



The Most Livable
City in America

Sustainable Saint Paul Briefings

July 2013

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



Energy Efficiency Projects on Municipally-Owned Facilities

In 2009 the City of Saint Paul was awarded a \$2,767,000 Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant by the U.S. Department of Energy. The grant has allowed the city to undertake 117 energy efficiency projects on municipally-owned facilities, such as the Public Works Garage, Jimmy Lee Recreation Center, and Sun Ray Library. The energy efficiency projects included 28 lighting retrofits, 31 energy management system upgrades, and more.



Energy efficient lightbulb in parking facility

Excluding the RiverCentre and the Saint Paul Regional Water Services, the conservation summary since 2009 is as follows:

- An estimated demand reduction of 1,172 kW;
- An estimated annual electric savings of 4,005,403 kWh - equivalent to CO2 emissions from the electricity use of 423 homes for one year*;
- An estimated annual gas savings of 98,700 therms - equivalent to CO2 emissions from the energy use of 27 homes for one year*, and
- A total Xcel Energy rebate amount of \$632,266.78.

These environmentally-beneficial projects provide the city financial saving opportunities. The amount of expected annual electric savings adds to \$320,000 (at 8 cents/kWh), and the amount of expected annual therms (gas) savings adds to \$82,000 (at 83 cents/therm). The total projected savings is approximately \$402,000 on an annual basis at today's energy pricing structure. Learn more about the city's [energy efficiency projects and initiatives](#) and/or resources that can help you [save energy in your home](#).

* *Equivalents are calculated using the [EPA's greenhouse gas equivalency calculator](#).*

Saint Paul Regional Water Services Receives National Award for Ongoing Commitment to Water Quality

Saint Paul Regional Water Services (SPRWS) McCarrons Water Treatment Plant has received a national award for maintaining the Directors Award of Recognition from the Partnership for Safe Water. The award reflects the utility's outstanding commitment to delivering superior quality drinking water to their customers. Utilities that subscribe to the Partnership for Safe Water are dedicated to providing high-quality water to customers beyond the regulatory requirements.

The Directors Award is presented to water systems that have completed a successful review in the Partnership's Self-Assessment and Peer Review phase. In this phase, utilities examine the capabilities of their treatment plant operation and administration and then create a plan for implementing improvements. SPRWS has maintained the Directors Award for 15 years, an honor achieved by only a dozen water utilities across the country.



SPRWS supplies reliable, quality water and services to the City of Saint Paul and neighboring communities. Approximately 45 million gallons of water are treated daily and distributed through 1,100 miles of water main to more than 415,000 people. Read the [2013 Saint Paul Regional Water Services Water Quality Report](#) and/or learn more about [SPRWS and water conservation tips](#).

Photo: Steve Schneider, general manager of Saint Paul Regional Water Services (center with award), received the Partnership for Safe Water 15-year Directors' Award in June American Water Works Association's Annual Conference & Exposition in Denver, Colorado. From left are, James Chaffee, president of the American Water Works Association; Matt Anfang, president of the Board of Water Commissioners; Schneider; Greg Kleindl, commissioner on the Board of Water Commissioners; and Peter Grevatt, director of the United States Environmental Protection Agency Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water.

Regional Indicators Initiative Interactive Site Now Available

The Regional Indicators Initiative is a collaborative project managed by LHB Inc. for the Urban Land Institute Minnesota. The project measures the impacts of sustainable practices using four indicators: energy, water, travel and waste. The project's interactive site is now available and allows citizens of participating cities to see how their communities are doing on reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The City of Saint Paul is one of 20 Minnesota cities participating. [Visit the interactive site](#) to learn how Saint Paul is doing.



Adaptive Water Resource Management & Infrastructure Workshop

From June 24-26 representatives from the City of Saint Paul co-led an inter-agency team participating in a national three-day Climate Leadership Academy workshop sponsored by the Institute for Sustainable Communities. The workshop focused on climate adaptation for water resource management and infrastructure, including drinking water supply, stormwater, and wastewater. A total of 11 communities were selected to attend, of which the Twin Cities team was the only community from the Midwest, demonstrating its commitment towards climate change strategies.

The workshop provided peer learning opportunities for participants to learn about relevant climate adaptation activities occurring across the nation. The panel presentations also illustrated adaptive financing approaches to consider locally and explored technical tools available to help support decision-making for climate change adaptation. An afternoon was also dedicated to learning how the City of Philadelphia has transformed their approach to water management. This included a walking tour of Philadelphia's "Big Green Block," a 20-acre project known as a model for sustainable design.

Learn more about the [City of Saint Paul's water resources](#) and the [Sustainable Communities](#)

Explore Saint Paul's Regional Parks through Geocaching



2013 Geocaching theme: "Art in Nature"

The city's Natural Resources Division provides opportunities to explore Saint Paul's regional parks through Geocaching. Geocaching is an outdoor treasure hunting game using GPS devices or GPS-enabled mobile phones. Participants who successfully navigate to the provided GPS coordinates, find the cache, and complete the activity described are entered in a monthly prize drawing.

City staff hides caches monthly from May through October and each activity is designed to encourage learning and exploration of regional parks. This year's nature geocache theme, "Art in Nature", encourages participants to see their surroundings with new eyes. July's coordinates are already available online. Go [geocaching](#) today!

New this year, Natural Resources is offering a Harriet Island geocache game for groups focused on the cultural history of the site. Groups interested in this new opportunity should contact Faith Krogstad at Faith.Krogstad@ci.stpaul.mn.us or call 651-632-2455.

Stay updated on the city's Natural Resources educational programs, restoration work, and forestry news through the division's [website](#), [Facebook](#), and [blog](#).

For more information on Sustainable Saint Paul, visit www.stpaul.gov/sustainable. Questions? Contact Pa Vang at Pa.Vang@ci.stpaul.mn.us or call 651-266-8533.