

AGENDA

Eau Claire County

- Sustainability Advisory Committee •

Date: March 8th

Time: 5:00 P.M.

Location: Eau Claire County Court House, Room 3312

721 Oxford Avenue Eau Claire, WI 54703

**Event link below can be used to connect to meeting and interact (by the chair) from computer or through the WebEx Meeting smartphone app.*

Join WebEx Meeting:

<https://eau Claire County.webex.com/eau Claire County/j.php?MTID=m9a7cf6b4e4000636c49137acd11093f0>,

Meeting ID: 2595 197 1098, Password: Gj8NScq2Td5

**Meeting audio can be listened to using this Audio conference dial in information.*

Audio conference: 1-415-655-0001, Access Code: 2595 197 1098

For those wishing to make public comment, you must e-mail Regan Watts at

Regan.watts@eau Claire County.gov **at least 30 minutes prior to the start of the meeting. You will be called on during the public session to make your comments.**

AGENDA

1. Call to order
2. Roll Call
3. Confirmation of Compliance with Open Meeting Law
4. Review/Approve Meeting Minutes from February 9th **page 1**
5. Public Comment Period
6. SOAR Analysis – Discussion **pages 3-9**
7. April Community Input Forum - Discussion **page 10**
8. Members, Staff and Agency Updates-Discussion
 - a. Upcoming Community Events
 - b. Additional staff updates
9. Items for the Next Agenda
10. Next Meeting
11. Adjourn



MINUTES
Eau Claire County
Sustainability Advisory Committee
Thursday, February 9, 2023, at 5:00 p.m.

Present: Katherine Tami Schraufnagel, Jim Dunning, Amy Alpine, Nathan Anderson (Virtual) Kathy Campbell, Cathy Lea, Jeff White, Eleanor Wolf, Patrick Bethke, Tim Davis, Lily Strehlow,

Absent:

Others: Regan Watts – Committee Clerk, Madeline Marchiafava – P&D, Matt Michels – P&D, Jeremy Gragert, Julie Thoney(Virtual), Greta Gunnarson(Virtual)

Call to Order and confirmation of meeting notice.

Chair Schraufnagel called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. and confirmed that the meeting was noticed.

Roll Call

The roll was called by the clerk, and it is noted above under present. A quorum was confirmed. Committee members and public provided introductions since it was the first committee meeting.

Public Comment

Jeremy Gragert briefly provided a description of his work/support for sustainability in the community and his work with Citizen’s Action and a member of Eau Claire City Council.

Oral Presentation: Member Orientation and Onboarding

Regan Watts, Recycling & Sustainability Coordinator provided the committee members with an overview of the county’s existing climate and sustainability goals and how the county is doing so far. Discussed the county’s greenhouse gas inventory and also discussed potential focus areas of the plan based on the inventory.

Review of Resolutions 19-20/003, 22-23/042, and 22-23/058

Committee members reviewed the resolutions that led to the county’s goals and this committee and were able to ask questions/have discussion.

Future meeting locations and times

In order to ensure that all members of the community have an opportunity to attend meetings and to meet community members where they are the committee decided to rotate meeting locations throughout the county. The March meeting will remain at the county courthouse and the April meeting will be replaced with community open house events (discussed below). May meeting location is TBD.

April Community Input Forum

Members discussed the community input forums to take place in April to gain

community insight on the Climate Action & Resilience Plan. Committee members decided on April 6th and April 19th at 6:30PM for the events. Regan Watts will work on securing locations with preference for Town of Washington and Augusta.

Staff Updates

Regan Watts provided program updates for members.

- The program has received a grant from the USDA to complete a food waste reduction pilot. The first portion of that project was a compost bin sale for county residents. Over 300 bins sold within a week of the sale opening. More updates will be provided as the project progresses.
- The Beaver Creek Recycler will have information this year about composting, sustainable homes and lawns in addition to the normal recycling information. Design should be completed by next meeting.

Next Meeting Date

The Committee agreed on the next meeting to be held in either March 8, 2023, at 5:00PM at the government center in room 3312.

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Regan Watts

Regan Watts – Clerk, Recycling & Sustainability Coordinator

For the SOAR analysis feel free to visit [SOAR ANALYSIS FRAMEWORK](#) if you are unfamiliar with that process.

This implementation matrix was drafted by the planning intern in 2019. These are potential strategies the committee may want to explore during planning process.

