AGENDA

Eau Claire County

• Sustainability Advisory Committee •

Date: August 9th

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://eauclairecounty.webex.com/eauclairecounty/j.php?MTID=m8fb174a5bd331d934392af53d275636c

Meeting number: 2599 621 6525 Meeting password: FswF8QGtj48

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

***Audio conference**: 1-415-655-0001, Access Code:* 2599 621 6525

For those wishing to make public comment, you must e-mail Regan Watts at Regan.watts@eauclairecounty.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 June 14th pages 2-3
5. Public Comment Period
6. Energy Efficiency Navigator Program and Grant Pre-application - Discussion pages 4-13
7. Preview of CARP document- Staff Presentation
8. CARP Energy Strategies Draft- Discussion pages 14-18
9. CARP Solid Waste Strategies - Discussion pages 19-22
10. CARP Action Steps - Discussion pages 23-24
11. Members, Staff and Agency Updates-Discussion
    a. Additional staff updates
12. Items for the Next Agenda
    a. Transportation CARP Strategies
13. Next Meeting - September 13th, 5PM at Eau Claire County Government Center
14. Adjourn

Prepared by: Regan Watts

Please note: Upon reasonable notice, efforts will be made to accommodate the needs of disabled individuals through sign language, interpreters or other auxiliary aids. For additional information or to request the service, contact the County ADA Coordinator at 715-839-6945 (FAX) 715-839-1669 or (TDD) 715-839-4735 or by writing to the ADA Coordinator, Human Resources Department, Eau Claire County Courthouse, 721 Oxford Ave., Eau Claire, Wisconsin 54703.

MINUTES

Eau Claire County
Sustainability Advisory Committee
Wednesday, June 14, 2023, at 5:00 p.m.

Present: Tami Schraufnagel, Jim Dunning, Amy Alpine, Nathan Anderson, Kathy Campbell, Cathy Lea, Jeni Thorpe

Absent: Jeff White, Tim Davis, Lily Strehlow, Eleanor Wolf

Others: Regan Watts – Committee Clerk, Mike Lea- public

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.

Public Comment

Review/Approve meeting minutes from March 8th

Motion by Dunning. Unanimous approval.

Welcome new committee member Jeni Thorpe

Jeni Thorpe is replacing Patrick Bethke as Eau Claire Energy Cooperatives representative.

Energy Data Review

Regan provided an overview of Eau Claire County's energy usage and emissions.

CARP Energy Strategies Draft

Committee reviewed and provided feedback on the Energy Strategies. Updates will be made then reviewed again at next meeting.

CARP Energy 2024-2025 Action Steps

Committee reviewed and provided feedback on the Energy Action Steps. Updates will be made then reviewed again at next meeting.

Review of other community plans

Committee discussed strategies in other community plans that could be replicated or supported within the CARP.

Member & Staff Updates

Regan will be serving on a panel of local governments at the Energy Fair in Custer on Friday June 23rd. To discuss what Eau Claire County is doing for clean energy.

Committee discussed the impacts the Canadian wildfires have had on the community. During the meeting air quality was poor and the smoke from the fires was prevalent.

Items for next agenda

Next meeting

Next meeting is scheduled for July 12th, 5PM at Eau Claire County Governement Center.

*This meeting was postponed due to August 9th a conflict with a special County Board meeting.

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 6:57 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Regan Watts

Regan Watts – Clerk, Recycling & Sustainability Coordinator

Rural Efficiency & Electrification Navigator Program

Partnership between Eau Claire County, WI and Elevate

Energy Improvements in Rural and Remote Areas Pre-Application

Control Number: 3045-1923

Applicant Information

1. **Provide the name, mailing address, phone number, and email address of the applicant.**
   Primary Contact: Regan Watts
   Phone Number: 715-839-2756
   Email: regan.watts@eauclairecounty.gov
   Eau Claire County Planning & Development
   721 Oxford Avenue, Suite 3344
   Eau Claire, WI 54703

2. **Project Title --** Rural Efficiency & Electrification Navigator Program
3. **Identify the project location, and community that benefits from the project. Include the community size and community point of contact.**

The benefits of this program will have impacts that reach Eau Claire County at large through the workforce development and education and community capacity building portions of the project. The demonstration projects in this project will directly benefit the City of Augusta (population 1,525) and Fairchild (population 550). Eau Claire County and Elevate plan to do 15 projects between the two communities to build momentum and excitement in the community around energy efficiency, renewable energy, and other clean technologies.

Community contact is the same as the primary contact for this application.

Project Overview

4. Describe the proposed clean energy project, including a summary of the energy technology or infrastructure to be constructed or improved.

Rural communities often do not have adequate access to efficiency programs and resources because buildings are often not geographically accessible, lack of local technical assistance and lack of a qualified contractor network according to research presented in the reports *Bridging the Rural Energy Gap* by the Island Institute and ACEEE report *The High Cost of Energy in Rural America: Household Energy Burdens and Opportunities for Energy Efficiency*. This is true in Eau Claire County and, as a result, rural towns and villages will have little capacity to access the new funding opportunities that are part of the Bi-partisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) and the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA). According to American Community Survey census data (2016-2020), approximately 9% of rural populations live at or below the Federal poverty level. However, in Eau Claire County the City of Augusta, Village of Fairchild and the Town of Fairchild are experiencing deeper levels of poverty; according to the Climate and Justice Screening tools over 17% of the local populations are considered low income. The high levels of poverty are due to many factors but manifest in aging infrastructure and disinvested housing stock.

