

2024 Sustainable IGH Applications

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Participate on a local community board.
Additional Comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - N/A
Photos	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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



Bee bath 2.jpg



Bee bath.jpg



Bee lawn 2.jpg



Bee lawn.jpg

Amy Hunting, Resident



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

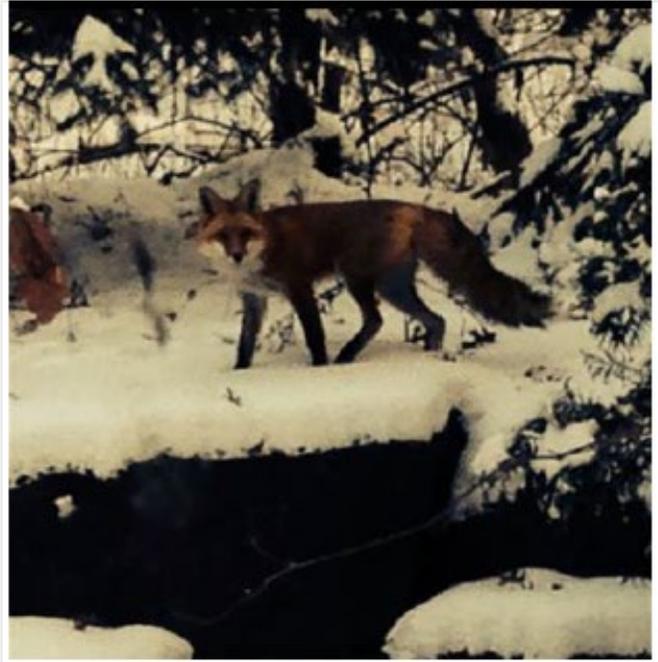
Applicant	Robert Heidenreich, Resident
Total Required Actions Completed	5
Total Additional Actions Completed	+38
Award Recommendation	Gold
Energy Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Use LED bulbs for all lighting. - Use a programmable thermostat. - Use an EnergyStar appliance or upgraded to 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - N/A
Photos	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - See below.

Robert Heidenreich, Resident



IMG_1417.jpeg



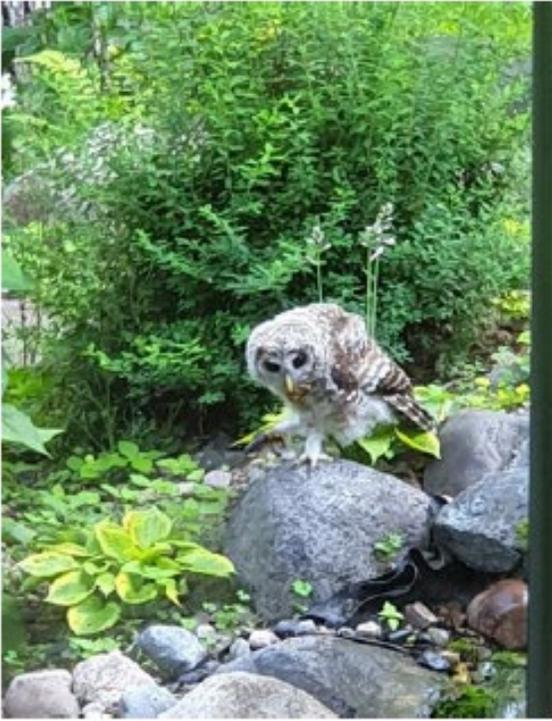
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IMG_1413.jpeg

Robert Heidenreich, Resident



image.jpg



IMG_1419.jpeg



Coverage

Land Cover Crop Cover



(in acres)

- Deciduous Forest 4.32
- Developed Open Space 0.58
- Developed Low Intensity 0.10

Mailing Address

11632 AKRON AVE INVER GROVE HEIGHTS MN
55077-5602

Owner occupied



Applicant	Charlotte Svobodny, Resident
Total Required Actions Completed	5
Total Additional Actions Completed	+20
Award Recommendation	Gold
Energy Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Volunteer or donate to benefit the IGH community. - Offer free or reduced-cost assistance to a neighbor(s) in need.

