



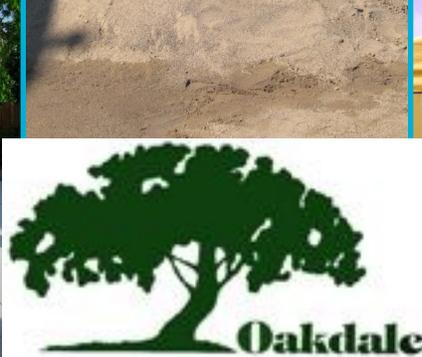
City of Oakdale



Generation Green



Sustainability Plan



City of Oakdale Generation Green Sustainability Plan

Table of Contents

Chapter 1: Environmental Management Commission Role	Page 3
Chapter 2: Policy Guides and Action Steps	Page 4
Chapter 3: Energy Conservation and Alternative Energy	Page 5
Chapter 4: Transportation	Page 10
Chapter 5: Surface and Ground Water Quality	Page 11
Chapter 6: Recycling and Waste Reduction	Page 12
Chapter 7: Open Space and Urban Forests	Page 13
Chapter 8: Community Health and Food	Page 14



Environmental Management Commission Role

The purpose of the Generation Green Sustainability Plan is to guide the Environmental Management Commission (EMC) and ultimately the City Council in their decision-making regarding best practice implementation as it relates to the MN GreenStep Cities program. Choosing best practices to implement that serve the dual purpose of also meeting previously established city goals creates greater overall support for sustainability projects.

The EMC's role as advisors to the City Council is established in City Code. The City of Oakdale established an Environmental Management Commission in 1994. Per Chapter 6 of the City Code:

The Environmental Management Commission shall act in an advisory capacity to the City Council and City Administrator in all matters pertaining to solid waste, recycling, composting, storm water run off, water quality improvements, wetland conservation and management, air quality, ground and drinking water, tree preservation, and energy conservation.

Specific responsibilities outlined in Chapter 6 include the following:

1. To assist the City Council in developing and reviewing policies, plans, reports, regulations, and other matters affecting solid waste, recycling, composting, storm water run off, water quality improvements, wetland conservation and management, air quality, ground and drinking water, tree preservation, energy conservation, and other issues affecting the environment that may be assigned by the City Council.
2. To advise the City Council and residents on solid waste, recycling, composting, storm water run off, water quality improvements, wetland conservation and management, air quality, ground and drinking water, tree preservation, energy conservation, and other issues affecting the environment.
3. To assist in the collection of background data to determine goals, policies, and programs that will maintain or improve the environment in the city.
4. To assist in preparing public education materials and methods solid waste, recycling, composting, storm water run off, water quality improvements, wetland conservation and management, air quality, ground and drinking water, tree preservation, energy conservation, and other

issues affecting the environment.

5. To recommend additional methods, policies, or procedures that will reduce the solid waste stream, expand recycling, reduce energy consumption, and/or improve the orderly disposal of solid waste.
6. To serve as the advisory body for any utility or program that pertains to solid waste, recycling, composting, storm water run off, water quality improvements, wetland conservation, and other issues affecting the environment.
7. To cooperate with other agencies, commissions and volunteer organizations to achieve common goals related to solid waste and the environment.

The actions taken and suggested in this Sustainability Plan will also help the City Council meet the broader city goals set in 2007 during a City Council work session and advisory commission orientation. Goals set during that work session that the EMC can help implement through this Sustainability Plan include goals relating to the city's financial stability; the effectiveness and efficiency of service delivery; and addressing water quality issues.



Policy Guides and Action Steps

The Generation Green Sustainability Plan identifies many of the goals the City of Oakdale has set in the 2030 Comprehensive Plan, the Bicycle and Pedestrian Systems Plan and the Get Active! Action Plan. In addition to the goals, some specific action steps were identified in each area. A summary of potential action steps to focus on in the immediate future are listed below.