Upgrading rural infrastructure, specifically the housing stock, is imperative to ensure that rural communities are not left behind as we shift towards cleaner and more efficient sources of fuel. With a strong value for self-determination, rural communities want to be a full partner and lead in the transformation towards cleaner energy. With this project, Eau Claire County and their partners propose to help strengthen rural community capacity to upgrade infrastructure

and maintain and improve their critical affordable housing stock by growing workforce capacity to do the work and building community capacity to lead. To this end, Eau Claire County proposes to develop an Efficiency Navigator program tailored to rural communities. The **Efficiency Navigator is a community capacity building approach** that supports growth of the local workforce and provides technical assistance and access to resources via an energy coach to help communities increase uptake of efficiency and decarbonization technologies. The Efficiency Navigator program focuses on unsubsidized affordable single family and small multifamily housing to ensure this critical housing stock remains affordable and resilient reducing costs for residents and enabling the Eau Claire County to meet climate goals.

The proposed project will implement three critical activities to bridge the efficiency gap in Eau Claire County: build clean energy contractor and workforce capacity; build community capacity to engage in clean energy upgrades and access funding; and compete demonstration projects to educate and build trust.

Rural communities often lack a strong base of contractors interested in and capable of implementing efficient and clean technologies such as heat pumps and solar. To build a base of contractors, the Team will host a contractor accelerator focused on trades such as mechanical, electrical, weatherization and solar contractors. The goal of the accelerator will be to identify contractors ready to work in Eau Claire County as well as to introduce new contractors to the community. The accelerator will be led by more experienced contractors and will be supported by the distributors and manufacturers, particularly heat pumps manufacturers. Coordination with contractors will be aligned with coordination with the local technical college, Chippewa Valley Technical College, clean energy curriculum to further existing efforts to build a local workforce.

Educating and information about the benefits of efficiency and clean technologies such as heat pumps and solar and how upgrades can make homes healthier and reduce energy costs is the first step in community capacity building. Providing a trusted resource, such as an energy coach, to lead education and outreach as well as serve as a navigator for homeowners and building owners to upgrade their homes and access financial incentives. The Navigator or energy coach essentially serves as a one stop shop to support retrofits and rehabs by:

- Providing efficiency and building health and safety assessments that identify opportunities for electrification and solar upgrades- the Eau Claire County program would address single family owner and renter occupied homes.
- Engaging the contractor community that is often sparse in rural areas by facilitating bids and quotes for projects ready for implementation.
- Coordinating incentives and financing including access to IRA benefits, local utility, and State incentives, and, ultimately, resources available through the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund
- Overseeing implementation of upgrade installation
- Providing high quality customer service and education for residents throughout the process

Demonstration projects that highlight the applicability of efficiency and technologies such as heat pumps and solar will be completed in approximately 12 homes. Based on the team's experience with similar programs developing and implementing projects that highlight the opportunity and process builds trust and future program participation by homeowners and

building owners. It also highlights the opportunities to local contractors and builds confidence in the contracting community of the likelihood of projects. The energy coach would support the demonstration projects as well as homeowners not involved in the demonstration work. Overall, the Efficiency Navigator program addresses access barriers to energy efficiency and clean technology programs in rural communities by developing a contractor base to complete the upgrades, building community capacity through energy coaches and education, and bridging financial barriers by improving access to rebates and incentives and access to grants and other sources of appropriate financing.

5. Identify which of the "resilient clean energy objectives" will be addressed by the proposed project.

- Increasing energy efficiency
- Reducing greenhouse gas emissions from energy generation in rural or remote areas

Additional Benefits

- Decrease energy burden in disadvantaged communities (DACs)
- Increase parity in clean energy technology access and adoption in DACs
- Increase access to low-cost capital in DACs
- Increase clean energy jobs, job pipeline, and job training for individuals from DACs
- Increase energy resiliency in DACs

6. Provide an estimate of the total project costs and a short rationale for the estimate.

The total project budget is estimated to be: $1,950,000

Workforce development and education: $250,000

- Coordinating with and supporting Chippewa Valley Technical College to develop curriculum and incorporate learning on actual residential electrification projects.
- Supporting a Contractor Accelerator to coach experienced remodelers interested in electrification to expand business services and create a subcontractor network capable of full system design and implementation.
- Connect trade contractors to clean energy technologies and manufacturer networks for continual education opportunities.

Community Capacity Building: $200,000 per year for 5 years

- One full-time equivalent at Elevate to serve as an energy coach and be responsible for implementing the demonstration projects and supporting owners outside of demonstration projects to implement upgrades. Whenever possible we will leverage local technical resources to support the Navigator program. Activities will include:
  - Conduct an efficiency and building health and safety assessment that also identifies opportunities for electrification and solar upgrades.
  - Facilitate bids and quotes from contractors.
  - Coordinate incentives and financing
  - Oversee implementation of upgrade installation
  - Provide high quality customer service and education for tenants throughout the process.

- Partial full time equivalent at the County to manage the program and support education and outreach.

Demonstration Projects: $750,000 for implementation at 12 properties at an estimated $62,500 average for a complete weatherization package, heat pumps for space conditioning, heat pumps for water heating and solar electric system. Based on project experiences in the Midwest, Elevate has found the following average estimates to hold true. These costs are estimates prior to leveraging the incentives and tax credits available through the Inflation Reduction Act and Wisconsin's State Focus on Energy program where applicable.

