



Burnsville Sustainability

2011

Annual Report



Photo by Caleb Ashling



City of Burnsville Sustainability Annual Report

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For more information on Sustainability in the City of Burnsville please visit www.burnsville.org/sustainability



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Executive Summary

Third Annual Report

This is the third annual Sustainability report for the City of Burnsville. The City Council adopted the *Sustainability Guide Plan* in February 2009. The Sustainability Annual Report is based on the 14 Best Practices Area's (BPA) from the *Sustainability Guide Plan* plus a section on the city's Sustainability Team.



The Report focuses on the previous year's activities and progress towards meeting the 14 BPA goals.

2011 Efforts included:

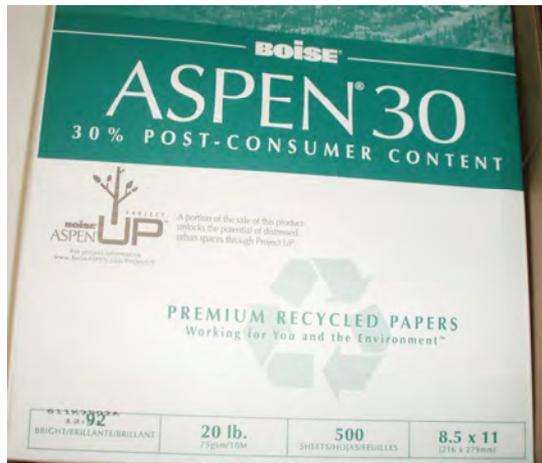
- The City of Burnsville adopted updated zoning standards for Wind Energy Conversion Systems
- Installed 17 new rain gardens within the city right-of-way
- More than 150 Echo Park Elementary students walked or biked to school on National Walk to School Day
- The Wolk Park Community Garden was created with assistance from Woodhill Urban Agriculture Ed Center
- Hosted an ARROW "Green Business Workshop"
- City staff led two senior nature walks for residents
- Purchased 30% recycled content copy paper for city hall

Thank you to the many people involved in implementing the sustainable activities.

Burnsville will strive to establish city goals for environmentally preferable purchasing and develop a city-wide educational effort to purchase economical and environmentally preferable products and services.

The city of Burnsville is striving to purchase products and services that conserve energy, water, and resources.

- Copy Paper—City Hall purchased 30% recycled-content copy paper.
- Toilet Paper—Purchased recycled-content toilet paper and installed double role toilet paper dispensers. The double role dispensers allow the roles to be completely used without replacement, reducing waste.
- Hand Towels—Purchased recycled-content paper hand towels for restrooms.
- Green Cleaners—Purchased green, less toxic cleaners and switched to an automatic dispenser system. The automatic dispenser system reduces the amount of cleaner that is used because is it portion controlled.





Product Stewardship

Burnsville will strive to promote product stewardship, including facilitating programs that partner with private industry to reduce the end-of-life impacts of products.

Product Stewardship is an environmental management strategy. Whoever designs, produces, sells, or uses a product takes responsibility for minimizing the product's environmental impact.

- Dakota County and the City of Burnsville Police Department worked on a program to take unwanted pharmaceutical waste on an ongoing basis. The program starts January of 2012. Prescription and over-the-counter medications are collected from residents for free at the Burnsville Police Department. Proper disposal of medication helps prevent crime, accidental poisoning and drug abuse. It also protects the environment.



Dispose of medication the safe way

Prescription and over-the-counter medications are collected from residents for free at three Dakota County locations. Proper disposal of medication helps prevent crime, accidental poisoning and drug abuse. It also protects the environment.

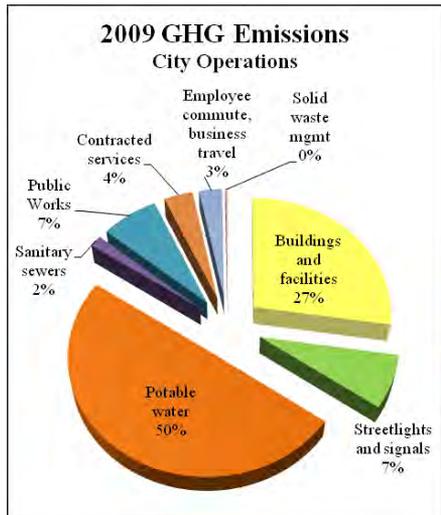
Greenhouse Gas Reduction



Burnsville will strive to inventory and set reduction targets for greenhouse gas emissions for city facilities.

