



Minnesota GreenStep Cities



GreenStep Cities is an assistance program for all Minnesota cities that supports and recognizes implementation of 28 sustainable development best practices.

The best practices focus on cost savings and energy use reductions that lead cities beyond compliance and encourage a culture of innovation.

Cities that implement a minimum number of best practices, organized into five categories below, will be recognized as a GreenStep City. Each best practice can be implemented by completing one or more specific actions from a list of four to eight actions. A city's accomplishments are recognized on the GreenStep website. Implementation of additional best practices will garner additional recognition.

Visit www.MnGreenStep.org to learn more about this program, to see what cities have accomplished, and to understand how your city can become involved.

GreenStep's 28 Best Practices

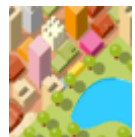
Buildings and Lighting

1. **Efficient Existing Public Buildings:** Assess and finance energy and sustainability improvements of existing structures.
2. **Efficient Existing Private Buildings:** Assess and finance energy and sustainability improvements of existing structures.
3. **New Green Buildings:** Construct new buildings to meet or qualify for a green building standard.
4. **Efficient Building & Street Lighting and Signals:** Improve the efficiency of public and private lighting and signals.
5. **Building Reuse:** Create economic and regulatory incentives for redeveloping and repurposing existing buildings before building new.



Land Use

6. **Comprehensive Plan and Implementation:** Adopt a Comprehensive Plan and tie regulatory ordinances to it.
7. **Efficient City Growth:** Promote financial and environmental sustainability by enabling and encouraging higher density housing and commercial land use.
8. **Mixed Uses:** Develop efficient and healthy land patterns.
9. **Efficient Highway-Oriented Development:** Adopt commercial development and design standards for highway road corridors.
10. **Conservation Design:** Adopt development ordinances or processes that protect natural systems.



Transportation

11. **Complete Green Streets:** Create a network of multimodal green streets.
12. **Mobility Options:** Promote active living and alternatives to single-occupancy car travel.
13. **Efficient City Fleets:** Implement a city fleet investment, operations and maintenance plan.
14. **Demand-Side Travel Planning:** Use Travel Demand Management and Transit-Oriented Design.



Environmental Management

15. **Purchasing:** Adopt an environmentally preferable purchasing policy.
16. **Urban Forests:** Increase city tree and plant cover.
17. **Efficient Stormwater Management:** Minimize the volume of and pollutants in rainwater runoff.
18. **Parks and Trails:** Enhance the city's green infrastructure.
19. **Surface Water Quality:** Improve local water bodies.
20. **Efficient Water and Wastewater Facilities:** Assess and improve drinking water and sewer facilities.
21. **Septic Systems:** Implement an effective management program for decentralized wastewater treatment systems.
22. **Solid Waste Reduction:** Increase waste reduction, reuse and recycling.
23. **Local Air Quality:** Prevent generation of local air contaminants.



Economic and Community Development

24. **Benchmarks & Community Engagement:** Adopt outcome measures for GreenStep and other city sustainability efforts, and engage community members in ongoing education, discussion, and campaigns.
25. **Green Business Development:** Support the expansion of the green business sector in your city.
26. **Renewable Energy:** Remove barriers to and encourage installation of renewable energy generation capacity.
27. **Local Food:** Strengthen local food and fiber production and access.
28. **Business Synergies:** Network/cluster businesses to achieve better energy, economic and environmental outcomes.



Minnesota GreenStep Cities grew out of a report to the 2009 Legislature. The program is governed by a public-private partnership of state agencies and non-governmental organizations and is led by the MPCA.