Energy Conservation and Alternative Energy

Buildings

- Complete building energy audits every two years or as needed
- Replace furnace and air conditioning system at North Fire Station with energy efficient equipment as old equipment fails
- Replace air conditioning system and install radiant heat system in South Fire Station as existing equipment fails

Vehicle Fleet

- Replace existing vehicle fleet with more fuel efficient models as part of replacement schedule
- Complete a fleet study to determine feasibility of switching to a flexible fuel fleet
- Study potential for no idling policy

Water Delivery

- Look into conservation programs including, but not limited, to the following: rebates for low-flow toilets or washing machines, promote use of rain barrels or native landscaping to reduce lawn watering needs
- Work with school district for conservation education program

Transportation

- Maintain and implement park and trail plan to ensure provision of pedestrian and bicycle facilities
- Support addition of a Light Rail Transit (LRT) option from St. Paul to eastern suburbs
- Work with Washington County and MnDOT to encourage the repavement of Century Avenue so existing shoulders can be properly striped for bicycle lanes

Surface and Ground Water Quality

- Continue Adopt-a-Wetland Program
- Continue Tanner's Lake Clean-Up Program
- Promote raingarden installation

Recycling and Waste Reduction

- Continue Recycle Reward\$Program
- Continue Education at Local Schools
- Continue Education at Home Improvement Fair
- Promote the use of the Washington County Environmental Center
- Provide information to residents through the city website and other publications

Open Space and Urban Forests

- Pursue opportunities for open space preservation through the Washington County Land and Water Legacy Program
- Add a shoreland ordinance to ensure quality waters at the appropriate time

Community Health and Food

- Pursue expansion of trail link into Lake Elmo Park Preserve
- Continue to promote healthy eating with weekly farmer's market
- Provide option for community gardens to promote active living and healthy eating



Energy Conservation and Alternative Energy

In 2008, the Oakdale Environmental Management Commission made it a priority to quantify the amount of energy that city operations use, and consequently the city's greenhouse gas emissions (GHG). This was an important step to take not just because of the environmental benefits of reducing the city's GHG emissions, but also because it helps pinpoint areas where energy costs can be reduced.

To help meet this goal the City of Oakdale joined ICLEI's Cities for Climate Protection Campaign. ICLEI is an international association of local government organizations that have made a commitment to sustainable development. ICLEI offers technical consulting, training, and information services to accompany their Clean Air and Climate Protection Software (CACPS). This software allows Oakdale to take information on energy use and turn it into an GHG emissions inventory. In joining the Cities for Climate Protection Campaign, the City of Oakdale pledged (Res. 2008-38) to undertake the campaign's five milestones:

1. **Conduct a GHG emissions inventory and forecast to determine the source and quantity of GHG emissions in the jurisdiction.**
2. **Establish a GHG emissions reduction target.**
3. **Develop an action plan with both existing and future actions which when implemented will meet the target.**
4. **Implement action plan.**
5. **Monitor and report progress.**



Milestone 1: GHG Emissions Inventory

There are two items which make a complete emissions inventory for a community; the governmental operations and community inventories. Governmental operations includes all sources over which the city has operational control. Governmental operations are divided into 5 sectors, including:

1. Buildings
2. Vehicle Fleet
3. Water Delivery
4. Signal Lights
5. Waste

Each of these sectors contributes to the governmental operations overall GHG emissions. The first step in

completing the emissions inventory was to complete a building inventory that located, named, and mapped all the public buildings as well as all the wells, water towers, lift stations, and signal lights in the city.

Milestone 2: GHG Emissions Reduction Target

As part of the ICLEI Cities for Climate Protection Campaign, the EMC established GHG emissions reductions targets for each sector in our governmental operations profile for the next five years.

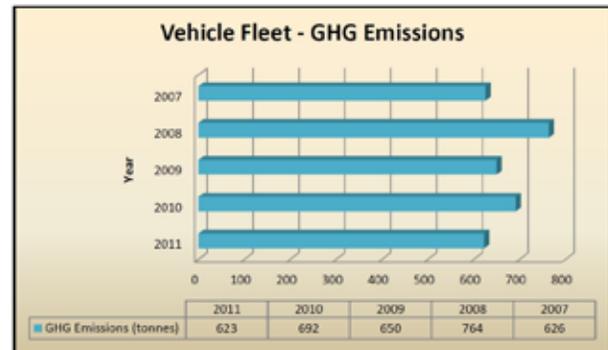
Buildings Sector

Because of the age of some of the city facilities and the equipment used in them, the EMC set a 15% reduction goal in CO₂ emissions from 2007 levels by 2013. A 15% reduction of 2007 levels will eliminate 141 tonnes of CO₂ emissions by Oakdale buildings per year.



