Minneapolis
living well

2011 Sustainability Report

Minneapolis
living well

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Minneapolis
City of Lakes

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Minneapolis living well

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Cover photo credit: Meet Minneapolis, girl on a swing, Mary Metchnek

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Executive Summary

Minneapolis living well

The City of Minneapolis is committed to citywide economic opportunity, social equality and environmental sustainability. Sustainability in a community is simply health: economic, environmental and social health. It addresses issues together so that resolving one issue strengthens another. It creates efficiencies, increases resilience and supports quality of life for the present and the future. The City government is also committed to innovative and results-driven business practices to maintain and enhance the livability of our city. These commitments – combined with an engaged population and strong partnerships with other institutions and organizations – mean that all residents should be Living Well.

For the sixth year in a row, the City is reporting its progress on 26 sustainability indicators. Highlights during 2010 include:

A Healthy Life

- Once again, fewer children had elevated levels of lead.
- The number of HIV cases was at its lowest level since 2005, and the number of gonorrhea cases was at the lowest level in a decade.

Greenprint

- Transit ridership rebounded, and bike ridership increased.
- Renewable energy installations dramatically increased.

A Vital Community

- The pace accelerated for building and updating affordable housing.
- Violent crime decreased almost 27 percent over the past four years.

The City experienced setbacks too, including continued health disparities among populations of color, a decline in recycling and composting rates, and jobs lost due to the struggling economy.

2011 brings some new projects. Because of the strong connection between a mother's mental well-being and the outcome of her pregnancy and the early parenting of her child, in 2011 Minneapolis Twin Cities Healthy Start will conduct peer-facilitated support groups for women in the community. Such structured support groups help women formulate and achieve progress on action plans and have been shown to increase the mental well-being of participants.

New investments for improving healthy weight in 2011 include a citywide awareness campaign to engage residents in making their surroundings healthier. An initiative to strengthen the biking culture in north Minneapolis includes a new bike/walk center and new Nice Ride locations.

Thank you to all those who contributed to this report including the City's Citizen Environmental Advisory Committee and Environmental Coordinating Team; the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board staff; City, Hennepin County and Minneapolis Public Schools staff; Minneapolis Mayor R.T. Rybak; the Minneapolis City Council; businesses; nonprofits; and residents working with us toward a sustainable city.

Learn more about the Minneapolis sustainability initiative and join us in achieving its vision. Please visit www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/sustainability.

Healthy Infants

Reduce Infant Mortality and Low Birth Weights

The infant mortality rate is an important measure of population health because it is associated with a variety of health issues that impact pregnant women and infants. Disparities in infant mortality rates reflect a multitude of factors affecting pregnant women, including the long-term effects of poverty, stress, poor maternal health and lack of access to high quality health care.

Low birth weight is a major predictor of infant mortality. Babies with low birth weight (5.5 pounds or less at birth) or very low birth weight (3.3 pounds or less) face a number of serious health risks. Low birth weight is associated with a variety of risk factors that may include premature death, health complications and lifelong disabilities.

Target

- Reduce the infant mortality rate within each racial and ethnic subgroup to six per 1,000 live births by 2020.
- Reduce the incidence of low birth weight to 5 percent by 2020.

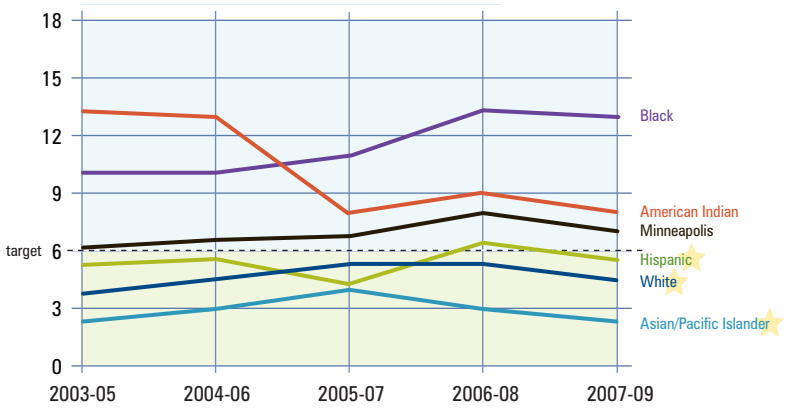
Trend Analysis

The infant mortality rate overall – the number of deaths per 1,000 live births – continues to decline in Minneapolis. The average infant mortality rate from 2007 to 2009 was 7.1, down from 7.9 in the previous three-year period. The rates of infant deaths continue to decline among Asian and Pacific Islander, white and Hispanic populations, with rates of 2.3, 4.5 and 5.6 respectively from 2007 to 2009. Rates of infant mortality remain highest among black and American Indian groups at 12.9 and 8 respectively – a slight decline compared with 13.3 and 9.1 from 2006 to 2008.

The percentage of babies born with low birth weight was 7.9 percent in 2009. The Hispanic population met the 5 percent target established by Healthy People 2020 (a national health and disease prevention initiative). The incidence of low birth weight remained much higher among blacks than any other group in 2009.

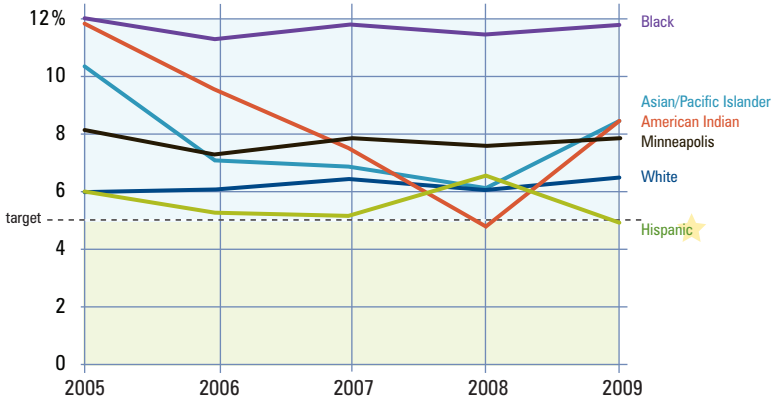
Infant mortality rates among Minneapolis residents[1]

deaths per 1,000 live births in three-year rolling average rates



Source: Minnesota Department of Health

Low-birth-weight babies born to Minneapolis residents[1]



Source: Minnesota Department of Health

1 Race/ethnicity categories are mutually exclusive

Recent City and Community Activities

- Minneapolis Twin Cities Healthy Start screened 746 pregnant women and provided case management services to 340 high-risk pregnant women in community clinics and program sites located in neighborhoods with high rates of infant mortality.
- Conducted family planning trainings at six Twin Cities Healthy Start program sites in Minneapolis and Saint Paul.
- Twin Cities Healthy Start program staff worked with the Minnesota Organization on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome to modify the substance abuse mandated reporting law to encourage early entry into prenatal care.
- At Twin Cities Healthy Start, more than 1,300 visitors learned about infant mortality and 1,000 visitors learned about the prenatal substance abuse law that went into effect this past summer.
- Twin Cities Healthy Start gave almost 1,100 participants an infant mortality awareness DVD at health fairs and community events.

Web Links and Resources

Minneapolis Department of Health and Family Support: Twin Cities Healthy Start
www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/dhfs/healthy-start.asp

U.S. Department of Health
www.healthierus.gov

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
www.cdc.gov

Minnesota SIDS Center
www.childrensmn.org/services/SIDs

Teen Pregnancy

Reduce Teen Pregnancy

Teenage childbearing can create challenges for mothers, children and families. Teen mothers are at a higher risk for premature birth, low birth weights and ongoing difficulties such as long-term poverty, lower levels of education and poorer job prospects. Children born to teen parents are at a higher risk for abuse, neglect and poor school performance.

Target

- Reduce the pregnancy rate among 15- to 17-year-olds to 46 pregnancies per 1,000 by 2010*

* Post 2010 target pending.

Trend Analysis

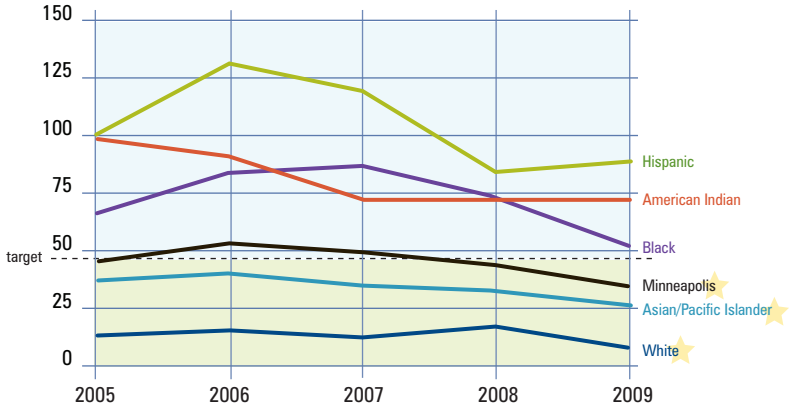
In 2009 there were 212 pregnancies reported for girls 15-17 years old. The number of pregnancies reported for this age range decreased 22 percent since 2008. The overall teen pregnancy rate[1, 2] among 15- to 17-year-olds also decreased from 44 pregnancies per 1,000 to 34 per 1,000, which is below the 2010 target of 46 pregnancies per 1,000. Teen pregnancy rates for all racial groups declined or remained steady except for Hispanic teen girls, for whom the rate increased. Teen pregnancy rates for Hispanic, black and American Indian girls are six to 10 times higher than white. More work needs to be done to assure that all Minneapolis youths have access to comprehensive sexuality education that is science-based and culturally appropriate.

1 The pregnancy rate includes live births, abortions and fetal deaths.

2 Pregnancy rate calculations use population counts from 2000 U.S. Census.

Teen pregnancies in Minneapolis[3]

per 1,000 teenagers ages 15 to 17



Source: Minnesota Department of Health

3 Race/ethnicity categories are mutually exclusive

Teen mothers and their babies are at higher risk for health problems, and teenage mothers are more likely to drop out of high school and face unemployment as adults.

Recent City and Community Activities

- Provided health services for 2,113 students through clinics in six public high schools in 2010. www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/dhfs/school-home.asp
- Implemented a peer education program at Edison High School. High school students are trained to talk to their peers about various topics focused on preventing teen pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections.
- Provided technical assistance and funding to Minneapolis Public Schools to implement comprehensive sexuality education in middle school (grades six through eight).
- Partnered with the University of Minnesota and South High School to launch a teen action group in south Minneapolis focused on teen pregnancy prevention. Thirty teens participated.
- Division of Indian Work, Southside Community Clinic and Minneapolis Public Schools Broadway program received federal funding through the City to provide teen pregnancy prevention education and services to 312 Minneapolis teens in 2010.
- Provided funding to the Minnesota Visiting Nurse Agency to offer public health home visits to Minneapolis pregnant and parenting teens and their infants. It provided services to 1,218 teen moms and their infants.
- Provided pregnancy prevention education to 1,800 young males in underserved areas by assuring the continuation of the Seen on da Streets project with an allocation of $200,000 in state public health funds through 2012.

Web Links and Resources

Teen health information
www.birdsandbees.org

www.healthyteennetwork.org

HIV and Gonorrhea

Reduce the Rates of HIV and Gonorrhea

HIV (the virus that causes AIDS) and gonorrhea disproportionately affect Minneapolis residents compared with those living in other areas in Minnesota, with negative consequences for public health and the economy. Comprehensive sex education and prevention are effective in reducing the spread of disease. Systematic screening of those at risk is also necessary, because an infected person can spread these sexually transmitted infections before symptoms develop.

Target

- Reduce the rate of new HIV cases to 21 per 100,000 people by 2010.
- Reduce the rate of new gonorrhea cases to 161 per 100,000 people by 2010.

Trend Analysis

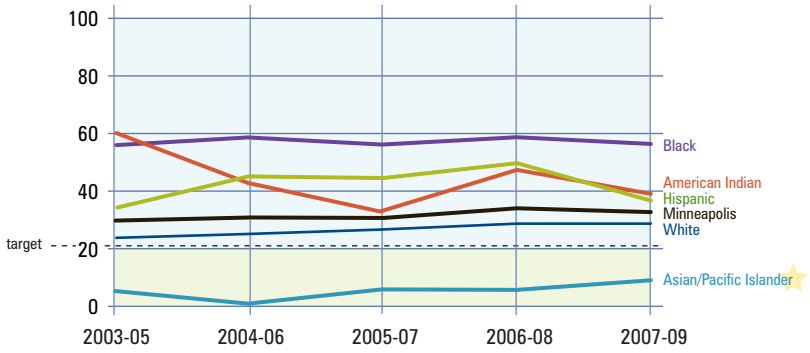
In 2009,* 115 new cases of HIV were reported in Minneapolis, the fewest since 2005. The three-year rolling average rate was 33.1 cases per 100,000 people[1], a 3 percent decrease from the previous three-year average. The rate rose slightly among whites and Asians, but fell among all other racial/ethnic groups.[2] Blacks continued to have the highest rate of disease, 1.7 times higher than the city average. Most HIV transmission continues to be among men who have sex with men, demonstrating the continued need for prevention and screening in this population.

