



Request for City Council Committee Action City Coordinator's Office

Date: May 5, 2008
To: Council Member Scott Benson, Chair, Health Energy & Environment Committee
Subject: **2008 Living Well Sustainability Report**
Recommendation: Receive and file

Previous Directives:

- April 7, 2008: Minneapolis 2008 GreenPrint presented to HE&E
- June 2006: First Minneapolis Annual Sustainability Report presented to HE&E
- March 31, 2006: Adopted Sustainability Targets and new Air Quality Indicator
- Resolution 2005R-251: Adopted 23 Sustainability Indicators and further directed staff
- Resolution 2003R-133: Originated the sustainability process

Prepared by: June Mathiowetz, Sustainability Project Coordinator Approved by: Steven Bosacker, City Coordinator Presenters in Committee: June Mathiowetz/Gayle Prest, City Coordinator's Office

Financial Impact

- No financial impact

Community Impact

- City Goals – The data tracking and reporting found within the Living Well publication helps facilitate progress on the City's "Enriched Environment" goal.

Supporting Information

Attached is the 2008 Minneapolis Living Well publication – the third annual report on progress related to the 24 council adopted indicators that evolved out of the City's 2003 Sustainability Initiative. Each section found in the report tracks targets, trends, and recent activities related to the indicators allowing us to measure our progress and match actions with goals. The report is divided into three sections: A Healthy Life, GreenPrint, and A Vital Community. It will soon be available on the City's sustainability website.

Highlights of this year's Living Well report include that the City:

- Tested a higher percentage of young children for lead and inspected a higher percentage of homes where lead-poisoned children live.
- Implemented the multifaceted, multisector, multiyear Blueprint for Action to prevent youth violence and saw a 20 percent decrease in violent crime with juvenile suspects.
- Greatly exceeded the target for new block clubs.
- Facilitated a record-setting \$5.72 million in grants to clean up more than 56 acres at 17 brownfield sites.

(For environmental highlights see the April 7, 2008 Council Action on the City's GreenPrint report.)

Challenges still remain. In 2007, Minneapolis infant mortality rates, teen pregnancy rates and hospitalizations from asthma rose. Racial and ethnic disparities persist in public health and school achievement. Using multiple, integrated strategies and improved data collection and reporting, the City continues working to close these gaps and presses forward in new ways to protect our health and community resources and reduce our impact on the planet.

Over the past year, the City received the following recognition for its sustainability efforts – testimony that a sustainable city is a healthy, exciting place to live, work, and play:

- Recognized by Forbes as the Most Affordable Place to Live Well among the 50 largest metro areas in the country.
- Recognized by the American Planning Association with the National Planning Excellence Award for a Grassroots Initiative for the Corridor Housing Strategy, a City effort to locate new affordable housing development along transit routes.
- Recognized by Men's Fitness magazine's annual survey of "Fittest and Fattest Cities in America" as the nation's fourth fittest city.
- Recognized by Cooking Light magazine as the nation's fourth top city to best fit a philosophy of eating smart, being fit and living well.
- Recognized by Fit Pregnancy as the nation's third best city in which to have a baby.
- Named by Kiplinger's Personal Finance magazine as one of the five best places to be married with children because it is a healthy, diverse, well educated place to raise a family and ranks high in overall health and quality of child care and health care.
- Achieved the top-ranking National Night Out campaign in the country for the fifth time in seven years, with record-breaking attendance.
- Recognized by an annual study conducted by Central Connecticut State University as the nation's most literate city.

(For environmental awards see the April 7, 2008 Council Action on the City's GreenPrint report.)

This report is a result of broad collaboration that included assistance from the Citizen's Environmental Advisory Committee, the Environmental Coordinating Team, the City's Sustainability Steering Committee, the Minneapolis Public Schools, the Park and Recreation Board, and City staff from Communications, Community Planning and Economic Development, Health and Family Support, the Police Department, and Regulatory Services. We would like to especially thank Matt Bower, David C. Johnson, Patty Bowler, Captain Sally Weddel, Kim MacDonald, Pat Teske, Kevin Carroll, Lara Tiede, Cathy ten Broeke, Matt Ayers, Doris O'Neal, Megan Ellingson, Coral Garner, Gopal Narayan, Gretchen Musicant, Pat Harrison, Jeff Schneider, Brette Hjelle, Dan Huff, Lisa Smestad, Elizabeth Haugen, Marlena Bromschwig, Lois Eberhart, Don Pflaum, Shaun Murphy, Anna Flintoft, Merland Otto, and Ralph Sievert.

Cc: Sustainability Steering Committee members, Citizens Environmental Advisory Committee members

Attachment 1: 2008 Living Well report