produce the first annual Healthy and Green Living Expo event with 40 exhibitors; a beekeeping group formed to promote pollinator habitat
- **Environmental Sustainability Workgroup** established in 2019 at Southwest Minnesota State University, with students, faculty, administration, staff, to investigate current sustainability practices on campus and increase them
- **Health Impact Analysis** conducted on benefits of selected GreenStep actions, garnering the Southwest Regional Development Commission's award of 2016 Regional Project of the Year
- **Launched Marshall GreenStep Business** program to recognize local businesses implementing sustainability best practices

Mendota Heights

- **Organics collection** available in all city buildings.
- **Mixed-use development** between 21-30 units per acre near shops, restaurants, share community areas, and paved trails.
- **Rain garden program** offered for residents whose property is part of a street improvement projects.
- **28 miles of paved trails and sidewalks** and 5 miles of on-street facilities.
- **Purchase used office furniture and technology** when available.

- **Natural Resources Commission** established in 2022.

Milan

- **2017 free community bikes program** began with donated used bikes; bike racks stationed at the library and Burns Park, which has a bike repair station.
- **First rural MN year-round** community-supported lettuce business.

Minnetonka

- **Tree replacement** required for removal of trees 20 ft. or more beyond a building.
- **Installed 6 public EV chargers** (3 Level 2 and 3 DC Fast Chargers) at three city-owned properties in 2022 for city fleet and public use.

Moorhead

- **100% carbon-free** city operations starting in 2021 using Missouri River Energy Services Bright Energy Choices Program that purchases renewable energy credits.
- **26 remediated brownfield sites** have become an extremely successful mixed-use redevelopment district that fits the Downtown Redevelopment Framework Plan and contributes to the Downtown Housing Goal
- **2019 Community Resilience Task Force** (education, local government, private & nonprofit organizations) is developing a community resilience action plan and will take initial steps to become better prepared in the areas of infrastructure, ecosystems, health and wellness, governance & social equity, and economic health
- **Green Living challenge campaigns:** A Day Without a Bag to promote reusable bags and plastic grocery bag recycling; 400 participants/year in annual (since 2011) iGoEco urging residents/employees to, once a week, leave a car at home, take alternative transportation and be rewarded by prizes from businesses
- **Green tourism offering** through City Parks and Rec. collaboration with River Keepers that promotes sustainable use of the Red River

Mora

- **Using electronic Council and PUC packets** has saved over 10,000 pages of paper being printed.
- **Purchases bulk SFI-certified paper** with the local school district.

Morris

- **100% of city-owned buildings and facilities lighting fixtures have been replaced** with energy efficient, Dark-sky compliant fixtures
- **Morris Model strategic plan set goals** adopted by the city: 80% of county energy use is renewable by 2030; reduce county-wide energy use by 30% by 2030; end landfilling of waste generated in the county by 2025
- **TIF districts lead to the development** of four 8-plexes and 10 memory-care units.
- **Morris Transit provided 64,000 rides** in 2017 & 2018 – 80% subsidized for university, public schools, and medical centers
- **Tree City USA** since 2003
- **EV charging system installed** by the city in 2018 is public and free to use; UMM has free, networked EV charging stations; West Central Research and Outreach Center has Level 2 & 3 chargers connected to on-site solar PV

- **Business Blitz energy audits** with city and utility staff in 2019 resulted in 58 business visits that offered free direct installs of vending and cooler misers, LED lighting, and insulation on electric water heaters

Mounds View

- **4-day work week**, piloted in 2019, cuts City building energy use
- **All utility pick-up trucks downsized** from 8' bed/8-cylinder to 6' & 6-cylinder eco-boost engines
- **Diesel-to-natural gas conversions** (2019-20) of 2 lift stations and back-up generator for reservoir, well and treatment plant

Mountain Iron

- **MN's only solar panel factory** opened fall 2018 in this city of 3,000
- **Renewable and Sustainable Energy Park** strictly for the clustering and development of green companies that specialize in renewable energy
- **Solar permit checklist online** for property owners/developers, and \$50 city fee for residential installation

