



Inver Grove Heights Environmental Commission
Thursday, May 16, 2024 at 7:00 PM
8150 Barbara Avenue, Inver Grove Heights, MN 55077

AGENDA

NOTICE TO RESIDENTS: Individuals may submit written public comments in advance of the meeting by emailing comments to Rebecca Kiernan (rkiernan@ighmn.gov). Comments received prior to 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 16, 2024, will be provided to the Council at or before the May 16, 2024 meeting.

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Roll Call**
3. **Presentations**
4. **Approval of Minutes**
 - A. Approval of Minutes from the Thursday, April 25, 2024 Environmental Advisory Commission Meeting
5. **Regular Agenda**
 - A. Consider Recommendations for Sustainable IGH Awards
 - B. Discussion on Energy Action Plan Work Plan
6. **Public Comment**

Public comment provides an opportunity for the public to address the Commission on items that are not on the agenda. Comments will be limited to three (3) minutes per person.
7. **Commission and Staff Comments**
8. **Adjourn**

This document is available upon a three (3) business day request in alternate formats such as braille, large print, audio recording, etc. Please contact Rebecca Kiernan, City Clerk, at 651.450.2513 or rkiernan@ighmn.gov.

Inver Grove Heights Environmental Advisory Commission
8150 Barbara Avenue
Thursday, April 25, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

1. Call to Order

The Environmental Advisory Commission of Inver Grove Heights met in City Council Chambers on Thursday, April 25, 2024. Chair Goodman called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

2. Roll Call

Present: Chair Sara Goodman; Commissioners: Nichole Boehmke, Nick Ruiz, Ted Trenzeluk, Marjorie Savage, Kevin Sethre, Brian Barner
Absent: Patti Mikulski (unexcused), Vacancy

3. Presentations

A. Annual Stormwater Pollution Prevention Presentation

Steve Dodge, Assistant City Engineer, presented on the City's Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) to educate the public and meet the annual requirements of the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4) permit.

The PowerPoint presentation reviewed the following topics:

1. 2023 Achievements of Minimum Control Measures (MCMs)
 - a. Minimum Control Measures 1 and 2 (Public education and outreach, public participation and involvement)
 - i. Published four Insights newsletter articles on storm water management topics
 - ii. Offered Landscaping for Clean Water workshops (run through the Dakota County Soil and Water Conservation District, DCSWCD)
 - iii. Held annual public meeting on Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan
 - iv. Offered Garden Maintenance workshops (run through the Dakota County Watershed Conservation District, DCWCD)
 - v. Provided educational displays and giveaways at libraries and local events (with Eagan-Inver Grove Heights Watershed Management Organization, E-IGH WMO)
 - vi. Collaborated with local stormwater groups
 1. DCSWCD, DCWCD, E-IGH WMO, Lower Mississippi River Watershed Management Organization, Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources, Minnesota Cities Stormwater Coalition)
 - vii. Posted educational updates on social media
 - viii. Posted annual report to Minnesota Pollution Control Agency on the City's website
 - b. Minimum Control Measure 3 (Illicit discharge detection and elimination)
 - i. Updated storm sewer map on GIS (Geographic Information Systems) to assist with containment efforts
 - ii. Conducted annual stormwater inspections and responded to reports
 - iii. Reviewed illicit discharges and issued eight Notice of Violations
 - c. Minimum Control Measure 4 (Construction site stormwater runoff control)

- i. Monitored National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permits and issued 10 Erosion and Sediment Notice of Violations
 - d. Minimum Control Measure 5 (Post-construction storm water management)
 - i. Administered the City's Stormwater Management Plan (SWMP)
 - ii. Administered the Northwest Area SWMP, which has a higher storm volume requirement due to regional topography (glacially-formed basins)
 - iii. Updated Best Management Practices for the City's stormwater inventory (pipes, ponds, basins, aprons and pipe ends, control structures, manholes)
 - iv. Conducted three plan reviews; assisted with nine projects under construction and six development projects needing maintenance agreements
 - e. Minimum Control Measure 6 (Pollution prevention and good housekeeping for municipal operations)
 - i. Inspected stormwater inventory (Goal is to cover 20 percent of stormwater discharge points into ponds and all 280 control structures each year)
 - ii. Conducted maintenance and repair of facilities and structures as needed
 - iii. Swept streets using regenerative (vacuum-assisted) sweeper in spring, fall, and as needed
 - iv. Ensured proper storage of road salt and reduced road salt usage by pre-treating roads with salt brine as weather allows
- 2. Other 2023 Achievements
 - a. MS4 Permit Compliance
 - i. Updated the following:
 - 1. Educational materials priority list
 - 2. City-owned and -operated facilities pollutant monitoring priority list
 - 3. Enforcement Response Procedures (ERPs) for emergency work
 - 4. Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for standard work
- 3. 2024 MS4 Objectives
 - a. Construct stormwater quality improvements on City and County projects
 - b. Review private development agreements and construction
 - c. Provide annual training on Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination (IDDE), MS4, and NPDES
 - d. Make annual updates to City facilities map on GIS
 - e. Develop annual televising program
 - f. Apply for stormwater grants to provide water quality devices
 - g. Update Stormwater Capital Improvement Plan to identify more funding and revenue for storm system improvements
 - h. Update City's website with information on rain gardens, smart salting, IDDE, SWPPP, and yard/household hazardous waste
 - i. Continue to administer Northwest Area standards with new developments
 - j. Attend various organization meetings (LMRWMO, E-IGH WMO, MCSC)
 - k. Maintain Northwest Area and City stormwater models
 - l. Contract out major repairs of stormwater facilities
 - m. Continue routine stormwater facility maintenance
- 4. Opportunities for Public Involvement
 - a. Adopt a storm drain

- b. Help with storm drain stenciling
- c. Take a Landscaping for Clean Water class
- d. Volunteer at outreach events
- e. Serve on a water management organization board or environmental commission
- f. Get informed via local organizations' websites

Commissioner Trenzeluk asked why rain gardens are not part of the City's inventory. Assistant City Engineer Dodge clarified that they are included in the "ponds and basins" category.

Commissioner Trenzeluk asked about further promotion of rain gardens. Assistant City Engineer Dodge clarified that only about 5 percent of Inver Grove Heights soils allow for enough infiltration to make rain garden creation an efficient use of stormwater management funds.

Commissioner Trenzeluk asked about whether stormwater ends up in the Mississippi or an aquifer. Assistant City Engineer Dodge responded that in the Northwest Area, stormwater collects in the glacial till basins and then enters the groundwater. In other parts of the City, water is either piped directly to the river, or goes through a series of ponds and then is pumped to the river.

Commissioner Ruiz asked about particulate disposal after street sweeping. Assistant City Engineer Dodge answered that the particulate material gets landfilled due to contaminants.

Commissioner Ruiz asked about the efficacy of the Engineering Department's educational outreach. Assistant City Engineer Dodge answered that the MS4 annual report to the MPCA contains data on the number of people reached.

Commissioner Boehmke asked about how many storm drains are currently adopted. Engineering Technician Nicole Portugal answered that 30 storm drains have been adopted over the last year and a half of the program, with more expected to follow due to promotion at upcoming local events. Assistant City Engineer Dodge added that storm drain adoption comes with naming rights and encouraged people to check out the program and spread the word.

Chair Goodman commented that she put rain gardens in her yard despite clayey soil and encouraged people to take the Landscaping for Clean Water classes. Assistant City Engineer Dodge commented that rain gardens can work in a variety of soil types on private land, but that for public projects, the Engineering Department must consider efficiency (amount of stormwater captured) to get the most utility out of limited stormwater funding.

Chair Goodman asked about whether there are publicly accessible maps of stormwater systems. Assistant City Engineer Dodge answered that this information is not publicly available.

Commissioner Barner asked why the stormwater fee is assessed to property owners who live on properties without paved surfaces. Assistant City Engineer Dodge answered that all area residents benefit from infrastructure that maintains natural resources and encouraged the Commissioner to contact the Utility Billing Department with any situation-specific questions.

Commissioner Sethre asked about the purpose of the stormwater utility fee and what it is used for. Assistant City Engineer Dodge answered that the stormwater utility fee helps support maintenance of the stormwater management system. However, the fee alone is not generating enough revenue to cover the cost of necessary projects, so other City funds are also used, e.g., the Host Community Fund. In the past, the Pavement Management Fund was used to cover maintenance of stormwater systems, but this is not ideal and reduced the money available for things like filling potholes. Also, with more development and more stormwater management structures, more staff are needed for inspection and maintenance.

Commissioner Sethre asked whether the glacial till basins recharge the aquifer. Assistant City Engineer Dodge answered yes, they do.

Commissioner Sethre asked about quantifying and publicizing the return on investment of the City's reduced salt usage since 2007. Assistant City Engineer Dodge said that the Street Superintendent annually tracks salt usage, so the reduction of City funding spent on salt is trackable.

Commissioner Sethre mentioned that leaves in the stormwater systems are problematic. Assistant City Engineer Dodge confirmed that leaves and grass clippings decay in storm systems and cause algal blooms. Therefore, they should be taken to a compost site.

Commissioner Savage thanked Assistant City Engineer Dodge for the presentation and asked how people can get involved. Assistant City Engineer Dodge suggested contacting EngineeringInfo@ighmn.gov or calling 651-450-2570 and mentioned that City staff train volunteers.

Commissioner Savage asked about opportunities for youth group volunteering. Assistant City Engineer Dodge did not know of any off-hand.

Commissioner Savage asked about the biggest issues the stormwater system faces. Assistant City Engineer Dodge said more funding is needed. The Engineering Department is currently applying for a grant to help fund a multimillion-dollar project dealing with a large-scale pipe that's collapsing. There are many deferred maintenance needs - that's why getting funding for storm water maintenance is important. All citizens have an investment in the city infrastructure as a whole, and storm water is part of that infrastructure.

Commissioner Ruiz mentioned after taking a Landscaping for Clean Water class, he will be replacing his lawn with more native plants and asked about the impact of fertilizer use on storm water quality. Assistant City Engineer Dodge said that the Engineering Department's new Environmental Resources Technician is a native plants specialist and has been helpful with the new ordinance allowing native grasses and promoting fescues (grasses that grow shorter year-round and are more drought-tolerant). There are many other benefits to planting native grasses. They need less fertilizer. They have deeper roots which regenerate, creating porous areas in soil to help with water infiltration. They also provide pollination benefits for bees and insects. There are also natural ways to fertilize lawns that are less impactful. Assistant City Engineer Dodge mentioned the importance of not over-applying fertilizer and applying it at the right time.

Commissioner Ruiz expressed interest in replacing grass on public properties. Assistant City Engineer Dodge recommended reaching out to the native plant expert on staff.

Commissioner Sethre asked about the impact of federal rulemaking on local resources. Assistant City Engineer Dodge clarified that there are ongoing relationships with federal environmental agencies; for example, the City works with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, which operates within the EPA.

Commissioner Sethre asked if there is municipal leaf drop-off in Inver Grove Heights. Environmental Specialist Ally Sutherland answered that the City does not own/operate a municipal drop site, but South St. Paul has one that is open to all Dakota County residents (leaves and grass only). There are also private companies with drop sites.

