**2020 Category A City: DULUTH**

Currently a Step 2 GreenStep City as of June 2015

(joined April 2014)

X

***Which assessment****? Preliminary: for city review Final: May 1st recommendation to LMC*

***Assessor and date****: Philipp Muessig, 4/27/20*

**24**

**YES**

**YES**

***Total BPs done: All required\* BPs done? BP distribution requirement\* met?***

X

***Recommend new 2020 recognition at: Step 3***

*\* note: requirements are for Step 3 recognition*

|  |
| --- |
| Best practices (**required in bold**) BP implemented? Action summary by # and star level achieved Action rules (req. actions in **bold**)  |
|  **BUILDINGS: distribution requirement is 2 BPs ; are 2 BPs done? YES** |
| **1. Public** **Actions 1 & 2; & one action from actions 3-7** | **YES** | 1.1 — 3 STARS: energy and water data1.2 COMPLETE @ 3 STARS – low-cost items listed in 1.3 1.3 COMPLETE @ 3 STARS – impressive detail on savings!1.4 COMPLETE @ 2 STARS – EPA Low-Carbon IT participant; reduced 100 printers: new centralized devices all Energy Star-rated1.6 — 3 STARS: automated tool that schedules all necessary maintenance 1.7 — 3 STARS: solar wall on Nature Center; steam plant switching to a closed loop hot water system |
| 2. Private any two actions | **YES** | 2.1 — 2 STARS: free basic in-home energy assessments; grants/loans2.4 — 2 STARS: University of MN, Duluth campus has decreased water use across campus by 30% in the last 11 years; Lake Superior Community College has reduced their energy consumption by 11% and water by 57% since 20092.5 — 1 STAR2.6 — 2 STARS: $200 rebates are also available for boiler and furnace upgrades |
| 3. New action 1 or 2; one from 3-5 | **NO** | 3.3 COMPLETE @ 2 STARS -- UDC requires all developments above a certain size accrue a certain number of points from a listed Sustainability Point System or achieve LEED silver or above3.5 — 2 STARS: community gardens are permitted uses in all urban residential zones, and urban agriculture is allowed with a special use permit. Energy generation in the form of solar, wind, or geothermal are permitted uses in all urban residential zones |
| 4. Lighting/Signals 2 actions with one from 5-8 | **YES** | 4.1 — 3 STARS: thorough, detailed UD code on outdoor lighting applies to all city-owned, multi-family, mixed use, commercial, and/or industrial buildings in the city as well as all parking lots4.2 — 2 STARS4.3 — 2 STARS4.4 COMPLETE @ 3 STARS -- utilize a continuous signal timing optimization program, Synchro traffic 4.5 — 3 STARS4.6 — 3 STARS4.7 COMPLETE @ 3 STARS -- Dark-Sky, auto-dimming in 2 parking ramps4.8 COMPLETE @ 3 STARS |
| 5. Reuse any one action | **YES** | 5.1 — 3 STARS: HPC; 2 designated historic districts; has been a Certified Local Government since 19905.5 — 1 STAR: reuse of previously developed lands as the #1 principle that should guide development; all new development must achieve a certain number of points from a sustainability scorecard; parking minimums lowered if businesses share parking with neighboring businesses or existing parking structures |
|   **LAND USE: 2 BPs required; are 2 BPs done? YES** |
| **6. Comp Plan** **Actions 1 & 2** | **YES** | 6.1 — 3 STARS6.2 — 3 STARS: Unified Development Code updated 20196.3 COMPLETE @ 3 STARS -- ARDC Regional Planning (includes including transportation, emergency planning), Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council (incl. joint service, investment in infrastructure), Arrowhead Area Agency on Aging; WLSSD; County coordination (police, fire, foreclosures, housing programs & services)6.4 COMPLETE @ 3 STARS -- Comp plan staging map: highest priority is infill; order of development moves to 2 other land categories; design is to "retain the integrity of the City's green infrastructure"6.5 — 3 STARS: goal of 80% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from municipal operations by 2050; plan to reduce emissions from the city owned steam plant by 50% over 30 years |
| 7. Density any one action | **YES** | 7.1 — 3 STARS: MF allowed in all residential and mixed use zones (except Rural Residentials 1 and 2); efficiency units (min 380 sq. ft.) allowed in all mixed use neighborhoods; all residential and mixed use zones allow at least 10 units per acre, with many allowing far greater7.2 — 2 STARS: accessory dwelling units are allowed in all Residential zones7.3 — 2 STARS: multiple Coworking spaces7.4 — 1 STAR |
| 8. Mixed Uses any two actions | **YES** | 8.1 COMPLETE @ 1 STAR8.2 — 2 STARS8.3 COMPLETE @ 1 STAR -- PUDs can be used for mixed-use devlp.8.5 COMPLETE @ 3 STARS8.6 — 3 STARS: 9 Form Based Districts8.7 COMPLETE @ 2 STARS -- Some zone districts have height incentives |
| 9. Highway Development any one action | **YES** | 9.1 — 2 STARS: 2015 Skyline Parkway Corridor Management Plan9.2 — 2 STARS: Arrowhead Regional Development Commission; Northeast Minnesota Area Transportation Partnership; Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council9.3 — 2 STARS: Auto-Oriented Commercial zone replaced by Mixed Use-Commercial to facilitate clustering of development and reduce sprawl9.4 — 2 STARS: malls and big box stores-are located on the outskirts of the city along the main highway corridors |
| 10. Conservation Development any one action | **YES** | 10.1 — 1 STAR: comprehensive tree inventory was completed in the summer of 2019; 4 NR Inventories done; NR Overlay10.3 COMPLETE @ 2 STARS -- Individual stands protected under UDC; subdivision design protects "natural resources… to degree practicable"10.5 — 2 STARS: 2002 Duluth Natural Areas Program to permanently protect city/private significant natural resources10.6 — 2 STARS: Natural Resources Overlay is a zoning overlay designed to help protect water resources |
|  **TRANSPORTATION: 2 BPs required; are 2 BPs done? YES** |
| **11. Complete Green Streets** **1; & two additional actions** | **YES** | 11.1 COMPLETE @ 1 STAR11.3 COMPLETE @ 2 STARS -- road diet on London Road11.4 COMPLETE @ 2 STARS11.5 COMPLETE @ 3 STARS -- adopted Plan for Duluth's Bikeway System; Duluth Lakewalk connects to the Gitchee Gammi Park; constructing Cross-town trail - Lake Walk to the Northern MnMunger Trail.11.6 COMPLETE @ 2 STARS -- roundabout |
