

RESOLUTION OF THE
CITY OF MINNEAPOLIS
June 23, 2008

Resolution supporting the Minneapolis Good Jobs Green Jobs Initiative

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Whereas Mayor R.T. Rybak was one of the original signors to the U.S. Conference of Mayors Climate Protection Agreement, which calls upon cities to meet or beat the climate protection actions in the Kyoto Protocol; and

Whereas in December 2004 the Minneapolis City Council ratified the Daegu Declaration developed at the first Solar Cities Congress held in Daegu, South Korea that supported the implementation of verifiable standards for sustainable development and realistic climate change policies, and recognized the opportunity for cities to take a leadership role in creating new technologies for renewable energy and energy efficiency; and

Whereas the City of Minneapolis is a leader among cities in taking real actions to address climate change, including adopting 24 sustainability indicators providing a blueprint upon which to build a more sustainable city, setting aggressive targets to reduce CO2 emissions and increase the use of renewable energy; and

Whereas the City of Minneapolis is committed to building One Minneapolis, with equal opportunity for all, including designing its employment and training programs to eliminate employment disparities and promoting economic justice; and

Whereas the City of Minneapolis believes that investments needed to solve the critical environmental challenges such as global warming represent a strategic economic opportunity to grow our economy, and create green collar jobs for Minneapolis residents; and

Whereas Mayor Rybak co-chaired the Mayors' Green Manufacturing Initiative over the past year in partnership with the national Blue Green Alliance and the City of Saint Paul and over 60 community stakeholders from business, labor, economic development experts, state, university and others, to develop the *Making It Green* report; and

Whereas the *Making It Green* report lays out five strategies that Minneapolis can take to become a national leader in promoting and developing the economy while creating family supporting jobs; and

Whereas the City is already pursuing several strategies to build the green economy in Minneapolis, including, but not limited to:

- Adopting a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Policy that requires municipal facilities to be built or rehabbed to LEED Silver standards;
- Establishing the Team Teen Works Green Team summer green job corps program;
- Updating the Minneapolis Comprehensive Plan – now named The Minneapolis Plan for Sustainable Growth – to ratify the City's commitment to building a sustainable city;
- Directing staff to revise the City's Environmentally Preferred Procurement Policy to include wherever possible green purchasing that supports local suppliers;

- Partnering with the City of Saint Paul and the Department of Energy on the Solar America Initiative to increase solar installation and production capacity in the City;
- Revising City zoning and regulatory policies to make it easier for property owners to invest in renewable energy and energy efficiency;
- Adopting the Industrial Land Use Policy, which safeguards Industrial Employment Districts, to protect them for the creation of good paying jobs;
- Installing solar panels and green roofs on municipal buildings, including plans for installation of a 600 kw solar array – the largest in the Upper Midwest – on the Minneapolis Convention Center this fall.

Now, therefore be it resolved by the City Council of the City of Minneapolis that the City endorse the Minneapolis Good Jobs Green Jobs Initiative to integrate strategies throughout the City’s work to capture the benefits of the emerging green economy for Minneapolis; and

Be it further resolved that the City thanks the participants in the Mayors’ Green Manufacturing Initiative for their work in creating the *Making It Green* report; and

Be it further resolved that the City participate in Phase II of the Green Manufacturing Initiative in partnership with the Blue Green Alliance and the City of Saint Paul, to include further work on a developing a marketing plan, researching economic growth potential in additional green industries, identifying future workforce needs and training pathways, and research options for formalizing the partnership with all stakeholders; and

Be it further resolved that CPED staff be directed to incorporate a focus on capturing the benefits of the emerging green economy in its work, including but not limited to:

- Establishing a marketing framework that promotes the City for green economic development and green collar jobs;
- Reviewing business finance and development tools for opportunities to promote green business development;
- Convening area businesses to build a green business networking group to expand and support growth into the green economy;
- Connecting with existing workforce development partners to position curriculum, job-placement, and business need for potential career opportunities in the green economy for low-income Minneapolis residents and to seek opportunities to build green economy experiences for youth 14-21 years old through the Minneapolis Employment and Training Program’s STEP-UP program;
- Continued refinement and implementation of planning policies and regulations that further the City’s sustainability goals and support the emerging green economy; and

Be it further resolved that Intergovernmental Relations staff monitor the progress of the Green Jobs Economy Task Force established by the 2008 legislature and how the City should participate in the policy discussions, including identifying future proposals for legislative action; and

Be it further resolved that City’s Sustainability Manager work with appropriate partners to develop a sustainability indicator to be included in future Sustainability Reports to measure whether Minneapolis is successfully capturing the benefits of the emerging green economy.