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The GreenStep 29 best practices

- **Make planning and tracking easier: download this spreadsheet that lists all unique actions – approximately 175 – for all 29 best practices.**
- Cities that implement a minimum number of best practices organized into these five topical areas will be recognized as Step Two and Step Three GreenStep Cities. See [What are Step Two and Three Recognition Minimums?](#)
- Cities should claim credit for best practices already implemented. Adding best practices over time will garner additional recognition.
- For each best practice, and depending on city category (A, B or C), a city needs to complete one or more actions from a list associated with the best practice. See [What category is my city in?](#)

Buildings and Lighting

- 1. Efficient Existing Public Buildings:** Benchmark energy usage, identify savings opportunities in consultation with state programs, utilities and others to implement cost-effective energy and sustainability improvements. 
- 2. Efficient Existing Private Buildings:** Provide incentives for energy, water and sustainability improvements in existing buildings/building sites.
- 3. New Green Buildings:** Construct new buildings to meet or qualify under a green building framework.
- 4. Efficient Outdoor Lighting and Signals:** Improve the efficiency and quality of street lighting, traffic signals and outdoor public lighting.
- 5. Building Redevelopment:** Create economic and regulatory incentives for redeveloping and repurposing existing buildings before building new.

Land Use

- 6. Comprehensive Plans:** Build public support and legal validity to long-term infrastructural and regulatory strategy. 
- 7. Efficient City Growth:** Promote financial and environmental sustainability by enabling and encouraging walkable housing and commercial land use.
- 8. Mixed Uses:** Develop efficient and healthy land patterns that generate community wealth.
- 9. Efficient Highway- and Auto-Oriented Development:** Adopt commercial development and design standards for auto-oriented development corridors and clusters.
- 10. Design for Natural Resource Conservation:** Adopt development ordinances or processes that protect natural systems and valued community assets.

Transportation

- 11. Living Streets:** Create a network of green complete streets that improves city quality of life and adds value to surrounding properties. 
- 12. Mobility Options:** Promote active transportation and alternatives to single-occupancy car travel.
- 13. Efficient City Fleets:** Implement a city fleet investment, operations and maintenance plan.
- 14. Demand-Side Travel Planning:** Implement Travel Demand Management and Transit-Oriented Design in service of a more walkable city.

Environmental Management

- 15. Sustainable Purchasing:** Adopt environmentally preferable purchasing policies and practices. 
- 16. Urban Forests:** Add city tree and plant cover that increases community health, wealth and quality of life.
- 17. Stormwater Management:** Minimize the volume of and pollutants in stormwater runoff.
- 18. Parks and Trails:** Support active lifestyles and property values by enhancing the city's green infrastructure.
- 19. Surface Water Quality:** Improve local water bodies.
- 20. Efficient Water and Wastewater Systems:** Assess and improve city drinking water and wastewater systems and related facilities.
- 21. Septic Systems:** Implement an effective management program for decentralized wastewater treatment systems.
- 22. Solid Waste Reduction:** Increase waste reduction, reuse and recycling.
- 23. Local Air Quality:** Prevent generation of local air contaminants.

Economic and Community Development

- 24. Benchmarks & Community Engagement:** Adopt outcome measures for GreenStep and other city sustainability efforts, and engage community members in ongoing education, dialogue, and campaigns. 
- 25. Green Business Development:** Support expansion of the city's green business sector.
- 26. Renewable Energy:** Remove barriers to and encourage installation of renewable energy generation capacity.
- 27. Local Food:** Strengthen local food and fiber production and access.
- 28. Business Synergies:** Network/cluster businesses to achieve better energy, economic and environmental outcomes.
- 29. Climate Adaptation and Community Resilience:** Plan and prepare for extreme weather, adapt to changing climatic conditions, and foster stronger community connectedness and social and economic vitality.