

Ward 11 Monthly Newsletter

Council Member Scott Benson

April 2006

Volume 5, Issue 4

Minneapolis Sets Course to Become a Greener, Healthier, More Sustainable City

The Minneapolis City Council has approved a series of targets that will make Minneapolis a more sustainable, healthy and environmentally friendly city in the coming years. At the council's regular meeting on March 31, 2006, it adopted more than two dozen sustainability targets covering topics ranging from public safety and health, to tree cover and renewable energy use.

Sustainability targets include information on where the city is at today, and where we hope to be in five, ten, or 15 years. By setting clearly-defined targets, City departments can work toward attaining them by improving our operations and by working with businesses and residents to meet the long-term goals.

The sustainability targets approved by the council include a wide array of issues that impact the quality of life in Minneapolis and how the City and its residents interact with the environment.

Some of the targets include:

Carbon dioxide emissions

Reduce citywide emissions by 12 percent by 2012 and by 20 percent by 2020.

Renewable energy use

Increase renewable energy usage citywide to 10 percent above state and federal mandates by 2015. Minneapolis is already working to make many of its City facilities more energy efficient, and has installed two solar arrays at public buildings.

Tree planting

Plant at least 2,500 trees on public land every year through 2015 to keep pace with tree losses due to Dutch Elm Disease and other tree loss.

Downtown transportation

Increase number of people who get downtown by a means other than a single-occupancy vehicle to 67 percent by 2013. In 2003, the rate was 57 percent.

Inside this issue:

Personal Safety Workshop	2
Rain Garden Workshop	3
Neighborhood meetings	4
Coffee with Scott Schedule	4

Important Phone Numbers

- Ward 11 Office
673-2211



Bicycle lanes and paths

Add 44 additional miles of bike trails and lanes by 2015. In 2004, the city had 81 miles of bike trails and lanes.

Infant mortality rate

Reduce infant death rates citywide to 4.5 deaths per 1,000 live births by 2010. The 2001-2003 average was 5.7 deaths per 1,000 live births.

Children receiving blood lead testing

Increase the number of children between nine and 36 months old who receive blood lead testing to 100 percent by 2010. The 2004 the rate is 66 percent.

Adults at a healthy weight

Increase the proportion of adults at a healthy weight to 52 percent. In 2002, 46.8 percent of adults in Minneapolis had a healthy weight.

High school graduation rates

Increase graduation rates at the city's seven large high schools to 80 percent by 2008. The 2003-2004 graduation rate was 78.46 percent.

Neighborhood block clubs

Increase the number of neighborhood block clubs to 875. In 2004, Minneapolis had 800 block clubs that focused on public safety in their communities.

To learn more, and to view all of the sustainability targets approved by the City Council, visit:
<http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/environment/Sustainability-Initiatives.asp>

Personal Safety Workshop

The public is invited to attend a FREE Personal Safety Workshop to be held **Wednesday, April 26**, at Northeast Middle School, 2955 Hayes St. NE, 6 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Special guest will be Mary Brandl, self-defense expert. This workshop is conducted by the Minneapolis Police Department and Community Education at Northeast Middle School.

Please call 612-668-1515 to register.

FREE RAIN GARDEN WORKSHOPS OFFERED THIS SPRING

Minneapolis area residents have the opportunity to learn how to create a rain garden in free workshops and get a \$75 reimbursement grant for native plants and/or installation costs. The rain garden workshops are being conducted by the Minneapolis Blooms Program of the Committee on Urban Environment (CUE). Space is limited so advance registration is encouraged by going to the Minneapolis Blooms Program website (www.minneapolisblooms.org) or by calling 612-673-3014.

A rain garden is a shallow basin created on one's property which allows rain and melting snow to seep naturally into the ground. It helps recharge groundwater and prevents polluted water runoff from entering storm drains, which flow directly into lakes, rivers and streams. A rain garden beautifies one's neighborhood and attracts birds and butterflies.

Minneapolis residents may even reduce their monthly stormwater fee on their utility bill by keeping rain water on their property with a rain garden.