Environmental Specialist Ally Sutherland brought up a recently created resource, the Yard and Garden page on the City's website (ighmn.gov/yardandgarden) and mentioned that it has lots of ideas and best practices for environmentally friendly yards and gardens. She also asked Commissioners if they had questions for Assistant City Engineer Dodge regarding Watershed Management Organizations (WMOs) as they have been raised by the Commission multiple times in the past. Assistant City Engineer Dodge mentioned he represents the city at the Eagan-IGH WMO, and another staff member represents the city at the Lower Mississippi WMO (LMRWMO).

Commissioner Sethre asked about what Watershed Management Organizations do. Assistant City Engineer Dodge answered that they promote environmental projects throughout the county and administer/run/teach classes. They also are responsible for protecting wetlands within the county and minimizing disturbance from developments. He also suggested visiting their websites for more information.

Commissioner Trenzeluk commented that it would be helpful to have representatives visit the Environmental Advisory Commission.

Chair Goodman mentioned that the Landscaping for Clean Water classes are open to anybody. She recommended them.

Lindsey Albright, 7105 Archer Trail, Inver Grove Heights resident and Water Resources Specialist with the Dakota County Soil and Water Conservation District at their Farmington office, said the City provides technical assistance with the Lower Mississippi WMO and the Eagan-IGH WMO on various stormwater projects and county partnership projects. She mentioned other Soil and Water Conservation District work including working with townships, churches, and landowners; maintaining water sediment control basins; running a prairie restoration program; and offering the Landscaping for Clean Water classes every spring. There is also a new pilot program this year - workshops on alternatives to turf grass (Apple Valley and Rosemount). These workshops are open to Inver Grove Heights residents.

Commissioner Sethre thanked Water Resources Specialist Albright for attending. Commissioner Trenzeluk seconded this.

Chair Goodman mentioned the DCSWCD's work on the Inver Glen Library rain garden project and Thompson Lake and Seidls Lake - there are many DCSWCD collaborations with county and city parks.

Commissioner Ruiz asked about ways to improve outreach. Water Resources Specialist Albright responded that the question of how to reach people with environmental information and opportunities is a widespread problem that's actively being worked on.

Sandy Honerbrink, 2318 75th St E, asked about whether where water used on grass goes and the water quality of local lakes. Assistant City Engineer Dodge responded that there are different stormwater conveyances in different parts of the City. The east side has limited stormwater ponding - it's an older part of the City, so lots of pipes go straight to river. Dakota County and IGH have added ponds where possible, but they are small because the area is more developed, so there's less land available. 75th Street is a more central part of City, with a pond system to store water and collect sediment. Newer developments, such as those around 80th Street, have bioretention ponds with native vegetation and specially engineered soils. There is generally a stormwater detention section and a stormwater infiltration section in these ponds.

Sandy Honerbrink, 2318 75th St E, asked if the lakes are drinkable. Assistant City Engineer Dodge answered that the City does not test lakes for quality and has no data to share.

Sandy Honerbrink, 2318 75th St E, asked who tests the water quality of lakes and about water supply quality. Assistant City Engineer Dodge answered that the Public Works Department is available for answering specific questions on water supply quality.

Commissioner Boehmke clarified that MPCA tests lakes and streams on a 10-year cycle. Sandy Honerbrink, 2318 75th St E, said that she had asked MPCA about the testing schedule and expressed dissatisfaction with the lack of clarity in MPCA's response. She expressed that more regular testing and more transparency are needed to ensure the safety of the drinking water supply.

Todd Kruse, 8891 Broderick Blvd, thanked the Commissioners for their service and commented that when he served as an Adviser for the Friends of the Mississippi River, he realized no one knew who owned the shoreline and that this was an issue when it came to doing outreach. He also commented on the shortage of volunteers for the Adopt a Park Program and asked the EAC to help promote the program.

4. Approval of Minutes

A. Approval of Minutes from the Thursday, February 22nd, 2024 and Thursday, March 28th, 2024 Environmental Advisory Commission Meetings

Motion by Commissioner Trenzeluk, second by Commissioner Ruiz, to approve both the minutes from Thursday, February 22nd meeting and the minutes from Thursday, March 28th meeting as submitted.

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0 Motion carried.

5. Regular Agenda

No items.

6. Public Comment

No comments.

7. Commissioner and Staff Comments

Chair Goodman mentioned the Sustainable IGH community recognition program to award those who have promoted energy efficiency, renewable energy, native landscaping, waste reduction, water conservation, strong community, and more. The application is open through April 30th on ighmn.gov/SustainableIGH. The application takes about 10 minutes. Please have project details and photos ready to share.

Environmental Specialist Ally Sutherland wished everyone a happy Earth Week and encouraged people to apply to Sustainable IGH's recognition program, mentioning that the first 20 people to apply will be sent a free yard sign to help promote the program. There have been 15 applications so far. She also mentioned that the next Environmental Advisory Commission (EAC) meeting will be May 16th and that the City is accepting new Commissioner applications for the EAC, Planning Commission, and Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission at ighmn.gov/CommissionerApp. The process includes an interview and City Council approval.

Commissioner Sethre shared a quote he found on the meeting agenda page of a 2012 Potable Water Working Group - "Water is the life blood of all living things."

Commissioner Ruiz mentioned that he met with two students from a local high school's environmental studies program and said he would contact the program's faculty about potentially getting more students involved with the EAC's work.

8. Adjourn

Motion by Commissioner Savage, second by Commissioner Boehmke, to adjourn the meeting at 9:02 p.m.

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Motion carried.



Environmental Advisory Commission Staff Report

SUBJECT: **Consider Recommendations for Sustainable IGH Awards**

MEETING DATE: May 16, 2024
ITEM TYPE: Regular Agenda
CONTACT:

PURPOSE/ACTION REQUESTED

The Environmental Advisory Commission is asked to review Sustainable IGH Award applications and make award recommendations.

BACKGROUND

One goal of the 2024 Environmental Advisory Commission Work Plan is to develop an environmental and sustainability recognition program for Inver Grove Heights residents and businesses. The intent of the program is to award and recognize community members and businesses taking sustainable actions in Inver Grove Heights, and to encourage and inspire others in the community to start taking sustainable actions at home or in their businesses. The Sustainable IGH Award application was opened on March 24, 2024 and closed on April 30, 2024. A total of 18 applications were received by the City, including 13 resident applications and 5 business applications.

Applicants may receive an award if they submit an application indicating they have completed at least one action in each of the following five categories: Energy Efficiency, Water Conservation, Recycling/Waste Abatement, Native Landscaping and Community. Those who rent their home or business are excluded from the landscaping action requirement. If at least one action is completed within each category, the applicant is eligible for a Bronze Award. Applicants can achieve a higher award level, such as Silver or Gold, by completing more actions. There is no limit to the number of applicants that can receive each award; the only requirement is showcasing how many actions the resident or business completed. The award types and number of actions required to receive each award are shown below:

- **Bronze Award:** 5 required actions
- **Silver Award:** 5 required actions + 5 additional actions
- **Gold Award:** 5 required actions + 10 additional actions

Staff reviewed each application to determine how many actions the applicants completed and assigned a recommended award level accordingly. Award level recommendations for each applicant are listed on the Applications Summary attachment. This document also includes each application submitted to the City. All program awardees will receive a printed award, printed certificate, and durable yard sign.

The City Council may also select one resident and one business each year to receive a Special

Recognition Award and plaque for demonstrating significant achievements. The Environmental Advisory Commission is asked to make a recommendation for Special Recognition Award recipients. It is not required that this award be presented each year. It is up to the EAC and City Council to determine if applicants meet the expectations for this award. To assist the EAC in making a Special Recognition Award recommendation(s), the EAC may wish to consider questions such as the following when reviewing each application:

- Does the application include one or more innovative and/or high impact actions?
- Do the applicant's achievements have a high potential to inspire other residents or businesses to take similar actions?
- How many actions has the applicant completed, and how many were completed in each category?

The EAC is asked to make award recommendations for each applicant. The City Council will review the recommendations at the June 10, 2024 City Council meeting for consideration of approval. Awardees will be recognized in-person at the June 24, 2024 City Council meeting.

FISCAL IMPACT

Xcel Energy Partners In Energy will pay for all printed awards, printed certificates, yard signs and award plaques with the \$2,000 budget allocated to the City through the 2024 Xcel Energy Partners In Energy Memorandum of Understanding.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommend making award recommendations for each Sustainable IGH Award applicant.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Applications Summary

2024 Sustainable IGH Award Applications

Summary of Applications

- 18 applications received. All are included in this packet, organized in alphabetical order.
 - o Resident applications (page 2)
 - o Business applications (page 38)
- 13 resident applications
 - o 2 silver award recommendations (completed 5 required actions + 5 additional actions)
 - o 11 gold award recommendations (completed 5 required actions + 10 additional actions)
- 5 business applications
 - o 5 gold recommendations (completed 5 required actions + 10 additional actions)

Applicant	Type	Energy	Landscaping & Water	Waste	Community	Required Actions	Additional Actions	Total Actions	Award Type
Amanda Braith (pg. 2)	Resident	1	3	7	1	5	7	12	Silver
Amy Hunting (pg. 3)	Resident	1	10	11	1	5	18	23	Gold
Robert Heidenreich (pg. 9)	Resident	10	18	12	3	5	38	43	Gold
Charlotte Svobodny (pg. 14)	Resident	4	6	13	2	5	20	25	Gold
Chris and Sara Goodman (pg. 16)	Resident	8	11	12	3	5	29	34	Gold
Chris Garnsworthy (pg. 19)	Resident	9	9	13	2	5	28	33	Gold
Elizabeth Ziebarth (pg. 21)	Resident	3	10	7	2	5	17	22	Gold
Ella Wilsey (pg. 22)	Resident	5	6	8	2	5	16	21	Gold
Jeff Parsons (pg. 24)	Resident	8	20	14	2	5	39	44	Gold
Karen Asmundson (pg. 27)	Resident	6	14	17	1	5	33	38	Gold
Kim Browning (pg. 31)	Resident	8	19	12	3	5	37	42	Gold
Laura Grevas (pg. 35)	Resident	5	5	14	1	5	20	25	Gold
Roodly Richard (pg. 37)	Resident	1	5	6	2	5	9	14	Silver
Gramercy Park Cooperative (pg. 38)	Business	4	12	12	3	5	26	31	Gold
Inver Glen Library (pg. 43)	Business	4	5	12	6	5	22	27	Gold
Key Community Bank (pg. 46)	Business	4	3	5	6	5	13	18	Gold
Oyespa (pg. 48)	Business	7	7	9	10	5	28	33	Gold
Republic Services (pg. 52)	Business	6	2	12	6	5	21	26	Gold

Applications - Residents

Applicant	Amanda Braith, Resident
Total Required Actions Completed	5
Total Additional Actions Completed	+7
Award Recommendation	Silver
Energy Actions	- Use a programmable thermostat.
Landscaping & Water Actions	- Buy locally grown produce or grow your own food. - Wait until the dishwasher or washing machine is fully loaded before running it. - Take shorter showers.
Waste Actions	- Recycle at your home or business following Dakota County's recycling rules. - Prevent unwanted mail by unsubscribing from mailing lists. - Shop secondhand at brick-and-mortar stores, garage sales or through online outlets such as Facebook, Nextdoor, Craigslist, or ThredUP. - Sell gently used goods at a local donation center, garage sale or online outlets. - Use reusable bags, mugs, and to-go containers, utensils and napkins. - Use the City's online Recycling Guide to find out where to get rid of hundreds of unwanted items. - Utilize The Recycling Zone to dispose of hazardous waste, small electronics, recyclables and more.
Community Actions	- Volunteer or donate to benefit the IGH community.
Additional Comments	- N/A
Photos	- N/A