New Brighton

- **Winner of MN Brownfields' 2016 ReScape award** (Community Impact category) is the New Brighton Exchange, a 100-acre mixed-use project of 124 rental units, 56 single-family homes, 525 new commercial jobs, all adding \$625,000 in net tax capacity.
- **Stormwater fees cut up to 25%** for property owners who install a rain garden of 100+ sq. ft., native plants in gardens/buffers
- **Storm water pond provides 60-70% of irrigation** needs for a new park with athletic field

New Hope

- **Winner of the 2017 LMC/GSC Sustainable City Award** for its lake water quality improvements and savings of over \$10,000/yr. from storm water reuse
- **Bicycle parking requirements** for commercial land uses
- **2018 pollinator habitat resolution:** work toward Bee-Safe City status
- **1st known car wash in the country** to utilize system that retains all rainwater on-site for car wash reuse
- **City Hall/Police Station constructed** in 2019 using Section 179D Energy-Efficient Commercial Building Tax Deduction program will save approx. \$50,932 in energy costs annually, a 4 year pay-back.
- **Significant Safe Routes to School work** over 10+ years
- **Deconstruction of home** in collaboration with Hennepin County and Better Futures MN in 2022.

New Prague

- **Walkable Community Workshop** hosted by the city in 2010 provided opportunities for staff and residents to envision ideas for making their community more walkable.
- **All city outdoor facility and parking lots** have been converted to dark-sky compliant, LED lighting.
- **Youth participant** on City Park Board.
- **Eight roundabouts** constructed, for a City of just over 8,000 people.
- **City parks ordinance** requires all parks be able to retain water for a minimum of 2.5 inch rain events.
- **90% of municipal power lines buried underground** to increase protection and increase aesthetics in the community.

New Ulm

- Bronze **Bike Friendly Community** in 2017
- 20 **lighting upgrades** 2018-21 resulted in first 5-yr savings of 49.1 kW, 152,819 kWh and \$18,211. Average payback is 3.4 years.
- Installed **vending machine misers** save estimated \$192.10 and 1,612 kWh per machine, annually. Six machines installed save an estimated \$1152 and 9672 kWh annually.
- Local **public high school installed a greenhouse** in 2016 which includes hydroponic and aquaponics systems with a 10kW solar system.
- **New Ulm Community Garden** established in 2013 provides 70 plots on City owned property.
- **Rec on the Go** program travels to different locations to provide free activities for the community. In partnership with Community Ed.
- **Pollinator Park Events** bring awareness and help promote and maintain a healthy city environment for pollinators and citizens by exploring the pollinator park, located on unused city property and maintained by volunteers.
- **WaterSense Partner** since 2019 and have promoted conservation and products through events, programs – resulting in over 350 sink aerators purchased and additional given away.
- **Tree Advisory Commission** reported 2020 funds of \$134,417 (\$10.07 per capita) for public education, training, park tree inventory, utility line clearance, tree removal, tree maintenance, and tree purchases.
- **Tree rebates for energy conservation** were offered to residents 1990-2019 by New Ulm Public Utilities; over 318 trees were rebated \$32,688 (data 2011-2019 only).
- **Tree inventory** of over 9,000 trees included public trees and voluntary tree self-inventory submittals with help from GreenCorps member mailings.

Newport

- **City installed infrared heating** replacement system in main fire hall

Nisswa

- **Lakes Proud regional shopping campaign** developed by businesses, City, college/university research, launched in 2015 to encourage people to shop local and to share why this is beneficial to communities
- **Dark-Sky-compliant energy efficient** fixtures/bulbs in use for all City-owned outdoor light fixtures, and required for all commercial properties and associations
- **Elementary school expansion, with no added parking**, allows library to be used by both school and city

North Branch

- **Cloud-based** information systems implemented for improving efficiency across departments promoting accountability, accessibility, transparency, reliability and sustainability, aiming for 100% paperless in five years
- **100 MW North Star Solar Project:** largest solar photovoltaic energy facility in the Midwest, producing enough energy to power approximately 20,000 homes