Additional Comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- <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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- N/A

Applicant	Chris & Sara Goodman, Resident
Total Required Actions Completed	5
Total Additional Actions Completed	+29
Award Recommendation	Gold
Energy Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - N/A
Photos	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - See below.

Chris and Sara Goodman, Resident



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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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Teach IGH residents or other businesses about your completed actions. - Volunteer or donate to benefit the IGH community.
Additional Comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - N/A

Applicant	Elizabeth Ziebarth, Resident
Total Required Actions Completed	5
Total Additional Actions Completed	+17
Award Recommendation	Gold
Energy Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Use LED bulbs for all lighting. - Use a programmable thermostat. - Use an EnergyStar appliance or upgraded to more energy efficient appliances.
Landscaping & Water Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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	

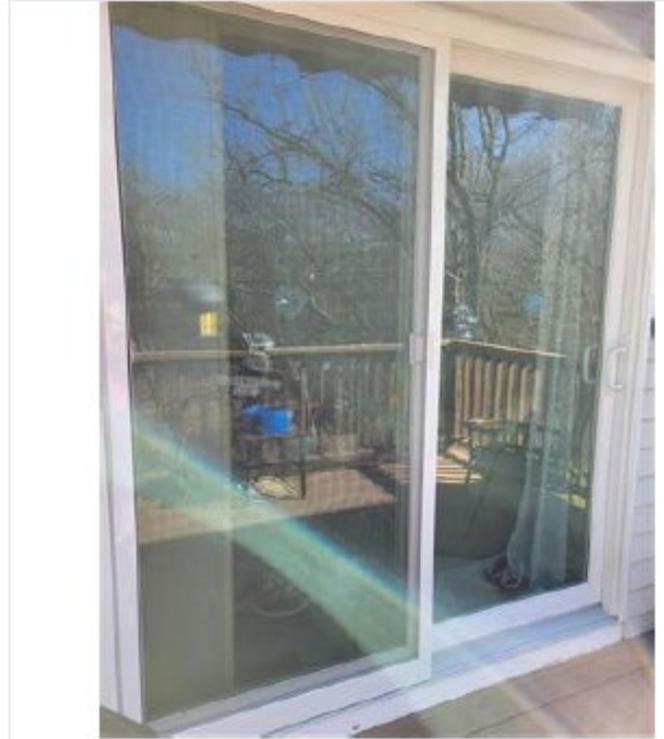
Photos

- *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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20240424_102123.jpg

Applicant	Jeff Parsons, Resident
Total Required Actions Completed	5
Total Additional Actions Completed	+39
Award Recommendation	Gold
Energy Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Plant a low-maintenance turf lawn with species such as fine fescues, buffalo grass, blue gramma, pussytoes, etc: <i>I have overseeded the lawn with a "low mow" mix of grass seed that is (according to the Gerten's webpage) LEED certified.</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. - 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>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Recycle at your home following Dakota County's recycling rules.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Organize a local community group or complete a community project.
Additional Comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reduced household trash to less than one bin per month

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>I included photos from the first Dakota County Fix-It Clinic in January 2016 and photos of my rain garden.</i>



IMG_20160707_203407638.jpg



IMG_20160123_123824226.jpg



IMG_1354.jpeg



IMG_20160801_081403141.jpg

Applicant	Kim Browning, Resident
Total Required Actions Completed	5
Total Additional Actions Completed	+37
Award Recommendation	Gold
Energy Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - See below.



100000818.jpg



100000306.jpg

Kim Browning, Resident



1000004857.jpg



1000004856.jpg



1000004855.jpg



1000004854.jpg



1000001314.jpg



1000001270.jpg



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1000001016.jpg

Applicant	Laura Grevas, Resident
Total Required Actions Completed	5
Total Additional Actions Completed	+20
Award Recommendation	Gold
Energy Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Our members get great joy from their gardens as well as the beauty of the prairie.</i>
Photos	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - See below