- Electrical system upgrades - $7,500
- Weatherization package - $7,000 per home
- Heat pumps for heating and cooling - $15,000 per home
- Solar electric system - $27,000 per home
- Heat pump water heating - $6,000 per home

7. Identify who will own the project (i.e., city government, installer/developer, electric utility, etc.).

The project will be implemented by Eau Claire County and Elevate Energy. The upgrades to the demonstration homes will be owned by and fully benefit the community member that participates in the program. Overall, the community will benefit from the program from an increase in the number of contractors serving the community and resources available and accessed by the community through the IRA and BIL.

The Contractor Accelerator will be implemented and managed by Eau Claire County and Elevate in collaboration with Chippewa Valley Technical College. The technical colleges will lead the implementation of individual training activities and will develop content in collaboration with Eau Claire County and Elevate.

Project Benefits

8. Describe the community that will benefit from the project. Include a description of the community's energy needs or priorities.

In 2019, the Eau Claire County Board signed a Carbon Neutral & 100% renewable energy by 2050 resolution. The county is committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions to reduce and prevent the continuing impacts of climate change. Greenhouse gas emissions from the rural areas of the county account for ~45% of the county's GHG emissions primarily from residential energy. This is, in part, because of the higher carbon intensity of the electricity provided by the local energy cooperative, use of stationary fuels, like propane, wood, and other sources for heating, and the condition of some of the older housing stock in these communities. Additionally, there has been little investment in efficiency measures in the existing housing stock resulting in higher energy use and greater energy burden in low-income homes. For these reasons and to bridge the rural efficiency gap and meet the communities' clean energy goals we believe it is important to center this program on and make the investment in housing stock to:

- **Improve HOUSING RESILIENCE:** It is critical that we find opportunities to preserve and invest in all our affordable housing stock even as we continue to build new units. Investing in these properties will help maintain quality affordable homes. Not only will we save the residents money, but we will make their homes more comfortable.
- **Increase EQUITY:** Research shows that for working families, utility costs are amongst the highest monthly expenses, and reducing the energy burden allows low- and medium-income families to spend less money on utilities. Energy efficiency also provides housing that is safe and comfortable.
- **Address CLIMATE CHANGE SOLUTION:** Affordable housing consumes on average 33% more energy than market rate housing because it is generally older. Investing in energy efficient technologies will result in an estimated 10-20% in energy savings across proposed units.

Eau Claire County is predominantly rural. The unsubsidized affordable housing sector in Eau Claire County Core Based Statistical Area (CBSA) dominates the affordable housing market with 17% of the total housing stock consisting of unsubsidized affordable homes. Unsubsidized stock is not subsidized through Federal programs or housing tax credits but is affordable to residents who are at or below 80% of the area median income, and typically have the resources to pay no more than 30% of their income on rent/mortgage and utilities. The unsubsidized housing stock is primarily comprised of aging, single family detached homes.
The eastern communities in the county according to the Climate Justice Map are in the 77th percentile low income and in the 98th percentile of households lacking indoor plumbing and in the 94th percentile of households experiencing transportation barriers. Initially, the proposed program will focus on the City of Augusta, Village of Fairchild and the Town of Fairchild which are all deemed a disadvantaged community. These communities are working poor and single-family older homes dominate the housing stock, much of which has not been updated. -

9. Describe the project team's relationship to the community and community engagement strategy, including efforts to build support for the project.
Eau Claire County and Elevate will lead the community engagement strategy in coordination with partners such as the Chippewa Valley Home Builders Association and the Eau Claire Energy Cooperative. The County and Elevate also have a pre-existing and good working relationships with local contractors, Chippewa Valley Technical College, local distributors such as Auer Steel, and heat pump manufacturers such as Mitsubishi and Daikon that will be leveraged to support the contractor accelerator and individual workforce training. Additionally, as the County has developed its Climate Action & Resilience Plan (CARP) many community organizations expressed interest in assisting the community reach its climate goals through the built environment and workforce development in clean technology.

10. Describe any anticipated benefits of the proposed project, and the project team's efforts to align these benefits to the community's energy needs and priorities discussed in question 9.

Rural communities are often left behind in efficiency programs and access to clean energy projects. For example, Focus on Energy, the State of Wisconsin statewide energy program, has only penetrated Eau Claire County at a much lower rate as compared to urban counterparts such as the City of Eau Claire. The reasons for these low rates are due to hard-to-reach geographies, limited resources for technical assistance and lack of contractor capacity, and low levels of trust. The Efficiency Navigator program will directly address these barriers to rural efficiency and decarbonization program uptake by supporting an efficiency coach with the technical abilities to identify and develop clean technology projects; engage contractors to work on projects in the County; engage the technical college system for workforce development, and, most importantly, build trust with owners through demonstration projects.
Overall, the project activities will increase the availability and uptake of efficiency and decarbonization measures in homes in Eau Claire County. This will result in a reduction of carbon emissions from reduced reliance on fossil fuels in home heating and cooling from the demonstration projects and an increased uptake of efficiency and decarbonization measures resulting from education and outreach and access to an energy coach. Indirect benefits from the home upgrades include increased comfort and improved indoor air quality particularly in those homes that use wood burning stoves for home heating. Other important benefits are the addition of local jobs through increased contractor activity and workforce training efforts; and flow of additional financial resources into the County from the IRA and BIL.