Vehicle Fleet Sector

The Environmental Management Commission set a 25% emissions reduction goal for the City's vehicle fleet by 2013. By reducing emissions the City's vehicle fleet will eliminate 157 tonnes per year of CO₂ from being released into the atmosphere. It will also save the City thousands of dollars in fuel costs.



Water Delivery Facilities

While there may be some slight modifications and upgrades that can be made to equipment as it needs replacement, water conservation will be the key to reducing emissions from the city's water delivery system. The EMC set a goal of reducing CO₂ emissions from the water facilities by 10% of 2007 levels by 2013. This would eliminate 240 tonnes of CO₂ emissions per year.



Signal Light Sector

The EMC set a 2% reduction goal from 2007 levels by 2013 for signal lights in the City. This relatively modest goal is due to the LED upgrades that have been made to the signal lights already, which makes it difficult to achieve any significant reductions in energy use. The 2% reduction goal will hopefully be met by slight upgrades in the efficiency of the LED bulbs as they require replacement.



Waste Sector

The waste generated by the City of Oakdale is responsible for a very low CO₂ emissions percentage, most likely not making up more than 2% of total emissions by city operations. Unfortunately, the data available from the City's trash hauler is unreliable at this point and has not been included in the emissions inventory as it would not be accurate.

Milestone 3: Developing an Action Plan

Energy Assessments

Energy assessments were done at City Hall and both

Fire Stations in August 2008, and again at City Hall in 2011. The assessments were done through Xcel Energy's Conservationwise program, and included an energy profile of each facility as well as suggested conservation opportunities and analysis.

Several of the suggested opportunities were only recommended for installation when the current equipment needed replacement, such as the furnace and A/C at the North Fire Station, A/C and overhead radiant heat at the South Fire Station, and boilers, overhead radiant heat and rooftop unit at City Hall.

In the future, regular building audits will be completed to ensure that all equipment is operating at its' highest efficiency and any items that need replacement are included in the Capital Improvements Program as soon as possible. Audits should be conducted every two years, or as necessary if an under performing building is identified.

Moving forward, the Environmental Management Commission would like to focus on making sure that all city building projects (new or major remodel) meet the standards of the Generation Green Commercial Building Program and that all minor remodel projects use most efficient technology available.



Energy saving white roof installed on City Hall

Project Spotlight: White Roof Installation

The roof at City Hall had previously been scheduled for replacement prior to the completion of the building energy assessments, due to the age and condition of the existing roof. The City decided to use this opportunity to install a white roof and upgrade insulation on the facility instead of the standard roof replacement. The City applied for and received a rebate from Xcel Energy for installing the energy-saving white roof in the amount of \$586. Estimated energy savings from the white roof installation are approximately 845 kwh and 750 therms per year, which equals about \$32,000 in energy savings over the life of the roof.

Project Spotlight: FY 10 Energy Efficiency Upgrades – Federal Appropriation

In the Fall of 2009, with the support of Rep. Betty McCollum (MN 4th) the City of Oakdale was awarded a federal appropriation in the amount of \$400,000 to complete energy-related improvements to city facilities. Thanks to this funding, the city was able to complete the following improvements:

City Hall HVAC System Overhaul - The rooftop unit, condensing unit and boiler system in the PD portion of the building were all replaced in 2010 with high-efficiency equipment. These changes are expected to result in \$7,500 a year in energy savings.

Lighting Efficiency - Energy-saving lighting fixtures and bulbs were installed inside Public Works.

Water-Source Heat Pump System - This replaced existing HVAC systems at Public Works, utilizing a free city water source in the nearby water filtration facility to heat/cool the main building. It is expected that this system will save the city \$4,215 a year in energy costs at the Public Works building.

Insulation Upgrade - The Public Works facility did not meet state code requirements for insulation. Added insulation on the building brought the total U value of the insulation on the building to .069, bringing it within code parameters. Improvements

to the insulation are expected to save \$1,287 per year in energy costs.

Overhead Door Replacement - The overhead doors at Public Works were replaced with higher R-value doors to control heat loss.



