

Climate Action Plan/Sustainability Accomplishments – 2020

1. Climate Action Plan community education and outreach

Home Energy Squad visit focus. Postcards, videos, social media posts.

Worked with Growing Up Healthy to promote in manufactured homes.

The Renewable Energy Challenge - hosted a lunchtime webinar on May 27 in collaboration with Partners in Energy and the Clean Energy Resource Teams.

A webinar on Air Source Heat Pumps was offered on July 14, 2020 from Noon – 12:30 PM.

Small Business Blitz for Energy efficiency audits was set to launch (did PR/outreach to businesses) but had to cancel due to COVID.

Partnered with the City of Faribault and Partners in Energy to host a webinar [Energy Efficiency in New Construction & Renovation](#) webinar on Oct 20th. The intended audience is developers, architects, contractors and construction managers working on commercial, multi-family and mixed-used projects.

Helped to plan and host the community Earth Day celebration (online).

Hosted shredded paper recycling event ~ 8500 pounds of paper to shredder.

2. Solar for Northfield assessment

The City received a grant (\$3,000) from the Clean Energy Resource Teams (CERTs) to help pay for evaluation of City buildings/facilities for on-site solar potential and some high level review of other properties in the City.

Report completed and now are partnering with State of MN Dept of Admin to do an RFI for 6 locations through State Master Contract. Goal to make decision if we will do direct purchase or power purchase agreement. Also will begin working with Midwest Renewable Energy Association (MREA) to do a community bulk solar purchase in 2021 called Grow Solar Rice County.

3. We received a grant from the McKnight Foundation for \$50,000 to be used over the next two years to support sustainability/climate action plan staff time.
4. Second public EV charging station partnering with the Northfield Rotary Club - installed in July at 5th & Washington public parking lot. \$9,000 grant from Rotary covered over ¾ of the cost of station, software and install.
5. Large Energy Consumer group

Met in January hosted by Cardinal Glass. This is a peer-networking group of entities in the community that use a significant portion of energy. They will continue to meet on a quarterly basis to share information about energy efficiency, rebates and renewable energy at their respective facilities.

The group has met 3 times online to learn about: Geothermal system at Carleton College, Heat Pump Energy Recovery Equipment, Combined Heat & Power resources through US Dept of Energy.

Participants have included local representatives from: Post, St. Olaf, Carleton, Cardinal Glass, Sheldahl, City of Northfield, Aurora Pharmaceuticals, Chamber of Commerce,

6. Turn Key audits of five City owned buildings for energy efficiency opportunities. Lighting upgrades have been done at WWTP. Also able to get rebate on some new Biosolids building equipment value ~ \$6,000
7. Fleet Study on 21 vehicles to assess potential for shifts to Electric Vehicles (EVs). Worked with Sawatch Labs with funding provided by Xcel Energy. (~ \$12,000 value).
8. Staff spent time reviewing options for tracking energy and emissions reductions. Decided to go with using the no cost B3 online tracking system for public buildings. Will reassess in 2021 to see if we are getting a useful level of detail. Worked with B3 staff to have Americorps staff person help to transition most of data entry to automated through Xcel. Savings of \$1,000.
9. Organics Recycling survey - Worked with Fieldstone Research to develop and deploy a survey to the community about compost/organics recycling. Postcard mailing to announce the survey in English and Spanish (as was survey). 962 responses. Report presented to EQC in December. (Shoger donation funds are being used for this work.)
10. Worked with St. Olaf students on several projects from the CAP around Sustainability virtual tours and potential incentives for EV and PV ready homes.
11. Sustainable Northfield Podcast launched. Three episodes in 2020. Working with Carleton student to do interviews/host. Plan to release a new episode each month.
12. Participated in GreenStep Cities, Clean Energy Resource Team, Renewable Energy Procurement Network meetings and a variety of educational webinars.
13. Achieved GreenStep Cities Step 4 status.
14. Installed 2.27 miles of bike lanes on city streets and 0.42 miles of new sidewalks and trails as part of 2020 construction projects.
15. Opened a new roundabout on Highway 246/Jefferson Parkway that includes tunnel underpasses for biking and walking safely. Improved the pedestrian crossing on Division Street in front of the High School with a crosswalk and crossing signal.

16. The City was awarded a state bonding grant for \$1.75 million dollars from the State of Minnesota to complete the Transit Hub project that will connect to the historic Depot building on Highway 3. When completed, this location will serve as a transfer site for local buses, a loading and unloading point for buses to the Twin Cities and potential other multi-modal transportation sharing options. We hope construction can begin in 2021.
17. Carried out maintenance on 12 stormwater structures.
18. Updated our stormwater model to better understand impacts of heavy rain events to City infrastructure and private properties as we plan for climate resilience.