In 2009,* 673 new gonorrhea cases – 176 cases per 100,000 people – were reported in Minneapolis, the lowest numbers in a decade. The largest declines were seen among the black population, which has the highest rates of the disease. The rates for the Hispanic, Asian and Pacific Islander, and white populations met the target.[3]

* Most recent year for which data are available.

New cases of HIV[1,2,4] in Minneapolis

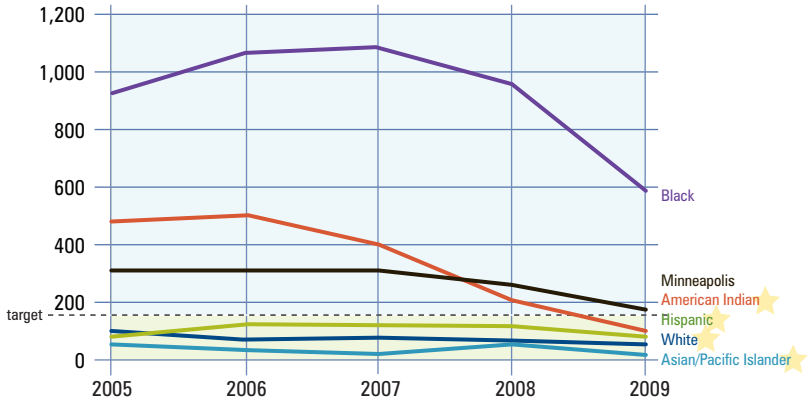
cases per 100,000 people



Source: Minnesota Department of Health

Gonorrhea cases in Minneapolis[3,4]

cases per 100,000 people



Source: Minnesota Department of Health

Recent City and Community Activities

- Provided sexually transmitted disease (STD) and HIV prevention education to 1,800 young males in underserved areas by assuring the continuation of the Seen on da Streets project with an allocation of $200,000 in state public health funds through 2012.
- Tested uninsured people for STDs and HIV through Neighborhood Health Care Network clinics.
- Participated in the Minnesota Chlamydia Partnership, a coalition of community members, social service providers, public health experts and medical providers developing recommendations aimed at reducing chlamydia rates statewide. Many of the chlamydia-reduction activities will also impact gonorrhea and HIV rates. www.health.state.mn.us/divs/idepc/diseases/chlamydia/mcp/index.html
- Provided 2,010 family planning visits, 652 other reproductive visits and 2,136 sexually transmitted infection tests through City-funded school-based clinics. www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/dhfs/school-home.asp

Web Links and Resources

Some of the sites below contain explicit information about prevention and transmission of sexually transmitted diseases and are not appropriate for all viewers.

Minnesota AIDS Project
www.mnaidsproject.org

Minnesota Department of Health sexually transmitted diseases statistics www.health.state.mn.us/divs/idepc/dtopics/stds/stdstatistics. html

Red Door Clinic
www.reddoorclinic.org

Healthy Weight

Increase the Proportion of Adults at a Healthy Weight

Obesity is among the most common causes of chronic disease such as diabetes and heart disease. These illnesses saddle individuals with physical, emotional and financial strain while costing the health care system and the broader community billions of dollars each year. People are more likely to reach a healthy weight[1] when healthy foods and opportunities for physical activity are affordable, safe and desirable in the places where they live, learn, work and play.

Target

- Increase the proportion of Minneapolis adults who are at a healthy weight to 52 percent by 2010*.

* Post 2010 target pending.

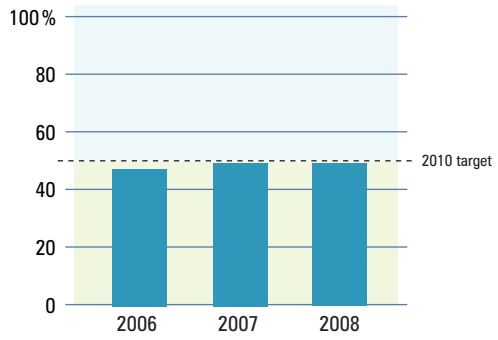
Trend Analysis

The percentage of Minneapolis adults at a healthy weight in 2008 was 49 percent,[2] not significantly different than the 2006 measure. National and Hennepin County surveys have found that black, American Indian and Hispanic adults are more likely to be overweight or obese than Asian or white adults. Adults with lower levels of education and lower incomes are at a greater risk of obesity.

1 Assessment of healthy weight for adults is based on body mass index (BMI). BMI is a number calculated from a person's weight and height and is a reliable indicator of body fat for most people. People are considered to be at a healthy weight if they have a BMI of less than 25.

2 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey

Minneapolis adult residents at a healthy weight



Source: Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey 2008

Bassem Kablaoui, owner of Lowry Food Market in north Minneapolis, with his new produce display. Fruit and vegetable sales increased by 50 percent after the store joined the Minneapolis Healthy Corner Store program.

Recent City and Community Activities

The City of Minneapolis and its community partners improved access to healthy food and increased opportunities for physical activity in eight settings and 222 sites in Minneapolis.

Accomplishments include:

- Instituted Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) at the Minneapolis Farmers Market and Northeast Farmers Market, where low-income residents purchased fresh produce via EBT and "Market Bucks."
- Improved the variety, quality and affordability of fresh produce at nine convenience stores and increased healthy food sales for storeowners.
- Trained health care providers to provide better measurement and counseling for obesity and tobacco use and developed a referral system that links patients to community-based programs.
- Used outreach, support and classes to promote safe bicycling through worksites and neighborhoods. Provided bikes, training and bike racks at two low-income housing properties.
- Implemented Homegrown Minneapolis recommendations including making 18 plots of City-owned land available for community gardening; supporting the creation of the Food Preservation Network, which provides trained volunteers to coordinate community canning events; and developing the Local Food Resources Hubs, which provide instruction, seedlings and equipment.
- Improved food and physical activity policies, practices and environments at K-12 schools, childcare programs and parks.

Web Links and Resources

Statewide Health Improvement Program – Minneapolis www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/dhfs/ship.asp

Communities Putting Prevention to Work – Minneapolis www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/dhfs/cppw.asp

Asthma

Reduce the Asthma Hospitalization Rate

Asthma is associated with a variety of indoor and outdoor environmental factors, including smoking. Asthma hospitalization rates often increase when air pollution from fine particles is high; this comes primarily from burning fossil fuels, especially in cars and trucks.

Target

Reduce asthma-related hospitalizations by 2010*:

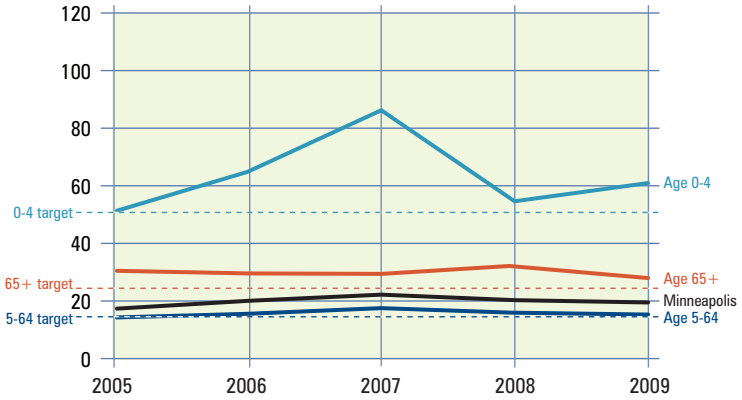
- 0 to 4 years old – reduce to 51 per 10,000 people.
- 5 to 64 years old – reduce to 14 per 10,000 people.
- 65 and older – reduce to 24 per 10,000 people.

Trend Analysis

According to the most recent data available, there were 726 asthma hospitalizations in Minneapolis during 2009, down 5 percent from 768 the year before. The asthma hospitalization rate increased in children up to age 4 from 55 to 61 hospitalizations per 10,000 children. The rate for people ages 5 to 64 decreased from 16 to 15 hospitalizations per 10,000 people, and for people 65 and older the asthma hospitalization rate remained at 27 hospitalizations per 10,000 people.

* Post 2010 target pending.

Hospitalizations from asthma among Minneapolis residents
per 10,000 people



Source: Minnesota Department of Health

Children's lungs are especially susceptible to fine particles found in indoor and outdoor air pollution. Residents can help protect everyone's lung health by driving less and limiting recreational fires.

Recent City and Community Activities

- Inspected all 349 licensed tobacco dealers in the city and issued 22 citations for selling tobacco products to minors, a decrease from 32 citations the year before.
- Inspected all 1,516 restaurants and bars for of the smoking ordinance violations and found high compliance rates despite increased after-hours inspections. Only one violation notice and three citations were issued.
- In 2010, there were 35 orders for air quality violations. Additionally, one citation was given for rock crushing without dust suppression.
- There were no citations issued in 2010 for vehicle idling. An ordinance limiting idling was adopted by the City in 2008 to improve air quality by reducing vehicle emissions.
  www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/airquality/Antildling_home.asp
- Retrofitted all City-owned diesel garbage trucks with advanced emissions equipment to reduce air pollution and asthma in sensitive populations.

Web Links and Resources

Minnesota Department of Health
asthma program
www.health.state.mn.us/divs/hpcd/cdee/asthma/index.html

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
asthma program
www.cdc.gov/asthma

American Lung Association of Minnesota
www.lungusa.org/associations/states/minnesota

City of Minneapolis anti-idling policy
www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/airquality/Antildling_home.asp

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
asthma triggers
www.health.state.mn.us/divs/hpcd/cdee/asthma/documents/09.eng.tri

Lead Poisoning

Keep Children Lead Safe

Childhood lead poisoning is one of the most common yet preventable health problems in the U.S. Lead is highly toxic and can be found in peeling paint, soil and unregulated products. Children usually have no overt symptoms, but the damage is irreversible and can be profound – including brain damage, learning problems and antisocial behavior. Ensuring that all children are tested will promote prevention, education and early intervention and can reduce lead poisoning. Inspecting the homes of lead-poisoned children identifies lead sources so they can be removed to prevent future exposure.

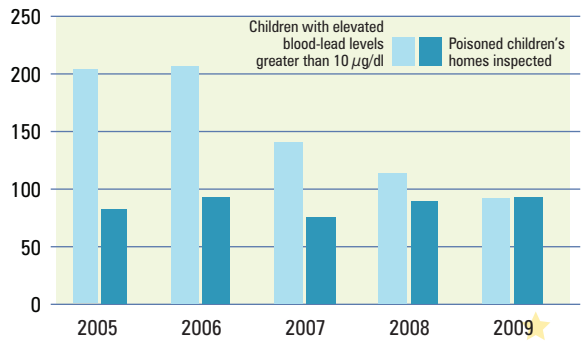
Target

- Annually test all 1- and 2-year-old children for lead by 2014.
- Annually inspect all homes where children have elevated blood-lead levels (10 micrograms or more of lead per deciliter of blood).

Trend Analysis

The number of children found to have lead poisoning is decreasing even though the rate of lead testing is increasing. In 2010, 66 children were identified as having lead poisoning; this is a decrease of 26 children from 92 in 2009. All the homes of children with lead poisoning were inspected, compared with 78 percent in 2008. A total of 6,762 1- and 2-year-olds and 8,409 children under the age of 6 were tested for lead in 2009.

Children who have elevated blood-lead levels and home inspections[1]



Source: Minnesota Department of Health

1 As of July 2008, the City inspects the homes of children with a blood-lead level at 10 micrograms or more of lead per deciliter of blood (µg/dl).

Minneapolis 1- and 2-year-olds tested for lead

2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
65%	69%	72%	74%	66%

Source: Minnesota Department of Health

Testing is recommended for all Minneapolis 1- and 2-year-olds plus anyone up to age 6 not previously tested.

A child being tested by a local community-based organization at a lead poisoning prevention screening held in north Minneapolis.

Recent City and Community Activities

- In 2007, the City started receiving $1 million over three years from Hennepin County for Energy Star window replacements to make properties lead safe. The City made 100 properties in the Phillips community and Central neighborhoods lead safe.
- In 2008, the City started receiving $3 million over three years from a U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD) grant for Energy Star window replacements. The grant pays the first $10,000 of the window replacement, and the owner pays any costs beyond that. Zero-interest loans were available to those who needed them. www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/lead-hazard-control
- In 2010, 77 owner-occupied properties and 86 rental properties had lead hazard reductions through the two grant programs.
- The City conducted lead risk assessments on 267 properties, 66 of them in the homes of children with lead poisoning and the other 201 through HUD prevention grants.
- The City in partnership with Hennepin County made an additional 156 owner-occupied and 47 rental Minneapolis homes lead safe. In addition, 103 multifamily building units and 11 single-family homes were made lead safe through rehabilitation programs.
- In 2010,Housing Services wrote 161 orders for violating lead-safe work practices, 307 orders to fix chipping and peeling paint on windows, and 2,746 exterior paint orders for primary and accessory buildings from Housing Services.

