



Request for City Council Committee Action from the City Coordinators Office

Date: April 18, 2011

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

Subject: 2011 GreenPrint – Sustainability Report

Recommendation: Receive and File

Department Information

Prepared by: Gayle Prest, Sustainability Director 612-673-2931 Approved by: Steven Bosacker, City Coordinator 612-673-2032 Presenters in Committee: Gayle Prest and Greenprint Staff Leads
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Financial Impact

No financial impact.

Background

Attached is the 2011 Minneapolis GreenPrint – the sixth annual report on the City’s sustainability activities related to the environment. Each of the twelve indicators has a target, trend analysis and recent City and community activities section, allowing us to measure our progress and align actions with goals.

The report can be found on the City’s sustainability website.

www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/sustainability

Highlights of this year’s report include that the City:

- Implemented NiceRide bike share program that provided more than 100,000 rides in its first season.
- Expanded a pilot residential organics composting program to a third neighborhood and offered cart rental for recycling, and composting for events such as parades, fairs and weddings.
- Greatly increased the number of solar and geothermal projects in the City. In 2009 there were only two solar PV permits issued and in 2010 there were 31 permits.
- Enacted new codes, programs and policies to improve access to local, healthy food including leasing out five –City-owned lots for community gardens and launching Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) at two more farmers markets.

- Using federal stimulus funds, the Minneapolis Community Energy Services provided energy efficiency information and updates to more than 2,400 homes and Community Action of Minneapolis weatherized more than 2,000 low income homes.

The City also saw the completion of several important green infrastructure investments:

- The new City of Minneapolis Hiawatha Maintenance Facility opened and achieved LEED Platinum rating – the highest level. The geothermal system provides 100% of the facility's cooling and heating needs.
- The Minneapolis Convention Center installed over 2,600 solar panels – making it the largest solar photovoltaic system in the upper Midwest.
- Installed over 100 residential rain gardens near Powderhorn Lake with the help from the Metro Blooms employing youth to help improve water quality.

A number of other important efforts are already under way for 2011 - a new 10 megawatt hydropower plant at St. Anthony Falls, various transit studies and activities with stronger ties to economic development, renewed interest in recycling and composting, additional solar projects and an expanded public bike sharing system.

Completing this report requires a coordinated effort involving the City's Citizen Environmental Advisory Committee, Environmental Coordinating Team, numerous staff from departments including Community Planning and Economic Development, Communications, Health and Family Support, the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, Public Works and Regulatory Services, Mayor R.T. Rybak, the City Council, businesses, nonprofits, other organizations and residents working with us toward a sustainable city. A special thanks to the following staff leads: Emily Stern, Patrick Hanlon, June Mathiowetz, Susan Young, Lois Eberhart, Don Pflaum, Shaun Murphy, Anna Flintoft, Merland Otto, Elizabeth Haugen, Marlena Bromschwig and Kelly Wilder - the temporary sustainability associate who was the lead coordinator for the report.

Cc: Sustainability Steering Committee members, Citizens Environmental Advisory Committee

Attachment 1: 2011 GreenPrint Report