

AGENDA

Eau Claire County

• PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE •

Date: Tuesday, February 27, 2024

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Location: Eau Claire County Courthouse, 721 Oxford Ave, Room 1277, Eau Claire, Wisconsin 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> Meeting ID: 2530 145 2114

Password: 98wGdfyqM7d

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

Audio conference: 1-415-655-0001 Access Code: 25301452114##

For those wishing to make public comment, you must e-mail Rod Eslinger at Rod.Eslinger@eauclairecounty.gov at least 60 minutes prior to the start of the meeting.

**Please mute personal devices upon entry*

A majority of the county board may be in attendance at this meeting, however, only members of the committee may take action on an agenda item.

1. Call to Order and confirmation of meeting notice
2. Roll Call
3. Public Comment
4. Review/Approval of January 23, 2024 Meeting Minutes / Discussion – Action **Page 2-5**
5. Public Hearings
 - a. **Proposed Ordinance: File No. 23-24/070** to rezone 11.4 acres +/- from F-1 Exclusive Forestry District to A-2 Agriculture-Residential District. Owner: HG Anderson Land LLC-Paul Anderson. Applicant: Patrick Sullivan, Attorney Paul J. Mirr and Attorney Ian Colby. Legal: Located in the Northwest ¼ of the Southwest ¼, Section 2, Township 26 North, Range 7 West, Town of Lincoln, Eau Claire County, Wisconsin. RZN-0001-24 **Pages 6-25**
6. Climate Action & Resilience Plan / Discussion – Action **Pages 26-115**
7. 2023 Planning & Development Dept. 4th Quarter Review – Discussion **Pages 116-119**
8. Review of January bills / Discussion **Page 120**
9. Proposed Future Agenda Items / Discussion
 - a. Next scheduled meeting March 26, 2024
10. Adjourn

Prepared by: Holly Weigand

PLEASE NOTE: Upon reasonable notice, efforts will be made to accommodate the needs of individuals with disabilities through sign language, interpreters, remote access, or other auxiliary aids. Contact the clerk of the committee or Administration for assistance (715-839-5106). For additional information on ADA requests, contact the County ADA Coordinator at 839-7335, (FAX) 839-1669 or 839-4735, TTY: use Relay (711) or by writing to the ADA Coordinator, Human Resources, Eau Claire County Courthouse, 721 Oxford Avenue, Eau Claire, WI 54703.

MINUTES

Eau Claire County

• PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE •

Date: Tuesday, January 23, 2024

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Location: *Eau Claire County Courthouse, 721 Oxford Ave, Room 1277, Eau Claire, Wisconsin 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> Meeting ID: 2534 575 3463

Password: rqPkgYmA337

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

Audio conference: 1-415-655-0001 Access Code: 2534 575 3463##

For those wishing to make public comment, you must e-mail Rod Eslinger at Rod.Eslinger@eauclairecounty.gov at least 60 minutes prior to the start of the meeting.

**Please mute personal devices upon entry*

A majority of the county board may be in attendance at this meeting, however, only members of the committee may take action on an agenda item.

Members Present: Robin Leary, James Dunning, Dane Zook, Todd Meyer

Members Absent: Nick Smiar

Ex officio Present:

Staff Present: Rodney Eslinger, Ben Bublitz

1. Call to Order and confirmation of meeting notice.

Chair Leary called the meeting to order at 7 pm and confirmed with Director Eslinger that the meeting was properly noticed.

2. Roll Call Director Eslinger called roll of the committee: Members present are noted above.
3. Public Comment None
4. Review/Approval of December 12, 2023, Meeting Minutes / Discussion – Action

ACTION: Motion by Dane Zook to approve the December 12, 2023, committee meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried on a voice vote: 4-0-0

5. Public Hearings

- a. Continuation of a conditional use permit request to convert a single-family dwelling into a two-family dwelling. Owner: TTH LLC. Applicant: Jeremy Skaw. Legal: Lot 12 Block 1 Sunny Meadows, Town of Washington, Eau Claire County, Wisconsin. CUP-00014-23

Ben Bublitz, Land Use Manager for Eau Claire County, presented the request to convert a single-family dwelling at 3413 Alf Avenue into a two-family dwelling. Mr. Bublitz noted that this request and the following conditional use permit (CUP-0015-23) request are identical in nature. Ben indicated the reasons why the two CUPs were postponed at the last meeting to allow the town additional time to review the signed petition and to review the parking concerns that were stated during the initial public hearing. After staff consulted with the town officials, the town indicated their decision was final.

