



GreenStep Cities Demonstration Project

The Urban Land Institute Minnesota (ULI MN) and the nationally recognized Regional Council of Mayors (RCM) actively engage public and private sector leaders to foster collaboration, share knowledge and join in meaningful strategic action to create thriving, sustainable communities. Focus areas include housing, transportation, the environment and job growth.

Environmental objectives include the reduction of green house gas emissions, protection of natural resources and the support of healthy living. To foster the reduction of green house gas emissions, ULI MN/RCM was selected by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) to demonstrate the GreenStep Cities Program in five RCM communities. GreenStep Cities is a new program; the GreenStep Cities Demonstration Project will provide a platform for application.

GreenStep Cities best practices. GreenStep Cities is an action-oriented voluntary program offering a cost-effective, simple pathway leading to implementation of sustainable best practices that focus on greenhouse gas reduction. GreenStep Cities include best practices in the areas of: buildings and facilities, land use, transportation, environmental management, and, community and economic development.

Assessing and identifying opportunities. The GreenStep Cities Demonstration Project will partner with five RCM cities to identify and implement GreenStep Cities best practices. With support from the GreenStep Cities Project Manager, the five demonstration cities will assess their current related practices and sustainability goals to identify areas of opportunities. In collaboration with the Center for Energy and Environment (CEE), best practices that are proven to have the greatest effect on reducing greenhouse gas emissions will be prioritized.

Communication and Learning. ULI MN/RCM encourages and expands peer-to-peer support and learning among Twin Cities regional mayors, and provides access to key expertise and technical resources. The GreenStep Cities Demonstration Project will provide a base of knowledge, project review, and lessons learned through the implementation of GreenStep Cities best practices. Outcomes and project examples will be documented and findings will be made readily available on the ULI MN web site. Practices that have a proven ability to reduce green house gas emissions and are readily replicable will be selected as priorities for promotion.

GREENSTEP CITIES DEMONSTRATION PROJECT

The ULI MN/RCM GreenStep Cities Demonstration Project seeks to address the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions through advancing and implementing energy efficiency and sustainability best practices, and by motivating public officials to transition to a green economy.

Goals include:

- Educating leaders about GreenStep Cities best practices,
- Identifying actionable steps that are proven to reduce greenhouse gas emissions,
- Promoting the implementation of these best practices, and
- Communicating the results of these efforts through peer-to-peer advising.

The GreenStep Cities Demonstration Project activities include:

1. Selection of five demonstration RCM Cities (September 2009);
2. Peer communication and learning (October 2009 –July 2010);
3. Review of selected cities' goals and policies that support the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions (October-December 2009);
4. In partnership with each city, identify and prioritize GreenStep Cities best practices (November 2009-February 2010);
5. Provide suggested action-steps and access to experts to assist cities in the implementation of desired best practices (January-April 2010);
6. Assessment of best practices planned for implementation and their potential to reduce greenhouse gas reductions (April-May 2010);
7. Share and communicate results (June-July 2010).

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