

The City of Burnsville promotes development in the community in two ways. The first, and most obvious, is to spur economic opportunities. The second, and probably most important, is to emphasize the protection and restoration of the natural environment during these projects.

Community well-being – both for businesses and residents – depends on the ability to meet the needs of the present without compromising the future. This Sustainability Update details some of the projects and initiatives that are helping Burnsville meet its “green goals.”

City Property Conservation Measures

Obsolete and worn-out equipment is being replaced with the most energy efficient available.

New Fixtures	Kwh Saved	Cost	Annual Savings	Rebates Earned	
422	126,458	\$118,926	\$11,045	\$21,784	
					\$32,829 SAVED

By the Numbers:

Assessing Vulnerability Produced by Climate Change

Climate change is a global phenomenon that creates local impacts. Temperature and precipitation levels impact everything from the amount of energy we consume, to how much water we have to drink. It can also affect air quality, length of the allergy season and the risk of vector-borne diseases.

To help minimize issues caused by climate change, cities must adapt their plans and policies to address the ever-evolving impacts to public health, infrastructure planning and emergency management. They must also know which populations are the most vulnerable to climate change.

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) commissioned a study of 23 cities throughout Minnesota (including Burnsville) to identify climate vulnerable populations, resilience indicators and strategies to reduce risks. Burnsville will use this information as it plans for the future.

To view the “State of Minnesota Vulnerable Population Assessment” visit www.pca.state.mn.us and Search: “Climate Vulnerability.” The study was made possible by a grant from the MPCA and prepared by paleBluedot, LLC.

Solar Energy

In August 2015, Burnsville participated in a Met Council-led collaboration of local governments to explore the use of solar energy. The project helped identify solar vendors who could meet the energy needs of cities. The Burnsville City Council authorized contracts to provide solar energy for approximately 50 percent of the City’s energy use in the Xcel Energy territory. Participation in the community solar garden is projected to result in \$2,750,000 savings over 25 years. Over the last 16 months, it has produced approximately \$10,000 in energy savings!



Organics Recycling at City Hall, PD and the Ames Center

Organics recycling is the recycling of organic material – anything that was once alive – into compost. Organics plays a key role in keeping valuable materials out of landfills. Composting correctly will help Minnesota reach its 75 percent recycling goal, as nearly 30 percent of what we usually throw away can be collected for organics.



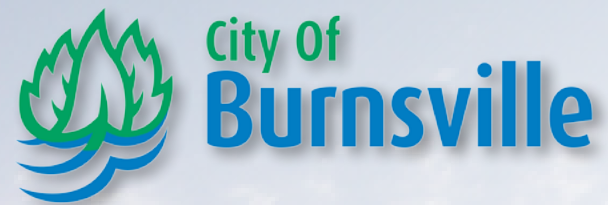
Commercial programs such as these are different from backyard composting. In addition to accepting things like food scraps, these programs can also compost bones, meat, and soiled paper products such as paper towels and pizza boxes.

Organics composting is now offered at five City facilities – Burnsville City Hall, Burnsville Police Department, Burnsville Ice Center, the City Maintenance Center and the Ames Center.



Parks Recycling

Burnsville introduced more than 130 new recycling containers in 22 parks, helping to make public space recycling more available and convenient. The new bins come with picture-based labels showing what types of products should go in each bin.



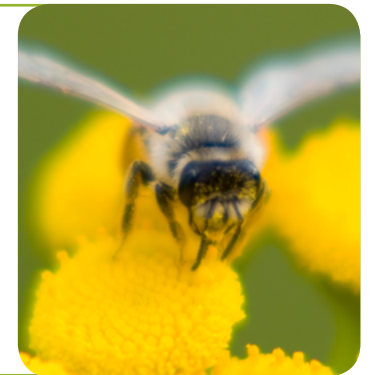
Recertified Audubon Golf Course

Birnamwood Golf Course was designated as a Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary in 2002 and has now been recertified. It is one of 894 courses in the world to be designated as such. To reach certification, a course must demonstrate that it is maintaining a high degree of environmental quality in a number of areas, including environmental planning; wildlife/habitat management; outreach and education; chemical use reduction and safety; water conservation; and water quality management. Birnamwood Golf Course has shown a strong commitment to its environmental program by protecting the local watershed and providing a sanctuary for wildlife on the golf course property.



