

## **RESOLUTION # 14-07**

*A resolution authorizing the city of Pine City 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**, Steps taken toward sustainable solutions aim to improve community quality of life, building community capital and increasing government efficiency, accountability and transparency; 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; 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;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Pine City does hereby authorize the City of Pine City to participate in the Minnesota GreenStep Cities program that offers free, voluntary continuous improvement framework. Passage of this participation resolution allows the City to be recognized as a Step One GreenStep City. Be it further resolved that the City:

1. Appoints Nathan Johnson, Community Development Director/Planner to serve as the City's GreenStep coordinator for best practice documentation/implementation and to work with an intern under the direction of the NE CERT Coordinator; 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. Will claim credit for having implemented and will work at its own pace toward implementing any GreenStep best practices that will result in energy use reduction, economic savings, quality of life improvement, reduction in the City's greenhouse gas footprint, and recognition by the League of Minnesota Cities as a Step Two GreenStep City. An on-going summary of the City's implementation of best practices will be posted by the City on the Minnesota GreenStep Cities web site.

Adopted by the City Council this Wednesday, the 26<sup>th</sup> of March, 2014.

  
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Paul Janssen, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
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Holly Wilson, City Administrator