

- sample resolution -

RESOLUTION \_\_\_\_

CITY OF \_\_\_\_\_  
COUNTY OF \_\_\_\_\_  
STATE OF MINNESOTA

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF \_\_\_\_\_  
TO PARTICIPATE IN THE MINNESOTA GREENSTEP CITIES PROGRAM**

*The GreenStep Cities program aims to provide Minnesota cities a clear pathway to greater sustainability based upon implementing best practices specific to Minnesota cities of differing sizes and capabilities. Due to the multiple environmental, economic and social dimensions of the best practices, leadership from a city's council is needed to oversee their implementation and coordination/integration with other city activities and with other governmental jurisdictions (such as surrounding townships) as appropriate.*

*Below is sample resolution language, which should be tailored as needed to fit the unique situation in your city. Please insert relevant "WHEREAS" statements – see sample ones on the next page – prior to the THEREFORE statement below, which can be modified but which must include the four basic elements below:*

**[4 required elements] NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the City Council of the City of \_\_\_\_\_ does hereby authorize the City of \_\_\_\_\_ (the "City") to participate in the Minnesota GreenStep Cities program. Be it further resolved that the City:**

- 1. Appoints \_\_\_\_\_ to serve as the city's GreenStep coordinator to facilitate best practice implementation [the coordinator could be an existing city staff person or entity, or task force, or an appointed community member]; and**
- 2. Will facilitate the involvement of community members, civic, business and educational organizations, and other units of government as appropriate [could be specific in naming groups here] in the planning, promoting and implementing of GreenStep Cities best practices; and**
- 3. Plans to take actions to implement the following best practices: [a short list of those most likely to be implemented soon] ; and**
- 4. Will claim credit for implementing and will implement, in total, [8, 12 or 15, depending on city category] required and optional GreenStep best practices that will result in energy use reduction, economic savings and reduction in the community's greenhouse gas footprint. A summary of the city's implementation of best practices will be posted on the Minnesota GreenStep Cities web site.**

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Administrator/ Manager/ Clerk

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**- sample WHEREAS statements –**

WHEREAS, uncertainty in energy prices and the transition away from fossil fuel energy sources present new challenges and opportunities to both the City of \_\_\_\_\_ and to the economic health of its citizens and businesses; and

WHEREAS, climate changes have been observed in Minnesota and have the potential to negatively impact local, regional and state economies; infrastructure development; habitat; ecological communities, including native fish and wildlife populations; spread invasive species and exotic diseases; reduce drinking water supplies and recreational opportunities; and pose health threats to our citizens; 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, efforts to address energy and climate issues provide 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 \_\_\_\_\_ has [insert one or more energy/climate actions or initiatives or resolutions enacted by the city or by others in the city]; 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, the Next Generation Act of 2007, Minnesota Session Laws 2007 - Chapter 136:

- (1) sets State greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals of 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 electricity used in the state be derived from renewable energy resources by the year 2025; 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 in facilitating technical assistance for the implementation of these sustainable development best practices; and

WHEREAS, the Minnesota GreenStep Cities program 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;