11. Describe any anticipated negative impacts of the proposed project, and the steps the project team will take to minimize these impacts. Please describe the extent to which the project may disproportionately impact vulnerable populations within the community, and how the project team will minimize these impacts.

A potential unintended negative impact from the proposed project could result from increased property values from the upgrades could result in a higher property tax burden on the homeowner. Some of this burden will be offset by the long-term energy savings from the project. The Team will communicate the potential fiscal impacts that could come as a result of these improvements.

Technical Approach
12. Explain the technology selection.

As proposed, we anticipate that the home upgrade projects will include weatherization measures, heat pumps for heating and cooling and hot water, and solar, when applicable. Weatherization primarily includes air sealing and insulation in accordance with home performance standards. Heat pump upgrades include ducted and un-ducted systems

commensurate with the best applicable for the building to improve comfort and reduce energy burden. Installed heat pumps will comply with the efficiency requirements of IRA as follows:

- Ductless air source heat pumps
  - ≥ 16 SEER2
  - ≥ 10 EER2
  - ≥ 9.5 HSPF2
- Ducted air source heat pumps
  - ≥ 15.2 SEER2
  - ≥ 10 EER2
  - ≥ 8.1 HSPF2

Heat pump sizing and replacement will be based on a load analysis of existing energy use and completion of a Manual J or equivalent load calculation for single family homes. Installation will be in accordance with manufacturers' specifications and best practices according to Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnerships.

Solar applicability will be evaluated via completion of a Helioscope model. Installation and interconnection will be in accordance with code and local utility interconnection requirements. Whenever possible, solar systems will be sized to accommodate the full electric load of the home after installation of heat pumps.

13. Provide justification that proposed technology is commercially available.

All technology is readily available and currently be installed in residential properties throughout the United States and specifically in cold climates. Solar electric systems are common in many parts of the country, heat pumps for cold climate are readily available and provide 100% of the heating and cooling load in many applications. Weatherization packages including attic air sealing and insulating walls, attics, and foundations to lower the energy intensity of residential buildings have proven themselves for decades within the low-income weatherization programs.

14. Specify the capacity of the proposed system and the capacity for each of the elements below, if applicable for your project:

a. Power generated in kW or MW

Power generated will be from installation of rooftop or ground-mount solar electric systems. Based on this Team's experience in similarly sized homes, we expect system to range in size from 4 to 7 kW. Overall, we estimate that 7 of the 15 demonstration projects will be viable for solar. In addition to the demonstration projects, we expect 10 to 12 solar projects to be implemented each year during years 3 through 5 of the project.

b. Energy stored kWh or MWh

We do not anticipate energy storage projects to be part of the home upgrades. However, if a homeowner or building owner is interested in storage the energy coach will work with the owner to specify and appropriately size battery storage systems.

c. Energy saved annually in kWh or MWh

Based on experience installing similar systems in single family and small multifamily homes, we expect to see annual kWh savings of 20,000-25,000 for each home or unit. Energy saving ranges from 50% to 70% for units currently heating with natural gas. For Eau Claire County, this would result in $700-$1000 per year of energy cost savings with an estimated 4500 kg of carbon dioxide emissions reduced each year.

d. Distance (in miles) and voltage (in kV) of transmission and/or distribution lines provided.

We will not be installing transmission or distribution lines as part of this project.

15. Provide the estimated system lifetime (in years).

Equipment life of heat pumps is estimated to be 15 to 20 years. Solar systems are estimated to be at least 25 years.

16. Identify the system scale; Facility Scale, Community Scale or Utility Scale

All efficiency, heat pump, and solar systems will be scaled to the home or building and therefore would be facility scale.

17. State whether the project will be connected to the grid: Yes/No

Projects will be connected to the grid as home electric meters will not be removed as part of the upgrade process. Solar systems are expected to be predominantly behind the meter but will be connected to the local utility grid system and available to participate in net metering.

18. Describe any work, including studies or engineering design, completed to date. What additional steps are needed to design and implement the project? A detailed workplan with milestones will be required at the full application stage.

Demonstration projects have not been selected at this stage of the proposal. Part of the project implementation will be to refine eligibility requirements for demonstration projects and conduct outreach to homeowners and building owners in Augusta and Fairchild. Engineering and design will be completed as part of the upgrades for each building. The Team is well-versed in the processes associated with efficiency and building decarbonization retrofits as this team has implemented similar projects in multiple municipalities as well as upgrading over 250 units of multifamily and single-family homes throughout the Midwest.

19. Describe environmental regulations that will impact the project, including any needed permits. Have necessary permits been obtained? If no, what is needed to obtain them?

All permits will be obtained once the project properties are identified. All permits will be obtained through the Eau Claire County Planning & Development office.

20. Describe how the project will be maintained after operation begins and the grant ends. This could include a summary of an operations and maintenance plan, operations and maintenance workforce needs, the intent to hire/contract operations and maintenance, or some other explanation.

