

8.0 Implementation Plan

2040 Comprehensive Plan Goals, Strategies, and Action Items

Economic Development

Business and Industry Economics:

Goal 1: Maintain and strengthen economic diversity.

Strategy 1. Support the establishment and maintenance of housing, transportation, communication, and utility systems which support and foster quality development.

Action Item 1: Coordinate the provision of supportive infrastructure in concurrence with new development.

Action Item 2: Evaluate new development impacts on existing infrastructure and service to ensure adequate availability of development ready land.

Action Item 3: Establish partnerships to address and solve transportation and workforce housing needs.

Action Item 4: Encourage the development of infrastructure and state of the art telecommunication technology to promote telecommuting and E-business.

Strategy 2. Encourage increasing the number of small to mid-size firms within the region by fostering local entrepreneurship and business ownership.

Action Item 1: Partner with other agencies and institutions to identify programs and services to assist in the creation of new small and mid-sized businesses.

Action Item 2: Strengthen programs which provide business development, information, and technical assistance.

Strategy 3. Promote and foster historical, ecological and agricultural tourism as a suitable and appropriate form of economic development.

Action Item 1: Coordinate tourism efforts with other public, non-profit and private organizations.

Action Item 2: Promote a variety of year-round attraction to encourage tourism.

Action Item 3: Educate the public on the economic benefits of historic and natural resource preservation.

	Action Item 4: Encourage the development of tourism-related businesses.
Goal 2: Build and retain a highly skilled, adaptable workforce.	
Strategy 1. Cooperate with local education institutions to coordinate training/skill requirements to meet the needs of local employers.	Action Item 1: Work to reduce barriers to obtaining necessary or upgraded job skills.
	Action Item 2: Promote access to resources and tools for education, training, and supportive services through a variety of means and media.
Strategy 2. Collaborate with business, educational institutions, community organizations, and government to provide information to local businesses.	Action Item 1: Provide information on work skills development and available employment opportunities through print, electronic, and telecommunications media.
	Action Item 2: Create a collaborative recruitment strategy among business, non-profits, and government.
	Action Item 3: Encourage business, labor, education, and government partnerships to solve work force development problems.
Strategy 3. Promote and encourage quality of life and healthy living environment for employers and employees.	Action Item 1: Through public and private partnerships, improve and increase workforce housing options.
	Action Item 2: Improve transportation connections between residential communities and work sites by pursuing opportunities for alternative modes of transportation such as transit bus service, bicycle/pedestrian facilities and amenities.
	Action Item 3: Provide open space and recreational opportunities as an amenity to attract new businesses and their employees.
Goal 3: Retain and expand existing local businesses.	
Strategy 1. Encourage access to economic incentives for quality job creation and/or tax base enhancement.	Action Item 1: Explore an economic development marketing and incentives program targeting strategic business clusters.
	Action Item 2: Engage with State, Regional and local economic development organizations and agencies to sustain and expand current economic activities and be prepared for future economic trends.
	Action Item 3. Continue to collaborate and partner with municipalities and townships, to promote employment opportunities and expand the tax base in Rice County.

