



August 23, 2012

2012-13 Duluth Community-wide Local Energy Action Plan (LEAP) Process

The City of Duluth's *Cities for Climate Protection (CCP) Committee* has formally launched the start of planning activities for a **Duluth Community-wide Local Energy Action Plan (LEAP)**. The 2012-13 LEAP energy planning process is sponsored by the City of Duluth. The project planning period is from September 2012 through April/May 2013, with final plan adoption by the Duluth City Council in 2013.

Duluth's LEAP will be developed using a community-based engagement process, guided by an Arrowhead Regional Development Commission planner who will facilitate planning activities and meetings. Community members will be engaged in an energy visioning session and strategy planning meetings co-lead by an Energy Leadership Team made up of energy leaders and key stakeholders in the Duluth Community.

LEAP planning will identify short and long term goals, strategies, and actions for four energy sectors; Residential, Commercial & Industrial, Public (local, area county and state government units, schools and higher education) and Transportation.

The overall goal for developing and implementing a community-wide energy plan is to move Duluth toward becoming a more secure, more vibrant economy and a more prosperous community. One path to achieve these ends is by reducing reliance on fossil fuels, reducing energy use in buildings, manufacturing processes, transportation and in other measurable energy uses. The City's long-standing goal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions will be a natural outcome of achieving energy use reduction targets.

*Good planning depends upon good community participation,
and we invite YOU to participate!*

Opportunities to get involved include attending a Community-wide Energy Visioning Session and Energy Sector breakout discussions, meetings and using on-line methods to share perspectives. All planning sessions will be open meetings to encourage community participation throughout the process.

For more information on Duluth LEAP, please see page 2. To learn how to get involved in planning activities, please contact

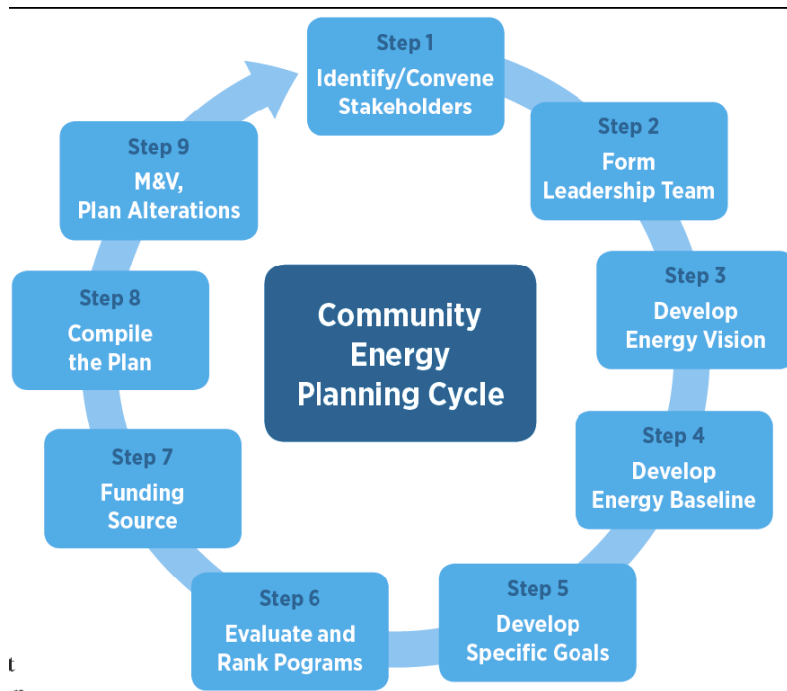
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More on the Duluth Community-Wide Local Energy Action Plan

The Planning Process:

LEAP planning will follow a recommended set of 9 steps identified by the American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy (ACEEE) in their online report “Local Energy Planning in Practice: A Review of Recent Experiences.”



The 9 Step Community Energy Planning Cycle was defined by the ACEEE, based upon best practices drawn from localities across the United States that have developed energy related plans.

LEAP activities will be guided by a project facilitator to facilitate the process and meetings, and who will prepare the plan document, however, Duluth residents, energy sector representatives and local stakeholders from across the community will form LEAP content: Vision, Goals, Strategies, and Action Steps.

More LEAP meeting Fact Sheets will follow in the coming months.

Project Funding:

The Duluth LEAP planning process is made possible by The City of Duluth, in part from the City's Energy Management Fund and is funded in part by the Knight Fund of the Duluth Superior Area Community Foundation and the MN Power Conservation Improvement Program.