

AGENDA

Eau Claire County

- Sustainability Advisory Committee •

Date: June 14th

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=mbf54f26b2a1e33773c7be6cb9d9b2c36>

Meeting number: 2595 890 7164 Meeting password: FsTS6UQPX33

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

Audio conference: 1-415-655-0001, Access Code: 2595 890 7164

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 May 10th **pages 1-2**
5. Public Comment Period
6. Welcome new committee member Jeni Thorpe!
7. Energy Data Review- Staff Presentation
8. CARP Energy Strategies Draft- Discussion **pages 3-4**
9. CARP Energy 2024-2025 Action Steps Draft - Discussion **pages 5-7**
10. Review of other community plans - Discussion **pages 8-11**
11. Members, Staff and Agency Updates-Discussion
 - a. Energy Fair June 23-25 in Custer, WI
 - b. Impact of Canadian wild fires
 - c. Additional staff updates
12. Items for the Next Agenda
13. Next Meeting - July 12th, 5PM at Eau Claire County Government Center
14. Adjourn

Prepared by: Regan Watts

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MINUTES
Eau Claire County
Sustainability Advisory Committee
Wednesday, May 10, 2023, at 5:00 p.m.

Present: Tami Schraufnagel, Jim Dunning, Amy Alpine, Nathan Anderson (Virtual), Kathy Campbell, Cathy Lea, Eleanor Wolf, Lily Strehlow

Absent: Patrick Bethke, Jeff White, Tim Davis

Others: Regan Watts – Committee Clerk, Matt Michels- P&D

Call to Order and confirmation of meeting notice.

Chair Schraufnagel called the meeting to order at 5:17 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.

Public Comment

Review/Approve meeting minutes from March 8th

Motion by Dunning. Unanimous approval.

Review of April Community Forums

Committee discussed the community feedback from the community forums. Regan will compile feedback for future reference. Feedback will continue to be gathered during public meetings and as the final version of the plan is developed.

Review of SOAR Analysis

Members reviewed SOAR Analysis in comparison to community feedback. Most of the community's comments had also been noted in SOAR Analysis

Next steps in plan development

Members agreed to review the focus areas and strategies in the following order: Energy in June, Solid Waste in July, Transportation in August.

Staff Updates

Regan Watts provided program updates for members.

- Earth Week Open house had approximately 250 attendees and had very good interaction from a variety of residents.

Next Meeting Date

The Committee agreed on the following meeting dates, June 14th, July 12th, and August 9th at 5:00PM at the government center in room 3312.

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Regan Watts

Regan Watts – Clerk, Recycling & Sustainability Coordinator

Residential & Commercial Energy

GOAL	Targets	Objectives	Implementation Strategies	Indicators	Indicator Baseline Data
Ensure affordable energy for Eau Claire County while transitioning to renewable energy resources	Generate 50% of community energy from renewable resources by 2030.	Increase infrastructure to support expanded use and transmission of renewable energy	Assess public policies to identify barriers and facilitate implementation	Kilowatts of on-site solar energy installed	TBD
		Ensure all County residents have opportunities to access renewable and affordable energy	Identify opportunities for public and private renewable energy development, including on-site, community, and centralized systems	Number of residential subscribers to community solar projects	Xcel Energy 2021: 33 residential, 12 business ECEC: TBD
				Number of residential systems installed.	2022- 54 permits (only includes areas that county does inspections for)
			Annual energy resource mix reported by utility	Xcel 2021: 29.96% renewables ECEC 2023: 24% renewables	
			Pass a Home Energy Rating Ordinance.	Residential energy burden	2-4% Depends on census tract
		Promote solar-ready buildings in new construction	Number of homes built solar-ready	TBD	
Increase energy efficiency in residential and commercial buildings	Reduce residential energy use by 20% by 2030.	Increase residential awareness and access to energy efficiency resources and programs.	Employ a targeted outreach strategy to engage property owners.	Residential energy use.	2021 ECEC Electric: 166,661,515 kWh 2021 Xcel Electric: 335,725,421 kWh 2021 Xcel Gas: 17,209,528 MMBtu
				Number of customers through Focus on Energy	2020: 3,269 2021: 2,958 2022: 2,493
		Increase participation in incentive programs that promote energy efficiency	Assemble customized tools, resources, and financing mechanisms for energy efficiency upgrades	Estimated savings from Focus on Energy programs	2020: 4,512,387 kWh 113,844 Therms 2021: 5,179,338 kWh 130,935 Therms 2022: 3,741,259 kWh 167,535 Therms
				Number of utility incentives claimed.	Xcel Energy 2021: 4579 residential, 72 business ECEC: TBD
	Advocate for public policies that update UDC and Energy Code.	Maintain membership in Wisconsin Local Government Climate Coalition.	Code updated	N/A	
	Reduce commercial energy use by 20% by 2030.	Increase commercial awareness and access to energy efficiency resources and programs	Identify buildings likely to have high-intensity resource use based on available data, building age, type of construction, use, and occupancy	Commercial Energy Use	2021 Xcel Electric: 693,888,351 kWh 2021 Xcel Gas: 33,586,901 MMBtu
				Number of customers through Focus on Energy	2020: 102 2021: 77 2022: 46
		Increase participation in incentive programs that promote energy efficiency.	TBD	Estimated savings from Focus on Energy programs	2020: 5,862,705 kWh 85,619 Therms 2021: 5,9226,601 kWh 119,715 Therms 2022: TBD kWh 285,358 Therms
				number of PACE loans	2 completed projects

