



## Request for City Council Committee Action City Coordinator's Office

Date May 14, 2007

To Honorable Scott Benson, Chair, Health Energy & Environment Committee

Prepared by Gayle Prest Phone 673-2931

Approved by Steven Bosacker

**Subject 2007 Sustainability Annual Report – Living Well**

**Recommendation** Receive and file

Previous Directives:

- April 16, 2007: Minneapolis 2007 GreenPrint – Environmental Report presented to HE&E
- June 2006: First Minneapolis Annual Sustainability Report presented to HE&E
- March 31, 2006: Adopted Sustainability Targets and new Air Quality Indicator
- Resolution 2005R-251: Adopted 23 Sustainability Indicators and further directed staff
- Resolution 2003R-133: Originated the sustainability process

Presenters in Committee: Gayle Prest/Daniel Huff, City Coordinator's Office

**Financial Impact** (Check those that apply)

- No financial impact (If checked, go directly to Background/Supporting Information)
- Action requires an appropriation increase to the Capital Budget
- Action requires an appropriation increase to the Operating Budget
- Action provides increased revenue for appropriation increase
- Action requires use of contingency or reserves
- Other financial impact (Explain):
- Request provided to the Budget Office when provided to the Committee Coordinator

## **Background/Supporting Information**

Attached is the *Minneapolis Living Well – 2007 Sustainability Report*, a report on progress related to 24 indicators aimed at the public health, environmental health and community health of Minneapolis. The Report is divided into three sections: *A Healthy Life*, *GreenPrint*, and *A Vital Community*. This is the City's second such report that was directed as a part of Resolution 2005R-251 and is presented annually to the City Council for discussion on the Sustainability Program's progress and challenges.

Sustainability is often referred to as meeting current needs without sacrificing the ability of future generations to meet their own needs by balancing environmental, economic and social (equity) concerns.

Highlights include:

- The City achieved its first targets, achieving goals in Affordable Housing, Teen Pregnancy, Graduation Rate and Permeable Surfaces.
- Achieved five-year lows for the number of new AIDS cases and infant mortality.
- Passed a new ordinance requiring all new City-owned buildings be built to LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) national green building standards.
- Launched a new plan to end homelessness.
- Integrated sustainability into all departments' 5-year business plans.

Challenges still remain including reducing the homicide rate, closing the gap of racial and demographic disparities and addressing global warming.

Attachment 2 is an overview of recent awards the City has received in the past few years – testimony that a sustainable city is a healthy, exciting place to live, work, and play.

Members of both the Citizen's Environmental Advisory Committee and the Environmental Coordinating Team reviewed and commented on some of these items. This was a city-wide effort that included assistance from Communications, CPED, Health and Family Support, Park and Recreation Board, Public Works, the Minneapolis Public Schools, Police Department, IGR, and Regulatory Services. We would like to especially thank Jennifer Tschida, Lisa Smestad, Don Pflaum, Anna Flintoft, Merland Otto, Lois Eberhart, Jeff Schneider, Elizabeth Haugen, Marlena Bromschwig, Sara Dietrich, Alicia Scott, Sara Aplikowski and Ralph Sievert, Matt Bower, David C. Johnson, Patty Bowler, Captain Stacy Altonen, Victoria Herson, Kevin Carroll, Tom Frame, Pat Teske, Doricille O'Neal, David Rak, Cathy ten Broeke, Meagan Ellingson, Coral Garner, Gopal Narayan, Gretchen Musicant and Pat Harrison for their contributions to this report.

Cc: Sustainability Steering Committee members, Citizens Environmental Advisory Committee members

Attachment 1: *2007 Minneapolis Living Well – Sustainability Annual Report*

Attachment 2: Minneapolis Recognition

## Minneapolis Recognition

The City has received outside recognition as a great place to *live well* including the following accolades:

- *Forbes* magazine recently named Minneapolis the **5<sup>th</sup> Cleanest City in the world**, 2007.
- Federal Environmental Protection Agency honored us with **Clean Air Award of Excellence**, 2007.
- Earth Day Network ranked us **9<sup>th</sup> overall and 2<sup>nd</sup> out of mid-sized cities**, 2007.
- *Fit Pregnancy* magazine named Minneapolis the **3<sup>rd</sup> Best City in America to have a baby**, 2007.
- *Cooking Light* magazine awarded us **#4 for eat smart, be fit and live well**, 2007.
- *Frommers* picked Minneapolis one of their **top 12 travel destinations in the world**, 2007.
- *Food and Wine* named the Mill City Farmers Market one of the **top 100 tastes you must try**, 2007.
- *Sustainlane.com* recognized Minneapolis as among the **Top 10 most sustainable cities** for two years in a row, 2005 and 2006.
- *Men's Fitness* magazine chose Minneapolis as the **Most Athletic City** and also the **City Most Motivated to Change** (for resident's adaptability to any weather change), 2006.
- *Men's Health* magazine rated Minneapolis the **10th best city for men** to live, 2006.
- *Kiplinger's Personal Finance* ranked Minneapolis/St. Paul **# 2 among America's Smart Cities**, based on affordability and livability, 2006.
- Homestore.com named Minneapolis among **Top 10 Greenest Cities in America** one reason being that 60% of downtown workers get to work some other way than driving alone, 2006.
- *BioCycle* magazine and Columbia University's Earth Engineering ranked Minneapolis **2<sup>nd</sup> for recycling**, 2006.
- *Travel + Leisure* magazine chose us as **1 of 5 up-and-coming destinations**, 2006.
- *Natural Home* magazine designated the Marcy-Holmes Neighborhood as the **8<sup>th</sup> top Eco-Neighborhood** in the country, 2006.
- *Popular Science* magazine ranked us as nation's **Top Tech City**, 2006.
- Federal Environmental Protection Agency named downtown Minneapolis 1 of 17 business districts in the nation as the **Best Workplaces for Commuters**, 2005.
- *Prevention* magazine named us as one of the **Top 5 Mid-Size Walking Cities**, 2005.