Strategy 2. Encourage existing neighborhood employers to grow “in place,” keeping jobs close to where people live.	Action Item 1: Development industry clusters by encouraging the retention, expansion, and recruitment of industries that already have a presence in the County.
	Action Item 2: Encourage Cities to work with property owners and interested developers to address unique development challenges including the maintenance, revitalization redevelopment of existing buildings.
Strategy 3. Support downtown revitalization and neighborhood business development in the cities.	Action Item 1: Develop strategies to increase employment growth through more intense and efficient use of existing infrastructure.
	Action Item 2: Support local innovative businesses and economic activities.
	Action Item 3: Promote downtowns as a place for innovative and emerging business to expand or relocate.
Goal 4: Attract new businesses to Rice County.	
Strategy 1. Make available vacant, development-ready land for commercial and industrial use.	Action Item 1: Promote well-designed and efficient development and redevelopment of vacant underutilized industrial and commercial lands.
	Action Item 2: Support redevelopment of existing vacant and underutilized industrial and commercial lands rather than designing additional lands for these purposes.
	Action Item 3: Monitor and update buildable lands inventory to ensure adequate short and long-term supplies of buildable commerce land.
Strategy 2. Encourage businesses that are environmentally and economically sustainable.	Action Item 1: Encourage programs that promote sustainable business practices (e.g., recycling, green building or other sustainable design features, the use of green or alternative energy, commute trip reduction programs and utilizing by-products of other Rice County businesses).
	Action Item 2: Maximize efforts to attract and recruit industries that are best suited for Rice County’s assets and opportunities.
Strategy 3. Maximize efforts to attract and recruit industries that are best suited for Rice County’s assets and opportunities.	Action Item 1: Actively encourage businesses that provide family-wage jobs to start-up, expand, or locate in Rice County.
	Action Item 2: The County shall assure economic development that promotes other community qualities, such as livability and environmental quality that are necessary for a sustainable economic future.

	Action Item 3: Develop a branding/marketing efforts to promote Rice County as a place to live and do business.
	Action Item 4: Institute appropriate land use regulations to accommodate a contemporary mix of economic activities and development.
	Action Item 5: Promote Rice County’s cultural, historic, recreational, education, and environmental assets and amenities.
	Action Item 6: Update zoning and subdivision regulations to accommodate for a variety of potential industries.
	Action Item 7: Promote economic development along the Interstate 35 corridor.

Agricultural Economics: Economic Development

Goal 1: Sustain a diverse economic mix for the County by promoting and strengthening agricultural and complementary businesses.

Strategy 1. Maintain a strong and productive agricultural economy while promoting the purchase and sale of locally produced products.	Action Item 1: The County, in cooperation with the cities, will actively promote buying locally, farmer’s markets, events and agricultural tourism opportunities.
	Action Item 2: Attract agricultural related industries to support diversification and use of raw materials from area farms.
Strategy 2. Expand rural business opportunities and enhance rural quality of life.	Action Item 1: Work with agencies such as the US Department of Agriculture and other state and local agencies to help fund agricultural resources projects.
	Action Item 2: Identify strategies that promote agriculture and agricultural support businesses in the County, which may include but not be limited to vineyards, community gardens, agritourism, et al.
	Action Item 3: Revise the County’s regulations and ordinances to address the evolving technological and operational characteristics of farm operations.

Goal 2: Expand awareness of local agriculture opportunities and agriculture related businesses within the County.

Strategy 1. Expand awareness of local agriculture	Action Item 1: Develop a program to educate the public and the farming community on agricultural issues and opportunities.
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opportunities and agriculture related businesses within the County.	Action Item 2: Establish a leader and mentorship program to encourage youth involvement in agriculture.
	Action Item 3: Develop a marketing/awareness campaign focused on local food and agricultural programs.
	Action Item 4: Create outreach programs to engage youth and adults with little or no agricultural experience.

Land Use

Growth and Development:	
Goal 1: Support and Encourage Orderly Growth and Development.	
Strategy 1. Support land use planning, which encourages orderly growth and sustainable development and redevelopment.	Action Item 1: Coordinate infrastructure expansion with development; and encourage development where the infrastructure is adequate to sever that growth.
	Action Item 2: Support the provision of joint services among jurisdictions.
	Action Item 3: Remain apprised of expected future urban growth areas.
Strategy 2. Encourage a diverse economic mix for Rice County by promoting existing assets and identifying new opportunities.	Action Item 1: Create commercial/industrial zones to promote employment and generate tax base in Rice County.
	Action Item 2: Identify appropriate areas for commercial and industrial developments, including along the I-35 corridor.
	Action Item 3: Promote agriculture and associated businesses.
	Action Item 4: Identify and reserve areas with sand, gravel and aggregate deposits for extraction.
Strategy 3. Identify additional areas for mixed-use development and further support urban growth.	Action Item 1: Continue to evaluate and implement urban growth zones where municipal infrastructure is likely to expand.
	Action Item 2: Continue to have zoning districts for the unincorporated villages to allow for mixed-use development encouraging the development of municipal type water and sere services.

