

Ward 11 Newsletter

Council Member Scott Benson

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2008 Sustainability Report

The 2008 Sustainability Report is now available online. The annual report helps the City track their performance towards fulfillment of the Minneapolis sustainability indicators. Minneapolis sustainability indicators are general, high level, forward looking measurements on a specific topic. These 24 local sustainability indicators are centered on a vision for the community's long-term future and address linkages between various issues related to the indicator.

The City Council also approved 10 year targets for each indicator in order to set a numerical goal and provide better focus to what is being measured. View the current version approved by the Minneapolis City Council of the Indicators and Targets Chart.

www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/sustainability/docs/indicators-matrix.pdf

In an effort to be transparent and engage our residents and businesses, the City creates annual Sustainability and GreenPrint reports.

www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/sustainability/annualreport.asp

www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/sustainability/MinneapolisGreenprint.asp

The 24 Sustainability Indicators are grouped into three main themes:

GreenPrint

- Climate Change
- Renewable Energy
- Air Quality
- Bikeways
- Downtown Transportation Alternatives
- Airport Noise
- Tree Canopy
- Combined Sewer Overflow
- Permeable Surfaces
- Water Quality

A Vital Community

- Affordable Housing
- Homelessness
- Block Clubs
- Brownfield Sites
- Homicides
- Students in the Arts
- Graduation Rate
- Workers Earning a Livable Wage

A Healthy Life

- Healthy Infants
- Teen Pregnancy
- HIV and Gonorrhea
- Healthy Weight
- Asthma
- Lead Poisoning

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Important
Phone Numbers
Ward 11 office
673-2211
35W/Crosstown
Construction
Hotline
1-866-743-6590



City Council approves next steps to implement Instant Runoff Voting

The Minneapolis City Council has approved two measures that bring the city closer to implementing Instant Runoff Voting for local elections. Minneapolis voters approved Instant Runoff Voting in a 2006 charter referendum. Since that time, Minneapolis staff and elected officials have been working aggressively to address the issues necessary to conduct Instant Runoff Voting elections.

The Council's actions included approving an amendment to the City's elections ordinance that establishes the rules for how Instant Runoff Voting elections will be conducted, and how ballots will be counted for those elections. The Council also approved a Request for Proposals (RFP) for a vendor to provide election equipment and services to conduct elections using Instant Runoff Voting.

Instant Runoff Voting, also referred to as ranked choice voting, a voting system in which voters have one vote, but can rank candidates in order of preference. In a single-seat Instant Runoff Voting election, if no candidate receives an overall majority of first choices, the candidate with the fewest number of votes is excluded, and ballots cast for that candidate are redistributed to the remaining candidates according to the voters' indicated preference. This process is repeated until one candidate obtains a majority (50% or more) of votes.

Since voters approved Instant Runoff Voting in 2006, Minneapolis elections staff and elected officials have been working with the state of Minnesota and other elections officials to identify the steps that are required to conduct an Instant Runoff Voting election in Minneapolis. Before Minneapolis uses Instant Runoff Voting in a local election there are several key issues that must be addressed.

The next City election is 2009. However, it is not clear whether the equipment, certification and other issues will allow IRV to be used in that election. The City could also begin using IRV in 2013.

The most significant issues identified relate to the voting equipment, which must be certified by both the Federal and State governments. The equipment currently used by the city for elections is not compatible with IRV and is owned by Hennepin County, not the City of Minneapolis. The City hopes to identify a vendor to provide election equipment through the RFP that was approved.

Tell us what stands out for you in city's 150-year history

As part of our observance of the city's 150th anniversary, the City of Minneapolis is asking for the public's help recognizing the standout people, places, innovations and events from our history. Some of the Minneapolis highlights nominated by the public will be showcased during the City's official sesquicentennial, which is being held in partnership with the 2008 Aquatennial (July 18-27).

Nominations can cover a range of topics as diverse as Minneapolis: people (pop stars to political leaders); places (natural landmarks to architectural achievements); innovations (groundbreaking ideas to new products or inventions); and, events (world series games to an event from the early days of Minneapolis).

There are two ways to submit an entry. You're welcome to submit more than one entry but

please complete a separate form for each.