The first 3 years of the project will have an emphasis on implementing the demonstration projects and building the workforce, contractor, and community knowledge on the technologies and programs available to residents. Years 4-5 of the project will focus on using the momentum to engage more community members to take advantage of the Federal, State, and Focus on Energy incentive programs without County funded assistance. Investments and maintenance of the properties will then be up to the homeowner with the support of local contractors and the energy coach, as needed. Eau Claire County and Elevate will provide resources to program participants that outline how to care and maintain equipment to ensure product longevity.

Energy Goals & Targets

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

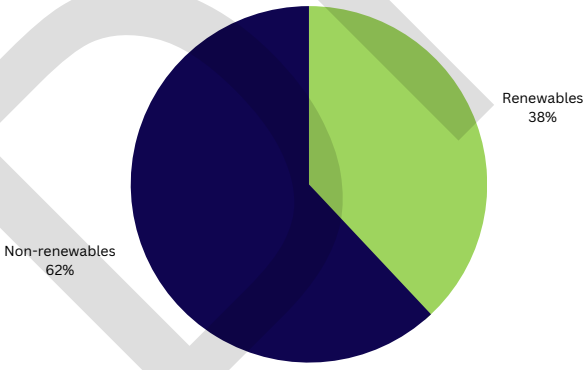
- **Target:** Generate 50% of community renewable energy from renewable resources by 2030.
  - **Key Indicators**
    - Annual energy mix reported by utilities.
    - Energy burden
  - **Supporting Indicators**
    - Number of homes built solar-ready.
    - Kilowatts of solar installed in the County.
    - Number of subscribers to community solar projects
    - Number of solar permits issued.

Goal 2: Increase energy efficiency in residential and commercial buildings.

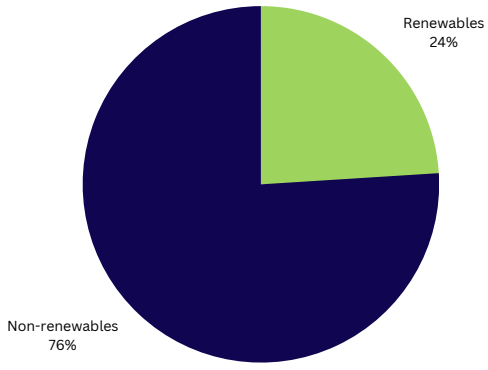
- Target 1: Reduce residential energy use by 20% by 2030.
  - **Key Indicator**
    - Residential energy use
  - **Supporting Indicators**
    - Number of residents using Focus on Energy (FOE) incentives
    - Estimated savings from FOE programs
    - Number of utility incentives claimed.
- Target 2: Reduce commercial energy use by 20% by 2030.
  - **Key Indicator**
    - Commercial energy use
  - **Supporting Indicators**
    - Number of businesses using FOE incentives
    - Estimated savings from FOE programs
    - Number of businesses using PACE Loan program

Energy Baseline Indicator Data

Annual Energy Mix

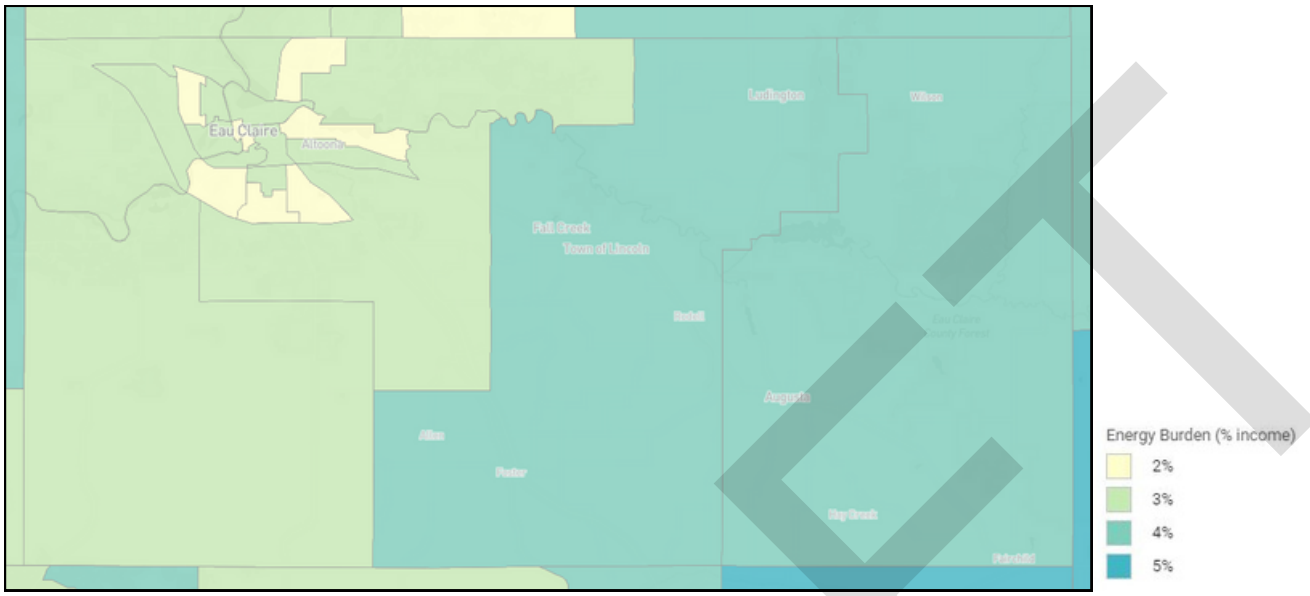


2022 Xcel Energy Wisconsin Energy Mix



2023 Dairyland Power Cooperative Energy Mix

Energy Burden



Energy Burden by census tract based on 2020 ACS data. Source: US Department of Energy LEAD Tool

Homes built solar-ready

not previously reported.