Applicant	Amy Hunting, Resident
Total Required Actions Completed	5
Total Additional Actions Completed	+18
Award Recommendation	Gold
Energy Actions	- Use LED bulbs for all lighting.
Landscaping & Water Actions	- Remove invasive vegetation and diseased or infested trees from your property: <i>Our Buck-thorn clearing has been a many years' project that keeps going on, but the results are great, and we have started several other people in the area to clear theirs out. It is really a bad problem around us, and we have used suggestions from the county and the DNR on removal. See photo.</i> - If recommended by a certified arborist, treat trees to prevent or mitigate emerald ash borer infestations, oak wilt or other tree diseases. - Buy locally grown produce or grow your own food. - Install bird or bat houses on your property. - Leave grass 2 ½ - 3 ½ inches high during hot weather to promote deep root growth and shade the growth crowns. - Wait until the dishwasher or washing machine is fully loaded before running it. - Additional Action: <i>We have a bee/pollinator lawn in a sunny spot. We also did hop on the No MOW MAY train and have a couple of signs that we put up on our bee lawn area. We wait until the dandelion's flower, and when they begin to wilt, we do our first mowing - before they go to seed. Other neighbors' comment that they would like to do the same in coming years.</i> - Additional Action: <i>I made a bee bath because I found out that bees need a water source, so I went on-line and found how to make one. I used a glass dish with small rocks for them to land on and filled it with water so the tops of the rocks had room for them to land on and keep dry. Well, we saw a few bees go to it, but what they decided they wanted instead was a decorative bird bath (I sent you a picture of it) that has a giant bee painted in the glass. It must look like a Mother Bee or something to them- so anyway we let them decide what they wanted and we make sure it only has a little water in it so they can stand on the edges and drink without going into the water and possibly drowning. See photo.</i> - Additional Action: <i>Keep fallen trees for pollinator habitat</i> - Additional Action: <i>For several years now we have been planting native cone flowers. They multiply by themselves if you let them, and we have noticed that butterfly's love them. We also have a lot of neighbors and even people in cars that stop to ask us about them and notice the butterfly activity. See photo.</i>

Waste Actions	- Recycle at your home following Dakota County's recycling rules. - Reduce food waste by meal planning, storing food properly, and more. - Prevent unwanted mail by unsubscribing from mailing lists. - Use homemade green cleaners or Safer Choice cleaning products. - Participate in a Community Swap. - Rent equipment such as tools, outdoor gear and event supplies instead of buying. - Shop secondhand at brick-and-mortar stores, garage sales or through online outlets such as Facebook, Nextdoor, Craigslist, or ThredUP. - Sell gently used goods at a local donation center, garage sale or online outlets. - Use reusable bags, mugs, and to-go containers, utensils and napkins. - Use the City's online Recycling Guide to find out where to get rid of hundreds of unwanted items. - Utilize The Recycling Zone to dispose of hazardous waste, small electronics, recyclables and more.
Community Actions	- Participate on a local community board.
Additional Comments	- N/A
Photos	- Here are photos of bird houses that we have hung on our property (bluebird, woodpecker, robin, chickadee). - This is a picture of our bee lawn which is made up of natural grasses, white clover, common violets and dandelions. - This is a close up photo of what we use for a bee bath. The bees love to drink water out of it. - Here is a photo of our pollinator garden showing native cone flowers. - This is a photo showing areas of our lot where we have cleared invasive buckthorn. - This a photo of a sample of a harvest from our home vegetable garden. - Here is a photo from last year of our spring grass that we left with leaves, sticks and growth until the dandelions flowered and then the grass was mowed before they went to seed which we will be doing this year.

Amy Hunting, Resident



No Mow May.jpg



Pollinator Garden 2.JPG



Pollinator Garden.jpg



Vegetables from home garden.jpg

Amy Hunting, Resident



Bee bath 2.jpg



Bee bath.jpg



Bee lawn 2.jpg



Bee lawn.jpg



Bird House 2.jpg



Bird House 3.jpg



Bird House 4.jpg



Bird House 5.jpg

Amy Hunting, Resident



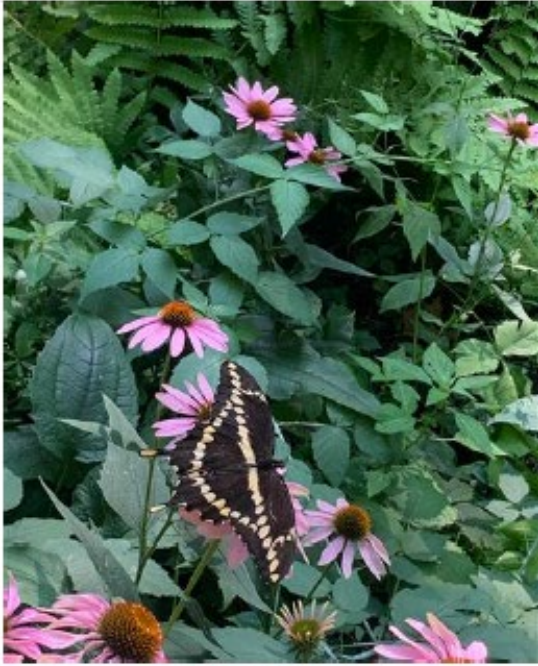
Bird House.jpg



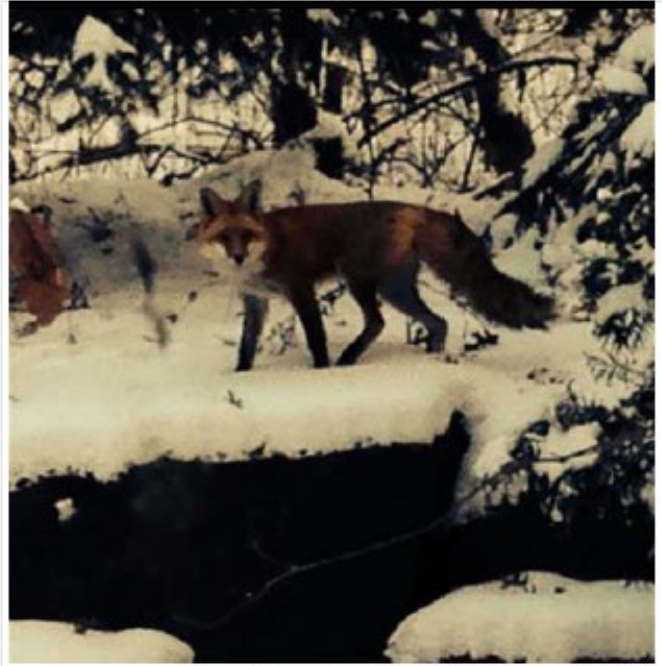
Buckthorn Clearing.jpg

Applicant	Robert Heidenreich, Resident
Total Required Actions Completed	5
Total Additional Actions Completed	+38
Award Recommendation	Gold
Energy Actions	- Use LED bulbs for all lighting. - Use a programmable thermostat. - Use an EnergyStar appliance or upgraded to more energy efficient appliances. - Participate in an energy savings program through Xcel Energy or Dakota Electric. - Utilized rebates on energy efficient or renewable energy powered products. - Drive an electric vehicle or purchase fleet electric vehicles. - Installed an electric vehicle charging station. - Additional Action: <i>I upgraded most windows, replaced all the attic insulation with foam then fiberglass blown in.</i> - Additional Action: <i>All my doors have new weatherstripping except one.</i> - Additional Action: <i>Removed all the siding and added Tyvek then resided.</i>
Landscaping & Water Actions	- Plant a low-maintenance turf lawn with species such as fine fescues, buffalo grass, blue gramma, pussytoes, etc. - Remove invasive vegetation and diseased or infested trees from your property. - If recommended by a certified arborist, treat trees to prevent or mitigate emerald ash borer infestations, oak wilt or other tree diseases. - Buy locally grown produce or grow your own food. - Use locally made compost in gardens or landscaping. - Install bird or bat houses on your property. - Leave grass 2 ½ - 3 ½ inches high during hot weather to promote deep root growth and shade the growth crowns. - Follow the City's Smart Salting guidelines in winter. - Replace older toilets with WaterSense-labeled, high-efficiency toilets. - Replace faucets and showerheads with WaterSense-labeled, high-efficiency versions. - Select an Energy Star-approved washing machine. - Wait until the dishwasher or washing machine is fully loaded before running it. - Take shorter showers. - Utilize rebates on water-efficient products. - Additional Action: <i>I host 40 bee hives for approximately 1.2M bees.</i> - Additional Action: <i>Don't water except new plant as needed. I don't have an irrigation system 90% of my property is Deciduous Forest.</i>

	- Additional Action: <i>My Gardens are specifically planted to support my bee hives and all the native pollinators at my home. These plants draw many types of butterflies, bumble bees, and lots of birds that enjoy the area.</i> - Additional Action: <i>Store rainwater for use on property.</i>
Waste Actions	- Recycle at your home following Dakota County's recycling rules. - Prevent unwanted mail by unsubscribing from mailing lists. - Use homemade green cleaners or Safer Choice cleaning products. - Shop secondhand at brick-and-mortar stores, garage sales or through online outlets such as Facebook, Nextdoor, Craigslist, or ThredUP. - Sell gently used goods at a local donation center, garage sale or online outlets. - Use reusable bags, mugs, and to-go containers, utensils and napkins. - Compost organics via a residential organics drop-off, at home or at your business. - Use the City's online Recycling Guide to find out where to get rid of hundreds of unwanted items. - Attend a City residential special collections event to recycle unwanted items such as Clean-Up Day or Paper Shredding Collection. - Join a tour of local recycling facilities. - Utilize The Recycling Zone to dispose of hazardous waste, small electronics, recyclables and more. - Additional Actions: <i>Report illegal dumping if witnessed or recorded on security cameras.</i>
Community Actions	- Offer free or reduced-cost assistance to a neighbor(s) in need. - Participate on a local community board. - Volunteer or donate to benefit the IGH community: <i>I donate free firewood cut and split to the community.</i>
Additional Comments	- N/A
Photos	- See below.



