

St. Anthony Village



Energy Efficiency Improvements

St. Anthony is currently undergoing a multi-year process for energy efficiency improvements throughout its public facilities.

In recent years, LED lighting retrofits have been completed in the city's main buildings: City Hall and Community Center, the Fire Station, Water Treatment Plant, Public Works, and two municipal liquor stores. Additional opportunities for LED retrofits were found in the city's most utilized park facilities: Central Park, Emerald Park and Silver Point Park. Lighting upgrades are continuing as part of a gradual replacement process, with additional equipment upgrades (such as heating and cool air system replacement) being planned in budgets for future years.



Utility rebates from Xcel Energy were a valuable resource to assist with the costs of retrofits and materials, with widespread benefits and thousands of dollars saved.

The city and residents are the primary beneficiaries: city utility bill costs have decreased, easing the burden on both the city and taxpayers, and residents can access safe, well-lit and modern spaces throughout the community.

“It’s not a difficult project, but the return on investment and a better light product really influenced our decision to do this,” says Jay Hartman, St. Anthony’s Public Works Director. He advises that other communities wanting to upgrade their lighting should do their research and see what benefits it could provide for the community. “Don’t be afraid to go for it, as it’s well worth the time, effort and investment.”

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*To learn more about how St. Anthony Village became a **Clean Energy Community**:*

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This community’s participation at the Eco Experience was supported by a grant from the Minnesota Department of Commerce



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Solar Energy Initiatives

The City of St. Anthony strives to be solar-friendly. A solar ordinance was passed in 2015, allowing solar installations on residential and commercial properties within the city. There have been 20 installations within city limits since 2015. A majority of them are on residential properties; the largest solar installations are at Mallard Ink and Faith United Methodist Church.

As a result of membership in the Metropolitan Council's Community Solar Subscriber Collaborative, the city approved 25-year agreements with two community solar garden developers in 2016. The subscriptions amount to approximately 25% of the annual electricity use from city government facilities. These solar garden subscriptions will save thousands of dollars in electricity costs over the lifetime of the agree-



ment, and are already proving to be a smart financial and environmental decision through monthly tracking of bills to date.

In June 2019, St. Anthony was designated as a SolSmart Silver community, a national designation and technical assistance program that recognizes commitment to advancing solar energy in local communities.

The champions of these initiatives were local citizens and policymakers. Grassroots movements from community members caught the attention of the City Council, who provided the direction and vision for the city staff. A significant benefit of these solar projects is the further alignment of sustainability goals to the city's mission statement, and providing the precedent to endorse and encourage public interest in participating in solar programs.



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Sustainability Through Collaboration

In 2012, St. Anthony's City Council added the word "sustainable" to the city mission statement, which led St. Anthony to create a "sustainability puzzle," with each puzzle piece representing a sustainability project that has taken place or is ongoing in the city.

Many of these projects involve tracking increases in residential solar sites or the number of rain barrels set up within the city. Others highlight larger city projects, such as the construction of new technology in the Advanced Oxidation Water Treatment Plant. The online St. Anthony Sustainability Tour Map was later adapted from this puzzle and intended for the public to visually see where the sustainability projects are located in the city, and just how widespread these efforts are throughout the community.



Staff worked with the city's longtime engineering consultant firm, WSB & Associates, to create the puzzle and "story map" with assistance from the firm's design department and GIS specialists. This project provides education, awareness and advocacy in the community for sustainability and clean energy—not just with residents, but

with staff as well. Going into the future, the puzzle and map will continue to serve as a graphic visualization that quantifies the work being done, and revealing opportunities for greater impacts in all parts of the city.

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