

**CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS
COUNTY OF ITASCA
STATE OF MINNESOTA**

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS
TO EXPLORE THE POTENTIAL OF PARTICIPATING IN THE MINNESOTA
GREENSTEP CITIES PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, increasing energy prices and the change from fossil fuel energy sources present new challenges and opportunities to both the City of Grand Rapids and to the economic health of its citizens and businesses; and

WHEREAS, local governments have the unique opportunity to achieve both energy use and climate change gas reductions through building and facilities management; land use and transportation planning; environmental management; and through economic and community development; and

WHEREAS, addressing energy use and climate change provides an opportunity to move toward energy self-reliance and greater community resiliency; provide environmentally healthy and cheaper-to-operate public buildings; encourage new economic development and local jobs; and support local food and renewable energy production; and

WHEREAS, the City of Grand Rapids has a Comprehensive Plan which includes sustainable actions, i.e. striving for a walkable and bicycle friendly city, promoting the public transit system, and protecting and preserving the quality of the lakes and lakeshores within the City of Grand Rapids; and

WHEREAS, Minnesota Session Laws 2008, Chapter 356, Section 13 directed the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (“MPCA”) and Office of Energy Security in the Department of Commerce (“Office of Energy Security”), in collaboration with Clean Energy Resource Teams (“CERTs”), to recommend municipal actions and policies that work toward meeting the State’s greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals; and

WHEREAS, a broad coalition of public and private stakeholders including the League of Minnesota Cities, the MPCA, Office of Energy Security and CERTs responded to the 2008 legislation by establishing the Minnesota GreenStep Cities program to provide a series of sustainable development best practices focusing on local government opportunities to reduce energy use and greenhouse gases; and

WHEREAS, the Minnesota GreenStep Cities program assists with technical assistance for the implementation of these sustainable development best practices; and provides cost-effective sustainable development best practices in the following five categories: (1) Buildings and Facilities; (2) Transportation; (3) Land Use; (4) Environmental Management; and (5) Economic and Community Development; and

WHEREAS, the Grand Rapids Wes Libbey Chapter of the Izaak Walton League encourages the City of Grand Rapids to investigate the benefits of participating in the Minnesota GreenStep Cities program;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the City Council of the City of Grand Rapids does hereby authorize the City of Grand Rapids to explore the possibility of participating in the Minnesota GreenStep Cities program.

By: _____
Dale Adams, Mayor

Attest: _____

Date: _____

SUPPLEMENT

The Next Generation Act of 2007, Minnesota Session Laws 2007 - Chapter 136:

- (1) sets State greenhouse gas emission reduction goals by cutting emissions to 15 percent below 2005 levels by 2015, 30 percent below 2005 levels by 2025, and 80 percent below 2005 levels by 2050;
- (2) sets a State energy conservation goal of achieving annual energy savings equal to 1.5 percent of annual retail energy sales of electricity and natural gas;
- (3) establishes an energy policy goal that the per capita use of fossil fuel as an energy input be reduced by 15 percent by the year 2015, through increased reliance on energy efficiency and renewable energy alternatives;
- (4) establishes an energy policy goal that 25 percent of the total energy used in the state be derived from renewable energy resources by the year 2025.