

**Community Planning and Economic Development
Planning Division Report**
Minneapolis Plan Amendment #5 – Sustainability Principles

Date: January 10, 2005

Project Name: Text Amendment to *The Minneapolis Plan*
Adds the principles of sustainability as a factor in City decision making.

Wards: ALL

Neighborhood Organizations: ALL

Planning Staff and Phone: Pam Miner, Planning Supervisor 612/673-3240

Previous Council Direction: Resolution 2003R-133 by Johnson and Schiff (4-4-03) initiating the development of the “Minneapolis Sustainability Plan,” integration of the plan into The Minneapolis Plan, and use of sustainability principles to guide City investment decisions.

Background:

The Minneapolis Plan is the principal planning document for the City of Minneapolis (the City’s ‘comprehensive plan,’ as defined by State Statute). It is used to guide and evaluate City policies, programs, and ordinances (including capital improvements, redevelopment, and regulatory tools like the zoning code). The Minneapolis Plan includes general policy language and provides a guide for decision making by the City.

For many years, the City has endeavored to make its operations, purchases, investments, and construction projects sustainable. In late 2002, the City Council charged City staff to develop the “Minneapolis Sustainability Plan” as a chapter in the City’s comprehensive plan (refer to Attachment A, Resolution 2003R-133). The resolution states: “The Minneapolis Sustainability Plan will embrace and enhance ongoing environmental initiatives and help coordinate the City’s planning, policymaking, and budget processes into a more coherent whole. The Plan will help the City integrate the “three E’s,” - Environment, Economy and Equity (including social justice); coordinate efforts; garner buy-in; and increase the effectiveness of our ongoing programs and investments...After developing the “Minneapolis Sustainability Plan,” incorporate it into the text of The Minneapolis Plan as appropriate.”

The attached amendment to The Minneapolis Plan incorporates language into the introductory chapter of the document, introducing the concept of sustainability, and the use of sustainable guidelines in City decision making and policy setting.

Future Related Actions:

City Council Action

An amendment to the City's comprehensive plan requires action by the City Council. Following action by the City Planning Commission, staff will forward these amendments to the Zoning and Planning Committee for review and action.

Metropolitan Council Review and Approval

Adoption of an amendment to a municipality's comprehensive plan also requires review and adoption by the Metropolitan Council. Staff will recommend that the Minneapolis City Council adopt this amendment contingent upon review and approval by the Metropolitan Council, at which time the amendment will take effect. The Metropolitan Council has the authority to recommend or, in some instances, require changes to a municipality's comprehensive plan. If this unlikely event were to occur, the Minneapolis City Council would address these issues under a separate action.

Regulatory Alignment

According to State Statute, regulatory controls must come into alignment with proposed changes to land use as identified in the comprehensive plan. The proposed text changes do not cause misalignment between existing regulatory controls and land use policy direction.

Recommendation of the CPED Planning Division staff:

Staff recommends that the City Planning Commission **continue** the amendment to the January 24, 2005 meeting of the City Planning Commission based on the finding:

1. Additional refinement of amendment language is ongoing.