IMG_1417.jpeg



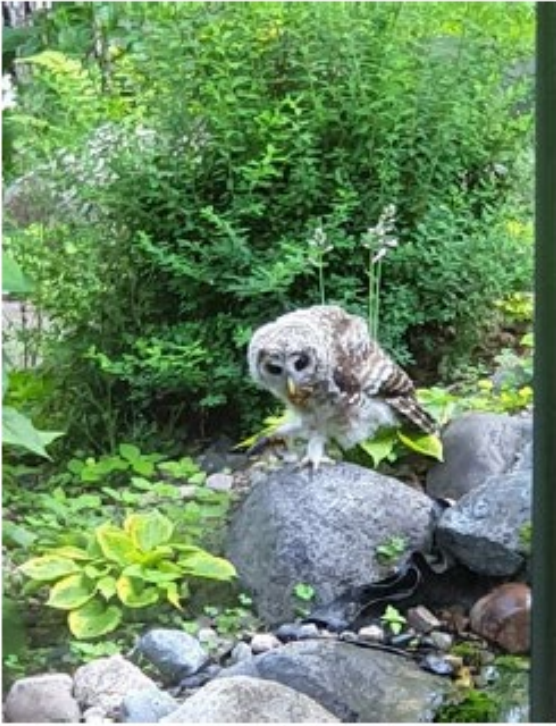
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IMG_1373.jpeg



IMG_1376.jpeg



IMG_1418.jpeg



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IMG_1416.jpeg



IMG_1413.jpeg

Robert Heidenreich, Resident



image.jpg



IMG_1419.jpeg



Applicant	Charlotte Svobodny, Resident
Total Required Actions Completed	5
Total Additional Actions Completed	+20
Award Recommendation	Gold
Energy Actions	- Use LED bulbs for all lighting. - Use a programmable thermostat. - Use an EnergyStar appliance or upgraded to more energy efficient appliances. - Participate in an energy savings program through Xcel Energy or Dakota Electric.
Landscaping & Water Actions	- Buy locally grown produce or grow your own food. - Install bird or bat houses on your property. - Leave grass 2 ½ - 3 ½ inches high during hot weather to promote deep root growth and shade the growth crowns. - Follow the City's Smart Salting guidelines in winter. - Take shorter showers. - Additional Action: <i>Watering the lawn only as needed. I've let it go dormant during drought periods.</i>
Waste Actions	- Recycle at your home following Dakota County's recycling rules. - Reduce food waste by meal planning, storing food properly, and more. - Prevent unwanted mail by unsubscribing from mailing lists. - Use homemade green cleaners or Safer Choice cleaning products. - Shop secondhand at brick-and-mortar stores, garage sales or through online outlets such as Facebook, Nextdoor, Craigslist, or ThredUP. - Sell gently used goods at a local donation center, garage sale or online outlets. - Use reusable bags, mugs, and to-go containers, utensils and napkins. - Compost organics via a residential organics drop-off, at home or at your business. - Use the City's online Recycling Guide to find out where to get rid of hundreds of unwanted items. - Participate in the Dakota County Recycling Ambassador Program. - Attend a City residential special collections event to recycle unwanted items such as Clean-Up Day or Paper Shredding Collection. - Join a tour of local recycling facilities. - Utilize The Recycling Zone to dispose of hazardous waste, small electronics, recyclables and more.
Community Actions	- Volunteer or donate to benefit the IGH community. - Offer free or reduced-cost assistance to a neighbor(s) in need.

Additional Comments	- <i>I've been working toward native plants and had nature surprise me with heirloom double Rudbeckia golden glow a/k/a Cutleaf Coneflower native to MN. Another nickname for it is Outhouse Flower because it grew around them a lot. I very much encourage them!</i> - <i>I saw my first hummingbird in IGH around some years ago</i>
Photos	- N/A

Applicant	Chris & Sara Goodman, Resident
Total Required Actions Completed	5
Total Additional Actions Completed	+29
Award Recommendation	Gold
Energy Actions	- Use a programmable thermostat. - Participate in an energy savings program through Xcel Energy or Dakota Electric. - Utilized rebates on energy efficient or renewable energy powered products. - Power your property with renewable energy with solar panels, wind power or geothermal: <i>Solar Panels have completely eliminated our electric bill and we are producing more than we use in a year and eating into our gas bill with the surplus of production. Our neighbors have been super curious to get solar or plant a raingarden based on our positive fiscal and overall aesthetic of the projects.</i> - Bike, ride share, or take public transportation as primary source of transportation. - Additional Action: <i>We have two hybrid vehicles with 30+ miles per gallon</i> - Additional Action: <i>Last year we invested in Marvin Windows for the entire house which have been great as they have energy saving features plus we had them installed and all installation and including sealing around the windows with both wrap and foam.</i> - Additional Action: <i>Home Energy Squad did an analysis at some point over the past 10 years as we got the option of water efficient shower nozzles and our two doors they indicated needed new weather stripping.</i>
Landscaping & Water Actions	- Build a rain garden on your property per the City guidelines. - Use a Landscaping for Clean Water grant from Dakota County Soil & Water Conservation District to complete a Landscaping for Clean Water project, including rain gardens and more: <i>Both of our Raingardens were recognized by the county and featured in their advertising of the program. Our neighbors have been super curious to get solar or plant a raingarden based on our positive fiscal and overall aesthetic of the projects. We have less squishiness/ water saturation, in our back yard as a result of our raingardens.</i> - If recommended by a certified arborist, treat trees to prevent or mitigate emerald ash borer infestations, oak wilt or other tree diseases. - Collect rainwater in a rain barrel or other grey water systems to water your landscaping and trees. - Buy locally grown produce or grow your own food. - Use locally made compost in gardens or landscaping. - Take one or more Landscaping for Clean Water classes.

	- Install bird or bat houses on your property. - Follow the City's Smart Salting guidelines in winter. - Wait until the dishwasher or washing machine is fully loaded before running it. - Take shorter showers.
Waste Actions	- Recycle at your home following Dakota County's recycling rules. - Reduce food waste by meal planning, storing food properly, and more. - Prevent unwanted mail by unsubscribing from mailing lists. - Use homemade green cleaners or Safer Choice cleaning products. - Participate or volunteer at a Dakota County Fix-It Clinic. - Rent equipment such as tools, outdoor gear and event supplies instead of buying. - Shop secondhand at brick-and-mortar stores, garage sales or through online outlets such as Facebook, Nextdoor, Craigslist, or ThredUP. - Sell gently used goods at a local donation center, garage sale or online outlets. - Use reusable bags, mugs, and to-go containers, utensils and napkins. - Compost organics via a residential organics drop-off, at home or at your business. - Join a tour of local recycling facilities. - Utilize The Recycling Zone to dispose of hazardous waste, small electronics, recyclables and more.
Community Actions	- Teach IGH residents or other businesses about your completed actions. - Participate on a local community board. - Volunteer or donate to benefit the IGH community.
Additional Comments	- N/A
Photos	- See below.



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IMG_0738.jpg



IMG 1691.jpg

Applicant	Chris Garnsworthy, Resident
Total Required Actions Completed	5
Total Additional Actions Completed	+28
Award Recommendation	Gold
Energy Actions	- Use LED bulbs for all lighting. - Use a programmable thermostat. - Use an EnergyStar appliance or upgraded to more energy efficient appliances. - Participate in an energy savings program through Xcel Energy or Dakota Electric. - Utilized rebates on energy efficient or renewable energy powered products. - Installed an electric vehicle charging station. - Additional Action: <i>We use smart outlets to turn off vampire power supplies to increase energy efficiency.</i> - Additional Action: <i>Added storm doors a couple years ago to increase energy efficiency.</i> - Additional Action: <i>We use Sense and track our energy use.</i>
Landscaping & Water Actions	- Remove invasive vegetation and diseased or infested trees from your property. - Use locally made compost in gardens or landscaping. - Install bird or bat houses on your property. - Leave grass 2 ½ - 3 ½ inches high during hot weather to promote deep root growth and shade the growth crowns. - Select an Energy Star-approved washing machine. - Wait until the dishwasher or washing machine is fully loaded before running it. - Take shorter showers. - Additional Action: <i>Don't water our lawn.</i> - Additional Action: <i>We have planted some flowering cherry trees for pollinators.</i>
Waste Actions	- Recycle at your home following Dakota County's recycling rules. - Reduce food waste by meal planning, storing food properly, and more. - Prevent unwanted mail by unsubscribing from mailing lists. - Take home free second-hand products from the Reuse Zone, located at the The Recycling Zone. - Rent equipment such as tools, outdoor gear and event supplies instead of buying. - Shop secondhand at brick-and-mortar stores, garage sales or through online outlets such as Facebook, Nextdoor, Craigslist, or ThredUP. - Sell gently used goods at a local donation center, garage sale or online outlets. - Use reusable bags, mugs, and to-go containers, utensils and napkins.

	- Compost organics via a residential organics drop-off, at home or at your business. - Use the City's online Recycling Guide to find out where to get rid of hundreds of unwanted items. - Participate in the Dakota County Recycling Ambassador Program. - Join a tour of local recycling facilities. - Utilize The Recycling Zone to dispose of hazardous waste, small electronics, recyclables and more.
Community Actions	- Teach IGH residents or other businesses about your completed actions. - Volunteer or donate to benefit the IGH community.
Additional Comments	- <i>I coordinate an internal Green Team at my place of employment in White Bear Lake. Planned Earth Day activities this year.</i> - <i>Installed composting at my place of employment, reducing our landfill tonnage by 30%.</i>
Photos	- N/A

Applicant	Elizabeth Ziebarth, Resident
Total Required Actions Completed	5
Total Additional Actions Completed	+17
Award Recommendation	Gold
Energy Actions	- Use LED bulbs for all lighting. - Use a programmable thermostat. - Use an EnergyStar appliance or upgraded to more energy efficient appliances.
Landscaping & Water Actions	- Remove invasive vegetation and diseased or infested trees from your property. - Collect rainwater in a rain barrel or other grey water systems to water your landscaping and trees. - Buy locally grown produce or grow your own food. - Use locally made compost in gardens or landscaping. - Leave grass 2 ½ - 3 ½ inches high during hot weather to promote deep root growth and shade the growth crowns. - Follow the City's Smart Salting guidelines in winter. - Replace older toilets with WaterSense-labeled, high-efficiency toilets. - Wait until the dishwasher or washing machine is fully loaded before running it. - Take shorter showers. - Additional Actions: <i>Water lawn before the heat of the day (typically 4a.m.-10a.m.),</i>
Waste Actions	- Recycle at your home following Dakota County's recycling rules. - Reduce food waste by meal planning, storing food properly, and more. - Use homemade green cleaners or Safer Choice cleaning products. - Shop secondhand at brick-and-mortar stores, garage sales or through online outlets such as Facebook, Nextdoor, Craigslist, or ThredUP. - Sell gently used goods at a local donation center, garage sale or online outlets. - Use reusable bags, mugs, and to-go containers, utensils and napkins. - Compost organics via a residential organics drop-off, at home or at your business.
Community Actions	- Offer free or reduced-cost assistance to a neighbor(s) in need. - Volunteer or donate to benefit the IGH community: <i>Ran a food shelf at Emanuel Lutheran Church in IGH for over 50 years. Met many people through the food shelf. I have enjoyed working with, others, improving my own emotional health others.</i>
Additional Comments	- <i>Very conscious of use of water and electricity</i>
Photos	- N/A

Applicant	Ella Wilsey, Resident
Total Required Actions Completed	5
Total Additional Actions Completed	+16
Award Recommendation	Gold
Energy Actions	- Use LED bulbs for all lighting. - Use a programmable thermostat. - Completed home energy audit. - Additional Actions: <i>I had two new energy efficient patio doors in a front door and storm door installed. See photo.</i> - Additional Actions: <i>I also put in an energy efficient air conditioner and furnace last summer.</i>
Landscaping & Water Actions	- Remove invasive vegetation and diseased or infested trees from your property. - Buy locally grown produce or grow your own food. - Wait until the dishwasher or washing machine is fully loaded before running it. - Take shorter showers. - Additional Actions: <i>Planted a pollinator-friendly plants in garden and outdoor containers. See photo.</i> - Additional Actions: <i>Use a smart lawn irrigation system</i>
Waste Actions	- Recycle at your home following Dakota County's recycling rules. - Reduce food waste by meal planning, storing food properly, and more. - Prevent unwanted mail by unsubscribing from mailing lists. - Take home free second-hand products from the Reuse Zone, located at the The Recycling Zone. - Shop secondhand at brick-and-mortar stores, garage sales or through online outlets such as Facebook, Nextdoor, Craigslist, or ThredUP. - Use reusable bags, mugs, and to-go containers, utensils and napkins. - Compost organics via a residential organics drop-off, at home or at your business. - Utilize The Recycling Zone to dispose of hazardous waste, small electronics, recyclables and more.
Community Actions	- Donate to, volunteer at, or run a local organization that offers free or low-cost community assistance services. - Teach IGH residents or other businesses about your completed actions: <i>I'm an avid composter and recycler: I try to encourage other people in my community and my family to do the same.</i>
Additional Comments	