Implementation Matrix

Residential Building Energy Use					
Goal	Strategy	Timeline	County Lead(s)	Partners	Related Plans/Ordinances (if applicable)
Plan for low-carbon, energy efficient development to meet the needs of residents and support County goals of carbon neutrality and sustainability.	<p>[R1.] Engage with stakeholders to develop subdivisions that are energy self-sufficient, with design parameters such as energy efficiency, passive energy, local renewables, and smart home technologies.</p> <p>[R2.] Promote energy audits, energy efficiency rebates, and financial incentives.</p> <p>[R3.] Maintain and support the adoption of renewable-powered heating, cooling, and hot water technologies</p> <p>[R4.] Increase the number of solar-ready buildings in new residential construction.</p>				
Increase awareness of energy efficiency among Eau Claire County residents.	[R5.] Leverage communication channels, community ambassadors, and local organizations to promote energy savings for local residents.				
Develop new community-sited renewables within Eau	[R6.] Increase the number of residential				

Claire County that offer subscriptions to residents.	subscribers to utility renewable subscription programs. [R7.] Increase privately owned solar.				
Commercial and Institutional					
Goal	Strategy	Timeline	County Lead(s)	Partners	Related Plans/Ordinances (if applicable)
Promote businesses that have acted or strive to act in sustainability, especially relating to energy and carbon reductions.	[C1.] Support a local business recognition program.				
Improve energy efficiency in present and future buildings and infrastructure.	[C2.] Offer resources to reduce the cost of energy efficiency and renewable energy projects, including financing. [C3.] Increase the number of businesses that track energy use through energy benchmarking.				
Support the adoption of on-site customer-owned renewable energies and renewable-powered heating, cooling, and hot water technologies, including geothermal projects.	[C4.] Educate and encourage policies to support rooftop, parking lot, and other on-site solar installation programs. [C5.] Consider incentives to reduce the costs of renewable-powered heating and explore potential project sites in Eau Claire County.				

Transportation

Goal	Strategy	Timeline	County Lead(s)	Partners	Related Plans/Ordinances (if applicable)
<p>Increase bike- and pedestrian-friendly environments in Eau Claire County.</p>	<p>[T1.] Fortify the County’s Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan to reduce transportation emissions, improve the County’s infrastructure, and increase low-carbon mobility.</p> <p>[T2.] Consider allowing developers to determine their own minimum parking requirements based on justification analyses.</p>				
<p>Consider alternative fuel vehicles and modes of transportation.</p>	<p>[T3.] Explore on-demand micro-transit.</p> <p>[T4.] Identify community opportunities for electric and alternative fuel vehicle outreach.</p> <p>[T5.] Encourage electric vehicle car- or ride-sharing programs.</p>				
<p>Increase charging infrastructure within Eau Claire County including light duty vehicle and freight.</p>	<p>[T6.] Work with utility providers to promote charging infrastructure and competitive rates.</p> <p>[T7.] Identify public and private charging locations.</p>				
<p>Pass an ordinance requiring electric vehicle chargers depending on land use, number of parking stalls required, and locational preference.</p>	<p>[T8.] Require and prioritize parking for electric vehicles.</p>				

Agriculture and Agriculture-Related Activities

Goal	Strategy	Timeline	County Lead(s)	Partners	Related Plans/Ordinances (if applicable)
<p>Increase agricultural producers' knowledge of linkages between farm practices and greenhouse gas emissions.</p>	<p>[A1.] Engage in community outreach to improve the state of knowledge regarding agricultural greenhouse gas sources in Eau Claire County.</p> <p>[A2.] Conduct a local climate change vulnerability assessment for agriculture in Eau Claire County.</p>				
<p>Develop educational resources to inform government policy, planning and programming.</p>	<p>[A3.] Coordinate a regional workshop series with local governments to increase knowledge of mitigation and adaption opportunities.</p> <p>[A4.] Circulate tools to be guide policy, planning, and other capacity building agricultural programs associated with climate change.</p>				
<p>Explore carbon capture practices, high-efficiency/low-energy use irrigation programs, and energy solutions for agribusiness.</p>	<p>[A5.] Increase the availability of technical and financial support to implement greenhouse gas mitigation practices in Eau Claire County.</p>				
<p>Maximize implementation of energy/fuel efficiency practices and technologies available in our region.</p>	<p>[A6.] Produce tools and resources to expedite implementation of efficiency practices and technologies.</p>				