Northfield

- **Telecommuter Forward! Community** designated in 2021 after the city used COVID-19 relief funds to expand high-speed internet access through wireless towers
- **Downtown zoning has strong compatibility standards**, waives off-street parking requirements, mandates non-developed space as green space, public plaza or outdoor seating

- **2 high-school Commission members** on the Environmental Quality Commission; 1 a voting member

Oakdale

- **Bus Rapid Transit planning includes** high-density transit-oriented development and a continuous biking and walking trail parallel to the BRT guideway

Pine City

- **First DC electric vehicle fast charger** between the Twin Cities and Duluth-Superior
- **2020 goals** to cut water use/person by 20%; to cut GHG from city operations by 40% by increasing renewable energy use
- **Largest rain garden of its kind in greater MN** cost less than curb and gutter during Woodpecker Ridge street reconstruction project; residents involved in planning and installation; sediment run-off decreased to nearby Snake River and Cross Lake

Pine River

- **First GreenStep City**
- **Home to first** hot air panels paid for by low-income heating assistance

Prairie Island Indian Community

- **Residential organics recycling program** started in 2019 that provides a tumbler in each neighborhood available and residents drop off their organics waste in the tumbler when necessary.

Red Wing

- **Green Wing Action Plan** adopted 2015, increase energy efficiency by residential (10% or 700 households in 2 years) & small-mid-sized commercial (10%, 100 in 3 years). Current outreach: 1) Home Energy Audit discounts through a utility billing flier, 2) business outreach campaign, 3) competition between community congregations
- **Live Healthy Red Wing** was formed in 2008 in an effort to promote active living and good nutrition
- Red Wing Housing Authority established a **no-smoking policy** for public housing
- **“Get-Up-And-Save Congregational Energy Challenge”** 2017

Richfield

- **Rediscovered Lot Sale Program** offers a \$5,000 credit
- **Sweet Streets** - one 4-2 lanes added bike lanes, sidewalks, multi-purpose trail, green boulevards.
- **All residents are within ½ mile of park/protected green space:** 14 areas per 1,000 residents
- **Organized solid waste program** launched in 2021, offering bi-weekly trash collection with “pay as you throw” prices. Cost savings include 90+% of residents saved on recycling price and 60-80+% of residents saved on their trash price.

Robbinsdale

- **Density allowed by right** in selected zones for senior housing and single-room occupancy housing
- **Form-based zoning** the basis for the Transit-Oriented Development district code
- **Illuminated bus route signage**, multiple bike racks downtown, bus station hub

- **44 years a Tree City USA** and an average of \$19/1000 residents go toward forestry
- **Multiple green infrastructure installs:** cistern installed for rainwater reuse; requires rain gardens & infiltration galleries in redevelopment sites; porous asphalt installed and monitored for effectiveness; Stockholm Soil configuration used for downtown street trees to provide enhanced growing conditions and reduce pavement uplift
- **Rechargeable battery powered parks maintenance equipment** has replaced gasoline powered small equipment
- **City Sustainability Coordinator** on staff also coordinates an internal staff sustainability team
- **2023 Energy Action Plan** sets goal to avoid an additional 30% of energy-related greenhouse gas emissions by 2030
- **Over 90% of residents live within a 10-min. walk of a city park or green space** with 213 acres and 18 total parks
- **Diverted over 1,000 pounds of organic waste** from City Hall in 2023 by adding organics recycling in the staff lunchroom and two restrooms
- **Centralized Water Treatment Plant softens water** to 90mg/L (5 grains per gallon), allowing residents to reduce, turn off, or remove home water softeners
- **Home Improvement Grant Program** provides incentives for energy efficiency, including insulation upgrades, window or roof replacement, renewable energy installation, and EV infrastructure installation
- **Installed an 80 kW solar PV rooftop array** on the Robbinsdale Water Treatment Plant in 2024 and 40 kW solar PV rooftop array on Robbinsdale City Hall in 2025