New rooftop unit being installed on City Hall

Project Spotlight: City Hall Solar Photovoltaic System

After completing the necessary efficiency projects, the city chose to pursue a renewable energy option for City Hall. This was both for the economic benefit to residents, and to serve as a demonstration project for homeowners and businesses in Oakdale interested in installing their own renewable energy project. The city evaluated various



Public Works Groundbreaking From Left: Councilmember Kent Dotas, Economic Development Commission Chair Mark Landis, Councilmember Paul Reinke, Congresswoman Betty McCollum, Mayor Carmen Sarrack, Councilmember Lori Pulkrabek, Councilmember Stan Karwoski, Environmental Management Commission Chair Keith Miller

options and decided a solar photovoltaic system to be the most appropriate renewable technology for the facility. Installation of the system was completed in April 2012. The system will reduce energy consumption by 53,000 kWh annually; or 12% of total building use. Lifetime energy cost savings after payback is estimated at \$137,875. The city was able to have 85% of project costs covered by utilizing available rebates from Xcel Energy and taking advantage of a federal tax credit.



Solar panels on the roof of City Hall

Vehicle Fleet Sector

The City of Oakdale has approximately 100 vehicles in its fleet during any given year. This includes Police, Fire, Public Works and Building Inspections. To meet the EMC's aggressive 25% reduction goal in vehicle fleet emissions by 2013, more fuel-efficient vehicles must be worked into each department's vehicle replacement schedule. This could also include not only more fuel efficient vehicles, but ones that

are flex fuel capable so the fuel that is used would create less harmful emissions. A vehicle fleet study that evaluated the city's current fleet would need to take place to see if the use of flex or biofuels would be feasible. Other innovative ideas to reduce the number of miles traveled in general must be considered. This may include instituting a no idling policy or other similar measures. The Police Department has instituted a Five Year Replacement Plan on all of their vehicles. They currently use the Chevy Tahoe for most of their fleet. Due to the specific requirements for use as a police vehicle, they were limited in their choices, however PD has begun the processes of phasing in Dodge Chargers. This should increase the MPG achieved by the Police Department portion of the vehicle fleet.

Project Spotlight: Hybrid Vehicle Procurement

After completing the emissions inventory for 2007, one area that was identified for improvement was the Building Inspections Department vehicles. Both the building inspector and code enforcement officer's vehicles have high use, however each was getting around 12 MPG, and both were scheduled for replacement. The City used this opportunity to research and purchase vehicles that would both meet the needs of the Building Department and would significantly increase the MPG achieved to cut back on costs and CO₂ emissions.

After considering the availability of features requested by the Building Department, the MPG achievable, the annual cost savings and Consumer Reports rankings the field was narrowed to three vehicles; Honda Fit, Nissan Versa and Toyota Prius. Because of the estimated 44 MPG the vehicle could achieve and its hybrid technology, the City chose the Toyota Prius as the replacement vehicles. Using 2007 numbers, these vehicles will save the City at least \$2,200 per year over the previous vehicles.

City Council with Hybrid Fleet Vehicles

From left: Councilmember Lori Pulkrabek, Councilmember Paul Reinke, Mayor Carmen Sarrack, Councilmember Kent Dotas, Councilmember Stan Karwoski



Water Delivery Services Sector

The City of Oakdale has 13 lift stations, 8 wells and 4 water towers. They provide clean, safe water to the residents of Oakdale. Along with buildings, the water facilities are the highest energy users in the city.

A program that promotes water conservation will need to be created by the city for both the commercial and residential sectors. Some ideas for consideration include: rebate programs for low-flow faucet aerators, toilets and washing machine purchases; and promotion of rain barrels and native landscaping areas to reduce the amount of water used for lawn maintenance. The city could also partner with the school district, Washington County and the various watershed districts to create an educational program for residents to learn about water conservation.

Signal Lights Sector

There are 19 signal lights throughout the City of Oakdale, all of which were changed out to LED bulbs in the last few years. This is currently the most advanced technology available to reduce the kWh use by the lights.



Transportation

In 2010 the City of Oakdale adopted its' 2030 Comprehensive Plan Update. The Comprehensive Plan provides a framework for regional and local communication in planning issues including: land use, housing, community facilities, wastewater, parks and trails, transportation, natural and water resources. The comprehensive plan guides all future planning projects in the city, and as such the goals and priorities listed within are of the highest priority to the City Council. The following goal and priorities were set related to transportation in Oakdale.

