



Great Places

We sustain resources for future generations by reducing consumption, minimizing waste and using less energy

What strategies are working?

CITY INITIATIVES AND SERVICES HAVE MEASURABLE, POSITIVE RESULTS.

- Recycling is offered throughout the city, and one-sort recycling has dramatically improved recycling rates.
- The City is committed to swapping out inefficient street lights for LED lights. Every time we switch out an inefficient light, we save 50 percent on energy costs.
- City facilities, in particular the convention center, have achieved energy savings and qualified for rebates.
- The water treatment facility is more efficient, and electricity use has gone down by 5 percent.
- Water consumption in Minneapolis is generally going down.
- City efforts have encouraged a reduction in consumers' use of bottled water in favor of tap water.
- The City has internal policies for environmental purchasing, City fleet purchases, indoor temperatures and green building practices.

NEW INITIATIVES WILL CONTINUE PROGRESS.

- The City will begin collecting residential organics citywide in 2015-2016.
- The environmentally friendly packaging rollout (polystyrene ban) is set to begin in 2015.
- The City is partnering on a study about the benefits of gardening with biochar, a charcoal soil amendment that can be used to reduce emissions from biomass that would otherwise degrade to greenhouse gases.

MINNEAPOLIS IS COMMITTED TO SUSTAINABILITY.

- Staff in the City's Sustainability office and other departments are focusing on environmental issues. There is consensus that this is important work that the City should be doing.
- The City adopted sustainability indicators to measure progress toward achieving environmental goals. Annual measurements help us track progress and target areas that need attention.
- The City's Climate Action Plan documents the city's strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- Managers of large commercial buildings and City-owned buildings are required by City ordinance to track and report their energy and water use. Reporting requirements prompt energy efficiency improvements and progress toward the City's Climate Action Plan goals.

COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIPS HELP US MAKE PROGRESS.

- The Clean Energy Partnership will enable the City, Xcel Energy and CenterPoint Energy to collaborate on ways to help Minneapolis improve energy efficiency, increase renewable energy and reduce greenhouse gases.
- The City's Green Business Matching Grant program helps businesses switch to painting, cleaning and repair processes that reduce harmful air emissions and hazardous waste.
- Minneapolis was awarded a grant from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency to study options for recycling commercial and industrial waste.
- The City leveraged federal and state grants to reduce energy costs in City facilities by \$6 million (cumulative between 2009 and 2012.)
- Minnesota's energy policy enables utility companies to be aggressive in lowering consumption.
- The Citizens Environmental Advisory Committee has helped the City engage with residents on environmental issues.

What strategies are not working?

RENTAL PROPERTIES POSE CHALLENGES TO REDUCING WASTE AND ENERGY CONSUMPTION.

Great Places

We sustain resources for future generations by reducing consumption, minimizing waste and using less energy

- We aren't reaching out to renters to encourage them to reduce waste and use less energy.
- No one has an energy efficiency program aimed at landlords.

WE DON'T DO ENOUGH OUTREACH.

- We don't do enough to educate people on how to recycle.
- Translating written materials into other languages isn't enough.

WE NEED BETTER AND MORE TIMELY DATA.

- The City gets good data on energy consumption, but it could be more timely.
- We have no idea how much commercial, industrial and multifamily waste is generated or where it is going. There is a recycling service mandate for these buildings, but we can't tell how well the service is used.
- Waste haulers can't provide city-specific commercial garbage data because their collection service crosses multiple city boundaries.
- We don't know how much construction and demolition waste is generated.
- We don't have data that would help people see how they compare to their neighbors in terms of energy consumption and waste generation.

WE FACE A NUMBER OF IMPEDIMENTS TO ACHIEVING OUR GOALS.

