

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF MANKATO 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 Mankato 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 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 Mankato has previously adopted a resolution endorsing the US Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement and adopting the City of Mankato Strategic Plan for Sustainability, 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, 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.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the City Council of the City of Mankato does hereby authorize the City of Mankato (the "City") to participate in the Minnesota GreenStep Cities program. Be it further resolved that the City:

Appoints the Department of Community Development to serve as the city's GreenStep coordinator to facilitate best practice implementation; and

Will facilitate the involvement of community members, civic, business and educational organizations, and other units of government as appropriate in the planning, promotion and implementation of GreenStep Cities best practices; and

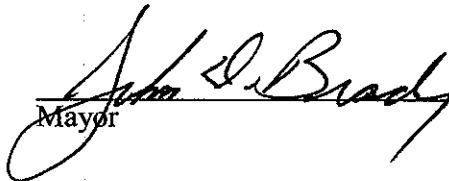
Plans to take actions as soon as possible to implement the following best practices to begin involvement in the GreenStep Cities program:

1. Entering baseline information regarding public buildings into the Minnesota B3 Database and continuing to enter and track monthly energy use data from City-owned buildings.
2. Audit (or when cost-effective, recommission) all City-owned buildings in the bottom third of the B-3 energy performance ranking and implement a majority of energy-efficiency opportunities that have a payback period of under 5 years.
3. Adopt a policy directing that the City purchase only EnergyStar certified equipment and appliances and paper containing at least 30% post-consumer recycled content.
4. Report progress of GreenStep City best practices on an annual basis, including gathered energy/carbon benchmarking data.
5. Organize goals and outcome measurements from all applicable City plans, including but not limited to comprehensive, parks, housing, stormwater, drinking water, transportation, economic, energy, and sustainability, and annually report to community members data that demonstrates progress toward meeting these goals; and

Will claim credit for having implemented and 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.

This resolution shall become effective immediately upon its passage and without publication.

Adopted this 9 day of August 2010.



Mayor

Attest: 

City Clerk