

RESOLUTION NO.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF RICHFIELD 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 Richfield and to the economic health of its citizens and businesses; and

WHEREAS, local governments have the unique opportunity to achieve energy 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 Richfield has recently completed a number of energy saving building projects, including the new Municipal Center, Public Works Building and major mechanical replacement at the Ice Arena: 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

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

1. APPOINTS JIM TOPITZHOFFER, RECREATION SERVICES DIRECTOR TO SERVE AS THE CITY'S GREENSTEP COORDINATOR TO FACILITATE BEST PRACTICE IMPLEMENTATION THROUGH A WORK GROUP OF SELECTED STAFF; AND
2. WILL FACILITATE THE INVOLVEMENT OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION, COMMUNITY MEMBERS, CIVIC, BUSINESS AND EDUCATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, AND OTHER UNITS OF GOVERNMENT AS APPROPRIATE IN THE PLANNING, PROMOTING AND IMPLEMENTING OF GREENSTEP CITIES BEST PRACTICES; AND

3. WILL IDENTIFY A SHORT LIST OF BEST PRACTICES FOR INITIAL IMPLEMENTATION BY APRIL 1, 2012; AND
4. WILL CLAIM CREDIT FOR HAVING IMPLEMENTED AND WILL WORK TOWARD IMPLEMENTING 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.

Adopted by the City Council of the City of Richfield, Minnesota this 10th day of January, 2012.

Debbie Goettel, Mayor

ATTEST:

Nancy Gibbs, City Clerk