Cardboard.jpg



Library.jpg



Give and Take table.jpg

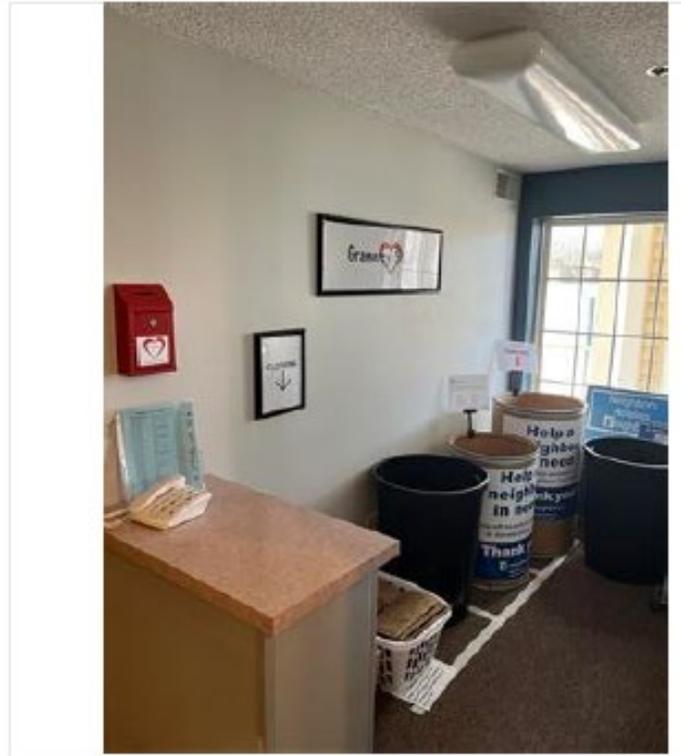


Gramercy Shares sign.jpg

Gramercy Park Cooperative, Business



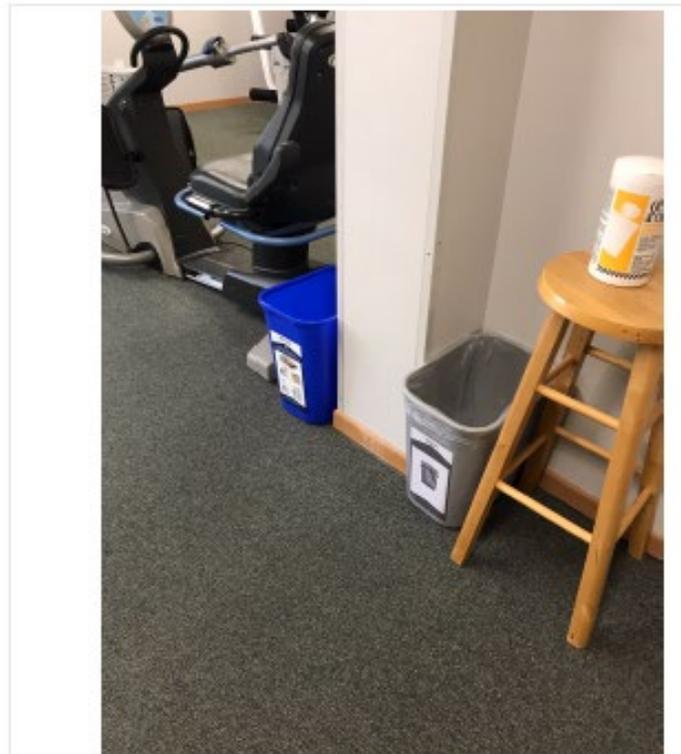
Prairie.jpg



Neighbors Inc..jpg



Recycling.jpg



Gramercy Park Cooperative, Business



IMG_2428.jpg



IMG_2429.jpg

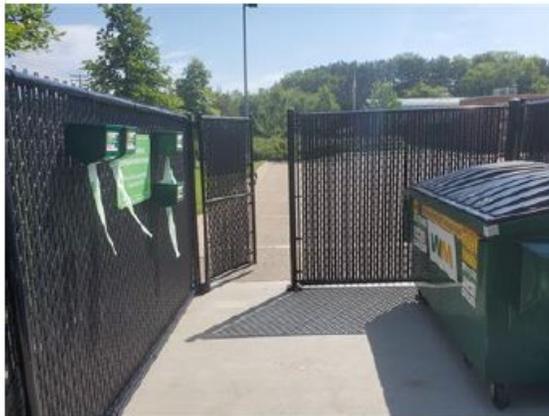
Applicant	Inver Glen Library, Business
Total Required Actions Completed	5
Total Additional Actions Completed	+22
Award Recommendation	Gold
Energy Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Use a programmable thermostat. - Use an EnergyStar appliance or upgraded to more energy efficient appliances. - 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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