| **12. Mobility Options** **any two actions** | **YES** | 12.1 COMPLETE @ 3 STARS -- a Bicycle Friendly Community at the Bronze level12.2 COMPLETE @ 2 STARS – SRTS plan for 5 schools; active living campaigns and events that promote biking, walking, art, public transit12.3 — 3 STARS12.5 — 1 STAR: in 2019 Duluth purchased 4 E-Bikes for employees12.6 — 3 STARS: UMD student-developed scooter co.; focus on on increasing bus service frequency on currently existing lines; 96% of Duluth addresses lie within 1/2 mile of one of Duluth's 1640 transit stops |
| 13. Fleets any two actions | **YES** | 13.2 — 2 STARS: since 2016 5 hybrid vehicles purchased for parking enforcement replacing all old vehicles13.3 — 1 STAR13.4 — 3 STARS — 3 e-bikes; Police Department regularly uses bike patrols |
| 14. TOD / TDM any two actions | **YES** | 14.1 — 2 STARS — parking max. of 150% of calculated parking minimums; no minimum for DT, Canal Park14.2 — 2 STARS |
|  **ENVIRON MGT: 4 BPs required; are 4 done? YES** |
| **15. Purchasing** **1; and one additional action** | **YES** | 15.1 COMPLETE @ 1 STAR15.4 — 2 STARS15.5 — 2 STARS: recycled asphalt used in new paving15.7 — 1 STAR |
| **16. Trees** **any two actions** | **YES** | 16.1 — 2 STARS16.3 — 1 STAR: Development projects that remove trees must replace 10-50% DBH16.5 COMPLETE @ 3 STARS -- UDC has metric standards for landscaping and tree preservation during all development 16.6 COMPLETE @ 3 STARS |
| **17. Stormwater** **any one action** | **YES** | 17.2 COMPLETE @ 1 STAR17.3 — 3 STARS: any development that creates or redeveloped more than 3,000 sq ft of impervious surface are required to meet runoff standards; new/re-development required to match or reduce pre-redevelopment peak flow rates17.4 COMPLETE @ 3 STARS17.5 COMPLETE @ 2 STARS -- UDC uses PCA guidelines for rain gardens, grid pavers, green walls, among others; some BMPs required for building permit 17.6 — 1 STAR: pre-wet granular is used at all times; experimental brine  |
| 18. Parks & Trails any three actions | **YES** | 18.1 3 STARS: 82% complete on over 104 miles of multi-use trails so that every resident will be within 3 miles of a trail access, with many living much closer18.3 — 3 STARS18.5 — 2 STARS18.8 3 STARS: Community organizations include Duluth Invaders working to replace invasive with natives; ReLEAF; Clean and Green |
| 19. Surface Water if state public water: 4; and one additional actionif no state water: any one action | **YES** | 19.2 — 1 STAR19.4 — 3 STARS: restrictions apply within 1,000 feet of Lake Superior or within 300 feet of rivers and streams and special permits are required before construction, grading, or removal of natural vegetation19.5 — 2 STARS: unique challenges presented by the lake are forcing city staff and landowners to look for innovative new ways to protect the shoreline19.6 — 2 STARS: stormwater engineer works to insure there are BMPs in place to help reduce temperature (Miller Creek TMDL for temp.) |
| 20. Water / Wastewater 1 & 2; and one additional | **NO** | 20.1 — 3 STARS: 4 yrs. data for treatment plant; sewer/water enterprise fund had positive net income for last 5 yrs.20.3 COMPLETE @ 3 STARS -- total GPD I/I removed '9-'13 = 26.2M; overflows ceased; regular maintenance |
| 21. Septics any one action |  |  |
| 22. Solid Waste 1 or 2; & one from 4-8 | **YES** |  22.2 — 1 STAR22.3 — 2 STARS: Code requires separation of recyclables from trash; City licensing for haulers23.5 — 3 STARS22.6 — 2 STARS: MF required to recycle22.8 — 2 stars: projects can get points on the sustainability scorecard if construction materials come from recycled products or from things made or recovered within 500 miles of the sit |
| 23. Local Air Quality any two actions | **NO** | 23.5 — 3 STARS: Canal Park now has 7 level 2 chargers and 1 DC fast charger that are connected to a 45kW PV solar array |
|  **ECON & COMM DVLP: 3 BPs required; are 3 done? YES** |
| **24. Benchmarks & Involvement** **Actions 1 & 2** | **YES** | 24.1 — 3 STARS: 2019 Energy Plan Commission 24.2 — 3 STARS24.3 — 1 STAR24.6 — 3 STARS: EPC includes 2 college student members |
| **25. Green Businesses** **any two actions** | **YES** | 25.1 — 1 STAR 25.3 COMPLETE @ 1 STAR -- 1/2% tourism tax to fund future development and enhancements to the St. Louis River Corridor ( world’s largest freshwater estuary): trails connectivity, walkability25.5 COMPLETE # 3 STARS -- Old U.S. Steel Plant, Atlas Cement Plant, Clyde Iron Works; new Loll Designs, Duluth Heritage Sports Center |
| 26. Renewable Energy any two actions | **YES** | 26.1 — 2 STARS: wind power generation allowed as accessory use in all zoning districts; biomass a primary use in industrial zones26.2 — 1 STAR26.3 COMPLETE @ 3 STARS – PACE JPA with St. Paul Port; 1 deal close to close 26.5 — 2 STARS26.7 — 3 STARS: SolSmart Gold city since 2017 |
| 27. Local Food any one action | **YES** | 27.1 COMPLETE @ 2 STARS – UDC permits by right agriculture of some sort in several zone districts, including all residential zone districts27.2 COMPLETE @ 2 STARS27.3 COMPLETE @ 2 STARS -- 6 school forests; Duluth Farmers' Market since 1911, & 2 other FMs; Duluth Community Garden program on city-owned property; Duluth Park & Rec’s Edible Duluth program "aims to promote, develop and create sustainable and maintained edible landscapes on public property" (147 trees at 16 different locations) |
| 28. Business Synergies action 2, 3 or 4 |  |  |
| **29. Climate Adaptation** **Action 1 @ a 2- or 3-star level**(includes targeted emergency communications in appropriate languages to address vulnerable populations) | **YES** | 29.1 — 3 STARS: Emergency Operations Plans of various entities reviewed with the City to insure that regional responses can be coordinated; mass sheltering options are listed (all are ADA compliant) as are the locations of all backup generators in the city along with their tank size, fuel type, and maximum run times; multiple EM communications venues29.2 — 2 STARS: 2018 Population Vulnerability Assessment and Climate Adaptation Framework looks out 100 yrs.29.5 — 3 STARS: significant resilient rebuilding of the Duluth Lake Walk |