Photos

- *Here are 2 pictures. 1 of 1 of my energy efficient patio doors I had installed and also my little garden down by the woods*

Ella Wilsey, Resident



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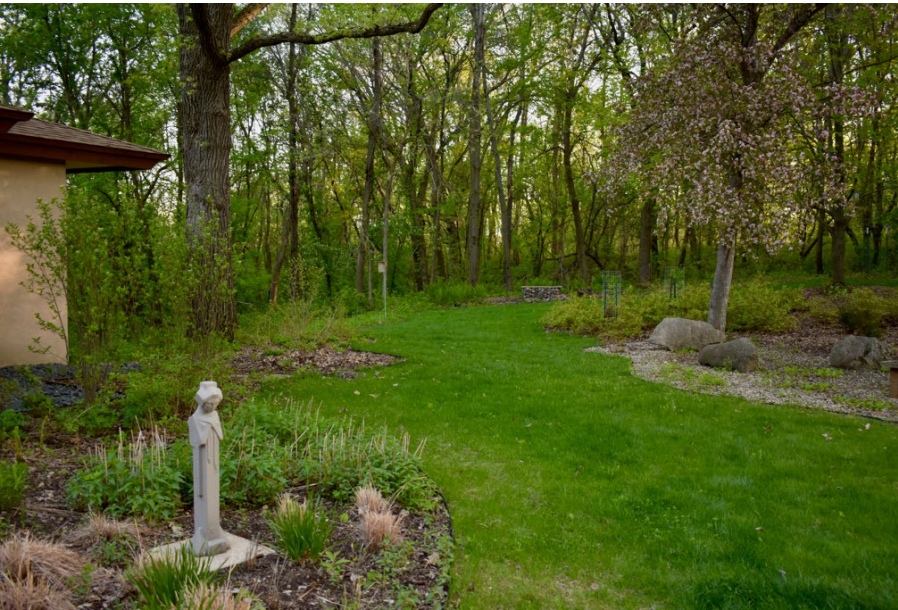
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Applicant	Jeff Parsons, Resident
Total Required Actions Completed	5
Total Additional Actions Completed	+39
Award Recommendation	Gold
Energy Actions	- We have completed a home energy audit in May of 2022. - Use LED bulbs for all lighting. - Use a programmable thermostat. - Use an EnergyStar appliance or upgraded to more energy efficient appliances. - Participate in an energy savings program through Xcel Energy or Dakota Electric. - Utilized rebates on energy efficient or renewable energy powered products. - Subscribe to a community solar garden. - Additional Actions: <i>I use electric yard and garden equipment (e.g. lawn mower, leaf blower, chainsaw and snowblower)</i>
Landscaping & Water Actions	- Plant a low-maintenance turf lawn with species such as fine fescues, buffalo grass, blue gramma, pussytoes, etc. I have overseeded the lawn with a "low mow" mix of grass seed that is (according to the Gerten's webpage) LEED certified. - Use a Landscaping for Clean Water grant from Dakota County Soil & Water Conservation District to complete a Landscaping for Clean Water project, including rain gardens and more. - Remove invasive vegetation and diseased or infested trees from your property. - If recommended by a certified arborist, treat trees to prevent or mitigate emerald ash borer infestations, oak wilt or other tree diseases. - Collect rainwater in a rain barrel or other grey water systems to water your landscaping and trees. - Buy locally grown produce or grow your own food. - Use locally made compost in gardens or landscaping. - Take one or more Landscaping for Clean Water classes. - Install bird or bat houses on your property. - Leave grass 2 ½ - 3 ½ inches high during hot weather to promote deep root growth and shade the growth crowns. - Select an Energy Star-approved washing machine. - Wait until the dishwasher or washing machine is fully loaded before running it. - Take shorter showers. - Participate in the Master Water Stewards, Master Naturalist or Master Gardener program. - Additional Actions: <i>I have taken measures to prevent window collisions by birds.</i> - Additional Actions: <i>I try to practice integrated pest management in order to minimize the use of pesticides.</i> - Additional Actions: <i>As for our lawn, we do not water it.</i>

	- Additional Actions: <i>Since we purchased the house in 2018, I have reduced the size of the lawn by at least a third and replaced it with beds for shrubs and perennials. I almost exclusively use native plants (or cultivars of native plants). The previous owners had planted hostas, irises, and day lilies, and some of them still remain in the landscape.</i> - Additional Actions: <i>I plant with pollinators in mind- both in containers and in the ground.</i> - Additional Actions: <i>I don't have an irrigation system. My intention is to use as little water in the landscape as possible and I think I can best achieve that by using native plants that can survive on the average amount of precipitation we receive.</i>
Waste Actions	- Recycle at your home following Dakota County's recycling rules. - Reduce food waste by meal planning, storing food properly, and more. - Prevent unwanted mail by unsubscribing from mailing lists. - Use homemade green cleaners or Safer Choice cleaning products. - Take home free second-hand products from the Reuse Zone, located at the The Recycling Zone. - Participate in a Community Swap. - Participate or volunteer at a Dakota County Fix-It Clinic. - Rent equipment such as tools, outdoor gear and event supplies instead of buying. - Shop secondhand at brick-and-mortar stores, garage sales or through online outlets such as Facebook, Nextdoor, Craigslist, or ThredUP. - Sell gently used goods at a local donation center, garage sale or online outlets. - Use reusable bags, mugs, and to-go containers, utensils and napkins. - Compost organics via a residential organics drop-off, at home or at your business. - Use the City's online Recycling Guide to find out where to get rid of hundreds of unwanted items. - Utilize The Recycling Zone to dispose of hazardous waste, small electronics, recyclables and more.
Community Actions	- Volunteer or donate to benefit the IGH community. - Teach IGH residents or other businesses about your completed actions: <i>I get the benefit of exercise from gardening and the sense of community by sharing my hobby of saving seeds and sharing them with others.</i>
Additional Comments	- <i>I get the psychological boost from seeing the many creatures that are drawn by the plants and bugs to be found.</i>

	- <i>It has become a hobby of mine to grow my own plants from seeds that I collected from my garden.</i>
Photos	- N/A

Jeff Parsons, Resident



Applicant	Karen Asmundson, Resident
Total Required Actions Completed	5
Total Additional Actions Completed	+33
Award Recommendation	Gold
Energy Actions	- Use LED bulbs for all lighting. - Use a programmable thermostat. - Use an EnergyStar appliance or upgraded to more energy efficient appliances. - Utilized rebates on energy efficient or renewable energy powered products. - Additional Actions: <i>I replaced my windows (they were original to my house built in 1994) in 2022.</i> - Additional Actions: <i>I had replaced door seals on my exterior doors, insulated my garage and finished the wall adjacent to my house.</i>
Landscaping & Water Actions	- Build a rain garden on your property per the City guidelines: <i>Built a raingarden as part of the Blue Thumb project in 2016. See photo.</i> - Use a Landscaping for Clean Water grant from Dakota County Soil & Water Conservation District to complete a Landscaping for Clean Water project, including rain gardens and more. - Remove invasive vegetation and diseased or infested trees from your property: <i>My rain garden was featured in a Dakota County flyer a few years ago. See photo.</i> - Collect rainwater in a rain barrel or other grey water systems to water your landscaping and trees. - Take one or more Landscaping for Clean Water classes. - Leave grass 2 ½ - 3 ½ inches high during hot weather to promote deep root growth and shade the growth crowns. - Follow the City's Smart Salting guidelines in winter. - Replace faucets and showerheads with WaterSense-labeled, high-efficiency versions. - Select an Energy Star-approved washing machine. - Wait until the dishwasher or washing machine is fully loaded before running it. - Take shorter showers. - Participate in Adopt-a-Drain. - Additional Action: <i>Water lawn only as needed, before the heat of the day (typically 4 a.m.-10 a.m.)</i> - Additional Action: <i>I have a programmable sprinkler system that includes a sensor but typically irrigate only when I'm home and can keep an eye on it. I only water the areas of my yard that need it.</i>
Waste Actions	- Recycle at your home following Dakota County's recycling rules.

	- Reduce food waste by meal planning, storing food properly, and more. - Prevent unwanted mail by unsubscribing from mailing lists. - Use homemade green cleaners or Safer Choice cleaning products. - Take home free second-hand products from the Reuse Zone, located at the The Recycling Zone. - Participate or volunteer at a Dakota County Fix-It Clinic. - Rent equipment such as tools, outdoor gear and event supplies instead of buying. - Shop secondhand at brick-and-mortar stores, garage sales or through online outlets such as Facebook, Nextdoor, Craigslist, or ThredUP. - Sell gently used goods at a local donation center, garage sale or online outlets. - Use reusable bags, mugs, and to-go containers, utensils and napkins. - Compost organics via a residential organics drop-off, at home or at your business. - Use the City's online Recycling Guide to find out where to get rid of hundreds of unwanted items. - Participate in the Dakota County Recycling Ambassador Program: <i>I was excited to become a Recycling Ambassador (Master Recycler) when the program was first introduced in Dakota County in 2014. Working with two other Master Recyclers in my cohort, we helped get a grant to initiate Fix-It Clinics in Dakota County and realized my previous dream. Our first clinic was in January 2016. We achieved an 86% fix rate and kept 8 tons of material out of landfill during the first 3 years of the program. In recent years, I have participated in a variety of activities that promote recycling (paper shredding events, Dakota County Fair recycling/waste collection) and minimize waste (City of IGH Clean-Up event).</i> - Attend a City residential special collections event to recycle unwanted items such as Clean-Up Day or Paper Shredding Collection. - Join a tour of local recycling facilities. - Utilize The Recycling Zone to dispose of hazardous waste, small electronics, recyclables and more. - Additional Action: <i>Helped start Fix-It Clinics in Dakota County. In 2012 or so, I volunteered at a Hennepin County Fix-It Clinic for the first time and utilized my sewing skills as a mender. My Eureka! Moment: realizing we needed our own Fix-It Clinics in Dakota County. See photo.</i>
Community Actions	- Organize a local community group or complete a community project.
Additional Comments	- Reduced household trash to less than one bin per month