The Metropolitan Council recognizes that transportation systems have limits for practical, physical expansion. They encourage metro cities to plan to move people and goods, not vehicles.

An important aspect to improving the overall livability of Oakdale is to provide a community that is accessible for all modes of transportation. The 2030 Comprehensive Plan lists the following goals for transportation systems in the next 20 years:

Goal 1: Collaborate with federal, state, regional agencies, and local jurisdictions on transportation issues to increase connectivity and achieve alternative forms of transportation.

- a) Maintain and implement the park and trail plan to ensure the provision of pedestrian and bicycle facilities.

Goal 2: Develop and maintain a safe, efficient and environmentally sensitive transportation system.

Goal 3: Promote a multi-modal transportation plan that is fully integrated with land use planning.

- a) Adopt and enforce access and mobility standards tied to a functional classification system for all of Oakdale's roadways.

Other ways Oakdale can promote reduced or alternative transportation to and from employment centers in the city include supporting:

- 1) The use of telecommuting as an alternative to physically moving people, central places of employment.
- 2) Staggered work hours to reduce peak traffic times.
- 3) The development of car/van pool programs.
- 4) Working with transit authorities to promote existing Park & Ride facilities and to identify new sites as necessary.
- 5) Support the addition of a Light Rail Transit (LRT) option from St. Paul to the eastern suburbs that could interconnect with existing and planned LRT lines.

In 1995 Oakdale completed a Bicycle and Pedestrian Systems Plan for future sidewalks and trails. The purpose of the plan was to improve transportation options for all residents and to provide additional recreation opportunities. Some core principles that were identified in the plan include:

1. Separating bicyclists and pedestrians where possible by completing missing links in the existing asphalt off-street path network to improve access.
2. Create a system of on-street bicycle routes that link all neighborhoods, schools, shopping centers with appropriate striping. In particular, Century Avenue should be repaved so the existing shoulders can be properly striped for bicycle lanes.
3. Improving the sidewalk system by completing key segments, especially by schools, and to rebuild existing sidewalks as they become deteriorated.

The City of Oakdale has already established itself as a Bike Friendly Community. By participating in the Lake Link Trails Network the city is connected to neighboring cities by bicycle and pedestrian facilities. Oakdale also annually recognizes National Bike Month and Bike-to-Work Day. In the future, the City of Oakdale has plans to build over 11 miles of new bike and pedestrian paths improving the connectivity of the current trail system and increasing the walk/bike-ability of the community.



Surface and Ground Water Quality

The 2030 Comprehensive Plan as well as the city's Surface Water Management Plan have a number of areas in which they seek to improve and maintain the quality of water in the Oakdale area. The three main goals of the 2030 Comprehensive Plan include the following:

Goal 1: Work to reduce negative environmental impacts of development.

- a) Create development standards that reduce impervious surfaces and utilize innovative methods of capturing and treating stormwater runoff.
- b) Enforce permitting requirements and utilize the appropriate level of regulatory authority.
- c) Develop and review building permit setback requirements for wetlands and water bodies.

Goal 2: Maintain and improve the water quality of wetlands and water bodies within Oakdale.

- a) Protect wetlands and surface water from deterioration and pollution. Conduct ongoing water quality assessments.
- b) Promote public awareness and ways for individual homes and businesses to reduce their impact on water quality.
- c) Promote partnerships with local agencies and governments to continue water resources planning.

Goal 3: Promote ground water recharge and work to clean-up contaminated sites.

- a) Protect wetlands and surface water from deterioration and pollution.
- b) Conduct ongoing water quality assessments.
- c) Promote public awareness and ways for individual homes and businesses to reduce their impact on water quality.
- d) Promote partnerships with local agencies and governments to continue water resources planning.

One way the city is currently working to achieve Goal 2(a) is through the Environmental Management Commission's

Adopt-a-Wetland Program. Residents and businesses are encourage to "adopt" wetlands anywhere in the city and pledge to assist with the following objectives:

1. Keeping the wetlands clean and free from trash and debris.
2. Helping monitor the area for illegal dumping and educating residents about the benefits of a clean wetland.
3. Monitor and remove invasive species such as buckthorn and purple loosestrife.
4. Educating fellow residents and citizens about water quality issues.