<p>Strategy 4. Promote the opportunity to lead active and healthy lifestyles through the coordinated development of infrastructure or supporting programs that promote active lifestyles.</p>	<p>Action Item 1: Develop connections between existing communities, parks and other destinations to promote safe and active options.</p>
	<p>Action Item 2: Create land use regulations to improve proximity to nutritious foods and encourage local wholesome food-related businesses and activities.</p>

<p>Strategy 5. Support and further develop land use patterns that encourage alternative modes of transportation.</p>	<p>Action Item 1: Identify and map concentrations of compact residential and employment development that has potential to be served by transit.</p>
	<p>Action Item 2: Identify existing land uses and travel corridors in the county that could be transformed into transit-friendly corridors.</p>
	<p>Action Item 3: Encourage local planning for mixed land use areas in or adjacent to transit corridors.</p>
	<p>Action Item 4: Continue to expand existing partnerships and look for new opportunities to collaborate on providing alternative modes of transportation.</p>

Agriculture and Natural Resources:

Goal 2: Preserve Agricultural Land and Natural Resources.

<p>Strategy 1. Minimize conflicts between agricultural, residential, and other uses.</p>	<p>Action Item 1: Adopt land use regulations that control density and development in agricultural and open spaces, to protect and preserve agricultural land and environmentally sensitive areas.</p>
	<p>Action Item 2: Develop management methods for accommodating diverse types of agricultural activity.</p>
	<p>Action Item 3: Allow and encourage complementary commercial or industrial uses.</p>
	<p>Action Item 4: Protect and promote agriculture by preserving large tracts of land by encouraging clustering of rural residential development through use of transfer of development rights.</p>
	<p>Action Item 5: Promote higher density housing development in cities and unincorporated villages that can provide municipal or municipal type water and sewer services rather than in the agricultural districts.</p>

<p>Strategy 2. Preserve, protect, and improve the surface and underground waters including, but not limited to, rivers, streams, lakes, groundwater, and aquifer recharge areas.</p>	<p>Action Item 1: Encourage development to comply with wellhead protection zones.</p>
	<p>Action Item 2: Develop and employ land use regulations and other techniques for natural resource protection, including transfer of development rights or density, and best management practices.</p>
	<p>Action Item 3: Recognize the relationship between land use and water quality, and continue to support water quality improvements through land use plans and regulations.</p>
	<p>Action Item 4: Encourage shore land protection and restoration methods such as vegetative buffers.</p>
	<p>Action Item 5: Promote higher density housing development in cities and unincorporated villages that can provide municipal or municipal type water and sewer services rather than in the agricultural districts.</p>
<p>Strategy 3. In working through land development, the potential for air, water, and land contamination will be considered and minimized throughout the entire process.</p>	<p>Action Item 1: Encourage conservation design to preserve natural and scenic values.</p>
	<p>Action Item 2: Support and implement state and federal regulations that pertain to environmental review.</p>
	<p>Action Item 3: Define, by GIS overlay, and preserve environmentally sensitive areas and other open space by allowing only compatible land uses and development.</p>
	<p>Action Item 4: Recognize that soil conditions may limit development potential.</p>
	<p>Action Item 5: Coordinate with Local, State and Federal agencies and organizations to encourage landowners and tenants to implement and maintain good soil erosion healthy soil practices.</p>