	- <i>As the daughter of two Depression-era parents, reusing and repurposing philosophies (use it up, wear it out, make it do or do without) were instilled at an early age and have continued through adulthood.</i> - <i>I attended my first auction sale when I was two weeks old when my parents looked for fixer-upper furnishings for their new home. I grew up learning how to fix, refinish, and repurpose furniture by working on projects with my parents. They ultimately helped me furnish my own home with similar auction and flea market finds.</i> - <i>My passion for recycling and reducing waste was sparked while taking chemistry courses in college in the early 1990s. As a professional organizer from 2004-2009, I worked with clients to reduce clutter in their homes and provide suitable outlets for items they wanted to divest, trying to keep as many items out of the landfill as possible.</i> - <i>I worked with my quilting guild, Dakota County Star Quilters, in the mid-2000s to promote textile waste recycling from the quilt-making process and to improve utilization of fabric scraps and quilt batting. Leave no scrap behind became a personal mantra.</i> - <i>After installing a rain garden in 2016, I became more aware of the importance of native landscaping/wildlife gardening. I completed an Introduction to Beekeeping through Dodge Nature Center in 2022 and although I didn't plan to keep bees, the course significantly reinforced the importance of pollinators in our environment. I received a Lawns to Legumes grant in 2023 (deferred because of knee surgery) and will be installing a Native Wildflower Pollinator garden this summer.</i>
Photos	- <i>I included photos from the first Dakota County Fix-It Clinic in January 2016 and photos of my rain garden.</i>



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IMG_1354.jpeg



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Applicant	Kim Browning, Resident
Total Required Actions Completed	5
Total Additional Actions Completed	+37
Award Recommendation	Gold
Energy Actions	- Implement actions recommended by your home energy audit. - Use LED bulbs for all lighting. - Use a programmable thermostat. - Use an EnergyStar appliance or upgraded to more energy efficient appliances. - Participate in an energy savings program through Xcel Energy or Dakota Electric. - Utilized rebates on energy efficient or renewable energy powered products. - Additional Action: <i>Teach kids to reduce energy consumption.</i> - Additional Action: <i>Lawn equipment fully electric.</i>
Landscaping & Water Actions	- Plant a low-maintenance turf lawn with species such as fine fescues, buffalo grass, blue gramma, pussytoes, etc. - Build a rain garden on your property per the City guidelines: <i>Installed two rain gardens See photo.</i> - Use a Landscaping for Clean Water grant from Dakota County Soil & Water Conservation District to complete a Landscaping for Clean Water project, including rain gardens and more. - Remove invasive vegetation and diseased or infested trees from your property. - Collect rainwater in a rain barrel or other grey water systems to water your landscaping and trees: <i>Installed 9 rain barrels. See photo.</i> - Buy locally grown produce or grow your own food. - Use locally made compost in gardens or landscaping. <i>Utilize grass clippings and leaves in garden.</i> - Take one or more Landscaping for Clean Water classes. - Install bird or bat houses on your property: <i>Installed 2 bat houses and bluebird houses and other bird houses. See photo.</i> - Leave grass 2 ½ - 3 ½ inches high during hot weather to promote deep root growth and shade the growth crowns. - Follow the City's Smart Salting guidelines in winter. - Replace older toilets with WaterSense-labeled, high-efficiency toilets. - Replace faucets and showerheads with WaterSense-labeled, high-efficiency versions. - Select an Energy Star-approved washing machine. - Wait until the dishwasher or washing machine is fully loaded before running it. - Take shorter showers. - Additional Action: <i>Planted native gardens as well as large prairie.</i>

	- Additional Action: <i>Raise monarchs and plant milkweed.</i> - Additional Action: <i>I use iNaturalist to track species and have submitted over 500 entries to help scientists. Also participate in MN bee counts.</i>
Waste Actions	- Recycle at your home following Dakota County's recycling rules. - Reduce food waste by meal planning, storing food properly, and more. - Prevent unwanted mail by unsubscribing from mailing lists. - Take home free second-hand products from the Reuse Zone, located at the The Recycling Zone. - Participate in a Community Swap. - Rent equipment such as tools, outdoor gear and event supplies instead of buying. - Shop secondhand at brick-and-mortar stores, garage sales or through online outlets such as Facebook, Nextdoor, Craigslist, or ThredUP. - Sell gently used goods at a local donation center, garage sale or online outlets. - Use reusable bags, mugs, and to-go containers, utensils and napkins. - Compost organics via a residential organics drop-off, at home or at your business. - Use the City's online Recycling Guide to find out where to get rid of hundreds of unwanted items. - Utilize The Recycling Zone to dispose of hazardous waste, small electronics, recyclables and more.
Community Actions	- Teach IGH residents or other businesses about your completed actions. <i>Teach kids about helping environment.</i> - Volunteer or donate to benefit the IGH community. <i>Give eggs and fresh produce to neighbors. Donated many gently used items through IGH buy nothing Facebook group. Sharing produce with neighbors build community.</i> - Participate on a local community board.
Additional Comments	- <i>Garden helps family and neighbors that walk by de-stress.</i> - <i>We have Rusty patch bumblebees, monarchs and a diverse wildlife. See photos.</i>
Photos	- See below.



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Applicant	Laura Grevas, Resident
Total Required Actions Completed	5
Total Additional Actions Completed	+20
Award Recommendation	Gold
Energy Actions	- Use LED bulbs for all lighting. - Use a programmable thermostat. - Use an EnergyStar appliance or upgraded to more energy efficient appliances. - Utilized rebates on energy efficient or renewable energy powered products. - Subscribe to Xcel Energy's Renewable*Connect or Dakota Electric's Wellspring Renewable Energy program to support renewable energy.
Landscaping & Water Actions	- Collect rainwater in a rain barrel or other grey water systems to water your landscaping and trees. - Buy locally grown produce or grow your own food. - Follow the City's Smart Salting guidelines in winter. - Wait until the dishwasher or washing machine is fully loaded before running it. - Take shorter showers.
Waste Actions	- Recycle at your home following Dakota County's recycling rules. - Reduce food waste by meal planning, storing food properly, and more. - Prevent unwanted mail by unsubscribing from mailing lists. - Use homemade green cleaners or Safer Choice cleaning products. - Participate in a Community Swap. - Participate or volunteer at a Dakota County Fix-It Clinic. - Shop secondhand at brick-and-mortar stores, garage sales or through online outlets such as Facebook, Nextdoor, Craigslist, or ThredUP. - Sell gently used goods at a local donation center, garage sale or online outlets. - Compost organics via a residential organics drop-off, at home or at your business. - Use the City's online Recycling Guide to find out where to get rid of hundreds of unwanted items. - Participate in the Dakota County Recycling Ambassador Program. - Attend a City residential special collections event to recycle unwanted items such as Clean-Up Day or Paper Shredding Collection. - Join a tour of local recycling facilities. - Utilize The Recycling Zone to dispose of hazardous waste, small electronics, recyclables and more.

Community Actions	- Donate to, volunteer at, or run a local organization that offers free or low-cost community assistance services.
Additional Comments	- N/A
Photos	- N/A

Applicant	Richard Roodly, Resident
Total Required Actions Completed	5
Total Additional Actions Completed	+9
Award Recommendation	Silver
Energy Actions	- Use LED bulbs for all lighting.
Landscaping & Water Actions	- Collect rainwater in a rain barrel or other grey water systems to water your landscaping and trees. - Buy locally grown produce or grow your own food. - Use locally made compost in gardens or landscaping. - Wait until the dishwasher or washing machine is fully loaded before running it. - Take shorter showers.
Waste Actions	- Recycle at your home following Dakota County's recycling rules. - Reduce food waste by meal planning, storing food properly, and more. - Prevent unwanted mail by unsubscribing from mailing lists. - Use the City's online Recycling Guide to find out where to get rid of hundreds of unwanted items. - Adopt an IGH park. - Incorporate sustainability into your business purchasing.
Community Actions	- Donate to, volunteer at, or run a local organization that offers free or low-cost community assistance services: <i>I have been adopted recreation park for cleaning. I make sure that the park are clean by volunteering to pick up trash to keep the park clean.</i> - Teach IGH residents or other businesses about your completed actions: <i>Last year I adopted a dog park it was real fun meeting new people and tell them about what I do to keep the park clean.</i>
Additional Comments	- <i>We use as little water as possible in my house to keep our water bill as low as possible. Bill reduced about 3%.</i>
Photos	

Applications - Businesses

Applicant	Gramercy Park Cooperative, Resident
Total Required Actions Completed	5
Total Additional Actions Completed	+26
Award Recommendation	Gold
Energy Actions	- Use a programmable thermostat: <i>Programmable thermostats installed in the Gramercy room this past year.</i> - Use an EnergyStar appliance or upgraded to more energy efficient appliances; have purchased energy star appliances when we switch out refrigerators, ovens and dishwashers. - Bike, ride share, or take public transportation as primary source of transportation: <i>There are spaces for bikes in your garage stall which many use. We have an 'Out To Lunch Bunch' that goes to lunch once per month and several members ride share. We offer MetroMobility rides once per week for grocery shopping and once per month for clothing shopping for all MetroMobility users. In addition, we also have several volunteers offering rides to doctor appointments, airport, shopping.</i> - Additional Action: <i>Garage, Stairways (3), Hallways, Offices, Outside lighting has all been converted to LED lighting.</i>
Landscaping & Water Actions	- Use a Landscaping for Clean Water grant from Dakota County Soil & Water Conservation District to complete a Landscaping for Clean Water project, including rain gardens and more. - Remove invasive vegetation and diseased or infested trees from your property: <i>Canadian thistle, Crown Vetch, and other noxious weeds were removed. Diseased ash trees have been removed from the property. We have been using an arborist to identify and mark trees (Ash mostly, but some evergreen) and removing them. We have taken out around 40 trees in the past few years.</i> - If recommended by a certified arborist, treat trees to prevent or mitigate emerald ash borer infestations, oak wilt or other tree diseases. - Buy locally grown produce or grow your own food. We have garden plots for members to use to grow their own vegetables and flowers. - Use locally made compost in gardens or landscaping. - Leave grass 2 ½ - 3 ½ inches high during hot weather to promote deep root growth and shade the growth crowns: <i>We work with our lawn care team in leaving the grass longer in the hotter months. This keeps the grass greener with less watering.</i> - Follow the City's Smart Salting guidelines in winter. - Wait until the dishwasher or washing machine is fully loaded before running it.