Supporting Strategies

Collaboration	Education & Outreach	Tools & Technology	Research & Tracking
Leverage programs and resources from state, federal, and nonprofit agencies.	Promote the benefits of renewable and affordable energy and provide information and resources to support access.	Develop an interactive sustainability dashboard that demonstrates progress toward goals and provides real time data.	Monitor communitywide energy data including overall energy use, renewable energy generation, participation in demand-side management programs, and energy costs.
Provide grant writing support to towns and villages interested in renewable energy	Promote the benefits of green building and sustainable site design, including benefits to public health, community cohesion, and the natural environment.	Monitor emerging technologies and best practices for green building and sustainable site development	Research opportunities to develop financial incentives to improve building efficiency and improve access to beneficial electrification and renewable energy.
	Work with Chippewa Valley Home Builders Association and Focus on Energy to provide education and trainings to contractors on new technologies, incentives, and programs		

Goal 1: Ensure affordable energy for Eau Claire County while transitioning to renewable energy resources.

TARGET 1: Generate 50% of community energy from renewable resources by 2030.

Objective 1: Increase infrastructure to support expanded use and transmission of renewable energy.

Strategy 1- Assess public policies to identify barriers and facilitate implementation.

2024-2025 Action steps:

- Continue to participate in organizations like Wisconsin Local Government Climate Coalition and MISO Cities and Communities Coalition to advocate for policy that encourages deployment of renewable energy.
- Participate in the State's climate and clean energy action planning process.

Objective 2: Ensure all County residents have opportunities to access renewable and affordable energy.

Strategy 1- Identify opportunities for public and private renewable energy development, including on-site, community, and centralized systems.

2024-2025 Action Steps:

- Develop a resource for residents interested in solar that educates them on how to find reliable contractors and how to navigate incentive programs, tax credits, etc.
- Investigate options for additional community solar developments, especially for low-income households.

Strategy 2- Promote solar-ready buildings in new construction.

2024-2025 Action Steps:

- Explore the possibility of incentive program for construction that is built solar-ready.
- Promote resources on building solar-ready on our website.

Strategy 3- Pass a Home Energy Rating Ordinance

2024-2025 Action Steps:

- Collaborate with local stakeholders to develop a county policy to provide energy performance transparency for residential homes.

Goal 2: Increase energy efficiency in residential and commercial buildings

Target 1: Reduce Residential energy use by 20% by 2030

Objective 1: Increase awareness and access to energy efficiency resources and programs.

Strategy- Employ a targeted outreach strategy to engage property owners and residents.

2024-2025 Action Steps:

- Promote incentive programs via Beaver Creek Recycler Newsletter
- Work with volunteer organizations to table at events to educate on energy efficiency and renewable energy.

Objective 2: Increase participation in incentive programs that promote energy efficiency.

Strategy 1- Assemble customized tools, resources, and financing mechanisms for energy efficiency upgrades.

2024-2025 Action Steps:

- Leverage grant funding and organizations like Elevate, to develop a program that provides direct funding to residents to improve energy efficiency, beneficial electrification, and comfort of older homes.

