

T Transportation Committee

Meeting date: July 9, 2012

For Metropolitan Council meeting: July 25, 2012

ADVISORY INFORMATION	
Date:	June 25, 2012
Subject:	Minnesota GreenCorps
District(s), Member(s):	All
Policy/Legal Reference:	Minnesota GreenCorps program is an AmeriCorps program, operated by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, and funded by the MPCA, ServeMinnesota, and the Corporation for National and Community Service (federal funder).
Staff Prepared/Presented:	Brian Lamb, General Manager, 612 349-7510
Each named staff member should initial this section	Marilyn Porter, Director Engineering & Facilities 612 349-7689
	Pat Jones, Assistant Director, 612 349-7606
	Robert Rimstad, Project Manager, 612 349-7768
Division/Department:	Metro Transit / Engineering and Facilities Department

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize a board resolution of support to participate as a Host Site for the GreenCorps program and authorize the Regional Administrator enter an agreement with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA).

Background

The Minnesota GreenCorps program is an AmeriCorps program coordinated by the MPCA, an environmentally-focused AmeriCorps program. Following a competitive solicitation, Metro Transit was approved as a Host Site for the 2012 - 2013 year of the Minnesota GreenCorps program. MPCA selects members and places them with various host sites to spend a year of service addressing critical environmental issues, while gaining experience and learning valuable job skills. Members serve approximately 40 hours/week for 11 months beginning mid/late September 2012 through August 2013.

The GreenCorps members will assist with:

- collecting, benchmarking and reporting of data within B3 Benchmarking and other analysis tools
- identifying opportunities for conservation and efficiency through no/low-cost operations and maintenance strategies
- assisting with host site contracts for retrofit/retro-commissioning work, initiating IT power management efforts, and implementing employee engagement programs
- conducting surveys, outreach and education
- coordinating above activities with implementation and reporting of green building best practices, including MN GreenStep Cities
- helping plan for continuous improvement in reducing energy use and GHG emissions

Rationale

Participating in the Minnesota GreenCorps program will allow Metro Transit to continue to work towards meeting the goals of the Metropolitan Council's Sustainability Plan.

Funding

The AmeriCorps Program provides the funding for the program and directly compensates the GreenCorps member.

Known Support / Opposition

The Metropolitan Council recently authorized a Sustainability Plan. The GreenCorps member will help Metro Transit work towards meeting the goals identified in the Council's Sustainability Plan.