

**CITY OF WEST ST. PAUL
DAKOTA COUNTY**

RESOLUTION NO. 17-

**AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF WEST ST. PAUL
TO PARTICIPATE IN THE MINNESOTA GREENSTEP CITIES PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, the West St. Paul City Council and the Environmental Committee are dedicated to the implementation of Objective 5.1 in the City's Comprehensive Plan, which calls on the City to: "Encourage sustainable development and best management practices to protect the environment for future generations;" and

WHEREAS, Minnesota GreenStep Cities is a voluntary challenge, assistance, and recognition program to help cities achieve their sustainability and quality-of-life goals; and

WHEREAS, uncertainty in energy prices and the transition away from fossil fuel energy sources presents new challenges and opportunities to both the City of West St. Paul and to the economic health of its citizens and businesses; and

WHEREAS, climate changes have been observed in Minnesota and have the potential for negative impacts on local, regional, and state economies; infrastructure development; habitat and ecological communities; the spread invasive species and exotic diseases; drinking water supplies and recreational opportunities; and on human health; and

WHEREAS, local governments have the unique opportunity to reduce energy use, costs, and greenhouse gas emissions 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, build community capital and increase government efficiency, accountability, and transparency; 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; and

WHEREAS, the City of West St. Paul has a rich history of policies, goals, and actions consistent with the Best Practice Actions in the GreenStep Cities Program.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of West St. Paul, Minnesota that the City of West St. Paul will participate in the Minnesota GreenStep Cities Program.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of West St. Paul will:

1. Appoint City Manager or Designee to serve as the City's GreenStep coordinator for Best Practice documentation and implementation and the Environmental Committee as the City's GreenStep coordination team; and
2. Facilitate the involvement of community members and other units of government as appropriate in the planning, promoting, and implementing of Best Practice Actions; and
3. Grant to the GreenStep Program's buildings advisor review access to the City's B3 Benchmarking database so as to facilitate analysis and cost-saving technical assistance to the City regarding its buildings' energy use; and
4. Provide feedback once a year on how well the GreenStep Program is serving the City and on City needs from the Program; and
5. Claim credit for having implemented any Best Practice Actions 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.
6. Authorize the posting of an on-going summary of the City's implementation of the Program's Best Practice Actions on the Minnesota GreenStep Cities web site.

Adopted by the City Council of the City of West St. Paul this ____ of May, 2017.

Ayes: Nays:

Attest:

Jenny Halverson, Mayor

Chantal Doriott, City Clerk