

Agenda and Meeting Notice
Crystal Environmental Quality Commission

Thursday, May 15, 2014, 7:00 PM
Crystal City Hall, Conference Room A
4141 Douglas Drive North, Crystal, MN 55428

Agenda Items:

1. Call To Order
2. Approval of March 20, 2014 Meeting Minutes
3. Green Step Cities – Philipp Muessig (MPCA)
 - Overview of Program
 - Questions
4. MAC Park & Rain Garden Spring Clean-Up
5. Organized Collection: Review of progress – Mark Hansen
6. Other Business
7. Adjournment

Agenda Meeting Notes
Crystal Environmental Quality Commission

March 20th, 2014 at 7:00pm
Crystal City Hall
41414 Douglas Dr N, Crystal, MN, 55428

Present: Commissioner Kevin Biglin, Commissioner Leigha Haywood, Commissioner Mark Hansen, Commissioner Luke Reisdorf, Commissioner Robin Browning, Commissioner Greg Raetz, Commissioner Leigh Johnson, Commissioner Kyle Turner, Councilmember Joe Selton, City of Crystal Engineering Technician Dave Fritzke, and visitor Dave Anderson

Not Present: City Manager Anne Norris, Assistant City Manager Kim Therres

Meeting called to order at 7:03pm by Commissioner Reisdorf -- 2nd by Commissioner Biglin

Agenda Items:

1. Approval of January's Meeting Minutes
 - Approved by Commissioner Browning
 - 2nd by Commissioner Reisdorf
 - No February Meeting minutes due to cancelled meeting- weather related
2. Introduction of new Commissioner Kyle Turner
 - Air Force
 - Former EQC member in the cities of Golden Valley and Plymouth
3. SWPPP MS4 Annual Report
 - City of Crystal Engineering Technician Dave Fritzke
 - Annual presentation of the cities SWPPP is required by the MPCA
 - See attachments- city sewer and creek maps, and pictures of drainage projects
 - Rain Gardens
 - Possible project for EQC- Help out with literature and training on rain gardens
 - Help home owners to build and maintain
4. Organized collection (OC):
 - Reviewed fact sheet put together by Commissioner Biglin
 - Current hauler list from the City is on-line on the City's website
 - Commissioner Hansen continues to work on collecting rates from 5-6 cities that have OC.
 - Set-up a work session: re-work letter, add to fact sheet, and develop a plan
 - Present letter back to the City Council and Mayor with fact sheet

5. Green Step Cities
 - Review Green Step Material sent out from City Manager
 - More information is on-line
 - Discuss in April's EQC meeting
 - Create question sheets
 - Ideas for our city
 - Prepare for May 15th EQC meeting

6. EQC Annual Elections
 - Delayed until March's meeting due to Winter Storm
 - Newly elected positions
 - Secretary- Commissioner Leigha Haywood (Begin 2nd year)
 - Vice-Chair- Commissioner Greg Raetz (1st year)
 - Chair- Commissioner Kevin Biglin

7. MAC Park & Rain Garden Spring clean-up
 - Wait to schedule at April meeting

8. Updates from City Council Meetings
 - City of Crystal donations
 - Renovate City Council chambers audio & visual equipment

9. Commissioner Raetz motioned to adjourn, and seconded by Commissioner Johnson
 - All approved
 - Meeting adjourned at 8:15pm

Meeting Notes submitted by Commissioner Haywood

MINNESOTA GREENSTEP CITY PROGRAM: the basics

- **A free, voluntary challenge, assistance and recognition program** that provides a framework to help cities achieve their economic, environmental and quality-of-life goals. It's like the Tree City USA program, but covering many more topics and with many more **optional actions** a city can choose to take.
- **Cost-savings, energy use reduction and innovation** underpin the program's 28 best practices, which are based upon what cities in MN have and can accomplish at their **own pace, investing whatever level of time and money** they choose.
- **All information free and available to anyone** via the web; the web site is constantly updated and refined as program staff learn from cities.
- GreenStep cities – currently 65 statewide, encompassing 25% of the state's population – adopt a participation resolution but **are in no legal relationship** now (or in the future) with the GreenStep program or with the State of MN.
- Program grew out of a report to the 2009 Legislature; governed by a **state agency-non-profit partnership**, led by the MPCA and including the League of MN Cities, and not connected to any non-Minnesota efforts.
- **LMC formally recognizes city accomplishments** once each year at its annual conference. Claiming credit for a handful of specific high-impact best practice actions garners recognition at Steps 3, 4 and 5.

