

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON

SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

PURPOSE

The Sustainability Commission advises the Bloomington City Council, Bloomington City staff, and the Bloomington community on policies, practices, procedures and proposals that relate to the sustainable use and management of environmental resources that include air, water, energy, land and ecological resources, and waste. The Commission helps to ensure that such resources will be sustained and continue to provide for a high quality of life for present and future generations.

2018 HIGHLIGHTED GOALS:

- Open organics drop-off locations on April 21, 2018.
- Approve and begin to implement the Xcel Partners in Energy Plan.
- Identify more sustainable methods for the annual Curbside Cleanup.
- Review and make priority recommendations on the MN River Valley Natural Resources Plan.
- Identify methods for citywide water conservation.



COMMISSION MEMBERS:

- Sherie Bartsh
- Rob Bouta
- Paul Erdmann
- Steve Flagg
- John Jaimez
- Dwayne Lowman
- Tim Sandry
- Joseph Strommen





2017 OVERVIEW

2017 was the inaugural year for the City of Bloomington Sustainability Commission, with the first meeting being held on Tuesday, April 11. The Commission's four focus areas are: water, ecological land stewardship, solid waste and energy. The Commission is proud of a number of accomplishments this year. Here are a few highlights:

BLOOMINGTON BECOMES A GREENSTEP CITY –

In July, the City Council approved a resolution to join Minnesota GreenStep Cities, at the recommendation of the Sustainability Commission. The program recognizes member cities at five levels of achievement in best practices for sustainability. New participants begin at Step One, and upon successful completion of at least 16 of 29 best practices, cities can earn Step Three certification as a sustainable community. Bloomington is working toward this goal for June 2018, as we track past accomplishments and current actions. The Commission plans to incorporate GreenStep best practices in developing future goals.

SOLID WASTE - ORGANICS DROP-OFF LOCATIONS:

The Commission proposed to City Council the implementation of an organic waste drop-off program, which was approved on December 18, 2017. Three designated locations will open on April 21, 2018, at West Bush Lake Park, Valley View Park, and a pending central location. Volunteers will be needed to staff the drop-off sites in April, May and June. If you're interested in volunteering please email Mary Hurliman at mhurliman@bloomingtonmn.gov.

ENERGY – PARTNERS IN ENERGY:

The Commission kicked off a two-year collaboration with Xcel's Partners in Energy Program to promote efficient electricity use in our community. Action team members include representatives from the Sustainability Commission, City staff, Donaldson, HealthPartners, Mall of America, Normandale Community College, Bloomington School District, OATI, Quality Bike Products, and the 494 Corridor Initiative, along with Bloomington residents. The two-year initiative will develop a community action plan for reduced energy use. The plan development is well underway and will be presented to the City Council for approval late spring of 2018. The Energy Action Plan implementation will drive a large part of the Commission's 2018 work plan.

WATER - REVIEW OF WATERSHED DISTRICT PLANS:

Every ten years, watershed districts write a plan that sets the vision, guidelines, and proposed tasks for their next 10 years. The Commission engaged a number of experts to review and provide comment on these plans and to provide feedback about sustainable approaches to the watershed work.

ECOLOGICAL LAND STEWARDSHIP:

The City of Bloomington had contracted with Great River Greening in 2016-2017 to develop a report on the natural resources along the Minnesota River Valley. The Sustainability Commission learned about the work the City has done in this area and began reviewing the report. This preparation in 2017 will set them for a key goal of prioritizing and making recommendations on natural resource restoration and maintenance along the MN River Valley in 2018.