Housing and Livable Communities Design

<p>Goals 1: Create a diverse range of housing types for all income levels.</p>	
<p>Strategy 1. Partner with local communities to develop and manage housing choices for seniors, low- and moderate-</p>	<p>Action Item 1: Incorporate services into denser areas that support affordable housing.</p>
	<p>Action Item 2: Encourage the availability of an adequate supply of land and infrastructure for multi-family housing developments.</p>

<p>income families, and minorities.</p>	<p>Action Item 3: Allow accessory dwelling units in single-family houses or single-family lots in certain districts that are subject to specific development, design, and occupancy standards.</p>
<p>Strategy 2. Work with other organizations to coordinate funding for additional affordable housing units.</p>	<p>Action Item 4: Encourage the development of mixed income housing units.</p>
<p>Strategy 2. Work with other organizations to coordinate funding for additional affordable housing units.</p>	<p>Action Item 1: Use tax increment financing to support housing projects that serve a mix of incomes and housing types.</p>
<p>Strategy 2. Work with other organizations to coordinate funding for additional affordable housing units.</p>	<p>Action Item 2: Encourage private-public partnerships to aid in the development of affordable housing.</p>
<p>Strategy 3. Promote mixed-use development near infrastructure that integrates rental housing.</p>	<p>Action Item 1: Support the provision of rental assistance programs for low-income residents.</p>
<p>Strategy 3. Promote mixed-use development near infrastructure that integrates rental housing.</p>	<p>Action Item 2: Encourage the cities to use inclusionary zoning and developer incentives to integrate affordable rental units into market rate developments.</p>
<p>Goal 2: Make available adequate housing for all life stages to ensure diverse communities.</p>	<p>Action Item 3: Support the provision of programs that provide affordable financing options to owners of rental housing to maintain, improve and upgrade the existing supply of rental housing in the county.</p>
<p>Strategy 1. Encourage affordable senior housing to allow residents to age in their own communities instead of needing to relocate to get the care they need.</p>	<p>Action Item 1: Work with cities to locate senior housing in or adjacent to basic amenities and transit hubs.</p>
<p>Strategy 1. Encourage affordable senior housing to allow residents to age in their own communities instead of needing to relocate to get the care they need.</p>	<p>Action Item 2: Promote a range of housing types for seniors; e.g., adult family homes, skilled nursing facilities, assisted living, and independent living communities.</p>
<p>Strategy 2. Promote the development of affordable workforce housing for newly hired workers (e.g. teachers, nurses, city/county employees, etc.).</p>	<p>Action Item 1: Provide education on first time home buying and homeownership.</p>
<p>Strategy 2. Promote the development of affordable workforce housing for newly hired workers (e.g. teachers, nurses, city/county employees, etc.).</p>	<p>Action Item 2: Look for opportunities to co-locate housing with other civic projects and/or employers.</p>

Strategy 3. Continue to promote homeownership and increase opportunities for minority families.	Action Item 1: Support and collaborate with Rice County’s Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) on assistance programs.
	Action Item 2: Encourage equitable access to housing, making a special effort to remove disparities in housing access for people with disabilities, people of color, low-income households, diverse household types, and older adults.
Strategy 4. Support housing that addresses the needs of people with physical or developmental disabilities, or mental illness.	Action Item 1: Encourage the development of specialized programs to provide rental assistance to persons with disabilities.
	Action Item 2: Support development of physically-accessible housing to allow for a diverse supply of affordable, accessible housing to meet the needs of people with disabilities, especially near basic amenity areas and provide services and transit.
Goal 3: Encourage maintenance and improvements of existing housing stock.	
Strategy 1. Support the provision of homeowner rehabilitation and improvement programs that assist low and moderate income residents with the financial means to maintain and improve the quality of their homes.	Action Item 1: Partner with non-profit housing providers to rehabilitate existing housing for low and moderate income homeowners.
	Action Item 2: Advocate grant and loan programs that provide residents with the ability to make energy and weatherization improvements to their properties in order to make their homes more energy efficient.
	Action Item 3: Support educational programs that provide residents with information on how to rehabilitate, improve and upgrade their homes.
Strategy 2. Support local city and township redevelopment efforts.	Action Item 1: Support local efforts to retrofit existing homes with accessibility improvements.
	Action Item 2: Support tax incentives policies that encourage the rehabilitation of existing housing in the county.
Goal 4: Advocate for housing near basic amenities and features necessary for a high-quality of life and to maintain a healthy life style.	
Strategy 1. Support land use patterns that efficiently connect housing, jobs, retail centers and civic uses.	Action Item 1: Collaborate with cities to put housing in transit corridors and near greenway/recreation corridors and basic amenities.
	Action Item 2: Encourage compact, mixed-use, multi-modal development that will increase travel options within existing urbanized areas, employment centers, and along transit nodes and corridors.

