



Minneapolis Climate Protection Initiative

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Council Member Elizabeth Glidden

Sustainability Manager Gayle Prest

Why Should Cities Care? How to Effect Change



Why Should Cities Care? How to Effect Change



- Majority of world's population lives in cities.
- Towns and cities historically have been environmental leaders effecting change at state and federal levels.
- Leadership is needed.

Food for Thought:



- Minnesota households: 30 tons of carbon dioxide per year - heat, electricity, vehicles (MPCA)
- 1.35 pounds of CO₂ = 1 kWh electricity (Xcel)
- Minneapolis city operations uses over 160,000 megawatt hours (MWh) and cost \$13 million for electricity annually (40+% in street/signal lights, 17% water plant)

Mpls Climate Change Background

- 100+ years of promoting walking, biking, and transit options.
- 1979: Mpls Energy Office formed. (Spun off to Center for Energy & Environment in 1989).
- 1993: Mpls – St Paul CO₂ Project Plan
General set of actions sponsored by ICLEI and prepared by Center for Energy & Environment
- 1996: Adopted Minneapolis Energy Plan

Background 2006



- New City Council Health Energy and Environment Committee
- Sierra Club lists Mpls as a “Cool City”
- One of first to sign US Conference of Mayors Climate Protection Agreement
- Hired Sustainability Manager
- New City Goals include “Enriched Environment” & “Connected Communities”

Sustainability Initiative (2003 - present)



- Adopted 24 Sustainability Indicators:
 - Global Warming
 - Renewable Energy
 - Bike Lanes
 - Urban Forest
 - Downtown Alternative Transportation
 - Air Quality

Sustainability Initiative (2003 - present)



- Indicators enacted through:
 - Community engagement
 - Media outreach
 - Comprehensive Plan change
 - Annual reporting
 - Integration into every City department's business plan.



Basic CO₂ Elements of a City

- Transportation: efficiency and renewables
- Electrical and heating: efficiency and renewables*
- Urban Forestry
- Recycling Efforts
- Agency operations (walk the talk)

* *In MN over 70% of electricity is from coal plants.*

City Owned Green Fleet - Current



City Owned Green Fleet - Current

- **Transforming the fleet**
 - Reduced fleet by over 180 vehicles & improved maintenance schedule.
 - 8 hybrids, 99 E85 vehicles & bikes in City fleet.
 - Cleaner fuels (B20 biodiesel, ultra low sulfur gasoline).
 - E85 Fueling Station (with Hennepin County).
 - HOURCAR (car sharing program using hybrids) for some city staff in place of pool cars.
- **Transforming City policies**
 - New Idling Policy for Public Works vehicles.
 - Reduced price of bus/LRT passes for City employees (over 400+ participating).

City Owned Buildings - Current



City Owned Buildings - Current

- Historically, City-owned buildings designed to exceed state energy code by 30%.
- Conversion of all street signal lights to LED type.
- Purchasing Energy Star appliances.
- Solar installation on 3 City buildings.
 - Wind not viable at this time in Minneapolis
- LEED silver requirement for future City buildings.
 - LEED Gold for new, visible Public Works building.
- LEED professional accreditation.
 - Key staff in Public Works, Reg Services and CPED.
- New Energy Manager focused on City buildings.

Citywide - Energy Efficiency



Find out what you can do to slow Global Warming.

Take the Energy Challenge

www.mnenergychallenge.org



Citywide - Energy Efficiency

- Energy Challenge
 - Website, energy fairs, ads, speakers, employee outreach
- CFL retailer requirement
 - Campaign to promote purchase/disposal (mercury)
CFL campaign starting in July
- Zoning: Energy Efficiency Bonus
 - New buildings that exceed energy code by 35%
- Small neighborhood climate change grants
- Staff presentations of “Inconvenient Truth”
- Fuel efficiency mandate for future taxi licenses
- Greenroofs incentives/promotion

Citywide - Renewable Energy

- Attained 6,300 “Windsource” customers in Mpls.
- Waived permit fees for 12 residential solar projects.
- Solar: Faith organizations, businesses, homes.
- Supported State Renewable Energy Standard (RES) for utilities & conservation measures.
- Sold City property for proposed biomass facility.
- 2 hydro power projects proposed in City limits.
- HERC, UM Steam Plant, District Heating, Xcel Hydro Plant

Transit





Transit

- Minneapolis named one of “Best Workplaces for Commuters,” EPA (2005)
- Nationally recognized bike system.
- 50% of the 160,000 people who work downtown use an alternative commuting method other than driving alone.
- Businesses impacted by congestion.

