

**RESOLUTION
NO. 20:13**

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF BRAINERD
TO PARTICIPATE IN THE MINNESOTA GREENSTEP CITIES PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, Minnesota GreenStep Cities is a voluntary challenge, assistance and recognition program to help cities achieve their sustainability and quality-of-life goals. GreenStep is a free, continuous improvement program, managed by a public-private partnership, and based upon 28 best practices. Each best practice can be implemented by completing one or more actions at a 1, 2 or 3-star level, from a list of four to eight actions. These actions are tailored to all Minnesota cities, focus on cost savings and energy use reduction, and encourage civic innovation; and

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

WHEREAS, local governments have the unique opportunity to achieve both energy use and climate change gas reductions and cost savings 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 and quality of life; 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, steps taken toward sustainable solutions aim to improve community quality of life, building community capital and increasing government efficiency, accountability and transparency; and

WHEREAS, the Minnesota GreenStep Cities program assists in facilitating technical assistance for the implementation of these sustainable development best practices; and

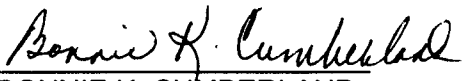
WHEREAS, the Minnesota GreenStep Cities program provides cost-effective sustainable development best practices in the following five categories: (1) Buildings and Lighting; (2) Transportation; (3) Land Use; (4) Environmental Management; and (5) Economic and Community Development;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the City Council of the City of Brainerd does hereby authorize the City of Brainerd to participate in the Minnesota GreenStep Cities program that offers a free, voluntary continuous improvement framework. Be it further resolved that the City:

1. Will facilitate the involvement of community members and other units of government as appropriate in the planning, promoting and/or implementing of GreenStep Cities best practices; and
2. Grants to the GreenStep program's buildings advisor read-only access to the City's B3 Benchmarking Database so as to facilitate analysis and cost-savings advice to the City regarding its buildings' energy use; and

3. Will identify a short list of best practices for initial implementation by 6/1/2013; and
4. Will claim credit for having implemented and will work at its own pace toward implementing at least 16 GreenStep best practices that will result in energy use reduction, economic savings, quality of life improvement and reduction in the City's greenhouse gas footprint. An on-going summary of the City's implementation of best practices will be posted on the Minnesota GreenStep Cities web site.

Adopted this 1st day of April, 2013


BONNIE K. CUMBERLAND
President of the Council

Approved this 2nd day of April, 2013


JAMES E. WALLIN
Mayor

ATTEST


THERESA A. GOBLE
City Administrator