Kilowatts of solar installed

not previously reported.

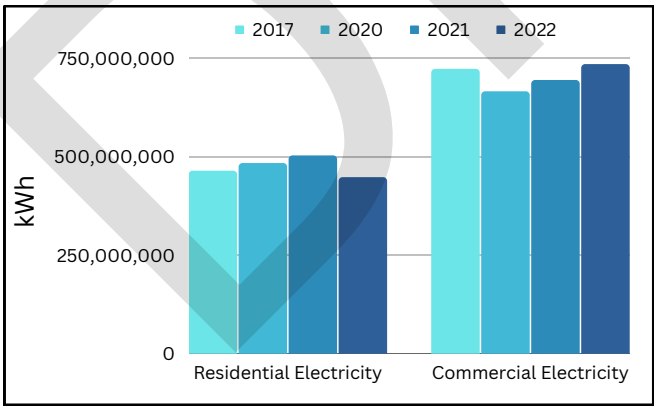
Number of subscribers to community solar projects (2022)

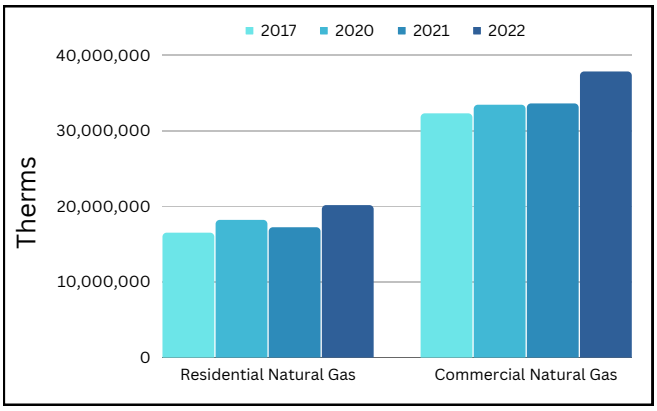
Xcel Energy: 12 Business, 33 Residential
Eau Claire Energy Cooperative:

Number of solar permits issued (2022)

City of Eau Claire: 37
City of Altoona: 3
Eau Claire County: 54

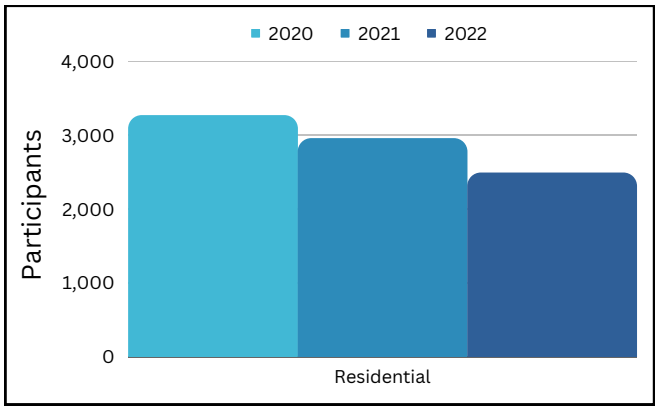
Energy Use



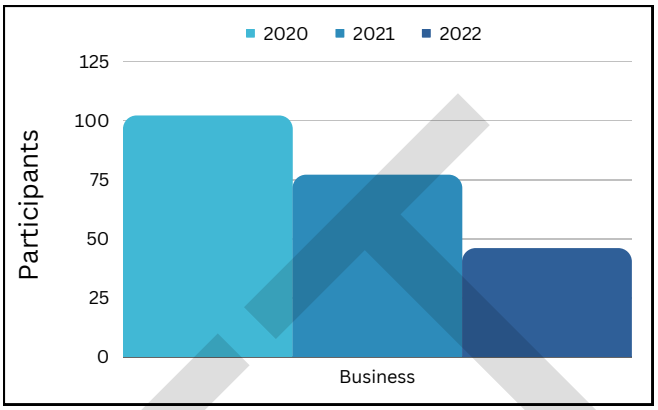


Data provided by Xcel Energy and Eau Claire Energy Cooperative. *Until 2021 all Eau Claire Energy data is reported under residential.

Focus on Energy participants

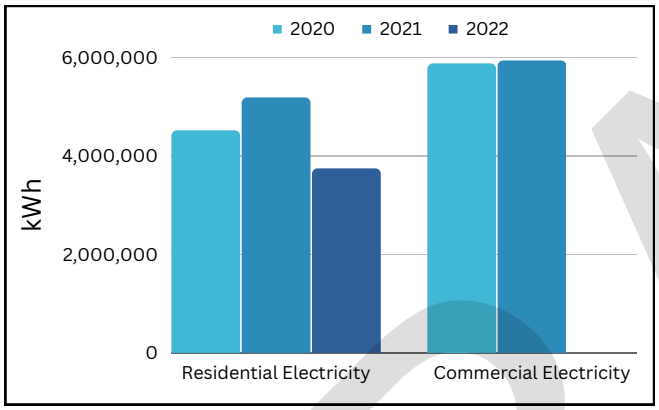


Data provided by Focus on Energy.



Data provided by Focus on Energy.