	Action Item 3: Encourage the cities to have complete, walkable neighborhoods that provide proximity to daily goods and services in order to decrease automobile dependence, and enhance livability and build community cohesion.
Strategy 2. Support the development of housing that is in close proximity to healthy foods and recreational opportunities.	Action Item 1: Build and encourage partnerships that work to expand residential access to healthy food.
	Action Item 2: Provide convenient and accessible recreational open space.
	Action Item 3: Improve year-round access to both public and private recreational facilities.

Transportation

Goal 1: Enhance and maintain a Transportation system that supports economic development along with existing and future land uses.	
Strategy 1. Update the Rice County Transportation Plan to guide future transportation improvement decisions for the County.	Action Item 1: Identify and collaborate with local, regional and State transportation agencies, governmental units, business and county residents to gather input on existing and future concerns.
	Action Item 2: Identify and address emerging deficiencies in capacity, access, mobility, safety, transit, trail and multi-modal needs.
	Action Item 3: Coordinate and work with cities and townships to develop long term land use and transportation plans to develop cost effective and efficient transportation systems.
Strategy 2. Improve and expand identified transportation corridors.	Action Item 1. Develop priorities, financing scenarios and funding options for improving and expanding identified transportation corridors.
	Action Item 2. Develop partnerships, collaborate and cost-share with local and state transportation agencies on traffic studies, planning and programming of future improvements.
	Action Item 3. Identify preliminary needs for planning, design, right of way, access control and construction of transportation corridors.
	Action Item 4. Consider multi-modal air/rail corridors that may be utilized for economic transport.
Goal 2: Preserve and improve the transportation infrastructure in Rice county to maximize safety and efficiency.	

<p>Strategy 1. Develop preservation strategies and policies to maintain the existing transportation system to ensure safe and efficient travel.</p>	<p>Action Item 1: Review and update access management and cost participation polices.</p>
	<p>Action Item 2: Analyze crash data to identify potential needs while updating and utilizing adopted safety plans.</p>
	<p>Action Item 3: Identify and negotiate maintenance agreements that provide more efficient delivery and services.</p>
	<p>Action Item 4: Identify reconstruction and replacement projects as part of the annual Transportation Improvement Plan.</p>
<p>Strategy 2. Evaluate existing conditions and identify future needs in an effective way to maximize and protect existing investment.</p>	<p>Action Item 1: Evaluate and prioritize system wide needs, develop funding and collaboration opportunities.</p>
	<p>Action Item 2: Strategically apply for funding to offset county investment needed for the transportation system.</p>
	<p>Action Item 3: Build a local coalition of support for planning and funding partnerships by encouraging cities, business owners and community groups to be active participants in seeking funding at local, state, and federal levels.</p>
<p>Goal 3: Develop multi-modal and integrated transportation components to enhance options for a diverse population.</p>	
<p>Strategy 1. Support the continued efforts of the County and Cities working together to support transit opportunities.</p>	<p>Action Item 1: Evaluate the option of the Park-and Ride facilities for carpool commuters within the county.</p>
	<p>Action Item 2: Increase current transit options/routes within and outside the cities of Rice County.</p>
	<p>Action Item 3: Advocate for long-term investment in transit infrastructure.</p>
<p>Strategy 2. Encourage usage of the transit systems.</p>	<p>Action Item 1: Prioritize transit service and bike/walk infrastructure improvements in populated areas with low vehicle ownership and low access to needed services.</p>
	<p>Action Item 2: Connect major employers with needed work forces through a variety of multi-modal programs.</p>
	<p>Action Item 3: Encourage increased advertising and education of alternative transportation options and local transit providers.</p>