	- Additional Action: <i>Gramercy has a 2 1/2 acre prairie project in its 7th year of growth.</i> - Additional Action: <i>We work with Dakota County every year in making sure our stormwater culverts are clear.</i> - Additional Action: <i>We have the Prairie restoration project along with our ponds catching storm water.</i> - Additional Action: <i>We work with the city guidelines when programming our smart lawn watering system. Adjust and reduce the time with percentages to reduce water usage.</i>
Waste Actions	- Recycle at your business following Dakota County's recycling rules. - Participate in a Community Swap. - Shop secondhand at brick-and-mortar stores, garage sales or through online outlets such as Facebook, Nextdoor, Craigslist, or ThredUP: <i>Our puzzles that are ongoing in two atriums are all purchased at thrift stores.</i> - Sell gently used goods at a local donation center, garage sale or online outlets. - Use reusable bags, mugs, and to-go containers, utensils and napkins. - Use the City's online Recycling Guide to find out where to get rid of hundreds of unwanted items. - Utilize The Recycling Zone to dispose of hazardous waste, small electronics, recyclables and more. - Offer public recycling opportunities for plastic bags, batteries, or other recyclable materials. - Additional Action: <i>Gramercy has a 'Give and Take' reuse table. See photo.</i> - Additional Action: <i>Gramercy has a huge library consisting of 2,500 donated books. See photo.</i> - Additional Action: <i>Used cardboard boxes are flattened for reuse, moving cartons, etc. See photo.</i> - Additional Action: <i>Participated in the Dakota County Multifamily Recycling Program. See photos.</i>
Community Actions	- Offer free or reduced-cost assistance to a neighbor(s) in need: <i>"Gramercy Shares" is a group to give back to the community. Neighbors, Inc. is the recipient of money, food and clothing donations.</i> - Organize a local community group or complete a community project: <i>a project under way is collecting plastic bags and made into balls of plarn (plastic yarn) which are made into sleeping mats for homeless.</i> - Donate to, volunteer at, or run a local organization that offers free or low-cost community assistance services.
Additional Comments	- <i>Our members get great joy from their gardens as well as the beauty of the prairie.</i>
Photos	- See below



Cardboard.jpg



Library.jpg



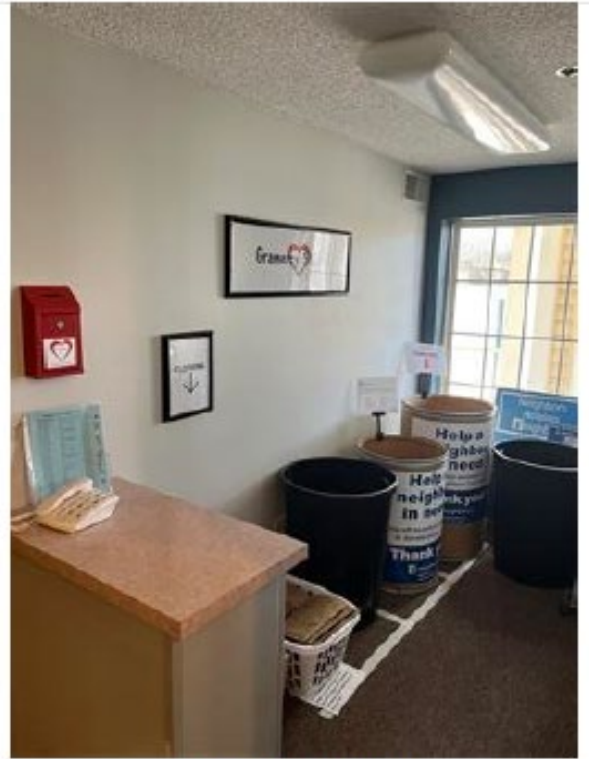
Give and Take table.jpg



Gramercy Shares sign.jpg



Prairie.jpg



Neighbors Inc..jpg



Recycling.jpg



Gramercy Park Cooperative, Business



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IMG_2429.jpg

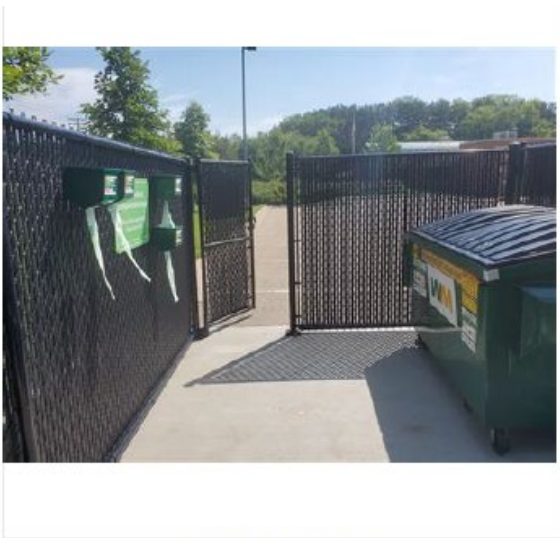
Applicant	Inver Glen Library, Business
Total Required Actions Completed	5
Total Additional Actions Completed	+22
Award Recommendation	Gold
Energy Actions	- Use a programmable thermostat. - Use an EnergyStar appliance or upgraded to more energy efficient appliances. - Additional Action: <i>We are in the process of switching over to all LED lighting in our branch.</i> - Additional Action: <i>Motion-censored/zoned lighting</i>
Landscaping & Water Actions	- Build a rain garden on your property per the City guidelines. - Remove invasive vegetation and diseased or infested trees from your property. - Install bird or bat houses on your property. - Additional Action: <i>Plant pollinator friendly plants on property</i> - Additional Action: <i>Timed lawn irrigation system for early in day</i>
Waste Actions	- Recycle at your business following Dakota County's recycling rules. - Use homemade green cleaners or Safer Choice cleaning products. - Use reusable bags, mugs, and to-go containers, utensils and napkins. - Compost organics via a residential organics drop-off, at home or at your business. - Operate a waste reduction, recycling or composting business. - Offer public recycling opportunities for plastic bags, batteries, or other recyclable materials: <i>Accept donations of books and other items to sell in ongoing and twice-yearly large scale booksale.</i> - Offer reusable bags, mugs, and to-go containers, utensils and napkins to customers. - Operate a reuse business: <i>Books, media and other items are rented out for free.</i> - Additional Action: <i>We host the Inver Glen Library Organics Drop Off site within the library parking lot.</i> - Additional Action: <i>We design and host programs like the "Puzzle and Board Game Swap" that keep things out of the landfills. We weigh the items as they are taken to see how much was kept out of the landfills. We also host a fabric swap.</i> - Additional Action: <i>We host Fix-It Clinics onsite.</i> - Addition Action: <i>Offer programs/events and displays about waste reduction (currently a "Save Your Food" Display), see photos.</i>
Community Actions	- Donate to, volunteer at, or run a local organization that offers free or low-cost community assistance services. - Promote workplace diversity during the hiring process.

	- Host employee appreciation events and/or activities. - Have an internal wellness committee that coordinates wellbeing initiatives for employees. - Offer an employee volunteer service day, when employees are encouraged to donate their time. - Additional Action: <i>Offer free classes, computer and internet usage, and item rentals (books, media and more) to Dakota County residents.</i>
Additional Comments	- N/A
Photos	- See below.

Inver Glen Library, Business



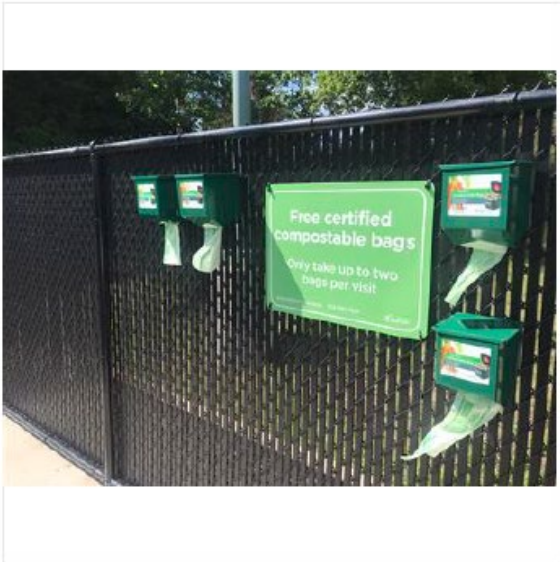
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IMG_7617.JPEG

Inver Glen Library, Business



IMG_7646.JPEG



Save Your Food Display.jpg



IMG_2713.JPG



IMG_2707.JPG

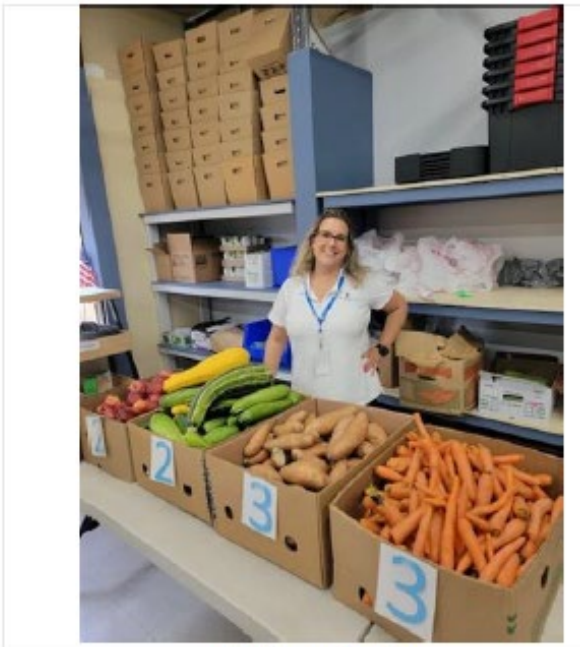
Applicant	Key Community Bank, Business
Total Required Actions Completed	5
Total Additional Actions Completed	+13
Award Recommendation	Gold
Energy Actions	- Use LED bulbs for all lighting. - Use a programmable thermostat. - Use an EnergyStar appliance or upgraded to more energy efficient appliances: <i>We just installed a high efficiency water heater, and mini fridges in our conference rooms.</i> - Additional Action: <i>This past year we updated all of our outside signage to LED lighting. See photo.</i>
Landscaping & Water Actions	- Remove invasive vegetation and diseased or infested trees from your property. - Wait until the dishwasher or washing machine is fully loaded before running it. - Additional Actions: <i>We are planting some native plants in our new landscaping plans.</i>
Waste Actions	- Recycle at your business following Dakota County's recycling rules. - Prevent unwanted mail by unsubscribing from mailing lists. - Incorporate sustainability into your business purchasing. - Offer public recycling opportunities for plastic bags, batteries, or other recyclable materials. - Additional Action: <i>Every year we host a free "Shred Day" event where anyone can come and shred sensitive papers in a safe and secure manner in our parking lot. According to our vendor - documents, once shredded, are re-pulped and reprocessed into recycled goods. Each ton of paper saves 17 trees, 7000 gallons of water, 50 pounds of air pollution, 4000 kilowatts of electricity and 3 cubic yards of limited landfill space.</i>
Community Actions	- Organize a local community group or complete a community project. - Participate on a local community board: <i>Holly Christenson, our Vice President Cash Management represents Key Community Bank on the Board of Directors for the South St. Paul Educational Foundation which helps supports local students via scholarships and grants to further their educational pursuits.</i> - Donate to, volunteer at, or run a local organization that offers free or low-cost community assistance services: <i>Every Thursday one staff member volunteers at Neighbors, Inc. food shelf for 3 hours, and 2 hours one Saturday a month. We also host two food drives for Neighbors, Inc. every year and sponsor multiple families for the holidays.</i> - Promote workplace diversity during the hiring process. - Host employee appreciation events and/or activities.

	- Offer an employee volunteer service day, when employees are encouraged to donate their time.
Additional Comments	- <i>It is outside of this area, but I am also on the Board of Directors representing Key Community Bank for Cars for Neighbors which is based out of Ham Lake, Minnesota. Cars for Neighbors provides car care to individuals in need who cannot afford to have their vehicle fixed. Cars for Neighbor also has a partnership with Environmental Initiative through Project Clean Air Repair (Project CAR) to provide funding to upgrade the emissions systems in older vehicles reducing harmful emissions released into the air.</i>
Photos	- See below.

