

Summary of La Crescent's Accomplishments in its Participation in the Minnesota GreenStep Program

Total actions completed: 18

1-star actions: 3

2-star actions: 8

3-star actions: 7

Buildings and lighting: 7 actions

Land use: 2 actions

Transportation: 2 actions

Environmental Management: 6 actions

Economic and Community Development: 1 action

Buildings and Lighting:

Efficient Existing Public Buildings: BP #1

★★ Action 1: Enter building information into the **Minnesota B3 Benchmarking database** and routinely enter monthly energy, water use data for all city-owned buildings.

★★★ Action 2: Make no/low cost **indoor lighting and operational changes** in city-owned/school buildings to reduce energy costs

- The La Crescent Fire Station and Community Building went through an extensive renovation to install energy, safety, and accessibility upgrades. These upgrades were performed from 2015 to completion in March 2016 and included conversion to all LED lighting, weather stripping, sealant, HVAC replacements, and integrated communications and controls for heating and cooling. The community ice arena has also converted all indoor and outdoor lighting to LED as of 10/31/16.

★★ Action 3: **Invest in larger energy efficiency projects** through performance contracting or other funding or through smaller retro-commissioning/retrofit projects in city-owned/school buildings.

Efficient Outdoor Lighting and Signals: BP #4

★★★ Action 2: Purchase LEDs for **all future street lighting and traffic signals**.

- As of December 2017, all city lights are now LEDs.

★ Action 4: **Coordinate traffic signals** and/or optimize signal timing so as minimize car idling at intersections yet maintain safe and publicly acceptable vehicle speeds.

★★ Action 5: Use **LED/solar-powered lighting** for a flashing sign or in a street, parking lot or park project.

- The City of La Crescent has installed LED lighting in the ice arena parking lot
- Christmas lights will be LED
- Warning flashers are rotated in different areas and are powered by solar energy

★★★ Action 8: Replace the city's **existing traffic signals** with LEDs.

Land Use:

Comprehensive Plans: BP #6

★★ Action 1: Adopt a **comprehensive plan** or (for Category B & C cities) adopt a **land use plan** that was adopted by the county or a regional entity.

- Find details at: http://www.cityoflacscent-mn.gov/wp-content/uploads/La-Crescent-Comp-Plan-Full-Plan-except-Maps-2016_8_11.pdf

Efficient Highway and Auto-Oriented Development: BP #9

★★ Action 2: Participate in **regional economic development planning** with representatives from surrounding townships, cities, the county and business interests.

Transportation:

Mobility Options: BP #12

★★★ Action 1: **Increase walking, biking and transit** use.

★★ Action 6: Add/expand **transit service, or promote car/bike sharing**.

- In the fall of 2016, La Crescent added Saturday bus service to La Crosse to its schedule.

Environmental Management:

Sustainable Purchasing: BP #15

★ Action 7: Lower the environmental footprint of **meetings and events** in the city.

- City council meetings are transitioning to paperless city council packets, as well as planning commission meetings.
 - This change is being implemented with a \$10,000 budget line in the 2017 budget.

Urban Forests and Soils: BP #16

★★ Action 2: Adopt **best practices for urban tree planting/quality**; require them in private developments and/or use them in at least one development project.

- Page 153 of the zoning ordinances for the City of La Crescent outlines the substantial best practices for tree planting, maintenance, and preservation.
- The City of La Crescent Submitted its application to become a member of Tree City USA in October, 2017.

Stormwater Management: BP #7

★★ Action 3: Adopt by **ordinance** one or more of stormwater infiltration/management strategies.

Parks and Trails: BP #18

★★★ Action 1: **Make improvements** within your city's system of parks, offroad trails and open spaces.

★★★ Action 8: Develop a program to **involve community members** in hands-on land restoration and stewardship projects.

Local Air Quality: BP #23

★ Action 2: **Regulate outdoor residential wood burning**, using ordinance language, performance standards and bans as appropriate.

Economic and Community Development:

Benchmarks and Community Engagement: BP #24

★★★ Action 1: Use a committee to **lead, coordinate, and report to and engage community members** on implementation of GreenStep best practices.

Current Projects:

- All streetlights in the city have recently been converted to LED lights.
 - This change will save the city 4-7% on its streetlight bill.
 - The new lights will provide more efficient lighting and better visual quality.
 - In 2018, the low-level decorative lights on Elm Street will be converted to LEDs.
- The city is continually entering its information in the B3 Benchmarking Application to track its energy usage and to make data-driven decisions.
- Tree City USA application was submitted.
 - The application has been approved by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (12/26/17).
 - The next step is for the application to be approved by the Arbor Day Foundation.
- The city has applied for the Cert Seed Grant, which would help pay for labor costs for transforming the lights on city buildings, in parks, and on the bridge to LEDs.
- Initial planning for the Second Pollinator Prairie Project for 2018 is underway.
- The Green Team is exploring ways to inform the community about its accomplishments.
- The GreenStep intern is working to update and expand the GreenStep section on the La Crescent City website.
- The Green Team is working to analyze data regarding the amount of waste recycled by the city.
 - This will be used to develop plans to improve recycling in city parks and city-wide.