Multi Modal Transportation Activities

- Complete
 - 10 Year Transportation Plan
- Include
 - Bike racks/showers in development review process
- Plan
 - 44 miles of new bike trails in next 10 years
- Prohibit
 - Surface parking lots downtown
- Maintain and enhance
 - Existing zoning requirements/bonuses for new buildings that are transit/pedestrian friendly
- Lobby heavily at state for
 - More transit options, funding and hybrid buses

Transit Partnerships that Impact Change

- Bus Rapid Transit on 35W
- LRT, Northstar, SW Corridor
- Streetcar evaluation
- Urban Partnership Agreement

Downtown Transit



- **Incentives**
 - Provide free parking for carpool/vanpools in municipal lots & discount parking for HourCar car sharing.
 - Property owners provide lockers/showers for bikers.
 - Support TMO (Transportation Management Organization) that works with businesses to promote transit options.
- **Results**
 - New Light Rail Transit started in 2004 greatly exceeding ridership goals.
 - Bus ridership recently at 23 year high.

Trees



Trees

- Planted 15,000 trees on public land in last 4 years.
- Partnered with Tree Trust and others to plant trees on private property.
- New Gold Medal Part has 380 large trees.
- Educating on benefits.

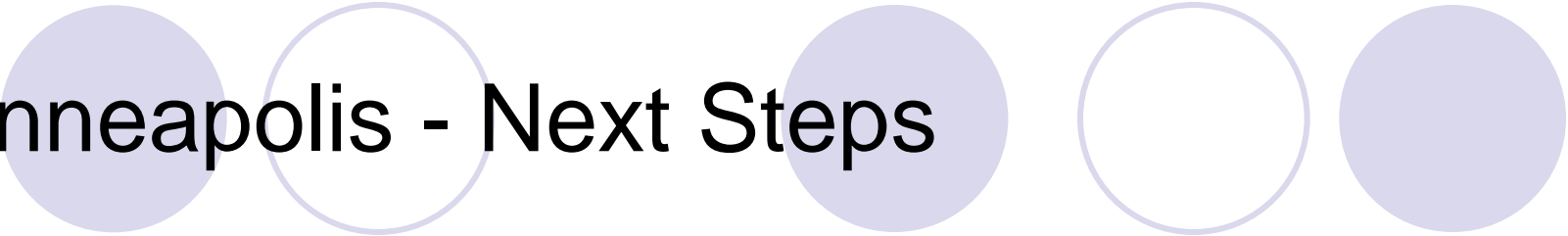
Buy Local – Recycle/Reuse





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- Local Food (CSA, community gardens, co-ops and 13 farmers markets)
- Improving Recycling Efforts
- ReUse Center & other options



Minneapolis - Next Steps

- **Conversion**
 - Xcel's Riverside Power Plant from coal to combined cycle natural gas
- **Proposed cogeneration/renewable energy**
 - District heating projects (HERC link to Twins Stadium/NRG)
 - Biomass, hydro
- **Strengthen**
 - Partnerships with business, government and NGOs
 - Link between climate change and job creation
 - Urban forestry efforts

Minneapolis Next Steps



- **Improve**

- CO₂ numerical tracking & update Energy Plan.
- Outreach – sophisticated social marketing needed.

- **Evaluate**

- Additional renewables options for City operations.
- Incentives/disincentives throughout City processes including permitting and economic development.

- **Lead**

- State/Federal leadership needed – vehicle standards, utility requirements, reducing SOVs, carbon reduction system.

Recent Awards



- Clean Air Excellence Award, EPA (2007)
- 5th Cleanest City in World, Forbes (2007)
- #2 mid size cities, Earth Day Network (2007)
- Top 10 Most Sustainable Cities, Sustainlane.com (2005, 2006)
- Top 10 Greenest Cities, Homestore.com (2006)

Let's Get Started..



- Improve City's operations – fleets, buildings (save \$\$ too)
- Join USCM Climate Protection Agreement
- Join a CERT (Clean Energy Resource Team)
- Contact your utilities, MPCA, Dept of Commerce
- Partner with organizations
- Develop a Plan



Web Sites:

- Fresh Energy fresh-energy.org
- Pew Climate pewclimate.org
- US Conference of Mayors
usmayors.org/climateprotection
- ICLEI iclei.org
- Minnesota Energy Challenge
mnenergychallenge.org
- Minnesota Climate Change Advisory
Group pca.state.mn.us

Parting thoughts..

