

**CITY OF ST. LOUIS PARK**

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF ST. LOUIS PARK**

**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 St. Louis Park 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**, 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 City Council adopted Vision St. Louis Park and is committed to being a leader in environmental stewardship and will increase environmental consciousness and responsibility in all areas of city business; and

**WHEREAS**, the City's Vision St. Louis Park will focus in areas of expanding energy efficiencies in the City's operations; educate staff and the public on environmental consciousness, stewardship and best practices; work with rehab loan programs, development projects to encourage green building design, creation of open space and environmental initiatives, preserve, enhance and provide good stewardship of our parks; and

**WHEREAS**, the City's Environmental Group (E Group), composed of intradepartmental staff ensures that environmental activities are coordinated with all departments and is actively involved in environmental activities and best practices outlined in the MN GreenStep Cities.

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

1. Appoints Jim Vaughan, St. Louis Park Environmental Coordinator, and Kathy Larsen, Housing Programs Coordinator to serve as the city's GreenStep co-coordinators to facilitate best practice; and 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 further development and promotion:
  - Buildings and Lighting – Promote and implement a Green Building Policy;
  - Environmental Management – Manage solid waste by increasing waste reduction and recycling at multi-family buildings;
  - Efficient and Healthy Development Patterns – Adopt Active Living Resolution and develop and adopt Active Living Policy;
  - Economic and Community Development – Develop Green purchasing guidelines.
4. Will claim credit for having implemented and will implement in total 90 required and optional GreenStep best practices and activities 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.

Reviewed for Administration: Adopted by the City Council June 4, 2012

City Manager Mayor

Attest:

City Clerk