Focus on Energy estimated energy savings



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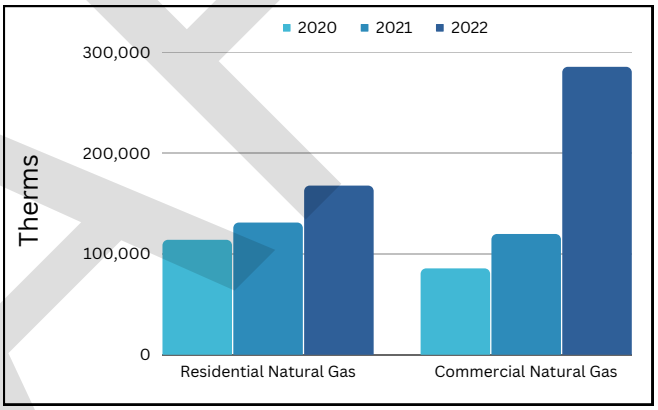


Data provided by Focus on Energy.

Case study or community highlight

Energy Implementation Strategies

The implementation strategies work to achieve the goals outlined through the key and supporting indicators.

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

Strategy 1.1: Assess public policies to identify barriers and facilitate implementation.

Strategy 1.2: Work with local utilities to determine infrastructure gaps in the community and identify solutions.

Strategy 1.3: Advocate for public policies that update the Universal Dwelling Code and Energy Code through the Wisconsin Local Government Climate Coalition.

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

Strategy 2.1: Identify and pursue opportunities for public and private renewable energy development, including on-site, community, and centralized systems.

Strategy 2.2: Promote solar-ready buildings in new construction.

Strategy 2.3: Pass a Home Energy Rating Ordinance

Objective 3: Increase residential awareness and participation in energy efficiency and beneficial electrification resources and incentive programs.

Strategy 3.1: Employ a targeted outreach program to engage property owners.

Strategy 3.2: Assemble customized tools, resources, and financing mechanisms for energy efficiency upgrades.

Objective 4: Increase commercial and contractor awareness and participation in energy efficiency and beneficial electrification resources and incentive programs.

Strategy 4.1: Partner with business organizations, utilities, and FOE to promote incentives for businesses and trainings for contractors on new technologies.

Strategy 4.2: Develop a "Sustainable Business" program to acknowledge and support businesses looking to invest in sustainable business practices.

Strategy 4.3: Adopt a Building Performance Policy for commercial buildings.

Blower door test being performed.

Eau Claire Energy Cooperative's 700 kW community solar array.

Energy Supporting Strategies

The supporting strategies work across multiple objectives to facilitate successful implementation.

Collaboration

C.1: Leverage programs, funding, and resources from state, federal, and non-profit agencies.
C.2: Provide grant writing support to municipalities within the County on sustainability focused projects.
C.3: Work with municipalities, education institutions, businesses, and community organizations to support existing initiatives in the community.
C.4: Continue membership in Wisconsin Local Government Climate Coalition and Green Tier Legacy Communities.

Education & Outreach

E.1: Promote the benefits of renewable energy, energy efficiency, and beneficial electrification. Provide information and resources to support access.
E.2: Promote the benefits of green building and sustainable site design, including benefits to public health, community cohesion, and the natural environment.

Tools & Technology

T.1: Develop an interactive sustainability dashboard that demonstrates progress toward goals and provides real time data.
T.2: Monitor emerging technologies and best practices for green building and sustainable site development.

Research & Tracking

R.1: Monitor community-wide energy data including overall energy use, renewable energy generation, incentive program participation, and energy costs.
R.2: Research opportunities to develop financial incentives to improve building efficiency and improve access to beneficial electrification and renewable energy.
R.3: Research feasibility of a Building Performance policy and collect stakeholder feedback.

Recycling & Sustainability educational workshop.

Earth Week Open House 2023

Solid Waste Goals & Targets

Goal 1: Prolong the lifespan on the Seven Mile Creek Landfill through waste reduction.

- **Target 1:** Divert 50% of organic material from the waste stream.
  - **Key Indicators**
    - Cubic yards of compost processed.
  - **Supporting Indicators**
    - Number of public events offering composting
    - Number of residents who subscribe to curbside composting services.
    - Number of businesses, churches, and other institutions composting.
    - Number of compost bins sold.

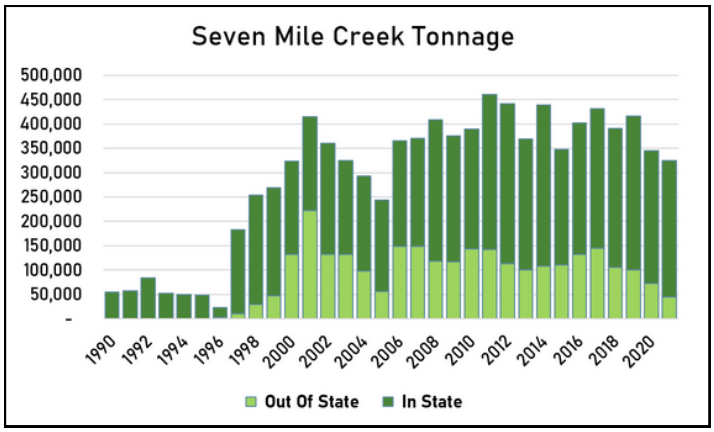
- **Target 2:** Increase recycling opportunities and participation in the community
  - **Key indicators**
    - Tons of recycling collected from households and rural drop sites.
    - Number of residents served by curbside recycling.
    - Tons of recycling collected through special programs (Clean Sweep, electronics, etc.)
  - **Supporting Indicators**
    -

Goal 2: Improve the community's waste infrastructure to encourage waste diversion.