Rochester

- **2019 LEED Gold Certified City** – 1st city in MN to achieve this Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design status
- **First mayor in Minnesota to set a city-wide 100% renewable energy goal** (by 2031) for its electricity, its heating and cooling, and its transportation
- **Refuse-derived combined heat & power district energy** system in the city
- **Urban growth boundary adopted;** cooperative agreement among townships, the County and the city coordinates zoning enforcement and planning
- **School buses optimize routes** and cost savings using Transfinder software
- **Building orientation incentivized** to optimize passive solar energy
- **Commuter plan** is to shift single-occupancy car trips from 71% of all downtown-bound work trips in 2008 to 60% in 2020
- **Regulation for construction waste** separation of recyclable materials and waste
- **MN Bio Business Center brownfield project**, built on a former downtown parking lot with contaminated soil, supported brownfield remediation, redevelopment, and serves as a center for innovation in biotechnology

Rosemount

- **Conservation easements required** on all wetlands/wetland buffers during entitlement; city recommends that land developers deed wetlands to city
- **PUD ordinance emphasizes energy conservation** through the use of more efficient building designs and sitings and the clustering of buildings and land uses.
- **Salt reduction** from 77 to 51 tons/event, 2018-2019; weekly salt use reports to city council
- **Ranked 17th in the nation** among cities its size for the number of Mayors Water Pledges made to reduce water usage

- **Wetland Health Evaluation Program** used by City to engage citizen volunteers

Roseville

- **Green Remodeling Plan Book, nationally recognized**, is for interior and exterior homes, historic remodeling, and has recommendations and tips for sustainable and financially savvy home updating (revised in 2016)
- **Code requires bicycle parking** spaces equal to 10% of the automobile parking requirement

Royalton

- **Detailed lighting ordinance** covers public & private buildings, to reduce light pollution/sky glow and to promote high quality, energy-efficient lighting
- **Community Energy Challenge** with MN Power, Royalton Hardware & Franklin Energy challenged/rewarded K-12 students to cut home/school energy use (\$1,000 earned) and assisted 25 local businesses to cut energy use; community Green Fair at school showcased successes
- **Outdoor wood boilers** regulated
- **City promotes local shopping** with the 3/50 project: pick your favorite 3 independent business and spend at least \$50 there each month

Rush City

- **Plastic film recycling** drop off locations for residents is coordinated by Rush City GreenStep team and Rush City Area Chamber of commerce; 10 collection bins in 2021 provided over 20,000 pounds of plastic to be used in the making of composite decking.
- **Sidewalks will be required** in new subdivisions
- **Street construction projects** will continue to install rain gardens where feasible
- **Sewer inspections are mandatory** at the time of property transfer and/or street constructions: needed I&I repairs (city loans available) need be completed in 6 months; half of properties inspected by 2020
- **Donated City industrial park land** used for community garden

Saint Anthony Village

- **FIRST multi-source water reuse facility** in Minnesota reduces groundwater use for irrigation by 7 million gallons annually.
- **Public facility site assessment** completed in 2008 for energy efficiency improvements that led to 16.42% reduction in Public Works Facility and 24.72% reduction in the Water Treatment Plant.
- **Climate Plan** adopted 2023 includes actions steps for water, waste, energy, and transportation.
- **Vital Aging Committee** used to encourage senior participation in public events and programs.
- **Bike Rack Grant Program** used to provide additional bike parking throughout the city.
- **"Bike Bus"** run by volunteers takes up to 50 students weekly to the elementary schools with a pre-planned route throughout the City; City Police Department provides morning and afternoon crossing support and traffic control for this group at the busiest intersection.

Saint Cloud

- **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.

Saint James

- **Bare root gravel rock bed** used by city staff to plant and replace trees.
- **St. James Climate Smart Community group** includes city/county officials, school representatives, and community members to discuss sustainability issues.

