

## **City of Hewitt Resolution #16-005**

### **A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF HEWITT 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 Hewitt 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 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;
- (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 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 Hewitt does hereby authorize the City of Hewitt (the City) to participate in the Minnesota GreenStep Cities program that offers a free, voluntary continuous improvement framework. Be it further resolved that the City:

1. Appoints Alex Weego to serve as the City's GreenStep coordinator for best practice documentation/implementation and
2. 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
3. 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
4. Plans to take actions to implement the following best practices –
  - a. Install a Solar Panel Array on Hewitt City Hall
  - b. Switch current street lights with LED fixtures
5. Will claim credit for having implemented and will work at its own pace toward implementing at least eight (8) 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.

Passed by a majority vote of the City Council of the City of Hewitt, County of Todd and State of Minnesota this 8<sup>th</sup> Day of March, 2016.

By:  
Juanita Mitchell, Mayor

Attest:  
Tara Greer, City Clerk/Treasurer