Key Community Bank, Business



No Hunger November.jpg



Neighbors_ Inc..jpg



Applicant	Oyespa, Business
Total Required Actions Completed	5
Total Additional Actions Completed	+28
Award Recommendation	Gold
Energy Actions	- Implement actions recommended by your business energy audit. - Use LED bulbs for all lighting. - Use a programmable thermostat. - Use an EnergyStar appliance or upgraded to more energy efficient appliances. - Participate in an energy savings program through Xcel Energy or Dakota Electric. - Utilized rebates on energy efficient or renewable energy powered products. - Use energy benchmarking software to monitor building energy usage.
Landscaping & Water Actions	- Buy locally grown produce or grow your own food: <i>We purchase café food through USFOODS, some of the food items we purchase are locally sourced. At the time of ordering, we attempt to pick locally sourced items.</i> - Replace older toilets with WaterSense-labeled, high-efficiency toilets. - Replace faucets and showerheads with WaterSense-labeled, high-efficiency versions. - Select an Energy Star-approved washing machine. - Wait until the dishwasher or washing machine is fully loaded before running it. - Utilize rebates on water-efficient products. - Additional Action: <i>Landscaping company is asked to maintain property, including removing invasive vegetation and diseased or infested trees, and leaving grass 2 ½ - 3 ½ inches high during hot weather to promote deep root growth and shade the growth crowns.</i>
Waste Actions	- Recycle at your home following Dakota County's recycling rules: <i>We have a recycling program through Republic Services and Green Circle Salons.</i> - Reduce food waste by meal planning, storing food properly, and more: <i>Our food menus are optimized for max use and less wastage. By making fresh meals we avoid pre-making, thereby reducing waste on unsold food.</i> - Prevent unwanted mail by unsubscribing from mailing lists. - Rent equipment such as tools, outdoor gear and event supplies instead of buying: <i>For store events, we rent tent, patio heater, etc. For repairs we rent ladders, etc. We avoid purchase when it's not a long-term capital asset/investment.</i> - Shop secondhand at brick-and-mortar stores, garage sales or through online outlets such as Facebook, Nextdoor, Craigslist,

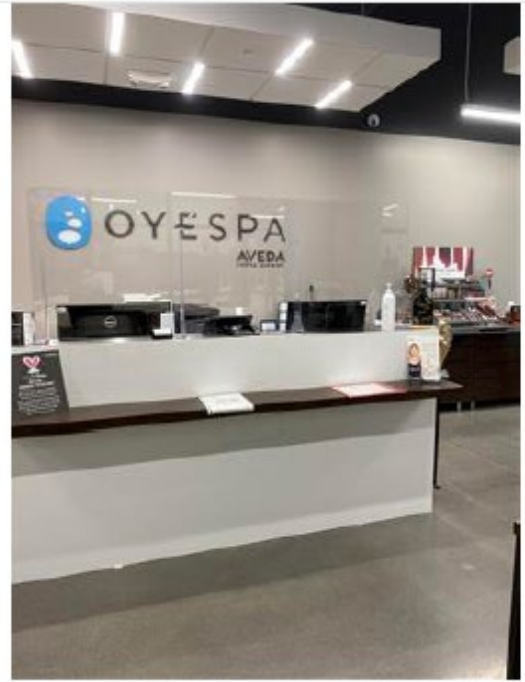
	or ThredUP: <i>Certain furniture or tools we try to purchase used or on eBay/Facebook marketplace, if available.</i> - Sell gently used goods at a local donation center, garage sale or online outlets: <i>Certain furniture or tools we try to purchase used or on eBay/Facebook marketplace, if available.</i> - Use reusable bags, mugs, and to-go containers, utensils and napkins: <i>If guest picks dine in we use reusable plates and bowls for serving our food.</i> - Incorporate sustainability into your business purchasing: <i>For our business orders with vendors, we combine orders to minimize packaging that comes to our location, we order once a month.</i> - Offer reusable bags, mugs, and to-go containers, utensils and napkins to customers: <i>We use packaging from Good Start Packaging which are environment friendly and certified compostable.</i>
Community Actions	- Teach IGH residents or other businesses about your completed actions. - Offer free or reduced-cost assistance to a neighbor(s) in need. - Organize a local community group or complete a community project. - Promote workplace diversity during the hiring process. - Offer free or reduced-cost services to vulnerable populations (food, shelter/housing, transportation, education, healthcare, counseling, childcare, etc.) - Offer free or reduced-cost services to employees (transportation, education, healthcare, counseling, childcare, etc.) - Have an internal wellness committee that coordinates wellbeing initiatives for employees. - Have an internal green team that coordinates environmentally friendly business practices. - Additional Action: <i>Raise funds for Earth Month - CharityWater</i> - Additional Action: <i>We have participated in IGH council meetings and have spoken about ways to bring improvement to the city development.</i>
Additional Comments	- <i>We have Plasma Air Filtration in the entire building.</i> - <i>B Corporation Certification: Oyespa is not just a business; it's a community leader in environmental and social responsibility, proudly holding B Corporation status. This certification is testament to their commitment to higher standards of purpose, ensuring that every aspect of their operations enriches and sustains the community and the environment. Explore more about B Corp at https://oyespa.com/bcorp. View our B Impact Score at: https://oyespa.com/bis.</i> - <i>Green Circle Salons Partnership: In collaboration with Green Circle Salons, Oyespa significantly minimizes its ecological</i>

	footprint by recycling and repurposing salon waste. This proactive approach not only enhances their operational sustainability but also sets a benchmark for environmental stewardship within the beauty industry. Learn more about their partnership with GreenCircleSalons at https://oyespa.com/gcs. - <i>Earth Month Initiatives: During Earth Month, Oyespa launches special initiatives to highlight the importance of ecological conservation and sustainability. These efforts are aimed at empowering the community to join in the vital task of nurturing and preserving our natural environment. Discover the exciting activities planned for Earth Month 2024 at https://oyespa.com/em.</i> - <i>Future Goals and Community Engagement: Looking ahead, Oyespa and Oyevida are relentlessly pursuing advancements in their sustainability agenda. Their mission extends beyond mere business goals, aiming to cultivate a greener, more conscious community. Their story is a compelling call to action for all, advocating for a sustainable future through innovation and dedicated effort.</i>
Photos	- See below.

OYESPA, Business



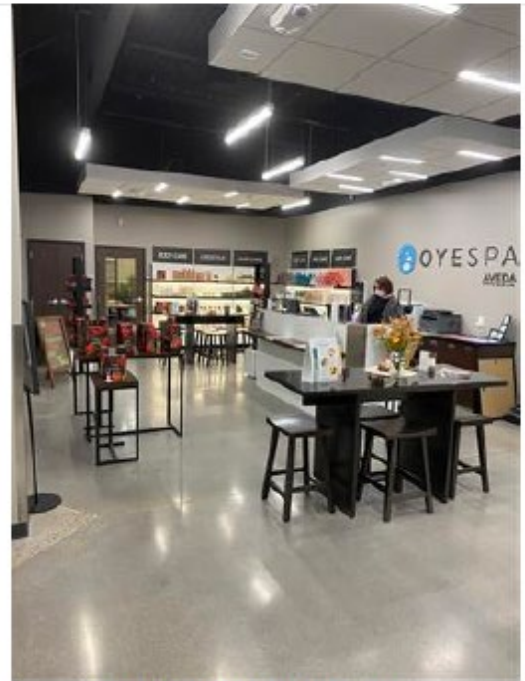
Picture1.png



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Applicant	Republic Services (Hauling Division, Recycling Center, and Pine Bend Landfill), Business
Total Required Actions Completed	5
Total Additional Actions Completed	+21
Award Recommendation	Gold
Energy Actions	- Use a programmable thermostat: <i>All three IGH locations were converted last year.</i> - Use an EnergyStar appliance or upgraded to more energy efficient appliances. - Utilized rebates on energy efficient or renewable energy powered products. - Additional Action: <i>Capture and convert methane from our Pine Bend Landfill to produce approximately 2,140 dekatherms of RNG per day.</i> - Additional Action: <i>Converted 130 light fixtures to LED at Recycling Center and Hauling Division.</i> - Additional Action: <i>We currently have 42 vehicles (60%) in our Fleet at the hauling division that exceed emission standards.</i>
Landscaping & Water Actions	- Buy locally grown produce or grow your own food: <i>Completed a 10' x 10' salsa garden at the hauling division. See photo.</i> - Additional Action: <i>Reporting or fixing water leaks.</i>
Waste Actions	- Recycle at your business following Dakota County's recycling rules. - Rent equipment such as tools, outdoor gear and event supplies instead of buying: <i>Ongoing at all 3 Inver Grove Heights locations whereby we often rent industrial equipment for a period of time vs buying.</i> - Incorporate sustainability into your business purchasing. - Additional Action: <i>Using shingles for landfill cover.</i> - Additional Action: <i>Operate a Recycling Center. In 2023 our Recycling Center captured: 22,946 tons of fiber saving 390,000 trees, 5400 tons of glass saving 11,000 cubic yards of landfill space, 625 tons of aluminum saving 25,000 barrels of crude oil, 600 tons of steel cans saving 1080 barrels of crude oil, and 2400 tons of plastics saving 38000 barrels of crude oil.</i> - Additional Action: <i>All 110 employees last year at the hauling division were given Bento Boxes and thermal mugs.</i> - Additional Action: <i>We installed water fountains, saved over 1100 water bottles to date. Installed water fountains at all 3 Inver Grove Heights locations in 2023. These water fountains serve 180 employees.</i> - Additional Action: <i>Our yearly average of tire retreads at the hauling division is around 75 tires which is the equivalent of 1672 gallons of crude oil saved. Retreading tires is less expensive than buying new.</i>

	- Additional Action: <i>Continuously promote and/or refer the general public to the City of Inver Grove Heights website Recycling Guide.</i> - Additional Action: <i>Provide tours at the Recycling Center on a continual basis for the general public and area business. We host a site tour at Recycling Center and Pine Bend Landfill on at least a yearly basis for the Dakota County Ambassador Program. In fact, we just hosted this group on 5/7/2024. This included ~60 hrs of public tours to our Recycling Center and Pine Bend Landfill.</i> - Additional Action: <i>We offer and provide Organic Pick-Up service for Commercial Customers within our Dakota County service territory, including the City of Inver Grove Heights. We collected 3.12 tons of organics from the City of Inver Grove Heights in 2023.</i> - Additional Action: <i>Participate in the Dakota County Organics Drop Site program by hauling organics from the public Rosemount drop site.</i>
Community Actions	- Teach IGH residents or other businesses about your completed actions. - Organize a local community group or complete a community project. - Promote workplace diversity during the hiring process. - Host employee appreciation events and/or activities. - Offer an employee volunteer service day, when employees are encouraged to donate their time: <i>240 work hrs of cleaning ditches.</i> - Additional Action: <i>We support community events including Hometown Heroes Cookout, Inver Grove Heights Tree Lighting and Touch-A-Truck.</i>
Additional Comments	- N/A
Photos	- See below.



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Environmental Advisory Commission Staff Report

SUBJECT: **Discussion on Energy Action Plan Work Plan**

MEETING DATE: May 16, 2024

ITEM TYPE: Regular Agenda

CONTACT: Ally Sutherland, Environmental Specialist, 651.604.8511

PURPOSE/ACTION REQUESTED

Staff will provide the Environmental Advisory Commission a summary of completed Energy Action Plan work plan actions and examples of future work plan actions that the City can take. The Environmental Advisory Commission is asked to provide staff feedback on future work plan actions.

BACKGROUND

The City Council approved the Inver Grove Heights Energy Action Plan in March 2021. The Energy Action Plan includes community wide goals and work plan actions for how the City will meet the goals. The Energy Action Plan can be found at www.ighmn.gov/energy.

FISCAL IMPACT

N/A

RECOMMENDATION

The Environmental Advisory Commission is asked to provide staff feedback on work plan actions.

ATTACHMENTS

None