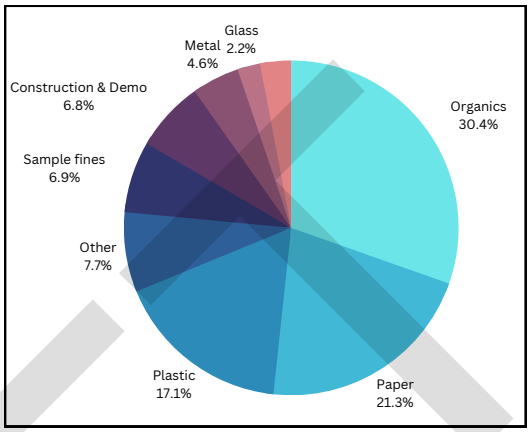
- Target 1: Develop plan for a Waste Recovery Center
  - **Key Indicator**
    - Feasibility study completed.
    - Plan developed.

Additional goals and targets

Solid Waste Baseline Indicator Data



Data from Wisconsin DNR Landfill Tonnage reports.



Landfill waste composition from Wisconsin DNR Waste Characterization Study.

Additional baseline data once indicators are chosen.

Solid Waste Implementation Strategies

Objective 1: Increase awareness and access to composting in the County.
- **Strategy 1.1:** Identify options for curbside and drop site composting services.
- **Strategy 1.2:** Promote at home and business composting.
- **Strategy 1.3:** Increase number of community events offering composting.

Objective 2: Increase amount of waste diverted through specialty recycling programs.
- **Strategy 2.1:** Identify and pursue opportunities for new public and private partnerships that divert problematic waste streams.
- **Strategy 2.2:** Evaluate community access to existing programs and identify ways to increase access.

Objective 3: Increase residential awareness and participation recycling programs and events.
- **Strategy 3.1:** Employ a targeted outreach program to engage property owners.

Objective 4: Increase commercial participation and compliance with recycling programs and regulations.
- **Strategy 4.1:** Develop resources and assistance for businesses looking to reduce their waste.
- **Strategy 4.2:** Develop a "Sustainable Business" program to acknowledge and support businesses looking to invest in sustainable business practices.

Objective 5: Establish plan for a Waste Recovery Center
- **Strategy 5.1:** Perform feasibility study, gain stakeholder feedback, and identify partners.
- **Strategy 5.2:** Develop plan for Waste Recovery Center.

Additional objectives and strategies

Volunteers at 2022 mattress collection event.

Workers at Clean Sweep sorting chemicals.

Solid Waste Supporting Strategies

The supporting strategies work across multiple objectives to facilitate successful implementation.

Collaboration

C.1: Leverage programs, funding, and resources from state, federal, and non-profit agencies.
C.2: Work with municipalities, education institutions, businesses, and community organizations to support existing and new initiatives in the community.

Education & Outreach

E.1: Promote the benefits of recycling, composting, and waste reduction. Provide information and resources to support access.

Tools & Technology

T.1: Monitor emerging technologies and best practices in the waste industry.

Research & Tracking

R.1: Monitor recycling rates, program participation, and annual landfill tonnage to gauge impact of program.
R.2: Research opportunities to develop divert additional waste streams that are common or problematic.

Case study or community highlight

2024-2025 Action Steps

Focus Area	Action Steps	Relevant Strategy	Estimated Cost	FTE	Project Duration	Potential Funding Sources	Priority (Low, Med, High)
Energy	Participate in the State's climate and clean energy action planning process.	1.1, 1.3	$	0.1	Early 2024	Existing budget	
	Develop a Solar 101 guide for residents specific to Eau Claire County.	2.2, 3.2	$			Existing budget	
	Investigate options for additional community solar developments, especially for low-income households.	2.1	$				
	Explore feasibility of incentive program for homes that are built solar-ready.	2.2	$				
	Update County Sustainability webpage	2.2, 3.2, 3.3, 4.1	$	0.1	2-3 months	Existing budget	
	Promote incentives, programs, and events via Beaver Creek Recycler	3.1, 3.2	$	0.1	1 month	Existing budget	
	·Work with volunteer organizations to table at events to educate on energy efficiency and renewable energy.	3.1	$	0.2	Ongoing	Existing budget	
	·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.	2.1, 3.1, 3.2, 4.1	$$$	0.3		Energy Improvements in Rural and Remote Area Program	
	Host workshops for businesses and residents focused on energy efficiency, incentives, etc.	3.1, 4.1	$	0.2	Ongoing	Energy Improvements in Rural and Remote Area Program, existing budget.	
	Develop a "Sustainable Business" program in collaboration with community organizations and stakeholders	4.2					
Solid Waste	Revive mattress recycling program						
Transportation							
Agriculture & Natural Resources							

2026 - 2030 Action Steps

Focus Area	Action Steps	Relevant Strategy	Estimated Cost	Potential Funding Sources	Priority (Low, Med, High)
Energy					
Solid Waste	Feasibility Study for Waste Recovery Center		$$		
Transportation					
Agriculture & Natural Resources					