

EXCERPT from:

**MINNEAPOLIS CITY COUNCIL
OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS**

**REGULAR MEETING OF
APRIL 4, 2003**

(Published April 12, 2003, in *Finance and Commerce*)

**RESOLUTION 2003R-133
By Johnson and Schiff**

Initiating the development of the “Minneapolis Sustainability Plan,” integration of the Plan into the *Minneapolis Plan*, and use of the Plan to guide City investment decisions.

Whereas, the environment has long been a priority for Minneapolis residents; and

Whereas, the City’s chief organizations since 1994 that are on the forefront of our environmental efforts include the Environmental Coordinating Team (ECT) and its citizen counterpart, the Citizens Environmental Advisory Committee (CEAC); and

Whereas, Minneapolis has been a key participant in the statewide dialogue over sustainability since the 1990’s; and has been implementing “Smart Growth” land use and transportation policies for many years through its Zoning Code and its Comprehensive Plan, the *Minneapolis Plan*; and

Whereas, Minneapolis has protected the City’s invaluable water resources through a variety of initiatives including the Clean Water Partnership, its Stormwater Management Ordinance, capital investments related to stormwater management and safe drinking water, and its commitment to the City’s watershed management organizations; and

Whereas, Minneapolis has been a consistent advocate for the Metro Emissions Reduction Project; for the conversion of coal plants to cleaner fuels; and for the exploration of opportunities for “green” power, distributed generation, and expansions to district energy and cogeneration; and

Whereas, Minneapolis has worked hard to maximize energy efficiency in over 120 public buildings, and to promote the same for private buildings through our policies, plans, and ordinances; and

Whereas, Minneapolis has one of the most successful brownfield reclamation programs in the country, which has restored hundreds of acres of polluted land to productive uses; and

Whereas, Minneapolis is committed to maintaining and improving our nationally renowned park and open space system, and to encouraging community greening from urban reforestation projects to community vegetable gardens; and

Whereas, Minneapolis has worked to “green” City fleets, purchasing, buildings, and operations generally; and

Whereas, the Minnesota Office of Environmental Assistance has awarded Minneapolis a \$66,000 grant to develop a sustainability plan for the City;

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved by The City Council of The City of Minneapolis:

That Minneapolis intends to build on the City’s already strong base of environmental policy and practice, and to launch a focused campaign to describe and then shape a more sustainable future for the City through the development of the “Minneapolis Sustainability Plan.” This future will include stronger social connections and neighborhoods, greater social wealth and equity, local self-reliance, and more transparent accountability among residents and civic leaders. The “Minneapolis Sustainability Plan” will embrace and enhance ongoing environmental initiatives and help coordinate the City’s planning, policymaking, and budget processes into a more coherent whole. The Plan will help the City integrate the “Three Es,” Environment, Economy, and Equity (including social justice); coordinate efforts; garner buy-in; and increase the effectiveness of our ongoing programs and investments.

Be It Further Resolved that Minneapolis intends – with the help of the CEAC and many other citizen, business, and environmental organizations – to rely upon the involvement of diverse stakeholders and listen to their concerns before we draft the plan.

Be It Further Resolved that Minneapolis will complete the following:

- After developing the “Minneapolis Sustainability Plan,” incorporate it into the text of the *Minneapolis Plan* as appropriate, and add the text of the “Minneapolis Sustainability Plan” as a separate chapter. Minneapolis will likely be the first city in the country to elevate its sustainability plan to the level of a comprehensive plan.

- Develop a program to track key sustainability indicators and disclose them in the “State of the City” report.

- Establish ten-year sustainability targets, integrate them into the “Minneapolis Sustainability Plan,” and measure progress towards these targets.

- Establish sustainability initiatives (i.e. specific projects) designed to accomplish the sustainability targets.

- Amend ordinances such as the Zoning Code and the Minneapolis Code of Ordinances as appropriate to be consistent with the “Minneapolis Sustainability Plan.”

Be It Further Resolved that Minneapolis intends to use the *Minneapolis Plan*, the “Minneapolis Sustainability Plan,” the sustainability indicators, and the ten-year targets to guide all appropriate City decisions including the following:

- Guide the vision for and organization of the new Community Planning and Economic Development Department.

- Inform the City’s annual budget process as shaped by the Strategic Plan.

- Guide the Capital Long-range Improvement Program.

- Inform other applicable plans and policies.

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- Inform other applicable plans and policies.

Be It Further Resolved that Minneapolis intends to establish a process to serve in the interim so that City decisions are “filtered” through a sustainability screen. The City will articulate broad City sustainability goals to serve in the interim period, and will charge all decision-makers and City staff with observing these interim sustainability goals.

Be It Further Resolved that the City Council directs the Planning Director and the staff of the Planning Department and all other appropriate City departments to do the following:

- Present to the City Council by the end of April 2003 a program and a description of the resources necessary (both staff and financial) to develop and implement the “Minneapolis Sustainability Plan” as described above. This program shall also include a proposed completion schedule.

- Seek additional non-City resources as needed to develop and implement the “Minneapolis

- Seek additional non-City resources as needed to develop and implement the “Minneapolis Sustainability Plan.”

- Draft broad City sustainability goals for adoption by the City Council to serve in the interim period until the adoption of the “Minneapolis Sustainability Plan.”

Adopted 4/4/03.