Strategy 3. Support and incorporate active living principles in transportation plans and identified projects.	Action Item 1: Continue working with surrounding counties to establish long range trails that could be used for recreation and transportation.
	Action Item 2: Work with Cities and Townships to implement safe and appropriate trails crossings and access to the roadway system.
	Action Item 3: Identify and promote safe pedestrians crossings to promote walkable communities.
	Action Item 4: Support and assist Cities with their Safe Routes to School Plans.

Parks, Trails, Recreation & Open Space

Goal 1: Utilize all available resources to further enhance the quality of the Rice County Park System.	
Strategy 1. Update the 2012 Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan.	Action Item 1. Work with local municipalities, agencies and residents to construct a new and revised Parks Plan that suits all party's needs.
	Action Item 2. Set a timeline for the completion of each section of the Parks Plan.
	Action Item 3. The County will use the Comprehensive Plan to guide the development of updating the Parks Plan.
Strategy 2. Create/update Master Plans for each County Park.	Action Item 1. Use GIS to construct descriptive maps for these master plans.
Strategy 3. Identify and implement funding resources for maintenance and improvements of the County Park System.	Action Item 1. Work with Inter-county municipalities to secure funding from sources such as grants.
	Action Item 1: Increase the frequency of public meetings and surveys for residents to have the ability to voice their

<p>Strategy 4. Promote active communication between the County, local municipalities, and residents.</p>	<p>opinions/concerns in regards to County parks, trails, and open spaces.</p>
	<p>Action Item 2: Improve and update the parks section of the County website.</p>
	<p>Action Item 3. Collaborate with cities, townships, and school districts to promote community use of parks, recreation facilities, and opens spaces.</p>
<p>Goals 2: Protect, Enhance, and Maintain County Parks and Open Areas.</p>	
<p>Strategy 1. Identify areas where future parks, recreation, and open areas could be placed.</p>	<p>Action Item 1. Utilize GIS to analyze features for potential uses and future County parks.</p>
	<p>Action Item 2. Work on providing parks, facilities, and programs to underserved areas.</p>
<p>Strategy 2. Continue keeping County parks and trails clean and accessible for residents.</p>	<p>Action Item 1. Encourage the development of a volunteer program to help with maintaining and improving the overall quality of the County’s natural spaces.</p>
	<p>Action Item 2. Implement excellent maintenance service in the park system.</p>
	<p>Action Item 3. Develop a plan to eliminate physical barriers in all park areas to meet he recreational needs of all residents.</p>
	<p>Action Item 4. Address ADA accessibility across the park and trail system and incorporate changes (where needed) when there are park improvement projects.</p>
<p>Strategy 3. Ensure safety throughout the park system.</p>	<p>Action Item 1. Have park and trail map guides easily available for Rice County residents and visitors.</p>
	<p>Action Item 2. Increase and improve wayfinding’s throughout County parks.</p>

