



**GreenStep Cities**  
MK Anderson



# Agenda

- GreenStep Cities Completed Actions
- Other actions the City is taking
- Moving Forward



# Green Step Cities Completed Actions-Efficient Existing Public Buildings

- Enter/update government-owned building information and monthly usage data into the MN B3 Benchmarking database, and utilize building/energy audits to identify potential improvements.
  - All City-owned buildings
- Make no/low-cost indoor lighting and operational changes in city-owned/school buildings to reduce energy costs.
  - All City-owned buildings
- Document that the new construction or major remodeling of a public building has met the SB 2030 energy standard or has met or qualified under a green building or energy framework.
  - Plymouth Community Center



# Green Step Cities Completed Actions-Building Redevelopment



- Adopt development/design standards and programs that facilitate infill, redevelopment, and adaptable buildings.
  - Plymouth City Center

# Green Step Cities Completed Actions-Comprehensive, Climate, and Energy Plans

- Adopt a comprehensive plan
  - 2040 Comprehensive Plan
- Demonstrate that **regulatory ordinances comply** with the comprehensive plan including but not limited to having the zoning ordinance explicitly reference the comprehensive plan as the foundational document for decision making.
- Include requirements in comprehensive and/or other plans for intergovernmental coordination addressing regional land use and watershed / wellhead impacts, infrastructure, transportation, economic development and city/regional services.



# Green Step Cities Completed Actions-Design for Natural Resource Conservation



- Conduct a Natural Resource Inventory or Assessment (NRI or NRA); incorporate protection of priority natural systems or resources such as groundwater through the subdivision or development process.

# Green Step Cities Completed Actions-Complete and Living Streets

- Identify, prioritize and remedy complete streets gaps and lack of connectivity/safety within your road network by, for example, bike/pedestrian plan, adding a bike route/lane, truck route, sidewalk or mid-block alley.
  - Between 2019-2023 the City constructed 9.38 new miles of multiuse trail across the city.
  - Bike/pedestrian plan will be made at the time of the Comprehensive Plan update, beginning next year.



# Green Step Cities Completed Actions-Mobility Options



- Prominently promote mobility options: public transit; paratransit/Dial-A-Ride; cab services; rental cars; bike lanes; trails; airports.
  - Outlined on City Website and throughout the community
  - Transit maps available at City Hall and the Community Center
  - Communication campaigns in the City newsletter
  - Ad campaigns on electronic billboards, Facebook and Nextdoor

# Green Step Cities Completed Actions-Community Forest and Soils

- Certify as a Tree City USA.
  - We have been a Tree City for 40 years.
- Adopt a tree preservation or native landscaping ordinance.
  - Tree Preservation Ordinance – Section 530 of City Code.
  - Native Landscaping Ordinance – Section 811 of City Code



# Green Step Cities Completed Actions-Stormwater Management



- Adopt and use Minnesota's Minimal Impact Design Standards (MIDS).
  - The City adopted the use of MIDS with the approval of their Surface Water Management Plan in December 2018
- Improve smart-salting by reducing chloride use in winter maintenance and dust suppressants to prevent permanent surface water and groundwater pollution.
  - The City is a Level 2 Smart Salting Certified City through the MPCA.
  - All employees who operate snow removal equipment are Level 1 Smart Salt Certified through the MPCA

# Green Step Cities Completed Actions-Parks and Trails

- Make improvements within your city's system of parks, offroad trails, and open spaces.
- Plan and budget for a network of parks, green spaces, water features, and trails for areas where new development is planned.
  - City goal: Provide a high-quality park and open space system that offers a balance of active and passive recreational opportunities.
- Develop a program to involve community members in hands-on land restoration, invasive species management, and stewardship projects.
  - Programs include but are not limited to:
    - Garlic Mustard Removal
    - Buckthorn Removal
    - Native Garden Club
    - Adopt a Spot Program



# Green Step Cities Completed Actions-Surface Water



- Consistently monitor surface water quality/clarity and report findings to community members.
  - Annual Surface Water Monitoring Report
- Adopt a shoreland ordinance for all river and lake shoreland areas.
- Implement an existing TMDL implementation plan
  - TMDL = Total Maximum Daily Load

## Green Step Cities Completed Actions-Septic Systems

- Adopt a subsurface sewage treatment system ordinance based on the Association of Minnesota Counties' model ordinance.



