

# CITY OF STAPLES

## Energy & Environment Plan Overview

The Energy and Environment Addendum to the Staples Comprehensive Plan is intended to support the Staples community in identifying energy resilience and environmental conditions, challenges, and concerns, while also charting a plan of action to address those concerns.

This is a brief summary of the Staples Energy and Environment Plan that can be found at [regionfive.org/staples](https://regionfive.org/staples). The full document shares the community survey and other guiding resources that led to the Energy and Environment goals and steps for the next five years.



### City of Staples Energy and Environment Goals

1. Retain or increase population by **encouraging youth to stay in Staples** by highlighting energy/environment employment opportunities.
2. Maintain or improve **surface and drinking water quality**.
3. **Reduce solid waste** and increase recycling.
4. **Reduce citywide energy consumption** by 10% over the next 5 years.
5. **Expand the use of alternative modes of transportation**, including walking, biking, and electric vehicles.
6. **Expand the percentage of renewables in the generation mix** to include greater solar generation. Increase to cover 1% of total annual citywide electricity consumption by 2025, by installing approximately 400kW DC of solar.
7. Prevent or **mitigate the negative impacts of power grid failure** caused by tornado, straight line winds, or other cause.

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### The Energy and Environment Planning Process

Based on the goals identified above along with results from the community survey, the team prioritized five projects for implementation in 2021 that are listed on the back of this sheet.

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### Energy and Environment Workplan for 2021

1. The City, Central Lakes College, and the high school will collaborate to explore the CLC Staples campus and demonstrate energy/environment projects the College has deployed, once per year, to **encourage youth to stay in Staples** (GOAL 1).
2. Minimize the risk of household hazardous waste contamination in 10 households per year by ensuring drop-off and other details are included in the new resident packet when signing up for utilities, to help **protect surface and drinking water** (GOAL 2).
3. Work with Todd and Wadena Counties to offer a household hazardous waste drop-off day in Staples once per year, coinciding with the annual garbage pick-up day organized by the City, to help protect **surface and drinking water** (GOAL 2).
4. Replace City outdoor lighting and ensure all new outdoor lighting is LED, converting at minimum 10% each year, to help **reduce citywide energy consumption** (GOAL 4).  
*Cost: approximately \$8000 | Covered by MPCA grant.*
5. Create notices for residents to know where to go/what to do with household hazardous waste, including refrigerator magnets to be placed in with utility bills, to help **protect surface and drinking water** (GOAL 2).  
*Cost: approximately \$2000 | Covered by MPCA grant.*

\*The City of Staples and partners will work to implement the outlined projects at little to no cost to the City. Costs associated with two identified projects will be covered by a grant from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.