Target 2: Reduce commercial energy use by 20% by 2030.

Objective 1- Increase commercial awareness and access to energy efficiency resources and programs.

Strategy 1- Identify buildings likely to have high intensity resource use based on available data, building age, type of construction, use, and occupancy.

2024-2025 Action Steps:

- Promote Energy STAR Portfolio Manager for businesses/institutions to track energy data.

Objective 2- Increase participation in incentive programs that promote energy efficiency.

No immediate actions for 2024-2025 besides supporting strategies.

Supporting Strategies 2024-2025

Collaboration

- Determine opportunities to collaborate with other municipalities and organizations on grant applications that fund projects.

Education & Outreach

- Work with stakeholders to host workshops for residents, contractors, businesses, and farmers on incentive programs and financing options for renewable energy and energy efficiency.

Tools & Technology

- Develop a website that clearly demonstrates the County's sustainability goals and progress. Website will also contain resources for residents, businesses, and the larger community on what they can do for sustainability.
- Continue work with stakeholders on improving data access and developing tools to communicate those results to the public.

Research & Tracking

- Develop annual reports with updated indicator data and an evaluation of program progress.
- Complete annual GHG emissions inventory and submit annual report for Green Tier Legacy Communities.

STRATEGY	MAJOR MILESTONES	UNDERWAY WITHIN
B6. Require more natural spaces for new development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Require in new planned developments Amend related zoning ordinances Make observable changes to urban landscape 	5 Years
B7. Increase use of trails as biodiversity corridors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amend trails for improved connectivity Determine funding and operational needs Increase plantings per recommendations 	5 Years
B8. Ease barriers to increase alternative lawns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amend ordinance to streamline the required permit Provide education on best practice tips 	1–2 Years
B9. Increase on-site infiltration and storm water capture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enforce current storm water quality DNR standards Study measures to update basic code Analyze implementation to priority watersheds Enact recommendations 	5 Years
B10. Increase safe utilization of grey water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support state policy development 	10 Years
B11. Reduce herbicides, pesticides, fertilizers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinate to enforce existing state and City policies and plans Model storm water runoff in the community Determine pollutants and percentage reductions 	5 Years
B12. Support local food, local producers, and urban farmers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with user groups to increase community gardens Approve operating agreements, if in public spaces Keep urban agriculture permits low or cost-neutral 	5 Years

Residential Sector

STRATEGY	MAJOR MILESTONES	UNDERWAY WITHIN
R1. Increase prevalence of energy-efficient, low-emissions affordable housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meet with affordable households and housing developers to share resources and understand barriers to energy efficiency or renewable energy Promote energy efficiency and renewables via programs geared toward income-qualified housing 	2 Years
R2. Promote the use of the City's Net Zero Energy Building Guide	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide training to area builders with local builders association Develop incentives or RFP contest Work with CVTC's residential construction program to design a prototype house Complete 30 net zero energy projects by 2030 	2 Years

STRATEGY	MAJOR MILESTONES	UNDERWAY WITHIN
R3. Support a residential net-zero energy development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Meet with interested parties to assess feasibility ● Identify feasible sites, such as Gateway Business Park excess land, and determine final location ● Issue developer RFP ● Initiate site development by 2030 	4 Years
R4. Increase awareness of energy efficiency among Eau Claire residents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Send city communications with energy savings tips ● Host at least one resident workshop ● Identify funding options for net-zero demonstration home ● Launch eco-teams program 	1 Year
R5. Promote energy audits, energy efficiency rebates, and financial incentives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Launch informational website for energy efficiency resources ● Establish fund to buy down the cost of home energy efficiency measures 	1 Year
R6. Pass a home energy rating ordinance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Host listening sessions with stakeholders ● Provide draft recommendations on ordinance ● Pass ordinance in Year 3 	3 Years
R7. Increase number of residential subscribers to renewable subscription programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Identify and engage key local partners for promotional campaign ● Develop informational materials ● Launch city-wide challenge 	2 Years
R8. Increase privately owned solar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Educate about solar using the City’s Solsmart website resources ● Promote solar using the City’s Solar guide and PV calculators 	1 Year
R9. Develop new community-sited solar within Eau Claire and offer subscriptions to residents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Identify possible site locations within the City ● Facilitate a group of potential partners ● Groundbreaking on solar garden ● Complete subscriptions of 3.5 MW by 2030 	3–5 years
R10. Support a solar group-buy program in the Eau Claire area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Write a summary of lessons learned and any proposed changes from current program, including feedback from local solar installers ● Launch third solar group buy program that incorporates lessons from first two ● Develop promotional material 	1–3 Years
R11. Increase solar-ready buildings in new residential construction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Conduct listening sessions with the home builders association and architects, among others ● Distribute the Solar-ready guide/checklist through city channels ● Evaluate code and financing policy options at the local and state levels ● Develop a possible incentive on building permits 	4 Years

