Sustainable Saint Paul Briefings

February 2014

The Sustainable Saint Paul Briefings is intended to provide quick updates on sustainable initiatives and projects in the City of Saint Paul.

Street Maintenance Staff Receives an Environmental Leadership Award

Street Maintenance staff in the city's Public Works Department received the 2014 Environmental Leadership Award from the Freshwater Society at the 13th Annual Road Salt Symposium on February 6. The symposium is aimed at reducing the chloride pollution of ground and surface waters and intended for local government leaders, public works department managers and private snow and ice-removal contractors.

Environmental Leadership Awards were presented to individuals and organizations demonstrating exemplary practices to reduce chloride pollution or developing alternatives to road salt. The City of Saint Paul is close to being the first organization to have 100 percent of its snow fighting crews completed Road Salt Certification Training.

Green Development in Downtown Saint Paul: The Penfield

The Penfield, located in downtown Saint Paul, is the most recent project to be completed following the City of Saint Paul's Sustainable Building Policy and, as such, is attaining high environmental standards. This policy was adopted in 2010 by Mayor Chris Coleman and the Saint Paul City Council to help ensure that development in Saint Paul is done in an environmentally sound manner.

To comply with the policy, the Penfield building, including the Lunds grocery store, underwent sophisticated energy modeling and is designed to consume about 60 percent less energy than an average building of the same type. As a result, the Penfield will produce significantly fewer greenhouse gas emissions than a similar building built to code. It will also use 30 percent less potable water than an average building for sinks, showers and toilets; divert 75 percent of its construction waste from landfills; provide healthy and comfortable living environments for its residents; and manage stormwater responsibly.

Additional green features include: a green roof which will serve as both an amenity to residents and a tool to manage stormwater; zero use of ozone-depleting refrigerants; bike racks for residents; parking spaces reserved for fuel-efficient vehicles; and use of recycled and regional product in its construction.

For more information on the Saint Paul Sustainable Building Policy, click here.

Small Business Volatile Organic Chemicals (VOC) Reduction Opportunity Available

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency Small Business Environmental Assistance Program has funding to work with small businesses on reducing VOCs. This includes direct technical assistance for businesses interested in reducing their VOC emissions. If you are a business owner or know of any business owners who may be interested, please have them email Angie Bourdaghs or Eric David for more information. For more information and to stay up to date on the project, visit the MPCA VOC website.

$5,000 and $12,000 Grants Available through the 2014 Community POWER Program

The Community POWER team is looking for applicants to propose new and innovative ways to educate and actively engage residents in the Twin Cities and businesses in Ramsey County to change their behaviors to reduce waste. Non-profit organizations and schools are eligible to apply. The deadline to apply is March 24, 2014.

Apply online at RethinkRecycling.com/Grants. You can learn more by attending an informational meeting on Thursday, February 27 from 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. at the Roseville Public Library. For more information, contact Kira Berglund or (651) 222-7227.

City Releases Bikeways Plan Draft: Get your Comments Submitted!

Jackson Street - Before

Jackson Street - After

The City of Saint Paul Public Works Department has released a draft of the Citywide Bikeways Plan, a document which will dramatically influence the development of Saint Paul bicycle infrastructure for years

to come. Once in place, the plan will make biking in Saint Paul safer, more convenient and more accessible.

Residents are invited to attend an upcoming open house to learn more and provide feedback. Click here to view the draft and find more information about the open houses. If you're unable to attend an open house, comments can be made online. The city will gather public input through April 30, 2014. You can also subscribe to the city's biking newsletter here.

Submit Your Nominations for the 2014 Sustainable Saint Paul Awards

Nominations for 2014 Sustainable Saint Paul Awards are currently being accepted and will be accepted through Thursday, March 27. Don't wait to get your nominations in. Nominate today! Click here for more information.

(Photo on left: Clara Stahlmann Roeder - 2013 Winner of the Youth Leadership Award. From left to right: Councilmember Bostrom, Clara Stahlmann Roeder, Mayor Chris Coleman)

Save the Date – Participate in the 2014 Spring Cleanup

Spring is just around the corner! Save the date for the 2014 Citywide Spring Cleanup taking place Saturday, April 12, 2014. This event is a fun and effective way to improve the natural environment and meet others in our local community. There will be a celebration kickoff at Harriet Island—Kelley's Landing Pavilion, Indian Mounds Shelter, Highland Park Pavilion, Como Lakeside Pavilion, and Phalen Picnic Pavilion. Sign up today!

Sustainable Saint Paul Events Calendar

Check out environmental events happening in Saint Paul that are open to the public.

Visit the Sustainable Saint Paul website for more updates. Questions? Email Pa Vang or call 651-266-8533.