Saint Louis Park

- **PwrSmart enables computer & monitor power management** for all city owned computers: Multiple schedules; most shutdown at 7pm. program provides data on GHG reduction & energy savings
- **2010 Green Building Policy** for city & private bldgs: new, additions over 15,000 sq. ft., renovations over 50,000 sq. ft. receiving over \$200,000 in City money, and new/renovated SF home projects receiving \$10,000 or more in City financial assistance
- **Connect the Park Plan**, 2008
- **"Ready and Resilient: A Guide to Extreme Weather"** prepared by City using the Macalester College brochure as a model. Print copies & web were distributed during a community-wide workshop in August 2015 and mailed to city residents

Saint Paul

- **2017 MN Local Government Innovation Award Winner** for equity strategic action planning for neighborhoods.
- **Redeveloping Ford site will be a walkable, mixed use neighborhood** that looks to the future with clean technologies and high quality design for energy, buildings and infrastructure; 2011 "Roadmap to Sustainability" performance thresholds aim to make site a national model for sustainable brownfield redevelopment
- **1.1 MW solar thermal system** installed with city help at the RiverCentre convention hall to augment hot water from District Energy St. Paul serving downtown buildings

- **Street Design Manual** for implementing adopted complete streets policy
- **Public Housing Authority** will install community vegetable gardens at any of its 20 sites when requested by residents
- **8-80 Vitality Fund**; adopted Bike Plan; bike rack program; city telework policy; NiceRide bike-sharing; Car2Go & HourCar licensed car-sharing
- **60% fewer CO emissions** from 66 propane school buses

Saint Peter

- **AC peak shaving sign-up required** by City municipal utility for all newly installed or replacement central air conditioners
- **Energy efficiency rebates** from St. Peter Municipal Utilities helped the State Hospital save \$150,000/yr. and reduced electric consumption by over 1.5 million kwh (enough to power 211 average-sized homes annually)
- **Hwy. 169 Corridor Coalition**: charter member
- **Only licensed tree workers** allowed to operate in the city
- **2018 EAB Plan** includes selective treatment, education, diverse replanting
- **City-organized garbage** and recycling and collection
- **SOLARCHOICE** community solar garden program
- **Farmer's Market and Traverse Green Neighborhood Garden** supported by the City
- **South Central Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment & Adaptation Plan** (2017) in collaboration with Region Nine Development Commission
- **Water softener equipment** automatically tracks water usage and hardness and adjust for homeowner
- **Active Transportation Plan** adopted in 2024 that includes guidance for incorporating Complete Streets principles, along with safe systems, active transportation, and transportation equity
- **Sustainability Task Force** started in 2025 to guide and support local sustainability initiatives

Sartell

- **Native vegetation allowed without permit**, encouraged so as to lower demand on the public's water resources
- **MN's first diverging diamond interchange** to cut traffic delays by 60% and improve safety
- **Public Works salt reduction** actions resulting in no added salt ordered 2015-2017 and year-end unused salt more common

Savage

- **Gold LEED Certified McCool Pond Environmental Learning Center**, built in 2010, features solar and geothermal systems, walls made from wheat products, countertops made with recycled plastic, cabinets made from sunflower seeds, and a green roof.

Shakopee

- **Native plants** and natural areas constitute 25-30% of City landscaping designs

Sherburn

- **Reduced chloride pollution & resident costs** (from running their/having water softeners) as a result of 2016 water treatment facility installing reverse osmosis membrane and water softening treatment

Shoreview

- **A national leader in pervious concrete** road paving since 2009
- **Partnered with technology company WaterSmart Software** to provide residents with an easy-to-use online and mobile customer portal that allows access to individualized water consumption reports, timely utility communications, and water-saving recommendations specific to their household; National WaterSense program member, to increase water conservation efforts
- **Green building practices including greywater** reuse and rain water capture for irrigation suggested by Environmental Quality Commission review of all new development plans
- **5% density bonus for passive energy** system in a building, 10% for an active solar energy system
- **Environmental Quality Committee gives Green Community Awards** annually to recognize individual and corporate efforts in three general areas: Water, Energy, and other General Initiatives
- **Maintenance Facility achieved LEED Gold rating**—the first city-owned building in the nation to achieve that status under the 2009 rating system.