	Action Item 3. Continue working with the Rice County Sheriff's Office to decrease negative activity going on in parks, open spaces, and trails.
Goal 3. Encourage a Healthy and Active Lifestyle by Promoting the Use of Parks and Trails.	
Strategy 1. Collaborate with surrounding counties and municipalities to develop potential multi-county trails/parks.	Action Item 1. Continue advocating for the expansion of the Sakatah State Trail and the Mills Town Trail.
	Action Item 2. Explore the option of implementing an Adopt-a-Trail program within the County park system.
Strategy 2. Support the development of programs that encourage active living.	Action Item 1. Encourage community involvement with the park and trail system. Ex. Park clean-ups, fundraisers for park equipment.
Goal 4: Conserve and Protect Natural Resources that are Present in the County Park System.	
Strategy 1. Park design shall protect and improve the functions of the natural environment and strike a balance between public use and preservation.	Action Item 1. Encourage the establishment of a planting program in parks and open space areas where trees and vegetation are lacking.
	Action Item 2. Support native landscaping and maintenance in County parks, if applicable, to maintain the natural environment.
	Action Item 3. Advocate for the maintenance and development of natural corridors to foster ecosystems continuity and connections to parks and open spaces.
Strategy 2. Encourage the creation, adoption, and usage of Natural Resource Management plans to manage and preserve natural resources within Rice County parks.	
Strategy 3. Provide recycling opportunities and facilities at public parks and points along the trail.	

Sustainability

Goal 1: Enhance, Protect, and Restore Natural Lands and Systems.

<p>Strategy 1. Encourage County farmers and agricultural land owners to participate in The Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program (MAWQCP).</p>	

<p>Strategy 2. Protect and manage streams, watersheds, and floodplains.</p>	<p>Action Item 1: Promote education about the values of watershed, raingardens, and low-impact development to address storm water run-off.</p>
	<p>Action Item 2: Minimize the potential for air, waters and land contamination and pollution that could result from the development process.</p>
	<p>Action Item 3: Encourage landowners in the shoreland areas to develop and maintain native vegetative buffers.</p>

<p>Strategy 3. Encourage collaboration between the county and cities to expand urban & county parks and street tree programs.</p>	

<p>Strategy 4. Encourage farmers to utilize cover crops programs such as Rice County’s Soil and Water Conservation Districts Cover Crop Incentive Program.</p>	

<p>Strategy 5. Work with County landowners and local municipalities to increase land enrolled in programs like the Minnesota Conservation Reserve Enhancement (MN CREP) and the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP).</p>	

Goal 2: Advocate and Expand the Use of Energy Efficient Methods and Renewable Energy Resources.

<p>Strategy 1. Encourage cities within Rice County to participate/continue to participate in the Minnesota Green Steps Cities program.</p>	

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<p>Strategy 2. Evaluate Rice County owned land that is suitable for renewable energy sources as solar gardens and wind turbines.</p>	
<p>Strategy 3. Collaborate with local municipalities to offer incentives for businesses to incorporate environmentally friendly and sustainable business models and practices.</p>	<p>Action Item 1: Work with MinnPACE (Property Assessed Clean Energy) and commercial property owners to invest in energy efficiency upgrades.</p>
	<p>Action Item 2: Advocate for the implementation of green building and energy conservation.</p>
<p>Strategy 4. Encourage Rice County residents to reduce their carbon footprint.</p>	<p>Action Item 1: Work with local entities to increase the number of electric vehicle charging stations.</p>
	<p>Action Item 2: Assist homeowners with researching and obtaining grants for the weatherization of their homes.</p>
<p>Goal 3: Encourage Waste Reduction, Reuse, Recycling, and Composting.</p>	
<p>Strategy 1. Increase accessibility of composting and organics recycling.</p>	<p>Action Item 1: Encourage the use of programs like Northfield Curbside Compost.</p>
	<p>Action Item 2: Promote residential backyard composting throughout the county.</p>
<p>Strategy 2. Work with local entities to host educational engagements pertaining to waste reduction, reducing and managing food waste, and composting and recycling practices.</p>	<p>Action Item 1: Advocate for events going on in Rice County to be zero waste.</p>
<p>Strategy 3. Encourage businesses around the County to switch over to more sustainable and biodegradable products.</p>	
<p>Strategy 4. Promote and advocate for funding of food rescue.</p>	