A systematic accounting of the quantity of Greenhouse Gases (GHG) emitted for a defined entity over a given period of time is called a GHG inventory. Inventories can be a tool to identify and implement cost-effective measures to reduce energy consumption.

- A new way to record the city's energy use information was developed to assist in conducting GHG inventories. The energy use sheets summarize consumption and cost by premise numbers that are keyed to facility names. A volunteer keys in the data as it is received from the utilities. GHG inventories will be conducted periodically to see trends in energy use.
- Synthetic oil is now used in city vehicles which allows vehicles to go 12,000 miles instead of 3,000 miles before an oil change saving labor, oil, and oil filters. It also improves gas mileage/emissions.





Sustainable Land Use

Burnsville will strive to adopt land use policies that provide incentives to reduce sprawl, preserve open space, expand and enhance green corridors as redevelopment occurs and to create a walk-able community

Activities in 2011 included:

- The Tires Plus at Towne & Country Shopping Center development intensity was increased with minimum impact on green space since the new facility will be constructed on an area that was previously a hard surface parking area
- The Valley Ridge Shopping Center (identified as an underutilized strip retail center) will be redeveloped with a smoke-free, 140 unit residential complex
- The former Holnam Portland Cement concrete transfer station which had concrete silos and other industrial buildings on site, was approved for the new development of a Walmart Store
- Approved a mixed use commercial project for the redevelopment of the vacant TCF Bank for a CVS Pharmacy and retail/office building with outdoor seating
- A Subsurface Sewage Treatment System Ordinance was adopted updating regulations for development for lands that are not accessible to the city's public sewer system
- A Flood Plain Ordinance was adopted updating regulations and protecting flood prone areas from improper development and providing guidance for proper land use building

Burnsville will strive to promote sustainable transportation systems/networks, develop and publicize information about transit alternatives, re-evaluate transit routes and stops utilizing public input to maximize service within Burnsville and to the metropolitan area.

Activities in 2011 included:

- Recycled over 13,000 cubic yards of bituminous pavement and base material on street reconstruction projects
- Sioux Trail Elementary School received a Safe Route to School grant in the amount of \$132,100 to install new trails, replace existing inadequate sidewalks and install additional signs at school crossings.
- More than 150 Echo Park Elementary School students walked or biked to school accompanied by Burnsville Police officers on National Walk to School Day
- Worked with developers to “right-size” parking lots
- Coordinated with several partners for a regional trail corridor using Black Dog Road right-of-way
- Installed LED traffic signals at the Nicollet Avenue & 126th Street Intersection





Burnsville will strive to increase the use of clean, alternative energy options into city facilities, research methods to reduce energy consumption and promote alternative energy options within the community.

Wind Energy Conversion System (WECS) is an electrical generating system or structure comprised of one or more wind turbines and accessory facilities that operate by converting the kinetic energy of the wind into electrical energy to be used on-site or distributed into the electrical grid. The City of Burnsville adopted updated zoning standards for WECS in April of 2011.

- The ordinance allows wind energy systems as accessory uses in all commercial and industrial zones with a Conditional Use Permit
- Design standards for the wind energy systems include requiring compliance with all state and federal requirements and methods to prevent unauthorized climbing of towers



Burnsville will strive to make energy efficiency a priority in infrastructure by developing educational programs for the public about energy efficient techniques and construction practices; investigate opportunities and ways to provide incentives to encourage private sector home and business energy improvements.

2011 activities included:

- Hosted a Brown Bag Lunch & Learn session on “Energy Efficiency for Your Home”
- Fire Station One—Replaced four air conditioning condensers with heat pumps which are more energy efficient and replaced five exterior night lights with LED fixtures.
- Heather Hills— replaced two air conditioner units with highest efficiency units available.
- Fire Station Two— replaced five fluorescent fixtures and two high pressure sodium night lights all with LED fixtures.
- City Hall—Removed six high pressure sodium night lights on the garages and replaced them with three LED fixtures.