Web Links and Resources

Minneapolis Project for Lead-Safe Kids
www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/dhfs/kids-home.asp

U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention lead information www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead/default.htm

Climate Change

Reduce Carbon Dioxide Emissions

The science is clear. Climate change is real, we are responsible and it is a threat. In the U.S., transportation (primarily personal vehicle use) and coal-burning power plants are the largest producers of carbon dioxide, the greenhouse gas that contributes most to climate change. The past decade was the warmest on record, and 2010 was tied with 2005 as the second warmest year since recording began in 1880.

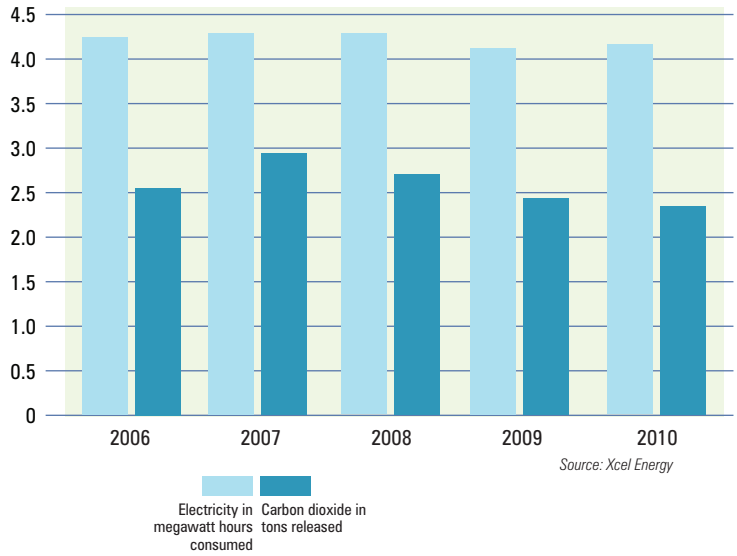
Target

- Reduce carbon dioxide emissions from municipal operations by 1.5 percent annually.
- Reduce citywide carbon dioxide emissions by 17 percent by 2020 using 2006 as a baseline.

Trend Analysis

Electricity use by City-owned buildings declined 2 percent from 2008 to 2010 while natural gas use declined 10 percent. Throughout Minneapolis, electricity and natural gas usage was lower in 2010 than in 2008. Electricity production is a large source of carbon dioxide pollution, and weather and the local economy greatly affect electricity use. Eliminating unnecessary energy use and using necessary energy more conservatively are priorities for the City. To meet its targets, the City must also shift its electricity sources to renewable resources.

Citywide electricity consumed and carbon dioxide emissions released
in millions of units



City of Minneapolis

The new Minneapolis Hiawatha Maintenance Facility is LEED Platinum certified and includes many energy-saving measures.
www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/public-works/HiawathaFacility_home.asp

Recent City & Community Activities

- Using American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds, the City awarded its fourth year of climate change microgrants to engage people in innovative, immediate energy- and money-saving actions. www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/sustainability/ClimateChangeGrants2010.asp
- The City partnered with Xcel Energy and CenterPoint Energy to reward contractors who install energy-efficient equipment for their customers. www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/ccs/trades.asp
- The number of LEED-certified nonresidential buildings doubled in Minneapolis from 2009 to 26 buildings. Eight homes were also certified, and 50 more projects under way are registered. LEED is a national third-party verification for high green building standards. www.usgbcmn.org
- The Minneapolis Public Housing Authority (MPHA) received more than $415,000 in rebates from CenterPoint Energy for installing about 100 high-efficiency boilers and 60 domestic hot water heaters in its high-rise buildings as part of a $33.6 million energy conservation project.
- The City partnered with Xcel Energy, CenterPoint Energy, Community Action of Minneapolis and the MN Housing Fund to promote energy efficiency rebates, weatherization funds and low-interest financing to more than 19,500 rental license holders. www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/inspections/docs/Rental_Property_Utility_Rebate_Info.pdf

Web Links and Resources

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
www.pca.state.mn.us/index.php/topics/climate-change/climate-change.html?menuid=&redirect=1

Minnesota Center for Energy and Environment
www.mncee.org

Xcel Energy www.xcelenergy.com/mplsconserves

CenterPoint Energy www.centerpointenergy.com/services/naturalgas/residential/MN

Renewable Energy

Increase the Use of Renewable Energy

In the face of climate change and harmful pollution levels created by our current energy consumption, it is critical to use more renewable energy including solar, wind, biomass and hydropower. Renewable energy contributes to energy security, stable energy pricing, climate change solutions and green jobs.

Target

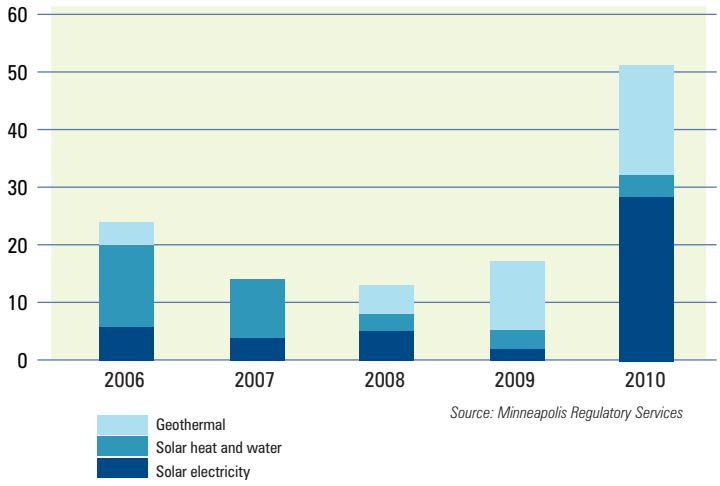
- In municipal operations, increase renewable electricity to one megawatt by 2014.
- Citywide, increase renewable energy use to 10 percent above Xcel Energy's renewable power mix by 2014.

Trend Analysis

The Minneapolis Convention Center added a 600 kW solar electric system in 2010, the fourth solar electric system on a City building. In addition, the City has installed a solar air exchanger and a geothermal system and purchases electricity through Xcel Energy's Windsource program.

In 2010, the City issued the highest number of renewable systems permits ever: 28 solar photovoltaic (electricity) permits (compared to two in 2009), four solar thermal (hot water) permits and 19 geothermal system permits – all increases from 2009.

Number of renewable energy projects



Source: Minneapolis Regulatory Services

Meet Minneapolis

The Minneapolis Convention Center's 2,600 solar panels comprise the largest solar electricity installation in the Upper Midwest.
www.minneapolisconventioncenter.com/about/sustainability.asp

Recent City & Community Activities

- The large geothermal system installed at the new Minneapolis Public Works Hiawatha Maintenance Facility will provide 100 percent of the heating and cooling needs of the facility under normal conditions. It is expected to pay for itself in about five years. In addition, the facility is purchasing Minnesota-made wind power through Xcel Energy's Windsource program for 35 percent of its electricity needs. www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/public-works/HiawathaFacility_home.asp
- Solar panels were installed at four Minneapolis Public Schools through a grant from the Walmart Foundation Solar School program, which focuses on incorporating solar energy lessons into the curriculum.
- In October, the annual self-guided, free Minnesota Annual Solar Tour showcased Minneapolis homes, businesses and institutions that use solar energy. http://mnrenewables.org/2010-solar-tour-sites
- As part of a U.S. Solar America Cities grant, the City streamlined the permit process and now has some of the lowest solar permitting fees in the state. www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/mdr/docs/Solar%20Systems%20-%20Residential%20Check%20List.pdf
- Most solar installations in the city took advantage of incentives including Xcel Energy's Solar Rewards and Minnesota Bonus (for Minnesota-made solar panels). www.xcelenergy.com/solar
- More than 6,500 Minneapolis customers participated in Xcel Energy's Windsource program, buying enough wind-generated electricity for 7,064 homes a year. www.xcelenergy.com/windsource

Web Links and Resources

Minneapolis goes solar
www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/sustainability/solar.asp

Air Quality

Improve Air Quality Levels

Air quality in Minneapolis is among the best of large metropolitan areas in the U.S. Still, the area has air quality issues that contribute to health problems such as asthma, lung disease and heart disease. Most air pollution comes from fossil fuel combustion for transportation and electricity.

Target

- Reduce air pollution in the Minneapolis area to health-based levels recommended by the Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee (CASAC) of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).
- Reduce all monitored air toxins to levels within state health guidelines by 2015.

Trend Analysis

The 2010 Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's air monitoring results showed a continued improvement in air quality. However, in 2006, the EPA reduced the fine particulate matter (PM 2.5[1]) National Ambient Air Quality Standard. Minneapolis met the new standard in 2010, but on a three-year average using the new standard, the entire metropolitan area exceeded it. No action is expected at this time as the EPA is in the process of again revising the standard.

Ozone[2] concentrations were higher in 2010 than in 2008 and 2009. However, the summer of 2010 was considerably warmer than the previous two summers. Compared to 2007, which was closer to historical averages, the ozone concentrations are continuing to decline.

With the exception of formaldehyde, all monitored air toxins in Minneapolis have followed a downward trend in concentrations and are below state health guidelines. The City of Minneapolis is currently meeting its sustainability target for air toxins.

1 PM 2.5 refers to fine particles that are 2.5 micrometers in diameter and smaller that can pass through the throat and nose and enter the lungs, having serious health effects.

2 Ozone is an air pollutant in the lower atmosphere that creates smog and has harmful effects on respiratory systems and plants.

Metro area ozone[4] and Minneapolis particulate matter (PM) 2.5[1]
number of days meeting CASAC recommended levels

	Met CASAC ozone levels	Exceeded CASAC ozone levels	Met CASAC PM 2.5 levels	Exceeded CASAC PM 2.5 levels
2006	145	38	360	5
2007	150	33	355	8
2008	165	18	355	9
2009	172	11	358	7
2010	167	16	358	7

Source: Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

4 Based on Minnesota's annual 183-day ozone season from April 1 to Sept. 30

Metro Transit

Rail transit keeps cars off the road, improving air quality in the city.

Recent City & Community Activities

- Investigated 266 air quality complaints, took enforcement actions on 35 air quality violations and levied $1,000 in fines.
- Purchased a photoionization detector to help investigate air quality complaints by measuring airborne contaminants in real time.
- With support from City staff, Minneapolis-based Boyer Ford became the first dealership of a major automobile company to sell full-speed, all-electric vehicles on a Minnesota state contract. These vehicles have no tailpipe emissions, reducing both VOC[3] levels and ozone formation.
- Cleaner fuels and increased fuel efficiency reduced the levels of benzene, a dangerous air toxin, by 29 percent since 2003.

3 Volatile organic compounds are carbon compounds that evaporate at every-day temperatures and may have short-and long-term adverse health effects.

Web Links and Resources

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency air quality
www.pca.state.mn.us/air/index.html

City of Minneapolis air quality
www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/airquality

Minnesota Department of Health air quality
www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/air/index.ht

Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee
http://yosemite.epa.gov/sab/sabpeople.nsf/WebCommittees/COUNCIL

Waste Reduction and Recycling

Prevent, Reduce, Reuse and Recycle

Economic activity and daily living produce materials that are classified as waste. Limiting consumption of natural resources to levels that the planet can manage, processing waste by recycling, and converting waste to energy are priorities for the City. Most of the waste in Minneapolis is from the packaging of purchased goods.

Target

- Increase recycling and source-separated organics (large-scale composting) of discarded waste tonnage to 50 percent (10 percent of it composting) by 2013 from 35 percent in 2008.
- Reduce the number of households with more than one garbage cart by 50 percent by 2013 (from 22 percent in 2008).
- Increase the percentage of Minneapolis residents using the smaller garbage carts to 25 percent by 2013 (from 4 percent in 2008).
- Expand the source-separated organics composting program citywide by 2013.

Trend Analysis

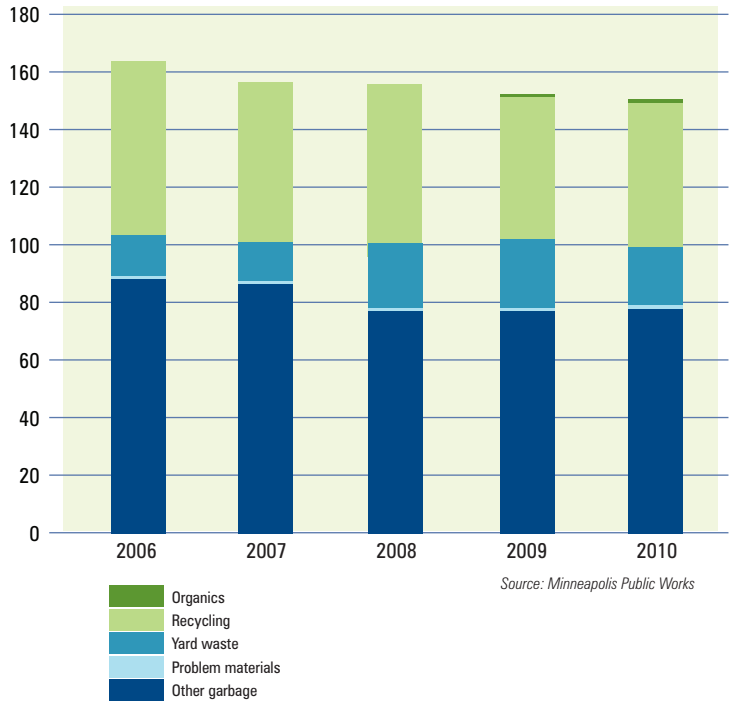
Waste generation in Minneapolis continues to decrease significantly, down 11.4 percent from 2005 and down 1.8 percent from 2008.