BENEFITS OF BEING A GREENSTEP CITY

- ✓ Claim credit, be transparent, invite citizen/business participation
 - Cities joining the program can immediately claim credit for best practice actions completed anytime in the past.
 - The GreenStep web site is an easy way for a city to show community members and businesses what it has accomplished.
 - The list of 170 optional best practice actions provides a framework for business and citizen groups, schools and city commissions to work on actions and assist city staff.
- ✓ Special attention paid to GreenStep cities
 - Special outreach to GreenStep cities has resulted in funding of several city fleet improvement projects, commercial business assistance, and full-time and part-time student workers placed in cities.
 - GreenStep city funding being developed for engineering help on cost-saving stormwater standards and ordinance language.
 - Targeted assistance to GreenStep cities for using the state Dept. of Commerce's Guaranteed Energy Savings Program.
 - Each best practice has an expert topic advisor available to answer city questions.
- ✓ Access 40 hrs. free consultant help; student interns
 - The MPCA's Retiree Environmental Technical Assistance Program (RETAP) targets its city sustainability experts to work with GreenStep cities.
 - During most semesters, undergraduate and/or graduate students are available for use by GreenStep cities.
- ✓ Learn from other cities
 - Over 2,000 reports from cities on how they have creatively completed GreenStep actions are posted on the web site for anyone to read and learn from. Each report lists a city contact of whom one can ask further details.
- ✓ 1-stop shop for the most up-to-date action resources
 - Information on how to complete 170 actions – in the areas of buildings, land use, transportation, environment, and economic/community development – is updated with Minnesota-specific information more often than any other web site.



Minnesota GreenStep Cities

www.mnGreenStep.org

Taking action with proven best practices

Need a roadmap? Take a look at GreenStep Cities.

GreenStep Cities is a free and voluntary program that provides a simple pathway to help cities achieve their sustainability goals through implementation of best practices focused on cost savings, energy use reduction, and innovation.

What are the benefits?

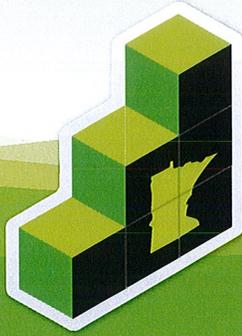
- Resilient communities
- Efficient use of resources
- Healthier environments
- Active community members

What are the best practices?

A full set of 28 best practices, organized into the following categories, is available on the program website at www.mnGreenStep.org.

- Buildings & Lighting: Focuses on energy- and cost-saving strategies addressing public and private buildings, existing and planned buildings, and other city facilities such as street lighting and traffic signals.
- Transportation: Encourages efficient city vehicle fleets and infrastructure that enhances connectivity, mobility options, and active living.
- Land Use: Provides best practices to promote green infrastructure, natural resource preservation, efficient city growth, and walkable and bikeable neighborhoods.
- Environmental Management: Tackles actions ranging from environmentally preferable purchasing and urban forests to water quality and solid waste.
- Economic & Community Development: Targets best practices that promote sustainable economic development and engage local community members with their city to improve quality of life.





Minnesota GreenStep Cities

www.mnGreenStep.org

A simple and flexible program

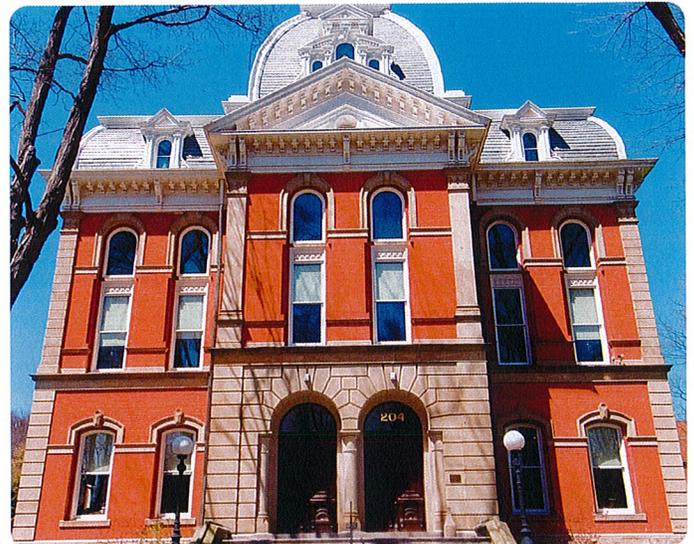
The best practices are straightforward and draw on actions that other cities have already taken. Best practices are constructed to allow cities the flexibility to meet sustainability goals in a variety of ways, recognizing that cities of different sizes and locales have differing access to both staff support and resources. Recognition criteria for a small city in Greater Minnesota, for example, are different than criteria for a larger city near a major metro area.

Technical assistance to take action

Each best practice lists a GreenStep Advisor—with specific contact information—who can help guide a city through implementing that best practice. Additional technical assistance options include workshops, agency staff, Clean Energy Resource Teams, nonprofit groups, Americorps, utilities, businesses, retired engineers, and student interns.

Recognition for past actions

Cities that accomplish an initial set of best practices will be recognized as a Step Two Minnesota GreenStep City by the League of Minnesota Cities. As a continuous improvement program, GreenStep will also develop opportunities for cities to take further steps and be recognized for these additional efforts.



Learn more & get started today at www.mnGreenStep.org!

Program Partners:



GREAT PLAINS
INSTITUTE