Shorewood

- **Passed state's first 'bee-safe' policy** whereby the city will avoid certain pesticides, plant bee-supporting plants, and educate/encourage residents to do the same
- **Promotion of County's Step to It Challenge**, where residents, city staff track walking steps each May
- **Youth position created** on the city recycling committee

Silver Bay

- **100-acre eco-park** raises fish and vegetables year round, creates algae for biodiesel; creating and diversify living wage employment a goal
- **Sustainability in elementary education** curriculum includes gardens for students (growing and selling) and forestry

South Saint Paul

- **Stormwater Runoff Design Standards encourages green roofs**, rain gardens, rain reuse, trees, tree planters
- **Mayor's Youth Task force**: grade 5-12 students participate in city's annual food drive, fun teen events, community education on various topics including sustainability
- **Compostable flatware and organics collection** at City Hall and at large city events
- **City runs several volunteer parks/landscape programs**: Adopt a Street, Park and River Programs; park clean-ups in the spring; Blooming Parks program; Weed-Be-Goners Club; annual All-City Clean-up Day

Stillwater

- **Bird City designation** February 2020
- **Green Business Directory** hosted by Sustainable Stillwater lets shoppers align their values by choosing businesses with green, sustainable, and resilient products and practices and recognizes green businesses

- **Neighborhood Conservation District** established with infill Design Guidelines; West Business Park District has established Design Guidelines and goals
- **50% set aside of pervious area** in the form of public open space and private easements in Liberty on the Lake & Legends housing developments

Vadnais Heights

- **Recycled asphalt and shingles** are used in all new pavement projects, allowing up to 30% material by weight.
- **Emerald Ash Borer Management Plan** adopted in 2021 and all ash trees on city property and rights-of-way have been inventoried. Diseased trees are removed and replanted using 20-10-15 biodiversity guidelines.
- **All primary winter maintenance staff are certified Smart Salting Level 1** for roads and/or parking lots and sidewalks.
- **Reline an average of 5180 feet of sanitary sewer every year** as part of the Inflow & Infiltration Program.
- **A resident Green Team** meets on a monthly basis and city staff serve on the Green Team.
- **Partners in Energy** program participants 2024 and developed an Energy Action Team made up of City staff, residents, community leadership, nonprofits, county staff, local business representatives, school district representatives, and energy experts.

Vergas

- **Walking trail** from downtown to the lake park established through fundraising and state grant to add boardwalk, floating bridge, that lake trail.
- **Comprehensive Plan** established in 2022 includes land use, transportation, public facilities, and parks and open spaces.
- **7 recycled benches** donated by Trex Recycling by collecting and turning in plastic bags at the City Municipal Building, in collaboration with the Lions Club.
- **LED lighting** in all municipal buildings.
- **Energy & Resilience Plan** adopted 2026 includes assessment data, actions linked to GS best practices.
- **Community energy & resilience survey** in 2025 to gain community insight and input regarding climate impacts, energy use, and support for city energy and resiliency related actions.
- **Solar installed** at Event Center in 2026 through the West Central Initiative municipal building solar cooperative.

Victoria

- **Downtown developments can share the public parking** available to all uses in order to meet required parking
- **Conservation development plans required** that demonstrate comp plan conservation/preservation objectives; supportive density transfers negotiated

West St. Paul

- **Planned mixed use development districts** authorized within the City
- **School shared use agreement**, new trails part of 2014 \$6.2M reconstruction of Harmon Park
- **Fix-It Clinics** at the local library hosted by the city and county

- **Annual neighborhood meetings** held by City to gauge resident perception of city performance and discover priority topics; info used to shape the next year's strategic goals for staff and Council

Winona

- **Is a designated Minnesota Main Street** Community
- **Co-working space** opened by the City in late 2018
- **Form-based, Unified Development Code** with graphics and tables adopted in 2017
- **Two, three and four-plexes are allowed** in all but the rural and suburban residential zoning districts
- **Tree planting adapted to a warmer climate**, aiming for no more than 5% of any one species, 10% of any one genus, and 15% of any one family
- **Healthy Lake Winona**: an ongoing civic organization to engage the Winona area community in action that improves the health of Lake Winona

Wyoming

- **City flexible workplace/telework** policy
- **Saving \$1,400/yr.** (approximately) by switching to digital materials for all council, board, and commission meetings.
- **First Minnesota-made fully electric fire truck** built by Rosenbauer in Wyoming!