In Minneapolis, the rate of recycling declined from 34.9 percent in 2009 to 33 percent in 2010. Composting – including source-separated organics and residential yard and street waste – declined from 15.6 percent in 2009 to 14.3 percent in 2010.

The percentage of Minneapolis residents using the smaller garbage carts declined to 3.56 percent. The number of large carts per household is slightly higher than in 2008 with an average of 1.09. The City increased the large cart disposal fee by 25 percent while maintaining the small cart fee at $2 per month to encourage residents to create less waste.

Residential waste collected in the city

in thousand of tons



Source: Minneapolis Public Works

Recent City & Community Activities

- Organizations and companies can now conduct zero waste events thanks to a new organics cart rental program. The program launched at the 2010 Aquatennial Beach Bash.
  www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/solid-waste/container-rental-guideline.asp
- The source-separated organics recycling program was expanded from the Linden Hills and East Calhoun neighborhoods to three garbage routes in the eastern portion of the city.
- 750.55 tons of electronics were collected from residents for recycling in the U.S. Minneapolis continues to be the only City in the country to accept electronics from its residents at no additional charge.
- The City continues to partner in East Side Co-op's pilot program for collecting and recycling plastics #1 – #7.

Web Links and Resources

City of Minneapolis Solid Waste and Recycling
www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/solid-waste/index.asp

Clean City Minneapolis
www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/solid-waste/clean-city.asp

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
2010 Pollution Prevention Report
www.pca.state.mn.us/publications/lrp-p2s-2sy10.pdf

Biking

Increase Biking and Bikeways

The City encourages bicycling for all residents by building and improving bikeways and providing education. Bicycling provides a number of health, environmental, financial and traffic benefits, and it is one of the easiest ways to get around the city.

Target

- Increase bikeways (on-street lanes and off-street trails) from 123 miles in 2008 to 178 miles by 2015.
- Increase residents' trips to work on bicycle to 6 percent by 2012 and 7 percent by 2014.[1]
- Increase the number of cyclists from the 2007 bike count[2] 30 percent by 2011 and 60 percent by 2014.

Trend Analysis

In 2010, 2.2 miles of on-street bike lanes were added, including lanes for bicyclists only and marked shared lanes. Since 2000, 34 total miles of bikeways have been added. The most growth has occurred on streets, with 19 additional miles.

Of the 50 largest U.S. cities[3], Minneapolis has the second highest percentage of people biking to work. In 2009, residents made 3.9 percent of all trips to work on bike, up from 1.9 percent in 2000. Minneapolis also has the highest number of bicycle parking spaces per capita of any city in the country.

The count of bicycle traffic at 30 citywide locations was 27,580, a 4 percent decrease from 28,850 in 2009 and a 21 percent increase over the 2007 count of 22,770.

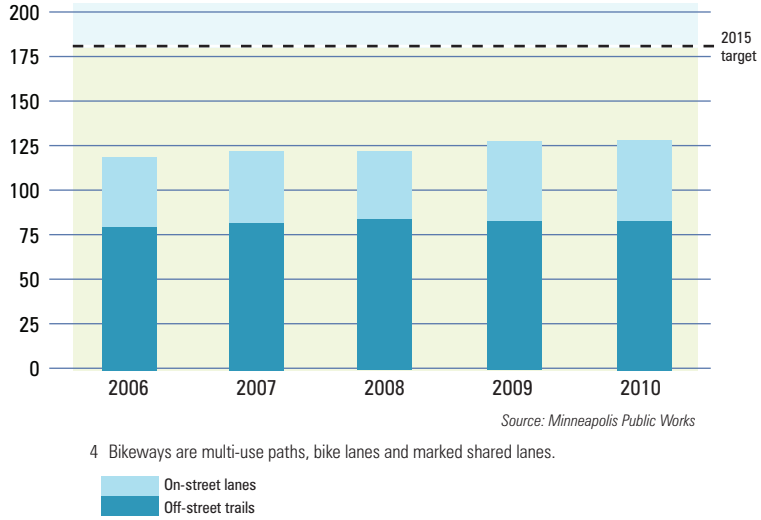
1 This is also known as the "bicycle commute mode share."

2 At the locations of 2007 bike counts.

3 U.S. Census Bureau

Bikeways[4] in Minneapolis

in miles



Source: Minneapolis Public Works

4 Bikeways are multi-use paths, bike lanes and marked shared lanes.

Minneapolis Public Works

The bike share program implemented in 2010 is a partnership with the City of Minneapolis, Bike Walk Twin Cities, Blue Cross and Blue Shield, and Nice Ride Minnesota.

Recent City & Community Activities

- Minneapolis was named America's best bike city in 2010 by Bicycling Magazine.
- The Nice Ride bike program was the nation's largest when it launched in June and took people on more than 100,000 rides in 2010. www.niceridemn.org
- Minneapolis added bike lanes on many major streets, painted its first green sharrows (shared use lane markings) on Hennepin Avenue, reopened Nicollet Mall to bicyclists and began construction on the Cedar Lake Trail.
- Installed 1,676 new bicycle parking spaces.
- Completed the Minneapolis Bicycle Design Guidelines – which provide staff with guidance when designing bicycle facilities – and the Central Avenue Bicycle Study.
- Partnered with Minneapolis Public Schools to develop bicycle and pedestrian safety curriculum as part of Transportation Safety Week.
- The Bike Walk Ambassadors reached more than 7,000 participants in Bike Walk Week and started a new youth ambassador program in partnership with the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB). www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/bicycles/ntp-bikewalk-ambassadors.asp
- Trained City employees on commuting basics and offered an on-road downtown course teaching best practices for street riding, safety, routes into downtown, bicycle maintenance and repair, and parking.

Web Links and Resources

City of Minneapolis biking information
www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/bicycles

Bike sharing program www.niceridemn.com

Downtown Transportation Alternatives

Increase Use of Alternative Transportation into Downtown

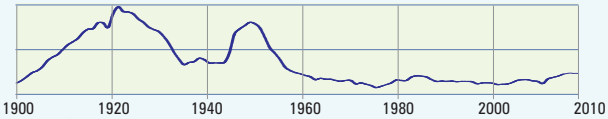
Using transportation other than driving is good for our health, budgets and environment. Alternative transportation options include taking the bus or train, carpooling, bicycling and walking. The City plays an important role in making transit affordable and convenient, creating dynamic urban corridors that are safe and accessible for pedestrians and bicyclists, and promoting alternative transportation.

Target

- Increase the percentage of people who enter downtown via alternative transportation (busing, riding trains, carpooling, bicycling and walking) from 55 percent in 2003 to 67 percent by 2013.

Trend Analysis

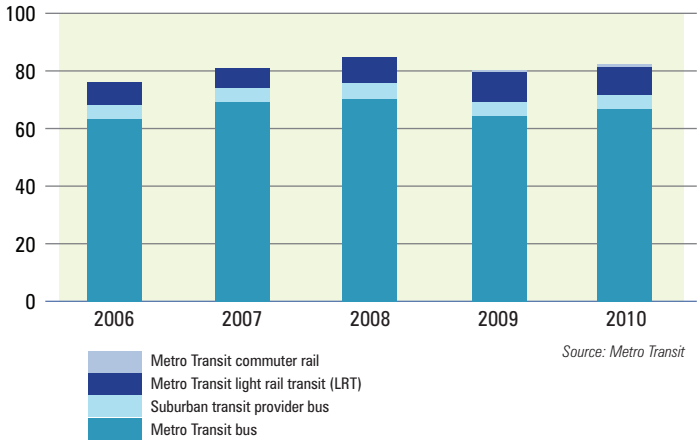
Transit ridership in the region rebounded in 2010 after a decline in 2009. Light-rail transit (LRT) ridership grew by 6 percent, and systemwide bus ridership grew by less than 1 percent. The total number of people entering downtown via alternative transportation was last measured in 2003.



Historic regional transit service ridership (1900 to 2010)

Source: Metropolitan Council

Annual regional transit ridership
in millions of rides



Source: Metro Transit

Downtown jobs

2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
136,165	139,127	135,713	134,782	131,446

Source: Minnesota Department of Employment & Economic Development (DEED)

Metro Transit runs only hybrid electric buses on Nicollet Mall.

Recent City & Community Activities

- The new bus-only lanes on Marquette and Second avenues, opened in late 2009, carried nearly 1,400 bus trips in 2010, an increase from 1,000 daily bus trips in 2008. Buses travelled twice as fast during the peak hour in 2010 than they did in 2008, and ridership on routes using Marquette and Second avenues grew 4 percent in 2010.
- Metro Transit completed the conversion of Nicollet Mall buses to 100 percent hybrid-electric vehicles and moved all express bus routes from Nicollet Mall to Marquette and Second avenues in March, reducing peak hour bus volumes on Nicollet Mall by 35 percent. This free ride service on some Nicollet Mall buses generated an estimated 325,000 rides in 2010 and increased total rides within the downtown fare zone from 94,000 in 2009 to nearly 400,000 in 2010.
- Nearly 430,000 Twins fans rode Hiawatha Line light-rail trains to games during the inaugural season at Target Field – an average of nearly 5,200 fans per game or 13 percent of the 3.3 million who attended the 83 home games.
- Opened a bus transit station on I-35W at 46th Street, the first of its kind in the Twin Cities. The new station is between the northbound and southbound lanes, allowing buses to pick up and drop off customers without leaving the freeway.
- The total number of downtown Metropass users grew by 14 percent to 23,950 users, while City employee Metropass use declined by 9 percent to 470 users.
- Registered 1,264 carpools and vanpools for free or discounted parking in municipal parking facilities, a 14 percent decrease from 2009.

Web Links and Resources

Downtown Minneapolis Transportation Management Organization www.mplstmo.org

Airport Noise

Reduce Airport Noise and the Environmental Impacts of the Airport

The Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport (MSP) continues to be one of the 20 busiest airports in the U.S. and one of the 30 busiest airports in the world (measured by the number of passengers). MSP provides global access to a significant number of business and leisure travelers in the area, but it also impacts the environment, producing noise and air pollution that affect the nearby residents' quality of life.

Target

- Reduce the average noise levels by at least three decibels, the minimum change that is perceptible to the average person's ear, from 2004 levels at all nine monitored locations in Minneapolis.

Trend Analysis

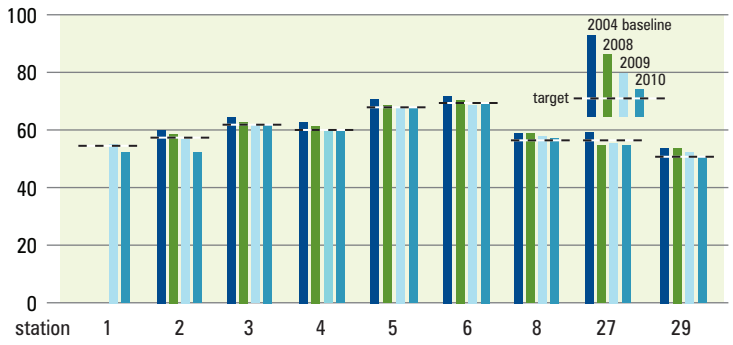
Noise levels in Minneapolis have declined at all nine monitors thanks to overall reductions in flights and airlines continuing to phase out older planes. Six of the nine monitors indicate a reduction of at least three DNL[1] with an average reduction at all nine monitors of approximately 3.9 DNL. While the numbers clearly show improvement, long-term expectations are that noise levels will increase again as air traffic increases.

The number of flights at MSP grew about 1 percent in 2010 following declines every year from 2006 to 2009 but the number of passengers increased by almost 1.5 percent over 2009 to more than 32.8 million. This stagnant growth is largely a reflection of the continuing economic malaise combined with airlines' efforts to adjust to market conditions.

Nighttime operations continued to decline, from an average of 1,714 per month in 2009 to 1,330 in 2010. This is approximately the same monthly average as 2004.

1 DNL is a cumulative average annual noise exposure over 24 hours with a nighttime penalty of 10 decibels for operations between 10 p.m. and 7 a.m.

