



Request for City Council Committee Action City Coordinator's Office

Date April 7, 2008

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

Prepared by June Mathiowetz Phone 673-2027

Approved by Steven Bosacker

Subject **2008 GreenPrint – Environmental Report**

Recommendation Receive and file

Presenters in Committee: Gayle Prest/June Mathiowetz, 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 2008 *Minneapolis GreenPrint* – a report on the ten environmental indicators that came out of the development of the City's 2003 Sustainability Initiative. Each of these indicators contains targets and reports on recent City and community activities, allowing us to measure our progress and match actions with goals. The report will be placed on the City's sustainability website.

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

- Integrated its sustainability efforts into *The Minneapolis Plan for Sustainable Growth*, the City's comprehensive plan. The plan provides a policy framework for the City's planning, development and investment decisions.
- Awarded 25 climate change micro grants to support grassroots activities that motivate residents and businesses to take action to reduce global warming.
- Received the federal Environmental Protection Agency's Clean Air Excellence Award for a wide range of actions designed to improve air quality.
- Met water quality improvement goals at Lake Calhoun, Cedar Lake and Lake Harriet.
- Achieved no combined sewer overflows during rainstorms for the first time ever.
- Expanded the City's network of bike routes to 100 miles and became the city with the second highest percentage of people biking to work among the nation's 50 largest cities, as reported by the Census Bureau.
- Began developing the City's first pedestrian master plan aimed at creating and enhancing pedestrian-friendly neighborhoods.
- Received a grant to equip a City building with the largest solar photovoltaic system (up to 600 kilowatts) in the upper Midwest with support from Xcel Energy's Renewable Development Fund.
- Continued to green the City-owned fleet by purchasing 18 new hybrid-electric vehicles for a total of 25 and 34 new E85 flex-fuel vehicles for a total of 132.
- Reached a settlement agreement with the Metropolitan Airports Commission, creating the largest program in the country addressing airport noise impacts beyond the level approved by the Federal Aviation Administration. The program will begin in 2008, decreasing noise levels for 9,500 homes – 80 percent of them in Minneapolis.
- Formed the Mayors' Initiative on Green Manufacturing with leaders from environmental, labor, business and nonprofit organizations to examine how to attract more green manufacturers and jobs to Minneapolis and Saint Paul. The first report will be released in 2008.
- Advocated to secure a design for the 35W replacement bridge that will incorporate foresight on environmental and quality of life matters with improved bike and pedestrian connections, enhanced access for on-ramps and off-ramps and readiness for light-rail transit.

Additionally, work on this year's report shed light on several areas that continue to remain at the problem-solving forefront, including the need to:

- Continue pressing forward on the complex process of collecting carbon dioxide emissions data including obtaining energy use data from Xcel Energy.
- Continue finding ways to improve air quality. The number of "Moderately Unhealthy Days" (178) and "Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups Days" (9) for the metro area Air Quality Index surpassed the number of "Good Days" (178) in 2007.

- Address tree plantings and survival now that a corrected data set shows there has been a net loss of more than 9,000 trees on the City's public lands over the past five years.
- Address the remaining combined sewer overflow connections in order to minimize the potential for untreated sewage overflow into the Mississippi River in the future.
- Ensure that the water quality of all our lakes and streams continues to improve.

Over the past year, the City received the following recognition for its sustainability efforts:

- Governor's MnGreat Award;
- Popular Science named Minneapolis the 11th greenest city in the nation;
- Forbes recognized Minneapolis as the 5th cleanest city in the world;
- Earth Day Network's Urban Environment Report ranked Minneapolis 9th overall and 2nd among mid-sized cities for environmental quality of life;
- MSN.com named Minneapolis one of the top ten greenest cities in America and one of the first cities to sign the U.S. Mayor's Climate Protection Agreement to meet or beat the Kyoto Protocol standards;
- 1st Annual Mayors' Climate Protection Awards recognized Minneapolis' efforts to address global warming;
- Homestore.com (Move, Inc) named Minneapolis one of the top ten greenest cities in America; and
- Natural Homes magazine named Minneapolis' Marcy-Holmes neighborhood one of the top ten eco-friendly neighborhoods in the nation.

Members of the Citizen's Environmental Advisory Committee and the Environmental Coordinating Team reviewed and commented on the *2008 Greenprint* report. This was a City-wide effort that included assistance from the Sustainability Steering Committee and numerous staff from various departments including Communications, CPED, Health and Family Support, Park and Recreation Board, Public Works, and Regulatory Services. We would like to especially thank Dan Huff, Lois Eberhart, Don Pflaum, Shaun Murphy, Anna Flintoft, Brette Hjelle, Merland Otto, Jeff Schneider, Ralph Sievert, Lisa Smestad, Elizabeth Haugen and Marlena Bromschwig.

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

Attachment 1: *2008 GreenPrint* report