



Request for City Council Committee Action from the City Coordinators Office

Date: April 16, 2012

To: Honorable Elizabeth Glidden, Chair, Regulatory, Energy and Environment Committee

Subject: 2012 GreenPrint – Sustainability Report

Recommendation: Receive and File

Department Information

Prepared by: Gayle Prest, Sustainability Director

Approved by: Jayne Baccus Khalifa, Interim City Coordinator

Presenters in Committee: Gayle Prest and Greenprint Staff Leads

Financial Impact

No financial impact.

Background

The 2012 Minneapolis GreenPrint is the seventh annual report on the City's environmental sustainability activities. Each of the twelve indicators has a target, trend analysis and recent City and community activities section, allowing us to measure our progress and align actions with goals. Many of these targets were revised by the City Council in January 2012.

In order to provide information in a manner that is more current, easier to access, and more in-depth than a print document, the sustainability indicators are now all available on the City's website: <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/sustainability/>

2011 Highlights:

- Community-wide greenhouse gas emissions decreased over 12% between 2006 and 2010. This change was driven by Xcel's use of cleaner sources to generate electricity, a reduction in the use of natural gas, and a reduction in emissions from airport operations.
- Made healthy food accessible to more residents by expanding Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) and Market Bucks (coupons worth \$5 of free produce) to the West Broadway Outdoor Market, Brian Coyle and Augsburg markets in 2011. Midtown Farmers Market, Minneapolis Farmers Market and Northeast Minneapolis Farmers Market also continued to accept EBT. Between May 2010 and November 2011, the markets received a combined total of more than

\$90,000 in EBT sales and Market Bucks redemptions, improving federal food support for healthy foods and the local economy.

- The City, in partnership with Ramsey County Workforce Solutions completed a two-year, \$4 million federally funded green jobs training and placement project. Renewable Energy Networks Empowering Workers (RENEW) has provided training to 585 workers in green credentialing programs in manufacturing, construction, building systems, and renewable energy, and has placed more than 300 of these individuals in jobs.
- Minneapolis' Residential Energy Efficiency Program, operated by the Center for Energy and Environment with funding support from the State and the City, has served more than 4,000 Minneapolis homes and has created more than 20 permanent jobs. Of the Minneapolis households that have had a home visit, about 950 completed major energy efficiency upgrades, resulting in more than 1,000 energy upgrades completed in the city overall.
- In 2011, 37 miles of on-street bikeways were added, including bike lanes, marked shared lanes and four bicycle boulevard corridors. Since 2000, 79.1 miles of bikeways have been added for a total of 167 miles of on and off-street bikeways. 2011 also saw a 21 percent increase in cyclists over 2010, based on an annual citywide count.

Challenges remain. Our tree canopy remains threatened by Emerald Ash Borer and extreme weather such as the tornado in North Minneapolis. Asian Carp is a major threat to the Mississippi River and zebra mussels, while not found in Minneapolis, have been thriving in water bodies nearby. And while the continuing economic recovery means jobs, investment, and expanded opportunity for Minneapolis, the City will need to work to preserve recent improvements in areas like airport noise, transit ridership, and greenhouse gas emissions.

A number of important efforts are already under way in 2012 – the City's recycling program has begun accepting more types of plastics, the urban agriculture zoning amendments have passed, we have completed or are near completion on five new solar installations on buildings along the Central Corridor, and we have begun a stakeholder process to update the City's Climate Action Plan.

Completing this report requires a coordinated effort involving the City's Citizen Environmental Advisory Committee; Environmental Coordinating Team; numerous staff from departments including Community Planning and Economic Development, Health and Family Support, the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, Public Works and Regulatory Services; Mayor R.T. Rybak; the City Council; businesses, nonprofits, and other organizations; and residents working with us toward a sustainable city. A special thanks to the following staff leads: Emily Stern, Patrick Hanlon, June Mathiowetz, Jeff Jenks, Lois Eberhart, Don Pflaum, Shaun Murphy, Anna Flintoft, Simon Blenski, Paul Mogush, Debra Pilger, Rachael Crabb, John Dybvig, Brendon Slotterback, Elizabeth Haugen, and Anders Imboden.

Cc: Sustainability Steering Committee members, Citizens Environmental Advisory Committee