STRATEGY	MAJOR MILESTONES	UNDERWAY WITHIN
R12. Increase adoption of renewable-powered heating, cooling, and hot water technologies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publish technical information guide • Identify potential funding for renewable heat feasibility study • Develop new homeowner packet • Utilities provide incentives 	6 Years

Commercial, Industrial, & Institutional Sector

STRATEGY	MAJOR MILESTONES	UNDERWAY WITHIN
C1. Promote the use of the City's Net Zero Energy Building Guide	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deploy trainings and communications • Develop incentives or RFP contest • Complete one net-zero project by 2022 	2 Years
C2. Support a business recognition program to promote businesses that have taken action in sustainability, especially relating to energy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solicit input from businesses to determine structure and value of a recognition program • Establish guidelines for a recognition program • Identify key partners to promote program • Recruit businesses to participate 	3 Years
C3. Offer and promote resources to reduce the costs of energy efficiency and renewable energy projects, including financing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a city financing mechanism for business energy efficiency and renewable energy projects • Explore models to use city funding to buy down interest rates on energy efficiency and renewable energy projects 	4 Years
C4. Improve energy efficiency in existing buildings and infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design and launch a targeted campaign to encourage business to save energy • Develop and promote targeted information for hospitality, health care, and education sectors on ENERGY STAR® equipment return on investment, incentives, and financing options • Partner with Chippewa Valley Technical College, Xcel Energy, Focus on Energy, and others to reduce the cost of service through rebates and technical assistance 	1 Year
C5. Improve energy efficiency in new construction and major renovations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote the City's Net Zero Energy Building Guide • At least one new construction project is built to net-zero standards • Explore policy options to integrate energy efficiency into project approval process for new construction and major renovation, especially in cases where the developer requests a change in zoning or is receiving public funding 	5 Years

STRATEGY	MAJOR MILESTONES	UNDERWAY WITHIN
C6. Increase the number of businesses that track energy use through energy benchmarking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore city benchmarking policy options • Benchmark and share municipal building energy use to lead by example • Launch technical assistance services for energy benchmarking, including technical support for data tools and platform for sharing results 	5 Years
C7. Increase the number of on-site customer-owned solar photovoltaic installations at existing sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish and promote a renewable energy resource center with connections and information for local businesses • Evaluate financial benefits such as tax incentives or cost reductions in the permitting process for businesses that install on-site renewable energy • Identify and study potential project location sites (i.e., businesses with large parking lots or rooftop space) and conduct target outreach to those businesses 	5 Years
C8. Increase the number of solar-ready buildings in commercial, industrial, and institutional new construction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launch a platform to share best practices, as well as promote the City's Net Zero Energy Building Guide and Solar-Ready Guide • Explore policy options to increase solar-ready design in Eau Claire projects • Conduct pilot to prioritize permitting process for solar ready buildings 	5 Years
C9. Increase number of commercial subscribers to utility renewable subscription programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct outreach and promote sign-ups via the City of Eau Claire and utilities. • Include renewable subscriptions in annual recognition awards by City 	3 Years
C10. Increase adoption of renewable-powered heating, cooling, and hot water technologies, including geothermal projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore city policies for renewable thermal financial incentives • Conduct feasibility study to identify leading sectors and opportunities for waste heat use within Eau Claire • Include information on geothermal projects for new construction projects 	8 Years

Transportation Sector

STRATEGY	MAJOR MILESTONES	UNDERWAY WITHIN
T1. Densify the city	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Calculate density guidelines city-wide, in census tracts, and in opportunity areas • Determine impacts and density goals • Adjust comprehensive plan map and policies 	1–2 Years