20230801_111323.jpg



20230801_111519.jpg



IMG_7613.JPEG



IMG_7617.JPEG

Inver Glen Library, Business



IMG_7646.JPEG



Save Your Food Display.jpg



IMG_2713.JPG



IMG_2707.JPG

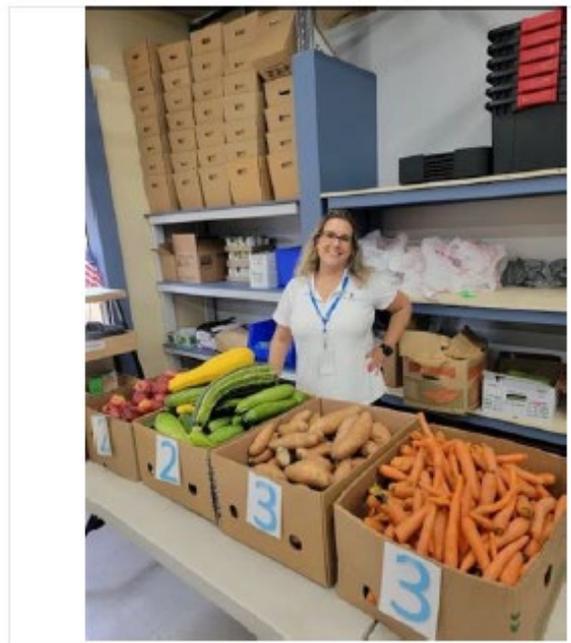
Applicant	Key Community Bank, Business
Total Required Actions Completed	5
Total Additional Actions Completed	+13
Award Recommendation	Gold
Energy Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Use LED bulbs for all lighting. - Use a programmable thermostat. - Use an EnergyStar appliance or upgraded to 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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,

	<p>or ThredUP: <i>Certain furniture or tools we try to purchase used or on eBay/Facebook marketplace, if available.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <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>

	<p><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></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - See below.

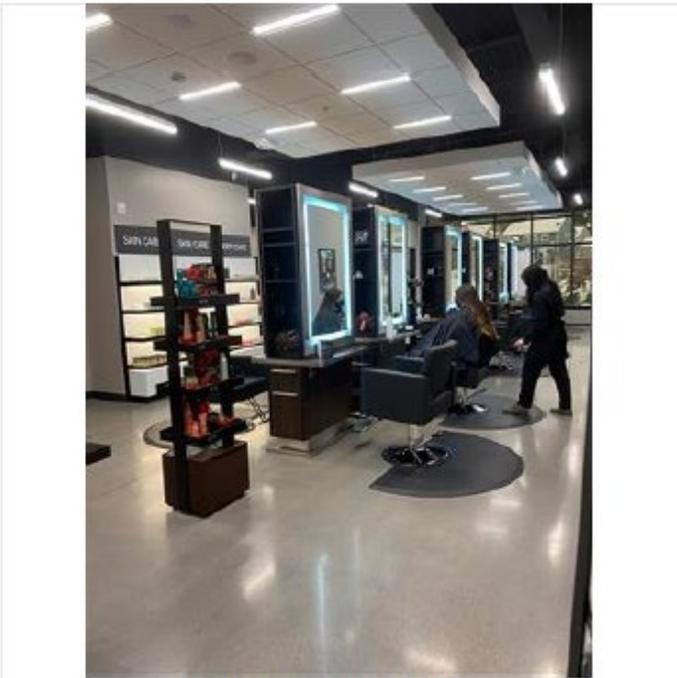
OYESPA, Business



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - N/A
Photos	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - See below.



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