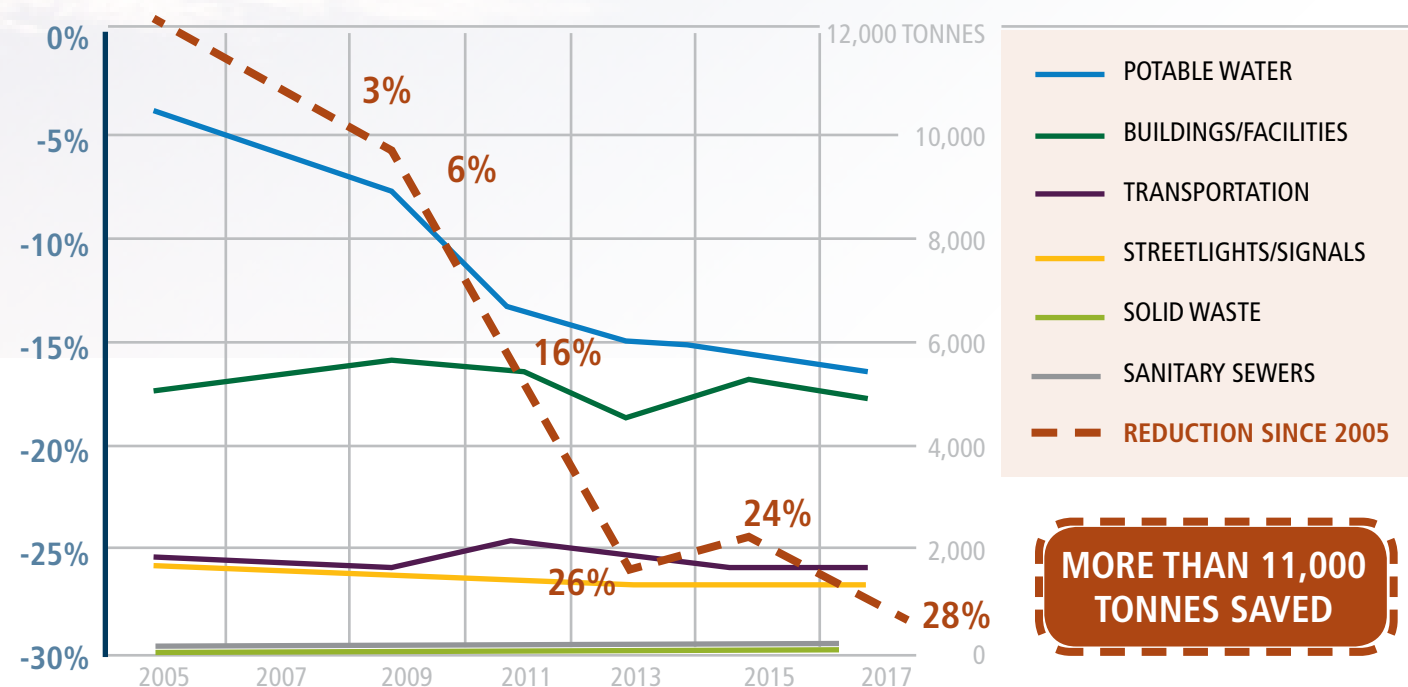
Partnership to Protect Pollinators

The City of Burnsville and Xcel Energy are working together to develop pollinator habitat in Burnsville that benefits the monarch butterflies, bees and other insects that pollinate. Nearly three acres of native prairie plantings have been put in the Xcel Energy right-of-way next to Tennisioux Park. The City of Burnsville is actively promoting native prairie management and educational programs for residents interested in pollinators.



Greenhouse Gas Inventory for City Operations

The City of Burnsville has set a goal of reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions for City operations that is in line with the Minnesota Next Generation Energy Act of 2007. Using 2005 as a baseline, the Act sets statewide goals for GHG reduction of 15 percent by 2015, 30 percent by 2025 and 80 percent by 2050. The City of Burnsville exceeded the 2015 goal, and in 2017, GHG emissions were 28 percent lower than those in 2005. The City is very close to meeting its 2025 GHG reduction goal – **years ahead of schedule**. The City accomplished these reductions even though it has considerably more space to light, heat and cool than it did in 2005. For example, the City pumped 15 percent more water in 2017 than in 2005, and in 2009, added the Ames Center, the Heart of the City parking ramp and parking deck.



Crystal Lake is off the Impaired Waters List

In 2002, Crystal Lake showed levels of phosphorus in the water that exceeded state standards. It was then put on the Impaired Waters List by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA). Phosphorus can get into lakes from a variety of sources, but the most common are runoff from the surrounding area, stream bank erosion, treated wastewater from facilities and airborne sources.

The City of Burnsville used many different strategies to reduce phosphorus, including directing stormwater to places where contaminants can be filtered out; harvesting curly leaf pond weed; and building an underground system to treat stormwater before it's discharged into Keller Lake, which feeds into Crystal Lake. With these efforts, Crystal Lake is now off the Impaired Waters List and is a boon to the community!



Goats Vs. Buckthorn

Goats love eating buckthorn and other woody species. In the fall of 2018, the City will pilot a project in a two-acre area at Civic Center Park to see if bringing in goats for a few weeks can help control buckthorn and reduce the need for herbicides in savanna restoration projects.