- We aren't meeting our goal of retrofitting 75 percent of Minneapolis homes and rental units. We're good at getting in the door for an energy audit, but that doesn't always mean the changes are made.
- In some cases, it's easier to construct a new building than retrofit a facility.
- We don't have a clear definition of an anaerobic digester and potential zoning implications.
- Our land use policy isn't supporting recycling. Right now, we're transporting our recyclables to other communities, and transportation has an environmental impact. There's very little industrial zoning in Minneapolis that would allow for the expansion of recycling facilities.
- State regulations and plumbing codes make it very difficult for buildings to reuse rainwater for irrigation.
- The City and Xcel Energy still have inefficient street lights.
- It's hard to get manufacturers to take responsibility for products such as paint and electronics.
- Mattresses are a significant expense for the Hennepin Energy Recovery Center. The City spends \$700,000 per year on mattress collection and recycling.
- When staff have a lot on their plate, they devote less time to building relationships and developing partnerships. It's hard to fit it all into your calendar.
- We have no strategy for dealing with hazardous waste.
- The City is talking about zero waste goals, but water isn't part of the conversation at this point.
- There are disparities in residents' use of City services. The residents who could most benefit from City conservation programs are not taking advantage of these services.

Working in partnership, what strategies could we pursue?

CONTINUE MOVING FORWARD WITH INITIATIVES TO REDUCE WASTE AND ENERGY CONSUMPTION.

- Accelerate the process for replacing inefficient City-owned and Xcel Energy-owned street lights with LED street lights.
- Require consumers and manufacturers to pay a greater amount of the cost to recycle mattresses.
- Make it easier for homeowners and rental property owners to retrofit their properties to improve energy efficiency.

Great Places

We sustain resources for future generations by reducing consumption, minimizing waste and using less energy

- Community solar is getting started and prices are competitive, but it takes significant time and effort.
- Add an energy efficiency requirement to the City's Truth in Housing program.
- Support efforts to revise the Minnesota plumbing code to allow the use of graywater for irrigation.
- Make more compressed natural gas fueling stations available to garbage haulers. If there were more fueling stations, garbage haulers would use more natural gas and less diesel fuel.
- Provide incentives for companies to reuse industrial waste.

ORGANICS COLLECTION POSES AN OPPORTUNITY AND SPECIAL CHALLENGES.

- Rolling out a cost-efficient and high participation organics collection program will take time and effort.
- If our organics collection program is very successful, we won't have a place to put all the organic waste.
- Sites for composting organics are located in distant areas and pose odor problems.
- Approach organics collection more broadly to maximize participation.

EXPAND PARTNERSHIPS.

- Help businesses work together on recycling so they can cut down on their overhead.
- Find regional partners to create new locations for compost sites.
- Partner with Minneapolis neighborhood organizations and activate them to promote recycling and waste reduction. Encourage neighborhoods to tap into Hennepin County's master recycler program.
- Do more to interact with business sustainability representatives.

USE NEW APPROACHES TO COMMUNICATION.

- Give people information about how they compare to their neighbors in energy use and waste generation. Comparisons would encourage people to reduce energy use and recycle more.
- Flip the script that we use to talk about recycling and energy use. Instead of talking about requirements and expenses, talk about how these efforts make our lives more sustainable. Communicate that the City isn't forcing you to do something, this is something you can do for your community. Build the case that participating in the organics collection program is the right thing to do.
- Embark on a prolonged campaign to encourage participation in organics collection. Accept that it will take a long time and a concerted effort to create a new norm.
- Encourage the City, County and Park Board to communicate a consistent message to their audiences.
- Put more focus on consumers — instead of businesses — in communication about environmentally friendly packaging.

OBTAIN BETTER DATA TO INFORM OUR DECISION-MAKING AND PLANNING.

- Find ways to get data about the amount of waste generated by the commercial and industrial sectors and multifamily buildings. If waste haulers can't provide city-specific data, ask for statewide data. Statewide data is better than no data.
- Encourage the State of Minnesota to push haulers to provide data about the amount and types of waste generated by the commercial and industrial sectors and multifamily buildings.
- Expand the City's licensing and permitting requirements so that waste haulers are required to provide data about the amount and types of waste generated within the city. If that isn't a viable option, franchise a portion of the city and study that area.

Great Places

We sustain resources for future generations by reducing consumption, minimizing waste and using less energy

This conversation had representatives from City of Minneapolis Mayor's Office, City Council Office, Finance and Property Services, Public Works Department, Minneapolis Health Department, Sustainability Department, City Coordinator's Office, Minneapolis Convention Center, Center for Energy and Environment, CenterPoint Energy, Clean Water Action, Hennepin County and Xcel Energy.