	<p>[A7.] Enable “self-assessments” to streamline and prioritize energy efficiency opportunities.</p>				
<p>Increase commercial clean energy production in Eau Claire County.</p>	<p>[A8.] Support farm energy business development and management.</p> <p>[A9.] Consider feasibility studies to evaluate the commercial viability of technologies.</p> <p>[A10.] Facilitate cost-benefit analyses of clean energy technologies for farm-scale production including, where possible, case studies of existing projects.</p>				

Land Conservation					
Goal	Strategy	Timeline	County Lead(s)	Partners	Related Plans/Ordinances (if applicable)
<p>Maintain Eau Claire County’s healthy, diverse, well-distributed, and abundant wildlife, fish populations, plants, and communities.</p>	<p>[L1.] Incorporate a stewardship approach to wildlife management that factors in ecosystem function, services, and biodiversity into the decision-making process.</p> <p>[L2.] Consider adaptive-management principles, techniques, and approaches into Eau Claire County forest-management policies and programs.</p>				

Protect and maintain the stability and function of streams, rivers, and aquatic systems within Eau Claire County.	[L3.] Develop and research ways to monitor, detect, and record changes in species, habitat composition, and natural cycles that impact fish and wildlife health.				
Expand education and outreach initiatives for students, landowners, and local governments.	[L4.] Work with community partners to effectively communicate the connection between land conservation and climate change.				

Cascading				
Strategy	Timeline	County Lead(s)	Partners	Related Plans/Ordinances (if applicable)
<p>[CD1.] Continue to support Xcel Energy and Dairyland Power’s (Eau Claire Energy Cooperative) carbon-free and renewable energy goals.</p> <p>[CD2.] Provide implementation budget support to ensure feasible outreach and action programs.</p> <p>[CD3.] Form a local partnership collaborative to share knowledge, leverage abilities, and determine joint projects that will accelerate change and innovation.</p> <p>[CD4.] Partner with academic institutions to train the next generation of professionals.</p> <p>[CD5.] Hire additional staff to work towards the goals, strategies, and objectives of this Renewable Energy Action Plan.</p> <p>[CD6.] Improve robust public health mechanism to reduce climate-related morbidity and ensure prosperous and diverse communities.</p>				

<p>[CD7.] Expand existing community-based volunteer networks to identify and assist vulnerable populations including senior citizens, people with impaired mobility, and people with limited English-language proficiency.</p> <p>[CD8.] Empower Eau Claire County residents to foster a better understanding of climate change and take actions to reduce or eliminate negative outcome</p>				
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Potential Focus Questions for CARP Open House

When the committee completes the SOAR analysis, we will determine final questions.

- **Transportation and Mobile Services**
 - What barriers, if any, do you have in traveling within the county? (Example: do not own a vehicle, unable to drive, lack of public transportation options, cost, etc.)
 - What has your experience been like utilizing Eau Claire County's transportation and mobile services? (Examples: City of Eau Claire buses, ADRC Abby Vans, Veteran's Services, etc.)
- **Residential**
 - What are your reservations, if any, to utilizing existing energy efficiency and renewable energy? (Example: Focus on Energy, utility incentives, etc.)
 - How would you the availability of information to access renewable energy in your home or to make your home more efficient?
 - How informed do you feel on actions you can take in your home to reduce your energy consumption and energy bill?
 - How has your experience been when having reliable and available information about residential energy efficiency programs and incentives?
 - What barriers do you face in making energy efficiency upgrades to your home?
- **Businesses**
 - As a business what are your reservations, if any, to utilizing existing energy efficiency and renewable energy? (Example: Focus on Energy, utility incentives, etc.)
 - What has your experience been finding reliable and relevant information about commercial energy efficiency programs and incentives?
 - What barriers do you face in making energy efficiency upgrades to your business?
 - What resources or support would assist you most in identifying opportunities to reduce your businesses energy use?
 - What resources or support would assist you most in identifying opportunities to adopting renewable energy at your business?
 - As a business owner what are your concerns regarding climate change and its impact on the community/your business?
- **Solid Waste**
 - What is your experience finding accurate and relevant information regarding proper waste disposal in Eau Claire County?
 - What barriers do you face when recycling or disposing of your waste properly?
- **Agriculture and Natural Resources**
 - As an ag producer do you have any barriers to adopting conservation or best management practices