
Environment and Sustainability Commission

2022 Goals

The Rosemount Environment and Sustainability Commission has set the following goals to pursue during 2022 as approved at its January 11, 2022, meeting. The Goals listed below are aspirational, and implementation schedules may extend beyond the year's end and change as the year progresses.

Goal: Industrial Air Permitting Research

Further expand the knowledge base of the Commission, residents, local businesses, and the City regarding outdoor air quality and industrial air permitting.

Actions

1. Provide information on the City website and otherwise educate residents on how to access current air quality information, industrial air permitting, industrial air permitting enforcement, and nearby outdoor air pollution sources.
2. Assist the City with dissemination of information on air quality/permitting violations or problems that affect the City and its inhabitants.
3. Tour local industries that have industrial air permits to learn about measures they are taking to mitigate impacts.
4. Research industrial air permitting and air quality issues, including best practices residents and businesses can take to reduce outdoor air pollution.
5. Invite guest speakers to future commission meetings from regulatory agencies to speak on industrial air permitting and air quality issues.

Goal: Greening City Operations

Update City policies, plans, and procedures to reduce the environmental impact of city operations. Use available environmental certification programs to help guide the City on where to make improvements.

Actions

1. Pursue implementation of BMPs that can advance the City to Step 3 under the GreenStep Cities certification program
 - i. BP 15.1 – Develop a sustainable purchasing policy
 1. Relates to Recycling & Waste Reduction Goal
 - ii. Develop a green city buildings policy for construction of new or retrofit of old City owned buildings
 - iii. Advise the City on other improvements that can advance the City's certification level

2. Document new city green practices in the context of the LEED for Cities certification program for a higher certification level at a future date
 - i. Research the LEED for Cities certification program further
3. Research successful policies, plans, and procedures implemented by other communities that reduce the impact of city operations on the environment

Goal: Water Conservation and Quality Protection

Promote and incentivize actions that improve water conservation, protect surface water quality, and protect ground water quality.

Actions

1. Promote Smart Salting strategies for winter de/anti-icing and snow removal for homes and businesses.
 - i. Research and promote the Minnesota Smart Salting for Property Management Certification program and other certification programs
 - ii. Research and promote publicly available education products and policy tools
2. Promote the Adopt-a-Drain.org program
3. Encourage planting for clean water practices and other stormwater reduction and water quality improvement best management practices (BMPs) at residences and businesses. Examples of BMPs include raingardens, native plant buffers along waterbodies, native plant gardens, and rain barrels.
 - i. Research and learn about programs that promote, provide financial incentives, or technical assistance for planting for clean water and installation of private stormwater BMPs.
 1. Dakota County SWCD Landscaping for Clean Water
 2. BlueThumb.org
 3. Lawns to Legumes
 4. Other programs available
 - ii. Promote and research how planting for clean water practices intersect with protection of pollinators and habitat.
4. Promote irrigation reduction practices, including the use of drought tolerant lawn grasses.
5. Make recommendations to the City on opportunities for water conservation and quality protection in City operations and policies
6. Stay current on best practices and new technologies for water conservation and quality protection.
7. Recommend the City continue to train staff responsible for winter snow and ice removal operations in practices that reduce deicer use.
8. Assist the City with efforts to educate residents, businesses, and organizations on the importance of protecting local drinking water sources (e.g. the aquifer) from overuse and degradation.

Goal: Recycling and Solid Waste Reduction

Promote programs and practices that move the City, its residents, and local business towards a zero waste future.

Actions

1. Develop a sustainable purchasing policy
2. Assist the City with efforts to install an organics drop site in coordination with Dakota County
3. Provide education to the public, businesses, and the City on recycling, waste reduction, composting, and organics recycling/composting.
4. Develop or assist the City with improvement on an education hub on the website regarding waste reduction topics.
5. Explore developing one or more actions under BP 22: Sustainable Consumption and Waste under the Green Step Cities certification program.
6. Research current best practices, new technologies, and successful programs by other cities regarding waste reduction, including programs discouraging single use plastics.

Goal: Energy Conservation, Energy Efficiency, and Renewable Energy

Promote programs, develop policies, and look for financial incentives to reduce energy consumption and transition to a greater share of renewable energy within the community.

Actions

1. Pursue an update the City's Energy Action Plan which expired in 2020.
2. Pursue policies and programs that encourage increased use of electric vehicles within the community, including installation of electric vehicle charging stations in town.
3. Promote programs and policies that educate and provide incentives to businesses and community members to switch to renewable low carbon energy and encourage energy efficiency.
 - i. Working in partnership with local utility providers is a key component of this action.
4. Research best practices, new technologies, and successful programs by others that promote energy efficiency and green house gas reduction and mitigation.

Goal: Pollinators and Habitat Protection

Promote best practices for landscaping and green space management within the community that encourage increased use of native plants and pollinator habitat.

Actions

1. Develop policies and a promotion campaign for No Mow May
2. Develop policies and promote bee lawns
3. Promote state and local programs that incentivize or provide technical assistance on planting for pollinators and habitat that focus on preservation and installation of native plants/ecosystems.
4. Develop a pollinator resolution and advise adoption by the City Council
5. Research designation programs that certify or otherwise recognize the City or city greenspace as pollinator friendly.
6. Look for opportunities within City greenspace to increase pollinator friendly habitats and incorporate native landscaping.
7. Research best practices, new technologies, and successful programs by others that promote pollinator and habitat preservation and creation.

Goal: Incentivizing Green Practice Adoption by Local Business

Promote adoption of green best practices by local businesses.

Actions

1. Develop a program or research existing programs that acknowledge businesses that implement green practices and encourage participation by local businesses.
2. Highlight local businesses that have won awards or have otherwise been acknowledged for implementation of green practices.
3. Provide information on the City website and otherwise educate local businesses on environmental incentive programs and technical assistance programs.
4. Engage with local businesses to learn more about impediments to adopting green practices and what green practices they would be interested in learning about.