The Sustainability Team brings you:
Energy Efficiency for Your Home
Thursday, March 3, 2011 at 11:30 am
Council Chambers

Lunch & Learn

Bring your bag lunch and learn about energy efficiency! Ready, a certified residential energy auditor, from the Center for Innovative Cost and Energy (CICE) will give a presentation on ways you can conserve energy and save money while keeping your home comfortable for your family. Ready's goal is to make saving energy fun and easy, so this isn't a normal presentation. It's interactive, entertaining and informative. Because of her training as a residential auditor, Ready is also comfortable talking about larger items, like energy mechanical retrofits, insulation and whole-home energy audits.

Start your Energy Challenge Now!

- Learn about easy to do actions:
- Save money
- Keep your home comfortable
- Conserve energy

Please let us know if you will be attending the presentation by emailing [Joe Best](mailto:Joe.Best@ci.gov) at: Joe.Best@ci.gov. Thank!


City of Burnsville

Burnsville will strive to practice and promote sustainable building practices by providing staff training for LEED certification and green construction to assist residents/builders and to promote green building techniques for both city-owned facilities and private development.

The 2011 activities included:

- At Fire Station One, the forced air heat was replaced with infrared for the existing bays and infrared was used in the construction of the new bays. The living space heating was replaced with high efficiency furnaces & heat pumps for air conditioning.
- Also, to take advantage of natural light at Fire Station One, skylights were added to the existing truck bays and clerestory windows were put into the new addition on the north wall. A super-insulated R-34 roof installed in the new addition.
- When old equipment is removed it is recycled whenever possible. For example when the Fire Station One remodeling was done all metal such as iron, copper, & aluminum was brought to a scrap yard.
- Worked with Dakota County to share a Minnesota GreenCorps member for updating the city's Minnesota B3 Benchmarking data (a building energy management system for public buildings in Minnesota). The GreenCorps member started assisting Burnsville in 2011 and will finalize the information in 2012.

Burnsville will strive to promote a healthy community through public education, effective partnerships, and the development of infrastructure that supports walking and biking.

The 2011 activities included:

- City staff led two senior nature walks for Burnsville Residents. The ‘Prairie Wildflowers’ and ‘Wetlands’ walks gave seniors a chance to learn new things about Burnsville’s natural resources and visit some of the City’s great natural areas.
- Developed a self guided nature trail for Kraemer’s Nature Preserve to be installed in 2012.
- Every 2nd & 4th Saturday May—August there are free yoga classes at Nicollet Commons Park
- Parents and children can get fit and meet new friends at the Stretch & Stroll fitness class on the 2nd & 4th Thurs days May—August at Sunset Pond
- City of Burnsville hosted a 5K as a part of the “I Love Burnsville” Events



Burnsville will strive to increase recycling rates, reduce waste, and promote reuse in city operations and in the community.

The 2011 activities included:

- Installed a project management e-services for building permits, inspections, licensing, planning development applications, tree permits, sign permits which significantly reduces the amount of paper generated.
- Reused old lights from the Lac Lavon ball Park for the Neill Park tennis courts.
- Converted Agenda Packets, correspondence, bi-weekly monitoring report to electronic delivery saving 10,000 to 15,000 pieces of paper per month.
- Collected over 4700 lbs of shoes for our America Recycles Day shoe collection.
- Redesigned the recycling website to make it more user friendly and mobile device friendly.
- Hosted a “Green Business Workshop” with 46 participants



It's Easy Being Green!
Green Business
Workshop
Tuesday, September 13, 2011
8:30am-10:30am
Eagan
Community
Center
1501 Central Pkwy
Dakota Valley
Recycling

Registration is FREE!

Local businesses in every sector are going green: recycling, reducing their energy use and more. But green isn't one size fits all; this workshop will give you the tools that work for your organization and save the most money. Join us for green initiatives, grants & incentives from your utilities, local business success stories and more.

Register Now!
www.DakotaValleyRecycling.org/ARROW

Burnsville will strive to maintain a healthy urban forest; promote tree planting by establishing programs to annually increase tree canopy within the city and to develop an incentive program that encourages private sector owners to plant trees within parking lots and other areas of the city.