The Environmental Management Commission has also identified rain gardens as a way to improve water quality in the city. The EMC will work with local watershed districts to promote rain garden installation at commercial and residential properties.

Project Spotlight - Tanner's Lake Clean-Up

Another program protecting surface water from pollution is the Tanner's Lake Clean-Up. Tanner's Lake is the only recreational water body in Oakdale and provides opportunities for residents to swim, boat and fish as well as habitat for various types of wildlife. This volunteer event is held annually each spring and encourages volunteers to spend the morning in and around the lake removing debris that has collected over the winter. The event also focuses on problem areas around the lake that impact the quality of water flowing in, particularly the northern end of the lake. In 2011, 2 tons of trash, 90 tires and 1.45 tons of scrap metal was removed during the clean-up, with a majority of the debris coming from an area on the northern end of the lake that had been used as a dumping ground for many years.



A team takes to Tanner's Lake to clean out debris.



Recycling and Waste Reduction

To protect the public health, safety and general welfare of the community, the City of Oakdale requires collection of mixed municipal solid waste from every residential and commercial establishment in the city. As part of this collection, to reduce the amount of debris that ends up in landfills, licensed haulers in the city are required to include as part of their fee basic recycling services for paper, cardboard, plastic, metal and glass.

To increase the rate in which residents chose to recycle their waste instead of dispose of it, Washington County provides the City of Oakdale grant funds to increase recycling rates in the community. Some of the programs that are funded out of these dollars include:

1. **Recycling Rewards:** Each month three Oakdale residents are randomly selected, and if found to be recycling on their collection day, they win a \$50 gift certificate to a local business.
2. **Educational Articles:** Each quarter educational articles are included in the Oakdale Update, a publication that reaches each Oakdale household.
3. **Elementary School Education:** City staff spend a week each fall in a local elementary classroom educating students about the value of recycling and reducing waste.

To assist residents with the proper disposal of items, the Washington County Environmental Center takes a variety of hazardous materials, recyclables, and electronics for free from Oakdale residents. These items are recycled if possible, and the hazardous chemicals are disposed of in a safe and efficient manner.

Some materials accepted at the Environmental Center include:

- Paint, paint remover, stain, and varnish
- Fertilizers and pesticides
- CFL lightbulbs, mercury thermometers
- Antifreeze, used motor oil, propane tanks
- Electronics (computers, printers, TV's, DVD/VCR
- Household recyclables

The City of Oakdale also offers tips and information on the city's website on ways to reduce the community environmental footprint. The "Recycle, Reduce, Reuse" page provides information on ways to reduce waste, options for the donation of used items, and a listing of disposal and recycling options.



Open Space and Urban Forests

As Oakdale continues to grow and redevelopment occurs, protection of existing open space and urban canopy resources is critical. The 2030 Comprehensive Plan set the following goals related to open space and urban forests.

Goal 1: Continuously pursue a balance between Oakdale's built environment and its natural resource system.

- a) Through the implementation of the Parks and Open Space Plan and other tools, the City shall pursue the conservation of key natural areas and features and seek to create, restore and maintain multi-purpose greenway corridors that support nature protection and recreational uses.
- b) Utilize zoning and other regulations to ensure the functionality and compatibility of all adjacent land uses.

Goal 2: Establish and maintain a strong and ecologically healthy open space system and promote these features as significant community assets.

- a) Pursue opportunities for open space preservation through Washington County Land and Water Legacy Program.

Goal 3: Conserve and restore Oakdale's significant natural features.

- a) Add a shoreland ordinance to ensure quality waters at the appropriate time.
- b) Continue to implement a reforestation plan for the community.

There are a variety of tools and strategies available to the City to manage and protect its natural resources, some of which were identified in the 2030 Comprehensive Plan as follows.

Conservation Design Subdivisions

Conservation design subdivisions is the practice of designing subdivisions to minimize their impact to the environment by using low impact design strategies.

Conservation Easements

Conservation easements are voluntary and provide another tool for protecting areas from certain types of uses, and can help in the establishment of parks and

corridors or in the preservation of other open space areas.

