



Media Release

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New Hope becomes a Minnesota GreenStep City

The New Hope City Council passed a resolution to participate in the Minnesota GreenStep Cities program at its meeting on January 12.

Minnesota GreenStep Cities is a voluntary program to help cities achieve their sustainability and quality of life goals. The free program is based upon 28 best practices developed by experts in the field. GreenStep Cities is a public-private partnership which began in 2010. Partners include the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, League of Minnesota Cities, Clean Energy Resource Teams and the Minnesota Department of Commerce and others. Seventy-seven cities throughout the state of Minnesota participate in the program.

The GreenStep Cities program provides a framework for a city's sustainability efforts. It includes best practices in five categories: building and lighting, transportation, land use, environmental management, and economic and community development. Each best practice can be implemented by completing one or more actions. The actions are tailored to focus on cost savings and energy use reduction.

The steps toward sustainability identified by the GreenStep Cities program are attainable and doable for small and mid-sized cities. The program gives credit for actions a city has already taken and identifies new actions a city can take to improve its sustainability. Participating cities have access to free expert consultants from the state of Minnesota, University of Minnesota and several non-profit organizations to help them achieve their goals.

The city of New Hope has already taken a number of actions toward sustainability including energy improvements at the New Hope Ice Arena and other city buildings, its participation in the Complete Streets program, a rain garden at the golf course, starting the farmers market and community garden, and others. New Hope's participation in the GreenStep Cities program will begin by completing an inventory of sustainability actions that have been completed or are planned.