The 2011 sustainable activities in Forestry include:

- There was 125 hours of volunteer buckthorn removal assistance on over 75 acres. The “Nominate Your Neighborhood Buckthorn Pick-up Program” started and removed 445 cubic yards of buckthorn. The city compost site was open for two weekends and 150 cubic yards of Buckthorn was collected.
- The city is working to control Garlic Mustard infestations at several high quality forest areas
- More than 1,800 plugs of native wildflowers, ferns and sedges and 1,000 native shrubs were sold at the tree sale
- The Emerald Ash Bore (EAB) Plan is in place and the city has begun to set aside funds in preparation for it’s arrival. The city also implemented a tree contractor licensing program and a Boulevard Tree Permit program.



The intent of these programs is to help our residents respond to EAB and other tree pests/diseases that may come to our community.

Controlled Burn at Kelleher

Burnsville will strive to protect and improve surface and groundwater resources. Towards that end the City will develop an educational program aimed at reducing groundwater use, investigate new design standards and incentives to emphasize the use of natural drainage systems over built storm water systems, and seek ways to modify street improvement projects to provide less impervious surface utilizing practices such as porous pavement.

Surface and ground water quality is important to a sustainable Burnsville. The following 2011 activities promote improved water quality practices:

- Installed 17 rain gardens within the city right-of-way to treat stormwater runoff from roadways at various locations along Pillsbury avenue, Southwind Drive, Rushmore Drive and Keller Lake Road.
- Through partnerships with the Blue Thumb Program and Dakota County Soil and Water Conservation District, “Planting for Clean Water” classes were offered, which were attended by 29 residents. These classes explained the importance of rain gardens, native shoreline restorations and native plants.
- Gave city water quality grants to residents that resulted in the creation of seven rain gardens and one shoreline restoration.





Innovative Opportunities

Burnsville will strive to look for innovative opportunities to improve the environment. Identify ways to partner with local utility and power providers, manufacturers, etc., to establish regular meetings to brainstorm and implement environmental outreach programs, encourage neighborhood environmental initiatives, and investigate funding programs for local environmental initiatives/improvements.

2011 activities include:

- In the spring of 2011, four Burnsville High School Environmental Science classes assisted in a native vegetation restoration by helping spread native plant seed. In two days, the group was able to cover 14 acres of the northern section of Kelleher Park, logging 140 volunteer hours
- The city processed an Interim Use Permit to allow the St. Paul Farmers Market to operate at the MVTA Transit Station while road improvement projects are completed
- The city worked with Valley Natural Foods to allow a community garden installed adjacent to the storm ponds
- The non-profit organization, Woodhill Urban Agriculture Education Center successfully raised \$7,000 for building the Wolk Park Community Garden. The principles of sustainability will be advocated as the primary methods



City of Burnsville’s Sustainability Team Members include: Julie Dorshak—Community Services, Jim Vasquez—IT, Deb Strahler—Communications, Dean Mulso—Ice Center, JJ Ryan—Recreation, Gary Novotny—Facilities, Jeremy Strehlo—Engineering, Deb Garross—Planning, Karen Bergstrom—HR, Steve Albrecht—Public Works, Sue Bast—Natural Resources, and Dan Hill—Birnamwood Golf Course

The goal of the Sustainability Team is to develop and implement projects that address City of Burnsville’s Sustainability Guide Plan strategies, establish sustainable practices for the city, and raise the sustainability awareness of employees. The 2011 activities of the City of Burnsville Sustainability Team included:

- Developed monthly sustainability tips such as, “Rain Barrels”, “De-clutter”, “Energy Efficiency”, and “Eco-Innovation”.
- Reviewed and discussed the draft of the Sustainable Infrastructure Policy.
- Hosted a Brown Bag Lunch & Learn session on “Energy Efficiency for Your Home”
- Developed an “Energy Efficient Upgrade Fund”.
- Toured a material recycling facility in Inver Grove Heights.
- Discussed proposals from businesses on renewable energy and energy efficiency devices.



City of Burnsville Sustainability

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