He refreshed the committee regarding the location of the site within the Town of Washington, an aerial of the site, site plan, and adjacent land uses and zoning with the committee. Ben noted that the property is

severed by sewer and water. Mr. Bublitz reviewed the rough floor plans with the committee and indicated that the intent of the finished floor would result in two separate dwelling units. He updated the committee regarding the parking plans for each property, which included widening the driveway pads, and securing any necessary permits. Ben also reviewed with updated staff report conditions with the committee.

From the original hearing: on November 16, 2023, the Town of Washington Town Board met and voted 4-1 to recommend approval of the conditional use request with the following conditions: widen driveway pads, new driveway permit is required, screening on the south property line at a minimum, and building inspector must grant permit for two family dwelling units.

Staff concluded that the applicant's request for a conditional use permit to convert a single-family residence to a two-family dwelling in the R-1 Residential Single-Family District complies with the code standards, is consistent with the purpose of the code and the standards for granting a conditional use. Mr. Bublitz recommended approval subject to the conditions in the staff report along with the town's conditions.

Speaking in support:

Jeremy Skaw, Real Land Surveying, spoke in favor of the request. He noted that the rental agreement will state that no offsite parking is allowed on Alf Ave. and indicated that the final plan for each structure still has to be approved.

Shawn Tutor, applicant, clarified the parking proposal for the committee and answered their questions.

Speaking in opposition:

Judy Funk, 3436 La Mont Street

Jackie Meyers, 3517 Alf Ave.

Thomas Bauer, 3412 La Mont Court

John Vonasek, 3511 Brian Street

Dorothy Krall, 3421 La Mont Court

Reasons stated in the opposition testimony: The current owner was denied a rezoning request 1993 to change the zoning from R1 (single-family) to R2 District (two-family), on and off street parking, conflict with the single family neighborhood, icy roads, sewer and water, structures were never finished, and safety.

ACTION: Motion by Dane Zook to approve the request to convert a single-family dwelling into a two-family dwelling subject to the terms outlined in the staff report. Motion carried on a voice vote: 2-1-0

- b. Continuation of a conditional use permit request to convert a single-family dwelling into a two-family dwelling. Owner: TTH LLC. Applicant: Jeremy Skaw. Legal: Lot 11 Block 1 Sunny Meadows, Town of Washington, Eau Claire County, Wisconsin. CUP-00015-23

Refer to agenda item 5a. for an explanation.

ACTION: Motion by Dane Zook to approve the conditional use permit CUP-00015-23 request to convert a single-family dwelling into a two-family dwelling. Motion carried on a voice vote: 2-1-0.

- c. Withdrawn - A conditional use permit request for a religious use for an "Old Order Amish" cemetery. Owner: Christian Borntreger. Legal: The SE ¼ of the NW ¼ of Section 25, Township 26 North, Range 8 West, Town of Lincoln, Eau Claire County, WI: EXCEPT lands conveyed for Highway purposes. CUP-0016-23

This request was withdrawn by the owner prior to the meeting.

6. Committee Review– To modify the existing building pad area increasing its size approximately 3,500 square feet, Lot 2 Thistledown, Town of Washington, Eau Claire County, Wisconsin. (Dennison/Gartmann) / Discussion – Action

Ben Bublitz, Land Use Manager for Eau Claire County presented the staff report to the committee. He shared the location map, an aerial map, topographic map of the property, and the preliminary affidavit with the committee. Ben explained that the applicant was requesting to expand the building pad for lot 2 by 3,500 square feet to accommodate a garage construction. He noted that Aaron White, City Community Development Director, did not object to the request. Mr. Bublitz concluded by recommending approval of the request.

