

PROPOSED MOTION

MOTION BY COUNCILMEMBER _____

SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER _____

To authorize participation in the Urban Land Institute's Regional Indicators Initiative.

ROLL CALL: AYES _____ **NAYS** _____

Huffman	_____	_____
Quigley	_____	_____
Wickstrom	_____	_____
Withhart	_____	_____
Martin	_____	_____

Regular City Council Meeting
May 7th, 2012

TO: Mayor, City Council, City Manager
FROM: Jessica Schaum, Environmental Officer
DATE: May 7th, 2012
SUBJECT: Support the Urban Land Institute's Regional Indicators Initiative.

INTRODUCTION

The City has been invited to participate in the Regional Council of Mayor's (RCM) Regional Indicators Initiative, a program supported by the Urban Land Institute. This program involves measuring actual citywide environmental metrics and outcomes, something that no group or entity is currently measuring at the community-wide scale.

BACKGROUND

The Urban Land Institute started a pilot program with the cities of St. Louis Park, Edina, and Falcon Heights to measure and study energy use from 2008-2011. The pilot was successful at collecting data for each city and has plans to present this information to the RCM.

At this time the Regional Council of Mayors is inviting additional interested cities to pledge support and consider future financial support. It is estimated that the City will be asked to commit \$2,500 to participate in the program. The RCM is currently seeking grant funds from the MN Department of Commerce and the MN Pollution Control Agency to help fund the program.

The program's scope of work involves a consultant team to collect the last three years of data for benchmarking and then training City staff to collect the data in future years. Data needed includes topics like energy, water, waste, and vehicle miles traveled. These metrics can be normalized over population or jobs, which can be presented easily as gallons of water used/person/day or pounds of waste/person/day. Information can also be obtained and compared across different sectors – such as residential versus commercial or industrial users. These units can show where targets, education, or best management practices may be used to lower environmental impact.

The Environmental Quality Committee reviewed the program at their April 23rd, 2012 meeting and made a recommendation to the City Council that the City participate in the Regional Indicators Initiative. The Committee felt that this program is consistent with the steps Shoreview has already taken, and would be helpful to actually measure the impact of the City's efforts towards environmental sustainability.

RECOMMENDATION

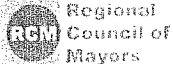
It is recommended that the City Council support the Regional Indicators Initiative.

Attachments:

- 1) Regional Indicators Initiative Program Interest Form



Minnesota



Regional Indicators Initiative

Program Interest Form

February 2012

OVERVIEW

What started as the "Pilot within a Pilot" with the cities of St. Louis Park, Edina and Falcon Heights is now named the "Regional Indicators Initiative". We have an opportunity to support a broader study of our region's energy use. **We are inviting all interested cities in the Regional Council of Mayors (RCM) to participate.** We need to raise additional funds to support this effort, however, your interest will help us do that. The financial commitment from each participating city would be \$2,500. However, at this time, we are only asking whether you are interested in participating. We will not collect funds until all the money to support the initiative has been raised. We currently have submitted requests to the Department of Commerce, the MPCA and we expect to submit to the Energy Foundation. We are cautiously optimistic. But your interest matters!

The initiative involves measuring actual citywide environmental metrics outcomes. This will benefit the cities because the resulting analysis will:

- Deepen the understanding of opportunities to save energy and money.
- Assist in promoting public understanding of the cities' effects on climate change.
- Inform subsequent analyses, plans, and policy decisions by the cities and others.
- Serve as a model for other cities.

SCOPE OF WORK

The consultant team will do the following:

- Collect the last three years of data for benchmarking.
- Train the city staff to collect data for the next year.
- Evaluate the specific best management practices (BMP) selected by each city and correlate them to the outcomes being measured.
- Produce a final report that measures each metric individually, e.g., kBTUs, gallons, vehicle miles traveled, water, as well tons of carbon equivalent.

The City agrees to provide the following to ULI MN in support of the Regional Indicators Initiative and in exchange for the services provided above.

- Each city will contribute \$2500 to support project costs.
- City staff will support and assist the ULI MN staff and consultant team in collecting information, coordinating City meetings, and providing guidance for the completion of services outlined above.
- The City will participate in sharing results and lessons learned to inform and shape the Regional Indicators Initiative program as administered by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.