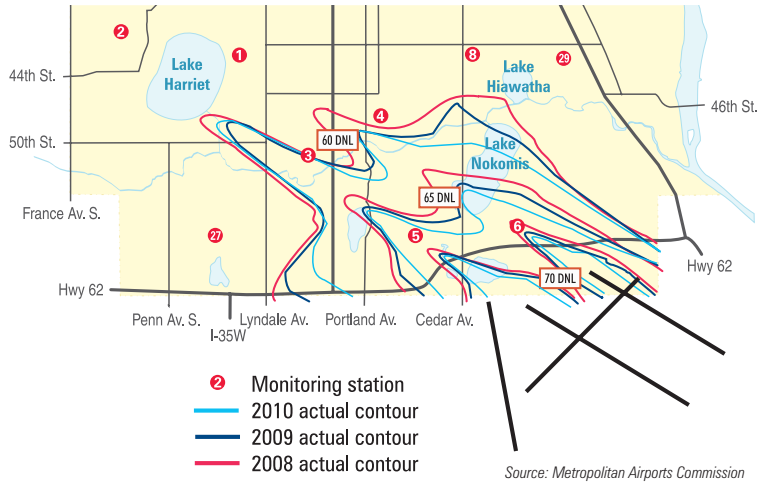
Average noise levels at Minneapolis monitoring stations
in decibels



Source: Metropolitan Airports Commission

January through November actual values, 12-month average generated by applying November values to December.

Airport noise monitoring stations in Minneapolis



Source: Metropolitan Airports Commission

Recent City & Community Activities

- In 2010, 1,786 Minneapolis homes were renovated under the noise mitigation program. www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/airportnoise
- Won implementation of conditions for the Metropolitan Council's approval of the MAC's Long Term Comprehensive Plan, including five-year updates, noise analysis and capacity analysis.
- Adopted 60 DNL as the Minneapolis standard for airport noise, which is lower than the federal threshold, to determine preventive and corrective land use actions including mitigation. Helped Eagan, Richfield and other cities adopt similar measures.
- Operations of older, noisier aircraft continue to decline at MSP. In the last quarter of 2010, only 4 percent of flights were made by older, retrofitted aircrafts.

Web Links and Resources

Metropolitan Airports Commission
www.mspairport.com/mac

To file a noise complaint, visit www.macnoise.com/complaint or call (612) 726-9411.

City of Minneapolis airport noise
www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/airportnoise

Tree Canopy

Expand the City's Tree Canopy

Our urban forest cleans the air, shelters wildlife, catches water runoff, cools our homes, provides us with food and makes our city more beautiful. Protecting our urban forest is a challenge, with insects, disease and construction killing more trees than we plant. A new threat is the emerald ash borer, an invasive beetle that kills ash trees, discovered in the city in 2010. With nothing proven to stop it, emerald ash borer is poised to destroy 22 percent of all trees in Minneapolis in short order.

Target

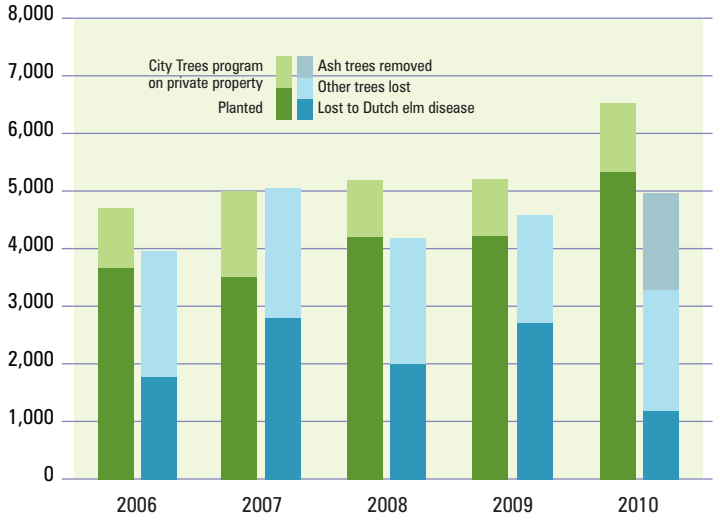
- Maintain the tree canopy at 26 percent of the city through 2015 and increase it to 30 percent of the city by 2030.
- Plant at least 4,000 trees on public land in 2010 and gradually increase to 6,000 trees planted annually by 2015.

Trend Analysis

The tree canopy, last measured in 2004, covers 26 percent of the city.

The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board met the tree planting target for the sixth year in a row by planting 5,300 trees. Since 2003, the MPRB has planted an average of 3,800 trees per year for a total of more than 27,000 trees along streets and in parks. There has still been a net loss of 5,836 public trees in the city over the past five years. In response, more than 5,800 trees have been planted on private land over the past five years through the City Trees program.

Trees lost[1] and trees planted[2] on boulevards and in public parks



Source: Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board

1 This includes trees in natural areas that were not planted or maintained by the MPRB, such as remote locations in Theodore Wirth Park and Minnehaha Park.

2 The size of the average tree removed is 24 inches in diameter. The average replacement tree is 1.5 inches in diameter.

To nominate large or historically significant trees in the city as a heritage tree, visit: www.minneapolisparks.org/default.asp?PageID=1252

Recent City & Community Activities

- Provided 1,245 trees to city residents for planting in their own yards through the City Trees Program in partnership with Tree Trust, a local nonprofit. www.treetrust.org
- More than 1,400 unhealthy and declining ash trees have been removed and replaced from boulevards and parks through a Minnesota Department of Agriculture grant to help combat emerald ash borer.
- Held the official Minneapolis Arbor Day celebration at Jordan Park where more than 400 students from the Hmong International Academy helped plant 140 new trees. www.minneapolisparks.org/default.asp?PageID=986
- Students from Lucy Craft Laney School, volunteers from the Cleveland neighborhood, MPRB staff and Vikings players planted 60 new trees as part of the Vikings Planet Purple Program.
- Volunteers and Tree Trust planted trees and hundreds of shrubs at the new parking lot at St. Anne-St. Joseph Hien Church in north Minneapolis.
- Volunteers planted 32 trees and hundreds of shrubs along the Midtown Greenway as part of Tree Trust's 10th annual Arbor Day event cosponsored by the Midtown Community Works Partnership, Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority and the Midtown Greenway Coalition.
- The MPRB and University of Minnesota are starting seedlings from old, hardy, significant trees.

Web Links & Resources

Minnesota Department of Agriculture emerald ash borer information
www.mda.state.mn.us/plants/pestmanagement/~/link.aspx?_id=739576CEA8434EB09D7334B18106C5D2&_z=z

Stormwater

Reduce Stormwater Pollution Entering Lakes, Creeks and the Mississippi River

Rain running across hard surfaces such as roofs, streets, driveways and compacted lawns picks up pollutants as it flows. Strategies for keeping pollutants out of our waterways include rain gardens, wetland areas, grassy swales, pervious pavers, underground treatment chambers and street sweeping. Reducing pollution is the responsibility of the City and all Minneapolis residents, property owners and visitors.

Target

- Reduce pollutants in stormwater runoff, establish measurements of pollution reduction and determine the extent of the City's part in bringing impaired water bodies into compliance, all by 2015.
- Increase the number of rain gardens to 3,000 by 2015.
- Eliminate combined sewer overflows by 2014.

Trend Analysis

The State of Minnesota determines whether lakes, rivers and creeks are suitable for swimming, fishing and providing habitat for aquatic life. Minneapolis stormwater runs into 15 water bodies that are on the state's impaired waters list: the Mississippi River, three creeks and eight lakes in Minneapolis, and three lakes outside of Minneapolis. Work is under way to establish measurements for stormwater pollution reduction programs and to determine the full scope of the problems and possible solutions.

The number of rain gardens in the city increased by about one-third in 2010.

There were two events in which heavy rains caused stormwater contaminated with raw sewage to be conveyed into the Mississippi River. This is a type of combined sewer overflow. Damage to a deep stormwater tunnel that runs parallel to a sanitary tunnel is thought to be one of the primary causes, and the tunnel is now repaired. This followed three years with no combined sewer overflow events. www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/cso

Minneapolis Rain Gardens
by land use category

	2009	2010
Residential: single and multifamily	656	902
Commercial and industrial	81	113
Mixed use: businesses on lower floors with residences above	19	22
Institutional: schools, universities, libraries, churches, other	87	108
Public: parks, plazas, right-of-way areas, public parking lots	63	71
Total	**906**	**1,216**

Source: Minneapolis Public Works

This pond controls flooding and protects Mississippi River water quality by removing significant amounts of sediment and phosphorus from stormwater runoff.

Recent City & Community Activities

- More than 3,000 volunteers removed more than 15,000 pounds of trash from their watersheds at 38 locations on Earth Day, helping keep pollution out of the lakes, creeks and river.
- Metro Blooms trained 432 Minneapolis residents to design and install rain gardens. www.metroblooms.org
- Adopted planning and zoning measures to reduce stormwater runoff, including new standards for pervious pavement in driveways and parking areas. This is part of continually updating and greening the zoning code to promote sustainability.
- Held a Canines for Clean Water summer movie series. At several events, dog owners took a pledge to dispose of dog waste responsibly. www.minneapolisparks.org/default.asp?PageID=1231
- Inspected and assessed 9.7 miles of deep stormwater tunnels in 2010, finding 17 percent in good condition, 63 percent in fair condition and 20 percent in poor condition. Keeping our pipes and tunnels in good repair is important to water quality and flood control.

Web Links and Resources

City of Minneapolis
storm and surface water management
www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/stormwater

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency stormwater manual www.pca.state.mn.us/index.php/water/water-types-and-programs/stormwater/stormwater-management/minnesota-s-stormwater-manual.html

Healthy Lakes

Improve the Water Quality of Minneapolis Lakes

Residents of the City of Lakes enjoy swimming, boating, fishing and biking and walking along our lakeshores. Keeping our lakes, creeks and rivers clean is critical to a healthy urban environment, safe recreation and high-quality wildlife habitat. Practices that help protect lake water quality include frequent monitoring, lake restoration projects, managing stormwater to keep pollutants out of our lakes and helping residents understand how they can help manage stormwater.

Target

- Every Minneapolis lake is rated and receives a ranking of eight, nine or 10 (with 10 being excellent) on the Lake Aesthetic and User Recreation Index (LAURI)[1] by 2014.
- No beaches are closed due to water quality.

Trend Analysis

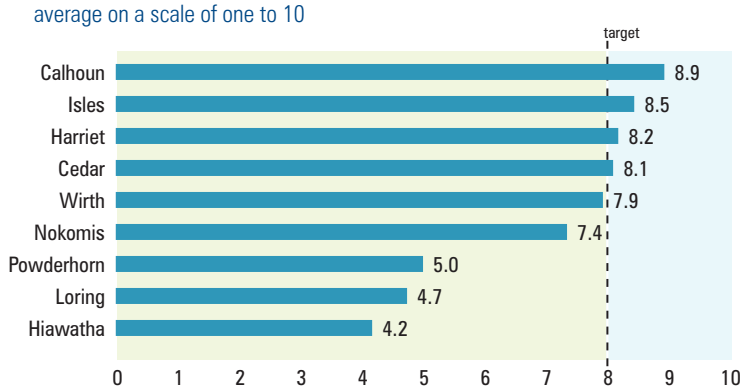
A wet summer and large resident goose populations contributed to six beach closings at Lake Hiawatha and one at Cedar Lake's Cedar Point Beach.

The LAURI provides a snapshot of the conditions at the lakes during the summer season and provides a means for analyzing trends and identifying problems affecting our lakes. In 2010, Lake Calhoun, Lake Harriet and Lake of the Isles met the LAURI target of eight, nine or 10. There was much more rain in 2010 than recent years, and the additional stormwater runoff to the lakes led to worse water clarity and more trash.

1 The LAURI measures: 1) public health status at swimming beaches 2) water quality including clarity 3) aesthetics such as color, odor and debris 4) availability and ease of public access for recreational uses 5) habitat quality for plant and fish diversity. These five indices are scored on a scale of one to 10.

Lake Aesthetic and User Recreation Index

average on a scale of one to 10



Source: MPRB 2010 Water Resources Report www.minneapolisparks.org/default.asp?PageID=791

Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board

Members of the Teen Teamworks Green Team summer jobs program install bulrushes along the shoreline of Powderhorn Lake to improve habitat.

Recent City & Community Activities

- Installed rain gardens and pervious parking lot surfaces at the Lake Calhoun parking lot to help manage stormwater and reduce water pollution.
- Participants in the Mississippi River Green Team summer youth employment program planted more than 100 residential rain gardens in a subwatershed of Powderhorn Lake to help improve water quality. http://metroblooms.org/neighborhood-of-gardens.php
- MPRB naturalists provided water quality education at more than 70 park events.
- Barley straw treatment since 2004 at Lake Powderhorn continues to improve the lake's water clarity.
- Developed the Zebra Mussel Action Plan to limit the potential spread of invasive zebra mussels in Minneapolis lakes and streams.
- Removed more than 1,100 cubic yards (approximately 200 truckloads) of invasive Eurasian watermilfoil from city lakes to improve recreational access.
- The 2010 Blue Community Makeover of the Diamond Lake watershed added rain gardens and permeable pavers at a number of sites, including Pearl Park, to reduce stormwater runoff into Diamond Lake and improve its water quality.

Web Links and Resources

Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board
Annual Water Resources Report
www.minneapolisparks.org/default.asp?PageID=791

Minnesota Department of
Natural Resources Lake Finder
www.dnr.state.mn.us/lakefind/index.html

Green Jobs

Growing a Green Economy

The expanding green jobs industry provides opportunities for workers with a wide range of skills. Green jobs also grow our economy and reduce environmental impacts. The City is playing an active role in supporting local green businesses and growing green jobs through our environmental procurement and green building policies, workforce training activities, energy efficiency financing programs, and business-to-business networking efforts.

