

# Saint Paul Environmental Roundtable

## PRESS RELEASE



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### **Saint Paul City Council passes Environmental Roundtable Resolution to commemorate Earth Day. City takes action to implement Roundtable recommendations.**

Saint Paul— April, 19, 2006, The Saint Paul City Council passed a resolution today to begin implementing the Saint Paul Environmental Roundtable recommendations. During the past year, over 500 Saint Paul citizens came together to create recommendations in an effort to protect and improve Saint Paul's environment, a key factor in making Saint Paul a great place to live, work, and play. The Environmental Roundtable Resolution sets goals and direction for the six environmental topics address by the Roundtable.

"When it comes to the environment, Saint Paul is national leader and has a lot to be proud of," explained Mayor Coleman. "This resolution reaffirms the city's commitment to preserve and protect the environment for generations to come."

Saint Paul City Council Member Lee Helgen and Eureka Recycling, the city's waste reduction and recycling partner, provided the leadership to launch the Roundtable process. "A year ago we were all listening to the community. Saint

Paul citizens were telling us they wanted to come together and see the city take positive, proactive steps to protect and improve our environment,” according to Helgen. “It’s very exciting to see how the Environmental Roundtable has passionately engaged people in this work.”

The resolution directs Sustainable Saint Paul, a working group of city staff to lead on the city’s environmental issues, to carry the recommendations forward. Over the next several years, Sustainable Saint Paul will implement the recommendations and seek additional community input. They will also submit an annual report to the Council with a progress summary of the suggestions from the Saint Paul Environmental Roundtable. Highlights of the resolution include:

- create a zero waste plan and establish measurable goals to reduce waste for the next 20 years;
- review the 1987 Municipal Food Policy in order to improve the availability of, and access to, local, healthy foods;
- strive to attain 25% of its total electricity from renewable sources of energy by the year 2020, and work to ensure carbon dioxide emissions in 2020 be 20% lower than those in the baseline year of 1988;
- develop sustainable design and building guidelines for new and existing buildings;
- recommit to maintaining open and park space for the benefit of future generations; and
- work with its watershed districts to develop sound standards and exemplify responsible stewardship of the great Mississippi River by integrating best management practices and policies into its plans and ordinances.

Community involvement will be essential as the city implements the Roundtable recommendations, according to Susan Hubbard, CEO of Eureka Recycling, an organization that has taken a grassroots, community approach to recycling in Saint Paul for over two decades. “This project has truly been a joint effort

between many groups of people from many different backgrounds who bring specific expertise and passion on specific topics, “ explained Hubbard. “With continued leadership like that provided by Council Member Lee Helgen, our financial sponsors, and community members, we expect to see measurable gains every year.” Community members who would like to stay involved are encouraged to visit the Roundtable website, where the resolution and full recommendations are posted.

For more information about the Roundtable resolution or specific recommendations call (651) 222-7678 or visit [www.eurekarecycling.org/environmentalroundtable](http://www.eurekarecycling.org/environmentalroundtable)

The Saint Paul Environmental Roundtable is a model of collaborative environmental planning designed to provide an effective way of gaining valuable citizen participation in policy creation. The Roundtable, made up of volunteers from throughout Saint Paul, was formed in 2005. The work of the Environmental Roundtable culminated in the passage of today’s resolution, helping to set Saint Paul’s policy direction on six environmental issues: zero waste, food systems, cleaner energy, green building, open space, and water stewardship.

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