

RESOLUTION NO. 14072**CITY OF AUSTIN
COUNTY OF MOWER
STATE OF MINNESOTA****A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF AUSTIN
TO PARTICIPATE IN THE MINNESOTA GREENSTEP CITIES PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, uncertainty in energy prices and the transition away from fossil fuel energy sources present new challenges and opportunities to both the City of Austin and to the economic health of its citizens and businesses; and

WHEREAS, local governments have the unique opportunity to achieve reductions in both energy use and gas emissions that affect the climate through building and facilities management; land use and transportation planning; environmental management; and through economic and community development; and

WHEREAS, efforts to address energy and climate issues provide an opportunity to move toward energy self-reliance and greater community resiliency, provide environmentally healthy and cheaper-to-operate public buildings, encourage new economic development and local jobs, and support local food and renewable energy production; and

WHEREAS, the City of Austin has previously participated with the US Mayor's Climate Protection Agreement when Mayor Tom Stiehm signed the agreement in 2007, and has been a Tree City USA for over 30 years, with which participation in the GreenStep Cities program aligns; and

WHEREAS, Minnesota Session Laws 2008, Chapter 356, Section 13 directed the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) and Office of Energy Security in the Department of Commerce (Office of Energy Security), in collaboration with Clean Energy Resource Teams (CERTs) to recommend municipal actions and policies that work toward meeting the State's greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals; and

WHEREAS, the Next Generation Act of 2007, Minnesota Session Laws 2007, Chapter 136:

- (1) sets state greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals of cutting emissions to 15 percent below 2005 levels by 2015, 30 percent below 2005 levels by 2025, and 80 percent below 2005 levels by 2050;
- (2) sets a state energy conservation goal of achieving annual energy savings equal to 1.5 percent of annual retail energy sales of electricity and natural gas;
- (3) establishes an energy policy goal that the per capita use of fossil fuel as an energy input be reduced by 15 percent by the year 2015, through increased reliance on energy efficiency and renewable energy alternatives; and
- (4) establishes an energy policy goal that 25 percent of the electricity used in the state be derived from renewable energy resources by the year 2025; and

WHEREAS, a broad coalition of public and private stakeholders including the League of Minnesota Cities, the MPCA, Office of Energy Security and CERTs responded to the 2008 legislation by establishing the Minnesota GreenStep Cities program to provide a series

of sustainable development best practices focusing on local government opportunities to reduce energy use and greenhouse gases; and

WHEREAS, the Minnesota GreenStep Cities program provides cost-effective sustainable development best practices in five categories: (1) Buildings and Lighting; (2) Transportation; (3) Land Use; (4) Environmental Management; and (5) Economic and Community Development.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Austin does hereby authorize the City of Austin to participate in the Minnesota GreenStep Cities program.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Austin:

1. Will appoint a Sustainability Task Force to advise the City on sustainability issues and facilitate GreenStep best practice implementation. Said task force shall consist of not more than 15 members of the community including representatives from local groups such as:
 - i. City Council
 - ii. Planning Commission
 - iii. Austin Utilities
 - iv. Austin School District
 - v. County Recycling
 - vi. Chamber of Commerce
 - vii. Austin Coalition for Environmental Sustainability
 - viii. Audubon Society
 - ix. Izaak Walton LeagueAdditional citizen participation should be sought by the Task Force.
2. Will, through the Sustainability Task Force, identify a short list of best practices for implementation by December 2011; and
3. Will implement in total at least 16 required and optional GreenStep best practices that will result in energy use reduction, economic savings and reduction in the community's greenhouse gas footprint. A summary of the City's implementation of best practices will be posted on the Minnesota GreenStep Cities web site and the City of Austin website.

Passed by the Austin City Council this 18th day of July, 2011.

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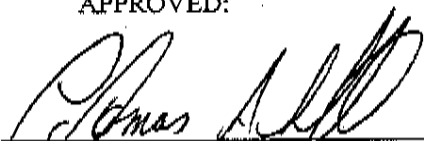
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ATTEST:

APPROVED:



City Recorder



Mayor