Target*

- Demonstrate green job growth of 25 percent above overall City job growth by 2013, as measured through a test group of Minneapolis green businesses.
- Achieve a net gain of five green companies per year in Minneapolis.
- Train 500 individuals in green collar trades and place at least 280 of these workers in green jobs by 2012.

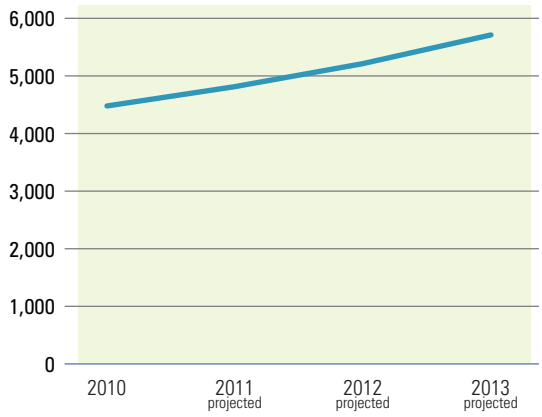
* Not yet approved by City Council.

Trend Analysis

Minneapolis is home to more than 150 green businesses. Promising startups such as ReGo, VAST, Torrefaction Systems, Minneapolis Biomass Exchange, Wood from the Hood and DriveAlternatives gained traction in 2010. Other more established homegrown green businesses expanded, including Dero Bike Rack Co. and Sojourner Farms.

Local green industry sectors that have shown particular strength and activity during this past year include energy efficiency; solar; green chemistry and green building products; sustainable transportation (e.g., electric vehicles and bicycle parts and equipment); and local, organic food service.

Green jobs growth
in number of jobs



Source: Minneapolis CPED, based on MN DEED employment projections and green jobs multipliers from a 2010 U.S. Department of Commerce Study

Workers installing sections of the Target Center green roof.

Recent City & Community Activities

- The City, in partnership with Ramsey County Workforce Solutions, launched Renewable Energy Networks Empowering Workers (RE-NEW), a two-year, $4 million federally funded green jobs training and placement project. www.renewmn.com
- Minneapolis and Saint Paul launched Thinc. GreenMSP, a new economic development partnership to grow the region's green economy, support local clean technology manufacturers and create good-paying jobs. www.bluegreenalliance.org/admin/publications/files/ThincGreenMSP.pdf
- Minneapolis' residential energy efficiency program served more than 2,400 Minneapolis homes in 2010 and created more than 20 permanent jobs and 30 construction jobs. www.mncee.org
- The City promoted and supported the work of Community Action of Minneapolis to weatherize more than 2,000 homes of low-income residents using Recovery Act funding. www.campls.org
- The City supported the Minneapolis Regional Chamber of Commerce's 2010 Greening Your Business Expo, which drew 75 exhibitors and more than 900 participants. www.minneapolischamber.org/program_green_business_expo.php
- The Minneapolis Convention Center solar array construction provided more than 3,000 hours of on-the-job training toward certification for solar installers and generated about 30 jobs. www.minneapolisconventioncenter.com/about/sustainability.asp

Web Links and Resources

GreenPOWER training
www.mngreenpowertraining.org/training

Local Food

Increase the Amount of Local Food Grown, Sold and Consumed in Minneapolis

A socially, economically and ecologically sustainable food system supports and promotes the current and future health of individuals, communities and the natural environment. It requires infrastructure and networks that support the life cycle of food from production to waste recovery. It makes nutritious food accessible and affordable to all, increases food safety and security, and is biodiverse and resilient. It is also humane and fair, protecting farmers, workers, consumers and communities.

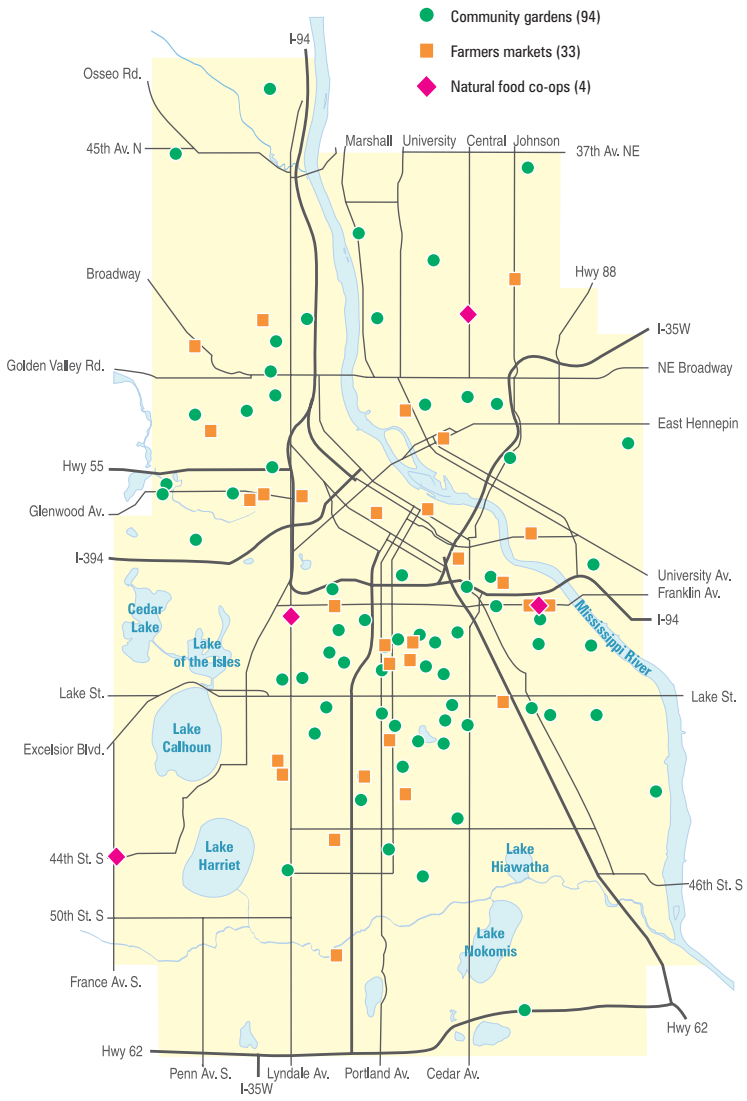
Target

- Targets are currently under consideration.

Trend Analysis

The local food system in Minneapolis currently includes 33 farmers markets, 94 community gardens on 18 acres (13 of which are food-growing), four health food co-ops, more than 90 local drop-off points for community supported agriculture (CSA) farms, and many local restaurants serving local food. Food-related ordinance changes to date include: beekeeping and indoor farmers markets are now allowed, grocery stores can now host farmers market vendors, most corner stores are now required to offer at least five varieties of fresh fruits and vegetables, and mobile food vendors can sell non-packaged food in downtown.

Sources of local food in Minneapolis in 2010



Source: Minneapolis CPED, Planning

University of Minnesota, Gardening Matters

Community gardens integrated into Minneapolis neighborhoods provide residents with open, green spaces for gathering, sources of fresh produce, a way to stay active, and opportunities for kids to learn about the environment.

Recent City & Community Activities

- Developed a draft Urban Agriculture Policy Plan, a land use and development plan that will provide a policy framework for commercial and noncommercial urban agriculture. www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/cped/urban_ag_plan.asp
- Funded development of a Local Food Resource Network to link residents, gardeners and entrepreneurs more easily with seeds, seedlings, education and tools needed for food growing, preservation, distribution and composting.
- Funded development of a Food Preservation Network that trained 19 community food preservation guides to provide canning instruction and coordinated food preservation events at six locations for more than 81 participants.
- Made the process easier for residents to start up community gardens.
- Made 18 plots on City land available to residents for community gardening and created an application and lease. Five of them were leased.
- Helped the Minneapolis and Northeast farmers markets launch Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT), making healthy food accessible to more residents. The City also funded a short-term Market Bucks incentive program this summer to increase the purchasing power of EBT users at these two markets.
- Planted 200 edible chokecherry trees around the city as part of the City Trees program.

Web Links and Resources

Homegrown Minneapolis
www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/dhfs/homegrown-home.asp

Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy: Local Foods Program
www.iatp.org/localFoods

Local Harvest
www.localharvest.org

Affordable Housing

Increase Affordable Housing Units

A safe place to live is among our most basic needs, but for some city residents it is out of reach. Minneapolis works to ensure that families and individuals can live in housing that is safe and affordable. Sustainable affordable housing integrates practices such as land recycling, higher densities, proximity to transit and energy-efficient building technology.

Target*

By 2014:

- New construction of 1,250 rental housing units affordable to families with incomes up to 50 percent of median family income (MFI).
- New construction of 300 rental housing units affordable to families with incomes up to 80 percent of MFI.
- Renovation of 1,340 rental housing units affordable to families with incomes up to 50 percent of MFI.
- Renovation of 350 rental housing units affordable to families with incomes up to 80 percent of MFI.
- New construction of 260 ownership housing units affordable to families with incomes up to 80 percent of MFI.
- Renovation of 90 ownership housing units affordable to families with incomes up to 80 percent of MFI.

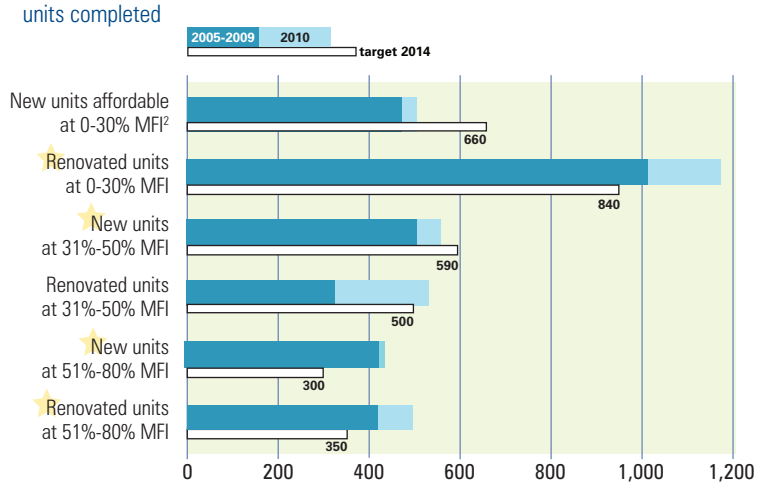
Trend Analysis

Minneapolis significantly accelerated the development and preservation of affordable housing in recent years and has met five of its 10 targets. Between 2003 and 2010, the City helped build or renovate 5,656 affordable housing units. one hundred forty-three units were constructed, an increase of 46 units over 2009 production numbers.

* City Council approved HUD Consolidated Plan target numbers

Affordable rental housing units in Minneapolis

units completed

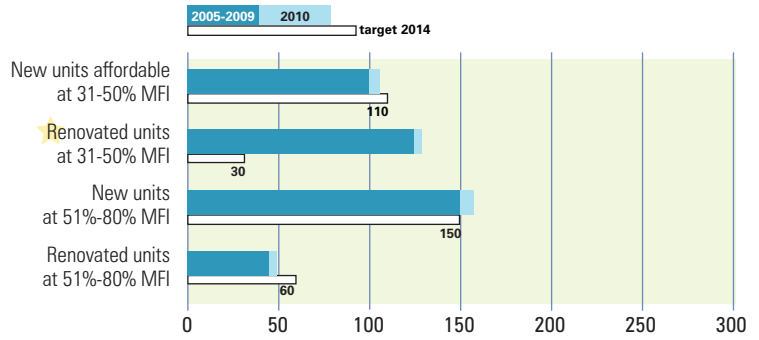


Source: Minneapolis Community Planning and Economic Development

2 Median family income (MFI). In 2010 the metro area MFI was $84,000.

Affordable ownership housing units in Minneapolis

units completed



Source: Minneapolis Community Planning and Economic Development

Recent City and Community Activities

- Encouraged housing developers to incorporate Minnesota Green Communities building criteria into 18 City-funded single-family housing projects. www.mngreencommunities.org
- Received $33 million in federal and state Neighborhood Stabilization Program funds to preserve affordable housing financing the purchase and rehabilitation of foreclosed properties and developing new affordable housing. This targeted strategy aims to assist Minneapolis neighborhoods that have been adversely impacted by heavy foreclosures through stabilization and recovery of market values. Over next three years 264 housing units will be rehabilitated with more than half designated for households with up to 50 percent median income.
- Minneapolis Advantage, partially funded with Neighborhood Stabilization Program funds, helped 28 homeowners purchase housing with down payment and closing cost assistance.
- The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act made two multifamily workforce housing developments possible and incorporated green design in their construction: Audubon Crossings and Creekside Commons.

Web Links and Resources

Minneapolis affordable housing programs
www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/cped/housing-development.asp

Higher Density Corridor Program
www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/cped/higher_density_home.asp

Homelessness

Ending Homelessness

Homelessness destabilizes lives and increases costs in emergency health care and shelter. Innovative strategies focus on preventing homelessness, reaching out to people sleeping outside, developing housing opportunities, streamlining services and providing opportunities for jobs and other income supports.