Greenway Corridor

A greenway is defined as "privately or publicly owned corridors of open space which often follow natural land or water features and which are primarily managed to protect and enhance natural resources". The City recognizes the many benefits offered by a functional greenway system, and has identified both a community and a Regional Greenway within its boundaries. Strategies to avoid parcelization and fragmentation of existing natural areas into smaller sections are important for maintaining ecological function of the natural areas.

Education and Outreach

The City of Oakdale should pursue education and outreach opportunities for its residents to increase awareness of the City's natural resources and the importance of resource protection. The new Discovery Center provides an excellent opportunity and example for this type of education and outreach.

Intergovernmental Coordination

Coordination with other jurisdictions, including neighboring communities and appropriate watershed districts, provides opportunity for shared financial resources, as collaborative, cross-jurisdictional efforts often have better grant eligibility for conservation and planning projects.



TREE CITY USA

Community Health and Food

The City of Oakdale has previously established a Get Active! Action Plan, the goals of which include:

Goal 1: Increase awareness of the benefits of a healthy lifestyle, including good eating and active living, as well as the risks involved with disregarding this type of information.

Goal 2: Support increased activity and healthy eating habits by strengthening existing community programs and resources.

Goal 3: Establish partnerships with community health care professionals, local organizations, government and non-government agencies, School District 622, and other interested parties to work in collaborative actions. This increased capacity will allow for a broader range of active living initiatives to be put into place.

In order to reach these goals the city has established five strategies: 1) creating a community coalition, 2) improving a walkable/bikable community, 3) facilitating active transportation, 4) establishing school-based education, and 5) promoting healthy eating.

The City of Oakdale has been pursuing several opportunities to improve walking/biking options and active transportation by the expansion of the trail network. One possible expansion that would like Oakdale to surrounding communities is the Lake Elmo Park Preserve Trail expansion. A trail link from either 15th or 10th Streets would provide safe access for Oakdale residents into the Lake Elmo Park Preserve as well as to provide a connection to the Woodbury trail system.



Residents shop at a 2011 farmers market.

To promote healthy eating, Oakdale now hosts a weekly farmers market. Residents have access to fresh fruits and vegetables as well as other local foods such as bread and meat products. The farmers market typically features about 20 different vendors and has an average weekly attendance of 300 people.



GreenStep Cities Program

The City of Oakdale has taken the next step to help meet their sustainability goals by passing a resolution to participate in the Minnesota GreenStep Cities program. Minnesota GreenStep Cities is a voluntary challenge, assistance and recognition program to help cities achieve their sustainability goals through implementation of 28 best practices. These practices are tailored to all Minnesota cities, focus on cost savings and energy use reduction, and encourage innovation.

The City of Oakdale first became involved with GreenStep Cities when its Generation Green building program was used as an example of a best practice in the Efficient Existing Private Buildings and New Green Buildings category. Generation Green is a voluntary initiative program for the creation of energy efficient buildings. Any new or major renovated building prospects will enjoy a 15% reduction in building permit fees if it can be shown they met specific energy saving criteria. Any LEED Certified buildings will receive 20% - 25% off building permit fees depending on the certification.

Due to previous and ongoing efforts to increase the energy efficiency of city operations, the City of Oakdale has completed enough best practices to qualify as a Step 1 GreenStep City and was recognized as such at the 2011 League of Minnesota Cities Conference. Participation in the GreenStep Cities program highlights the community's commitment to sustainability and will also help the city in securing future state grant funds.

Best Practices Currently Implemented:

- Enter baseline and subsequent energy use information into the MN B3 Benchmarking database.
- Invest in energy efficiency opportunities through re-commissioning/retrofitting city-owned buildings.
- Installed an energy efficiency measure in a city facility.
- Provide a financial or other incentive to private parties who add energy/sustainability improvements or renovate using a green building framework.
- Adopt a Comprehensive Plan.
- Adopt climate protection or energy independence goals and link these goals to direct implementation recommendations.
- Add/expand transit service, or promote car/bike sharing.
- Right-size the city fleet with the most fuel efficient vehicles for their intended function.
- Certify as a Tree City USA.
- Maximize tree planting along your main downtown street or throughout the city.
- Organize goals from all city plans and show progress towards meeting these goals.
- Install a public sector renewable energy technology, such as solar electric (PV) solar hot water, micro-hydro or wind.

More information at:

greenstep.pca.state.mn.us