- Online - to make a submission online, please complete the online submission form at www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/150. Follow the "Minneapolis Standouts" link.
- Mail - to mail a submission, please download a submission form and mail the completed form to: City of Minneapolis Communications, City Hall, 350 Fifth St. S., Minneapolis, MN 55415, attn: Alicia Scott. Download a submission form at www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/150.

You will need to include your name and contact information, and information about your entry. You may submit non-copywrited photos for us to use along with your entry. If you do submit a photo, please include a descriptive caption. Please mail photos along with your name and the caption to the address above or to 150@ci.minneapolis.mn.us. Please note that photos will not be returned. If you have questions, you can call (612) 673-2148.

Although the official Minneapolis 150 celebration will be held during the Aquatennial, there will be a variety of sesquicentennial activities and events held throughout the year in partnership with the Minneapolis Downtown Council, Hennepin History Museum, Meet Minneapolis, Hennepin County Library, and others. To visit the Minneapolis sesquicentennial Web site, and to sign up for Minneapolis 150 e-mail updates, visit www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/150.

Win a home energy makeover

Are you interested in making your home more energy efficient, but know that it would cost a lot? Then enter the Minnesota Home Energy Makeover for a chance to win \$15,000 in free energy improvements!

The Center for Energy and Environment, a Minneapolis based nonprofit, wants to give energy-efficient improvements to one Minnesota house as part of a demonstration project. It will award up to \$15,000 to the homeowner for the makeover.

The project will demonstrate how making energy improvements to your home can save you money and help the environment. The improvements will also be showcased on the Minnesota Energy Challenge Web site.

Following the May 15, 2008 application deadline ten finalists will be selected through an application screening process aimed at identifying those homes that use the most energy and that can benefit the most from the installation of energy efficiency measures.

Each of the ten finalists will receive a complete energy analysis from the Center for Energy and Environment, an estimated \$600 value. Based on the results of the energy analyses of the finalists, one grand prize winner will be selected to receive up to \$15,000 worth of energy efficiency measures.

In addition, a random drawing will be held to select 25 winners who will receive a variety of prizes, including certificates toward energy star appliances, programmable thermostats, compact fluorescent light bulbs, appliance energy meters and more.

To apply, simply go online at www.mnenergychallenge.org and tell us about your home and why it should be selected for the Makeover Contest. For more information or to request a paper application, contact the Center for Energy and Environment at (612) 335-5852.



Monthly Community Meetings

<p>Field Regina Northrop FRNNG.org Meets Third Wednesday 6:30 PM Lake Nokomis Presb.</p>	<p>Hale Page Diamond Lake HPDL.org Meets Fourth Monday 7:00 PM Emmanuel United Methodist</p>	<p>Kingfield Kingfield.org Meets Second Wednesday 7:00 PM Martin Luther King Park</p>
<p>NENA Nokomiseast.org Meets Fourth Thursday 7:00 PM NENA Office</p>	<p>Tangletown Tangletown.org Meets Third Monday 7:00 PM Fuller Community Center</p>	<p>Windom Windomcommunity.org Meets Second Thursday 7:00 PM Windom Community Center</p>

Coffee With Scott

Whatever is on your mind, you can sit down with **Scott Benson** and talk about it over a cup of coffee, from **8:00 AM until 9:00 AM** at coffee shops around the 11th ward.

June 5	Anodyne 4301 Nicollet Ave	Aug 7	Betsy's Backporch 5447 Nicollet Ave
July 3	Mike's Corner Store 5601 Chicago Ave	Sept 4	Sister's Sludge 4557 Bloomington Ave

Open Appointments

The City of Minneapolis has more than 45 boards, commissions and advisory committees. These organizations, composed of citizen volunteers, advise the City on current issues and assist the City in policy development and administration of services.

Minneapolis Commission on Civil Rights (closes 5/30/08)

Minneapolis Workforce Council (PIWC) (closes 5/9/2008)

Minneapolis Planning Commission (Closes 5/19/08)

For more information:

<http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/boards-and-commissions/open/>

Electronic Newsletter

Council Member Benson publishes an electronic newsletter to keep you up to date on what is happening at City Hall. If you would like to receive this update, please e-mail me at scott.benson@ci.minneapolis.mn.us and put the words "E-mail Update" in the subject line.