Target

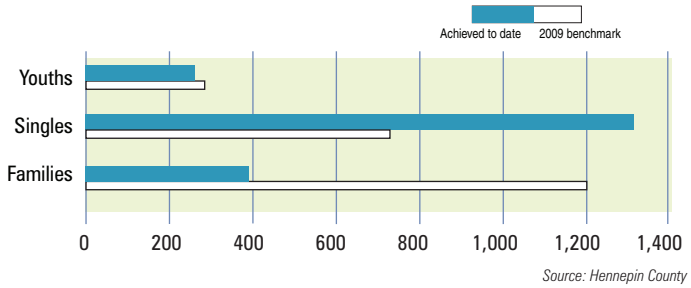
- End homelessness by 2016.

Trend Analysis

After three years of the numbers increasing for families staying in county-funded shelters, 2010 leveled off at 1,307 families (compared to 1,343 in 2009). The average length of stay increased from 38.3 days to 39.3 days. The number of single adults in county-funded space also stayed relatively flat, with 550 to 600 individuals in shelters each night. The most recent street count[1] of unsheltered people in Minneapolis found 300 people in January 2011 compared to 341 in January 2010.

1 Heading Home Hennepin

Affordable[3] housing opportunities developed in Hennepin County[4, 5]



3 Affordable to people with income 30 percent and below the metropolitan median income.

4 This includes both new construction and access to existing rental units. Minneapolis-only data do not exist. This data does not reflect the hundreds of individuals and families housed through prevention and rapid rehousing strategies.

5 Tenant-based rental assistance

Two staff from St. Stephens Outreach talk to a person who is homeless.

Recent City and Community Activities

- October 2007 through July 2010, St. Stephens Human Services housed more than 200 people from homelessness directly into permanent housing.
- The Downtown 100 project works with chronic criminal offenders in the Downtown Improvement District (DID), 85 percent of whom were without stable housing. After the project's first year, crime in the district committed by this group went down 74 percent[2].
- The City/County Office to End Homelessness partnered with Downtown Congregations to End Homelessness and the Downtown Council to fund housing case managers to house 150 people with disabilities. www.dceh.org.
- Heading Home Hennepin held the ninth and 10th Project Homeless Connect events, serving more than 1,600 people with dental, medical, employment, veterans and housing services.
- The FUSE (Frequent User Service Enhancement) project provided housing with support services to 60 single adults who are high users of the criminal justice system and homeless shelters. An initial study on a sample of clients found that emergency services went down by $13,000 per person per year.
- Since 2008, the Minneapolis Veterans Administration and Minneapolis Public Housing Authority housed 155 homeless veterans with housing vouchers and case management.
- The Adult Opportunity Center and Youth Opportunity Center opened in 2010. These centers bring together staff from nearly 40 agencies to serve people who are homeless.

2 This crime reduction figure was established by comparing the crime rate of offenders in the DID from April 1, 2010, to Dec. 31, 2010

Web Links and Resources

For more information on Project Homeless Connect or to sign up, donate or volunteer www.homelessconnectminneapolis.org

Heading Home Hennepin 10-year plan, reports and video www.headinghomehennepin.org

Brownfield Sites

Clean Up Brownfield Sites

Brownfields are commercial, industrial or residential properties that are difficult to redevelop because of actual or suspected contamination. Minneapolis was among the first cities in the country to reuse land by cleaning it up for redevelopment, open space or parks. When this land is cleaned, new construction activity will result in new or retained jobs, new or renovated commercial and industrial space, and new housing units (many of which will be affordable to low-income households).

Target

- Clean up 100 sites from 2004 to 2014.

Trend Analysis

Minneapolis continues its strong brownfield redevelopment program. Property owners and developers increasingly turn to grants from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development, the Metropolitan Council and Hennepin County for the type of financial assistance needed to reduce the cost of reusing urban brownfield sites. Since 2004, 114 sites totaling 310 acres in Minneapolis have been awarded grants to clean up brownfields.

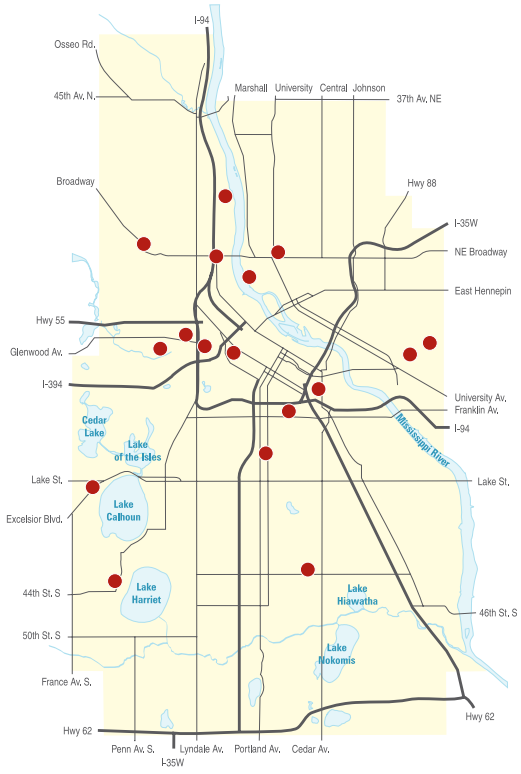
Minneapolis brownfield grants summary

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	Total
# of sites	11	17	17	26	15	17*	114
Total acres	36	39.1	56.09	61.9	26.64	44.68	310.91
$ awarded in millions	$4.3	$4.1	$5.72	$4.35	$5.69	$5.66	$34.32

Source: City of Minneapolis Community Planning & Economic Development

* 18 sites were awarded grants in 2010, but one of those sites (Linden Hills) was excluded from this total because it was not a "new" site (it had been awarded a grant in a prior year).

2010 remediation grant recipients



The 2010 remediation grant recipients are Fourth Street Flats, 3100 Excelsior Boulevard, Broadway Green Apartments, East Phillips Park, J. Jerome Boxleitner Place, Linden Hills, New French Bakery, New Millennium Secondary School, North Loop Gateway, SEMI (West Pond), Trinity First Terrace, 9 Ninth Ave. NE (former Scherer Brothers Lumber), American Swedish Institute, City Place Lofts, El Patio, Heritage Senior Service Center, Lowry Bridge Phase II, and Riverside Plaza.

Recent City and Community Activities

- Facilitated $5.66 million in grants to conduct environmental investigations and/or cleanup at 18 sites (17 of which received their first brownfield grant in 2010), involving more than 44 acres of contaminated land.
- Worked with Minnesota Brownfields, a local nonprofit organization, to produce a comprehensive and informational new "white paper" entitled The Benefits of Brownfield Redevelopment in Minnesota: Fueling Economic Growth and Revitalizing Communities.
- Reviewed sites, removed underground storage tanks, installed new monitoring/remedial wells and sealed existing monitoring/remedial wells under the City's preliminary development review process.

Web Links and Resources

Minneapolis Brownfields Program
www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/cped/brownfields.asp

Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development's Contamination Investigation and Cleanup Program
www.positivelyminnesota.com/Government/Financial_Assistance/Site_Cleanup_Redevelopment_Funding/Contamination_Cleanup_Investigation_Grant_Program.aspx

Metropolitan Council's
Tax Base Revitalization Account Program
www.metrocouncil.org/grants/tbra/TBRAFAQ.htm

Hennepin County's
Environmental Response Fund
www.hennepin.us/ERF

Violent Crimes

Reduce the Violent Crime Rate

Violent crime is tragic, and a community's response to it is one of the most critical elements to assessing public safety. To address violent crime, the City uses the CODEFOR policing strategy – focusing on seizing guns and reducing gang violence by collaborating with criminal justice agencies, community groups and corporate partners. The City is committed to violence prevention programs and initiatives that expand cultural understanding and focus on our youths and communities.

Target

- Reduce violent crimes (homicide, rape, robbery, aggravated assault) by 10 percent by 2014 from the 2008 baseline.
- Maintain no more than 11 homicides per 100,000 residents regardless of population change.

Trend Analysis

The rate of violent crime in Minneapolis has been decreasing – by 5 percent between 2009 and 2010, by 11 percent between 2008 and 2009, and by 14 percent between 2007 and 2008. Over the past four years, the violent crime rate in Minneapolis has decreased by almost 27 percent.

There were 39 homicides in 2010, a rate of 9.8 homicides per 100,000 residents. This increase followed a significant drop in homicides in 2009 to only 19, a rate of five per 100,000 residents. The average number of homicides per year over the past 10 years is 44.

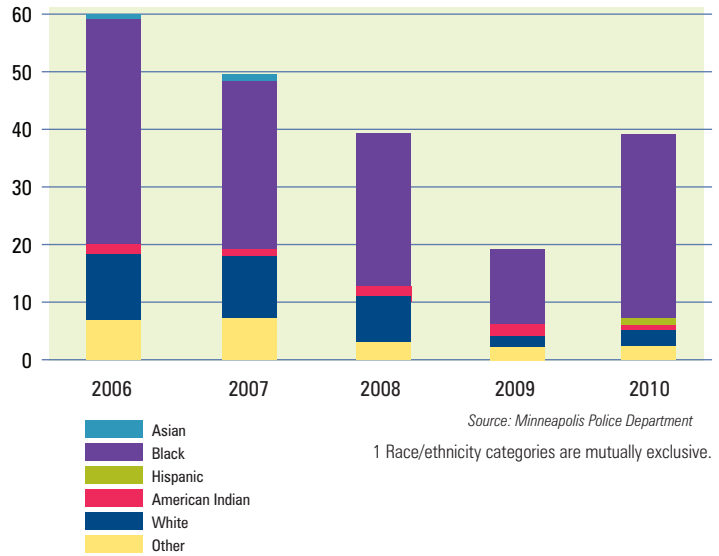
The Police Department will continue to use up-to-date crime data to focus the assignments of police officers and other law enforcement and community resources on areas of greatest need.

Violent crimes

	Reported offenses		Total arrests	
	2009	2010	2009	2010
Homicide	19	39	11	27
Rape	429	479	57	112
Robbery	1,707	1,626	311	550
Aggravated assault	2,176	2,024	815	1,483
Total violent crimes	4,331	4,168	1,194	2,172

Source: Minneapolis Police Department

Homicide victims in Minneapolis[1]



Source: Minneapolis Police Department

1 Race/ethnicity categories are mutually exclusive.

Recent City and Community Activities

- Received national attention for a cutting-edge approach to gathering accurate and timely crime intelligence that shifts police resources to times and places where crime is most likely to occur.
- Continued partnering among precincts, the juvenile division and schools to address school truancy, a leading indicator of becoming involved in crime.
- Partnered with the schools and Hennepin County to help prevent low-level juvenile offenders from becoming more serious offenders.
- Increased communication between the juvenile division and County Attorney's Office when a juvenile offender has been arrested so that the juvenile faces maximum accountability.
- Continued meeting with neighborhoods to complete annual neighborhood policing plans to assess the previous year and plan for the future year.
- Continued to focus on violent offenders with a new emphasis on the city's top 100.
- Implemented the MPD's Domestic Abuse Protocol to reduce domestic violence.
- Formed new collaboratives consisting of neighborhoods, City government and businesses to reduce specific crimes in focused areas.

Web Links and Resources

Minneapolis Community Crime Prevention
www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/police/outreach

Minneapolis Police Department
www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/police

Community Engagement

Engage Residents in Their Communities

Minneapolis has a long and rich history of community engagement and resident involvement. Intentionally and systematically building stronger networks and improved communication lines between the residents and the City will result in more informed residents, a more democratic community and a more sustainable and resilient Minneapolis.

Target

- The City has not yet established a target for this indicator.

Trend Analysis

The City is reinvigorating existing neighborhood organizations to increase connections and engagement with residents. Plans are also under way to increase resident and business participation in the city's organized neighborhood groups. Barriers affecting understanding and access for residents where cultural norms, values, language, disabilities and/or socio-economic status are being addressed and removed. The definition of a block club is currently being re-evaluated.

Voter participation is one indicator reflecting community engagement. In 2009, the City's first ranked choice voting election (eliminating the primary) brought out 45,937 voters or 19.6 percent of registered voters. This is 10.6 percent fewer than the last City general election and 5.1 percent more than the last City primary election. Efforts are under way to increase voter participation in both local and national elections.

Minneapolis neighborhood organizations
87 organizations

Source: City of Minneapolis Communications

Recent City and Community Activities

- Established guidelines for the Community Participation Program (CPP). As of April 2011, the program has funded 62 neighborhood organizations currently eligible under the CPP guidelines for approved funding totaling $2.62 million.
  www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/ncr/community-participation.asp
- Created the Hello Neighbor program via funding from the Bush Foundation. Hello Neighbor's goal is to reach out and welcome 500 newly arriving immigrants to the city.
  www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/ncr/hello-neighbor.asp
- Coordinated efforts with the City's 13 departments to provide outreach efforts and language translations for basic City services in Hmong, Somali and Spanish.
- Received one-time funding to build a collaboration system to support input and feedback loops among the City's departments, employees and residents.
- Re-established the American Indian Memorandum of Understanding, a promise to develop reciprocal paths of participation and success between the American Indian community and the City.
- Organized community meetings to work on projects capital projects to stop sign issues.
- Staff attended community, resident and business leader roundtables and meetings to inform and educate the public about services 911 provides.
- Ranked second among population centers of 300,000+ for the quality of our 2010 National Night Out.

