



# The 10 Greenest Cities in America

<http://cityguides.msn.com/green/greenarticle.aspx?cp-documentid=4848625&page=3>

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American cities aren't just starting to blossom in the green arena, they're fighting to see which can bloom the brightest. The following list is a quick hybrid cab ride through 10 cities doing the most to realize a sustainable metropolis. To learn more, visit the [rest of our series](#), and see which cities need the most help—and which cities are greener than you think.

## Minneapolis

The unassuming City of Lakes has been making a name for itself as a green heavyweight by steadily lightening its environmental footprint. The EarthDay Network ranked it second among the greenest midsize cities this year, and Minneapolis is training to be a soldier in the fight against climate change. R.T. Rybak was one of the first mayors to step up and sign the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement (for details, see Seattle, below), a pledge for his city to meet or beat the standards of the

Kyoto Protocol. Also, Minnesota has set one of the country's first state renewable energy standards, a move mandating that 25 percent of electricity come from renewables.

Minneapolis also has laid out a map of 24 sustainability indicators, each with numerical targets, which the City Council wants to incorporate in all parts of local government to help "push sustainability down throughout the enterprise," as project coordinator Daniel Hoff puts it. In addition to greening city fleets with homegrown biodiesel and ethanol and pushing for car sharing, the city saw its new light rail line that opened in 2005 exceed expected ridership by almost 50 percent in the first year. LEED-certified green buildings are springing up, as are simple but brilliant resource management solutions: Storm-water utility fees, for example, are charged based on the area of hard, impervious surfaces on a property, while credits are doled out for permeable surfaces that let rainwater safely soak back into the ground.