# Additional Actions the City has Taken



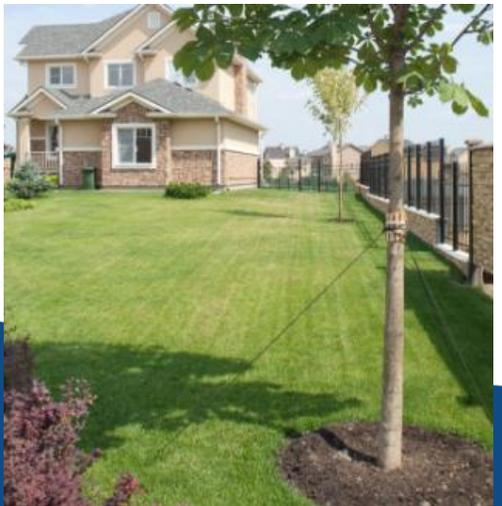
**WATER EFFICIENCY rebate program**

Plymouth property owners: Conserve water. Get a refund.

What's qualified for a rebate?  
 Rebates will be given for replacing old, inefficient toilets, showers, faucets and irrigation systems.

Rebate amounts: Up to \$10 for WaterSense toilets, \$100 for Energy Star washing machines and \$200 for WaterSense irrigation controllers or no-sprinklers.

For details, visit the City of Plymouth website: [plymouthra.gov/waterefficiencyrebate](http://plymouthra.gov/waterefficiencyrebate)



**HOME ENERGY SQUAD**

**POLICY**

City of Plymouth

**Amenity Options - Sustainable Development**

Amenity	Points	Standards
Net Zero	10	Zero net energy building (ZNEB) including required documentation.
Renewable	4	Use of a geothermal, wind, solar thermal and/or geothermal heating and cooling system for at least 20% of the annual energy demand for heat or cooling. Applicant must demonstrate that the quantity of energy generated by the renewable energy system is equal to or greater than the quantity of energy used by the building.
LEED Certification	7	Project achieves LEED Gold certification awarded by a LEED accredited professional (LEED AP) in the discipline of the development. Applicant must submit a LEED checklist/documentation that shows the project is compliant with LEED Gold requirements. Alternatively, the project may be certified and must be approved by Planning Commission.
Green Roof	5	Installation of an extensive, intensive or semi-intensive rooftop green roof system that covers a minimum of 20% of the total roof area presented by the development.
Green Roof - Sustainable	4	The applicant must provide the City of Plymouth with an additional item that is not listed on this policy, for up to 4 additional points.
Water Reuse	3	Provide an onsite greywater or rainwater reuse system.
EV Charging	2	Provide space for charging for 20% required parking.
Solar Ready/EV Ready	1	Provide space and adequate connections for future solar arrays at all underground parking spaces or provide electrical conduits for future EV for at least 10% of parking demand.



# Additional Actions the City has Taken



**FREE PAPER SHREDDING**  
**BONUS: BATTERY, BIKE, TEXTILE RECYCLING**



**FOR PLYMOUTH RESIDENTS**



**BROKEN HOLIDAY LIGHT COLLECTION!**

SAFER FOR LAKES & STREAMS  
MINNESOTA  
**SMART SALTER**  
SAFE FOR PEOPLE



**DETERA**  
drug deactivation system

Drug Deactivation & Disposal  
safe • convenient • permanent

PLANT-BASED POUCH

**I'm green**

Do not consume  
Do not remove contents of pouch  
use and dispose of immediately

**KEEP OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN AND PETS**

Single use pouch



**ADOPT**  
A SPOT IN PLYMOUTH



# Moving Forward



- The City has set its sights on achieving Step 3
- Internal Environmental Stewardship Committee
  - Create Environmental Action Timeline
  - Develop a Sustainable Purchasing Policy
  - Comprehensive Review of Policies, Procedures, Processes, and Ordinances
- Energy Action Plan
- Climate Action Plan
- Implementation
- Residential Utility Rebate Matching Program
- Development of programs and policies to help us achieve step 3 of GreenStep Cities

# Timeline

	2024	2025				2026			
	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Energy Action Planning	█	█							
Energy Action Plan Implementation				█	█	█	█	█	█
Apply to MPCA Local Climate Action Planning Grant	█	█							
Climate Action Planning			█	█	█	█			
Climate Action Plan Implementation							█	█	█
Residential Utility Rebate Matching Program		█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█
Policy and Program Development to achieve Step 3 of GreenStep Cities		█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█



Thank you! Questions?