Web Links and Resources

Neighborhood and Community Relations
www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/ncr

Arts and the Economy

Retain and Grow Jobs in the Creative Sector

The mayor and City Council recognize that the "arts and artists are economic drivers in and of themselves." The City is committed to growing the arts economy in order to attract a diverse and competitive workforce, appeal to visitors, and maintain and enrich the livability of our community.

Target

- The City has not yet established a target for this indicator.

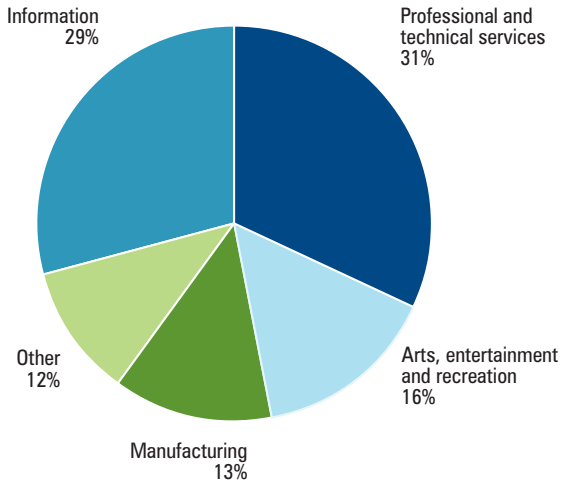
Trend Analysis

There were 17,100 creative industry jobs in Minneapolis in 2009, down from 18,700 the year before. Several creative industry sectors suffered in 2009, the worst year yet of the recent recession, including commercial printing, newspapers and other publishers, advertising agencies, radio stations, libraries, architectural and design services, and theater companies. Commercial lithographic and gravure printing lost approximately 750 jobs, newspapers shed about 200 jobs, architectural services lost 400 jobs and advertising agencies lost another 300.

In 2010, film and video permitting rivaled levels not seen since 2001 – 268 permits for productions valued at $10.8 million.

Minneapolis creative industry jobs
by economic sectors in 2009: 17,000 employees total

Source: Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development



Flowering bus stop at Penn and West Broadway, by Marjorie Pitz, funded in part through the City's Art in Public Places program.

Recent City and Community Activities

- Hennepin Avenue's Brave New Workshop submitted an offer to expand operations into a City-owned downtown theater space. The building will house Brave new Workshop's main stage production and corporate in-house training operations.
- The Great Streets façade improvement program spurred $366,396 in improvements made to buildings that house arts organizations and creative sector firms ($43,603 was City money, invested for a public/private leverage ratio of 1:6.5).
- The City's investment in the Great Streets façade program on West Broadway spurred foundations to commit an additional $155,000 to façade improvements on this commercial corridor.
- The Bedlam Theatre moved to the Seward neighborhood but has remained a presence in Cedar Riverside through a partnership program with Mixed Blood Theatre called CRAZY (Cedar Riverside Art Zone for Youth). Bedlam has also forged new partnerships with Northside stalwarts Juxtaposition Arts and the Capri Theater, with performances of their 10th Annual 10-Minute Community Play Festival at both Northside venues.
- Two pieces of public art – murals by Craig David and a sculpture by Al Price – were installed at Target Field, the City permitted one intersection painting, the Arts Commission reviewed a public sculpture at Leonardo's Basement and South High students collaborated with an artist to create a water-themed public drinking fountain at the Midtown YWCA.

Web Links and Resources

Heritage Preservation & Public Art (CPED)
www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/cped/historic-arts.asp#P12_930

Graduation Rate

Increase the High School Graduation Rate in Minneapolis Public Schools

One of our community's most important responsibilities is educating children and preparing them for successful futures. City government, though not primarily responsible for schools, plays an important role by partnering with schools, residents and employers to improve student achievement.

Target*

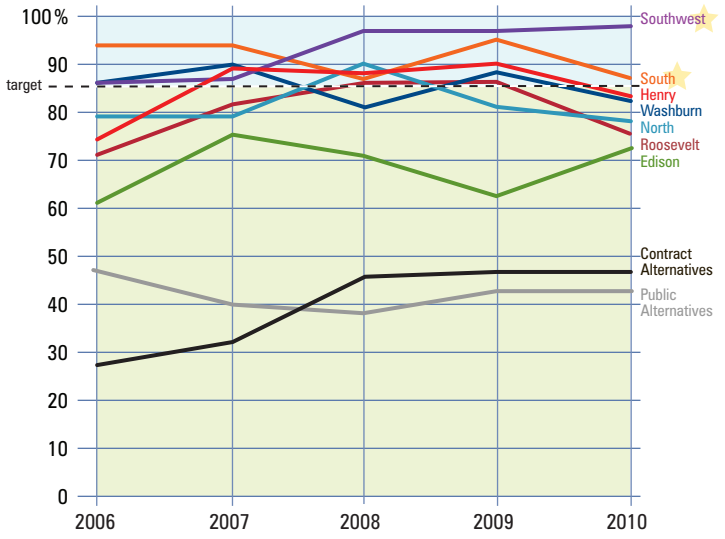
- Increase the average high school graduation rate to 85 percent by 2015 for students at the Minneapolis public senior high schools: Edison, Henry, North, Roosevelt, South, Southwest and Washburn.

* Minneapolis Public Schools District Performance Goal

Trend Analysis

The overall high school graduation rate at the seven high schools remained at an average of 83 percent for a second year. For individual schools, the graduation rates ranged from 74 percent to 98 percent.

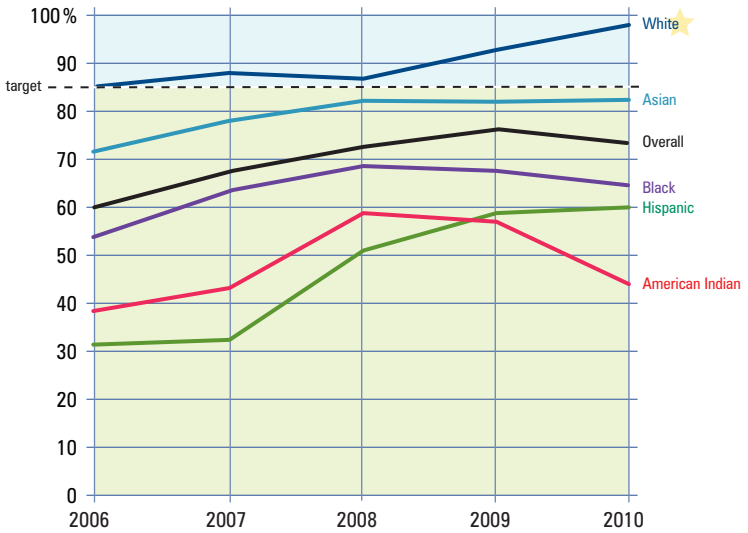
Graduation rate[1] of Minneapolis public high schools
in percent by school



Source: Minneapolis Public Schools

1 The graduation rate is calculated by dividing the number of graduates in a given year by the number of graduates plus dropouts during the four years of high school.

Graduation rate of Minneapolis public high school students [2]
in percent by ethnicity



Source: Minneapolis Public Schools

2 Race/ethnicity categories are mutually exclusive.

Recent City and Community Activities

- Provided a seamless safety link between schools and the City with 15 Minneapolis police officers serving as school resource officers, whose mission is to establish strong positive relationships with students and staff in order to enhance safe and welcoming learning environments. This effort aligns with the City's "Blueprint for Action: Preventing Youth Violence in Minneapolis".
- 1-866-SPEAK-UP is a toll-free, national hotline that young people can call to anonymously report weapon threats in their schools and communities. The hotline is administered by PAX/Real Solutions to Gun Violence, a national nonprofit organization. The City of Minneapolis, Minneapolis Public Schools and the Minneapolis Police Department established this tip line in September 2009. The tip line serves as another step toward violence awareness, education and prevention in the community while providing a new way for kids and community members to speak up and make a difference.
- Through funding from the Kohl's Cares for Kids grant and partnerships among the City, Minneapolis Public Schools, Minnesota Visiting Nurse Agency and Children's Hospitals and Clinics, 2,616 influenza immunizations were given at 26 public school sites for students and families, and 1,200 public school children participated in the Germs are not for Sharing educational program.

Web Links and Resources

Minneapolis Public Schools
www.mpls.k12.mn.us

Employment and Poverty

Improve Economic Security for All

The City is committed to generating opportunities for meaningful and good-paying work so that everyone can meet their basic needs. Despite the City's living wage ordinance, many people continue to live in poverty even when employed. For decades, people of color in Minneapolis have been disproportionately likely to live in poverty. Economic disparity is closely related to other community disparities including infant mortality, high school graduation rate, teen pregnancy rate, homelessness, job skill attainment, employment and wages.

Targets

- Reduce the percentage of people of color living in poverty in Minneapolis to 21 percent by 2014.
- Reduce the percentage of employed Minneapolis residents living in poverty from the 2008 baseline of 10.1 percent to 7 percent by 2014.

Trend Analysis

In 2009, 21.5 percent of Minneapolis residents were living in poverty,[1] a 0.2 percent increase from 2008. Those living in poverty include 12.4 percent of all white residents and 37.5 percent of all residents of color.

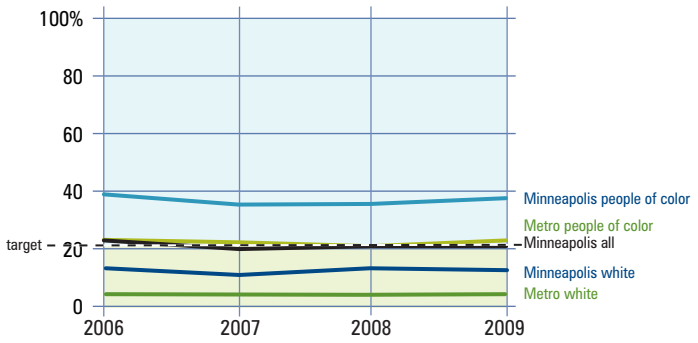
In 2009, 11 percent of employed Minneapolis residents were living in poverty,[2] a 0.9 percent increase over the year before. In 2010, 6.6 percent of Minneapolis residents were unemployed.[3]

1 Following the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) Statistical Policy Directive 14, the Census Bureau uses a set of income thresholds that vary by family size and composition to determine poverty levels. For poverty guidelines see: aspe.hhs.gov/poverty/09poverty.shtml

2 U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey

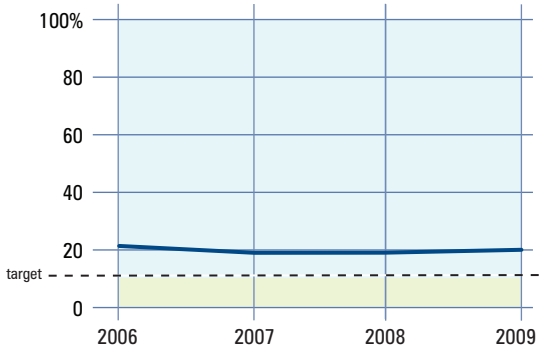
3 Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development

Minneapolis and metro area poverty rate by ethnicity
in percent



Source: U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey

Minneapolis residents employed with income below poverty level
in percent



Source: Census Bureau's American Community Survey

Recent City and Community Activities

- Collaborated with Hennepin County to develop the Equity in Employment Action Team to examine and implement best practices for reducing economic disparities between white and minority communities.
- Provided employment and training support to thousands of low-income Minneapolis residents through City partnerships with community-based employment service providers, resulting in hundreds of job placements.
- Administered more than $4 million in U.S. Department of Labor Pathways Out of Poverty funding for skills training to low-income residents of Minneapolis, including training in manufacturing and construction-related careers.
- Collaborated with Hennepin County in applying for a state-supported work grant to provide intensive individualized services to black and American Indian participants in the Minnesota Family Investment Program. The services include wages for transitional jobs.
- Created 400 new jobs, retained 125 jobs and provided tens of thousands of construction hours through a $3.7 million investment in the Great Streets program. Great Streets is also helping entrepreneurs develop viable businesses and create jobs, with $6 million invested in 2 percent loans to 115 small businesses.

Web Links and Resources

Minneapolis Employment and Training Program
www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/cped/metp.asp

Minneapolis Employment
and Training Program annual report
www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/cped/metp-reports-home.asp

More than 9,100 Minneapolis residents and businesses have taken the

Minnesota Energy Challenge and pledged to reduce their carbon footprints.
Join the effort and start reducing carbon dioxide emissions in your own daily life.

For more information on these and other simple steps

www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/sustainability www.mnenergychallenge.org