Each workshop has two sessions. Session 1 covers design options and the value of rain gardens, especially when they are planted with native perennials that thrive without fertilizers or pesticides. About two weeks later, in Session 2, property owners bring specific information about the site for their proposed rain garden and get hands-on design help from landscape architect interns. Master Gardeners will also provide recommendations on Minnesota native perennials that will thrive in rain gardens, whether shady or sunny.

During the second session, each workshop participant will receive a reimbursement form for the first \$75 of rain garden installation costs or for native perennials planted in their rain garden. Reimbursement grants are first-come, first-served, as long as funds last.

The rain garden workshops are sponsored by the Mississippi Watershed Management Organization (MWMO), the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District (MCWD), and the Stormwater Education Program of the Minneapolis Public Works Department.

Rain garden workshop dates and locations are outlined below. All rain garden workshop sessions are held from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., unless otherwise noted. Interested persons should register by workshop number, below (1-19).

Farview Park Community Center

621 29th Ave. N., Minneapolis

1 - Mon., 3/ 20 and 4/ 3

2 - 4/12 & 4/26

3 Mon., May 1 & 15

Logan Park Community Center

690 13th Ave. NE, Minneapolis

7 - 3/23 and Apr. 6

8 - 3/ 29, &4/17

9- 4/ 29 11 a.m. & 5/18 6:30 p.m.

10 - 5/ 4 & 5/16

11- 5/8 & 5/22

Linden Hills Park Community Center

3100 W. 43rd St., Minneapolis

14 - Thurs., March 30 and Apr. 13

15 - Thurs., Apr. 27 and May 11

16- Thurs., May 25 & Jun 8

Nokomis Park Community Center

2401 E. Minnehaha Pkwy., Mpls.

4 - Tues., March 28 and Apr. 11

5 - Tues., Apr. 25 and May 9

6 - Tues., May 23 and Jun. 6

Van Cleve Park Community Center

901 15th Av. SE, Minneapolis

12 - Wed., Apr. 19 and May 3

13 - Wed., May 24 and Jun. 7

Ridgedale Library

12601 Ridgedale Dr., Minnetonka

17 - Wed., March 22 and Apr. 5

18 - Mon., Apr. 10 and 24

19 - Wed., May 17 and 31

February Crime Statistics

NEIGHBORHOOD	TOTAL	Homicide	Rape	Robbery	Assault	Burglary	Theft	Motor Vehicle Theft	Arson
Diamond Lake	14						8	6	
Field	8					3	4	1	
Hale	5						3	2	
Kingfield	23				1	12	7	2	1
Northrop	9					2	4	3	
Page	1			1					
Tangletown	11			1		1	7	2	
Wenonah	12			2	1	1	6	2	
Windom	9					1	7	1	

Monthly Community Meetings

<p>Field Regina Northrop</p> <p>Meets Third Wednesday 6:30 PM Lake Nokomis Presbyterian 46th St. & 17th Ave</p>	<p>Hale Page Diamond Lake</p> <p>Meets Fourth Monday 7:00 PM Emmanuel United Methodist 5144 13th Ave S</p>	<p>Kingfield</p> <p>Meets Second Wednesday 7:00 PM Martin Luther King Park 4055 Nicollet Ave S</p>
<p>NENA</p> <p>Meets Fourth Thursday 7:00 PM NENA Office 3000 E. 50th St</p>	<p>Tangletown</p> <p>Meets Third Monday 7:00 PM Fuller Community Center 4800 Grand Ave S</p>	<p>Windom</p> <p>Meets Second Thursday 7:00 PM Windom Community Center 5821 Wentworth Ave S</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.

May 6	Sister's Sludge 4557 Bloomington	July 6	Mike's Corner Store 5601 Chicago Ave
June 1	Anodyne @ 43rd 4301 Nicollet	Aug 3	Betsy's Backporch 5447 Nicollet

Open Appointments

[Public Health Advisory Committee \(PHAC\) \(closes 4/21/2006\)](#)

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