

# Climate Action Planning

Report to Grand Rapids City Council

November 28, 2022

# Climate Emergency Resolution

January 24, 2022, Grand Rapids City Council passed a Climate Emergency Resolution which promised the following:

- Complete and Implement a Climate Action Plan;
- Fully implement our autonomous electric vehicle shuttle pilot program;
- Continue serving as a regional leader and share our experience with Grand Rapids Solar Garden project and autonomous electric vehicle project so other communities may learn from us and implement similar ideas.

# What is a Climate Action Plan?

- Assesses climate vulnerability (started by ICC students PP)
- Sets goals for achieving smart climate by reducing GHG & carbon
- Proposes actions to achieve carbon neutral economy, resilient communities and equitable conditions
- MN Climate Action Framework, Cities of Duluth, Red Wing
- Cost using contractor between \$18,000 - \$46,000
- Work with Clean Energy Team to develop plan

# Green Steps to Climate Action

- Volunteers turned to Green Steps, which the city joined in 2012, according to Best Practices, in the categories of: Buildings & Lighting, Land Use, Transportation, Environmental Management, and Economic & Community Development
- Grand Rapids city has completed 27 actions supporting 9 Best Practices and needs to complete has 11 Best Practices to complete to advance from Step 2 to Step 3.
- Green Steps documents what's been done and is a road map to what needs to be done to be a sustainable city.

# GS Example: Buildings & Lighting (1 of 3)

- Benchmarking use of energy and water since 2012.
- Efficient public buildings: 2011 wide gap plate heat exchanger installed at the Grand Rapids Public Library which utilizes waste water from the Blandin Paper Co.
- Solar powered led lights as warning signal in residential areas to identify approaching intersections; crosswalks at school road entrances.

# Green Steps Examples (2 of 3)

## Land Use:

- 2020-40 Comp Plan includes land uses and guidance for enhancing community life, regional economy, and environmental quality.

## Transportation

- Produce/distribute route maps, signage at kiosks and website; bike facilities included

# GS Example: Environmental Management (3 of 3)

- Stormwater Utility Ordinance combines 1.5-inch rainfall on-site rainwater infiltration design requirement for construction sites and a stormwater runoff volume limit to pre-development volumes for the 5-year, 24-hour rainfall maximum event.
- 22.6 acres per 1000 residents based on parks alone; all city residents are within one half mile of park, river or lake.
- Participates in regional Advanced Business Energy Retrofit Program

# Advantages of Green Steps

- Accessible and attainable for any community.
- Participation is voluntary.
- Challenges participants to improve.
- Assists participants with resources.
- Leads to action that addresses climate change.
- Promotes transparent reporting of actions and outcomes.
- Publicly recognizes participants.



# Gold Leaf Pilot Program

- Connects Green Steps to climate response
- Incorporates new models for climate response
- Provides resources for small cities including intern
- Action-focused: completed in less than a year

# Requests to the City Council:

- Allow the city to be part of the MPCA's 9-month Gold Leaf pilot program and ask that the planning commission, with assistance from GRPU Commission, work with staff and volunteers to complete and report on the GreenSteps actions during the pilot period. Due 11/30!
- Consider supporting requests for grants to help with data collection.
- Monitor process by reviewing regular reports on progress from the Planning Commission and the GR Public Utilities Commission.