**DULULTH - notable actions**

* **Unified Development Code** provides “for more sustainable development within the city by reducing carbon emissions, vehicle miles travelled, energy consumption, and water consumption, and by encouraging production of renewable energy and food"
* **26.2 million gallons/day of I&I water eliminated** during work from 1995 to 2013; regular sewer maintenance continues to prevent sewer overflows
* **Outdoor lighting code** applies to all city-owned, multi-family, mixed use, commercial, and/or industrial buildings in the city as well as all parking lots; Dark Sky and auto-dimming provisions
* **Reuse of previously developed lands** #1 principle guiding development; all new development must achieve a certain number of points from a sustainability scorecard; parking minimums lowered if businesses share parking with neighboring businesses or existing parking structures
* **Goal of 80% reduction** in greenhouse gas emissions from municipal operations by 2050; plan to reduce emissions from the city owned steam plant by 50% over 30 years
* **Multi-family housing, ADUs allowed** in all residential (except Rural) distsricts; efficiency units (min 380 sq. ft.) allowed in all mixed use neighborhoods
* **Bike-Friendly Community** at the Bronze level
* **UMN student-developed scooter** co.; focus on increasing bus service frequency on currently existing lines; 96% of Duluth addresses lie within 1/2 mile of one of Duluth's 1640 transit stops
* **Parking maximum** of 150% of calculated parking minimums; no minimum for DT, Canal Park
* **Any re/development** that creates more than 3,000 sq ft of impervious surface is required to meet runoff standards; new/re-development required to match or reduce pre-redevelopment peak flow rates
* **82% complete on over 104 miles** of multi-use trails so that every resident will be within 3 miles of a trail access, with many living much closer
* **Community organizations include** Duluth Invaders working to replace invasive with natives; ReLEAF; Clean and Green
* **2019 Energy Plan Commission** includes 2 college student members
* **SolSmart PV-ready city** at the Gold level since 2017
* **2018 Population Vulnerability Assessment and Climate Adaptation Framework** looks out 100 yrs.