ACTION: Motion by James Dunning to approve the modification to the building pad for lot 2 of the Thistledown subdivision by 3,500 square feet. Motion carried on a voice vote: 3-0-0

7. Committee Review– To remove a plat restriction that prohibits any additional access to County Trunk Highway Q, Lot 9 Mossy Ridge, Town of Seymour, Eau Claire County, Wisconsin. (Hauck/Skaw) / Discussion – Action

Ben Bublitz reviewed the staff report with the committee. He indicated that the request was to remove a plat restriction limiting additional access to County Road Q on the Plat of Mossy Ridge so that lot 9 may be further redivided. He noted that the Highway Department is okay with removing the access restriction. approves Mr. Bublitz concluded by recommending approval of the request.

ACTION: Motion by Dane Zook to approve a request to remove a plat restriction that prohibits any additional access to County Trunk Highway Q. Motion carried on a voice vote: 3-0-0

8. Committee Review– To allow for lot width to be reduced less than 100-feet in an unzoned township, located in part of the SW ¼ of the NW ¼, Section 1, Township 27 North, Range 7 West, Town of Ludington, Eau Claire County, Wisconsin. (Olson/Cedar Corporation) / Discussion – Action

Ben Bublitz indicated that the request was to allow for a lot with less than 100 feet of road frontage in an unzoned town. Currently the property only fronts on the right of way for 47.94 feet and contains the existing driveway to the house. Ben indicated that the owner plans to divide his house off from the remaining land to create a 1.94-acre lot that he would keep and sell the remaining acreage.

Mike Olson, owner, addressed the committee and indicated that they are selling the farmland and retaining the house.

Ben recommended approval of the request as presented subject to the reasons given in his report.

ACTION: Motion by James Dunning to approve a request to allow for lot width to be reduced less than 100-feet in an unzoned township. Motion carried on a voice vote: 3-0-0

9. Nashville North CUP 0017-22 (special event for music concerts) review and alter permit condition #1 / Discussion – Action

Ben explained as a condition of the original approval of the CUP for Nashville North that the permit was to be reviewed annually to determine if any changes or modifications were necessary. Ben indicated that the department has not received any complaints regarding any of the events held within the last year and that the Town of Seymour is in full support of the request. He proceeded to explain the applicant's request for modification. Ben supported the applicant's requests.

ACTION: Motion by Dane Zook to approve a request to change CUP-0017-22 conditions regarding scheduling events and to accept the updated site plan. Motion carried on a voice vote: 3-0-0

10. Review of December bills / Discussion

The committee reviewed the department's bills.

11. Proposed Future Agenda Items / Discussion

- a. Next scheduled meeting February 27, 2024

12. Adjourn

ACTION: Meeting adjourned by unanimous consent at 7:12 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rodney Eslinger
Clerk, Committee on Planning & Development



EAU CLAIRE COUNTY PLANNING STAFF RECOMMENDATION

REZONE NUMBER: RZN-0001-24 **COMPUTER NUMBER:** 012100403000

PUBLIC HEARING DATE: February 27, 2024

STAFF CONTACT: Matt Michels, Senior Planner

OWNER: H.G. Anderson Land LLC, 880 Willow Ridge Rd., Hudson, WI 54016

AGENT: Patrick Sullivan; Attorneys Paul J. Mirr and Ian Colby, Ruder Ware, P.O. Box 187, 402 Graham Ave, Eau Claire, WI 54702

REQUEST: Rezone 11.4 acres +/- of land from F-1 (Exclusive Forestry) District to A-2 (Agricultural-Residential) District to create a lot for the property buyer to construct a home and outbuilding(s) since the F-1 District doesn't allow residential uses.

LOCATION: North of Lincoln Drive and east of Hiawatha Road

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Part of the NW¼ SW¼ of Section 2, T26N, R7W, Town of Lincoln, Eau Claire County, Wisconsin (complete legal description attached)

RECOMMENDATION Approval of request based on findings outlined on Page 4 of this report.

BACKGROUND

SITE CHARACTERISTICS:

- The property to be rezoned is undeveloped and is primarily wooded with red pine.
- The entire 120 acres the applicant owns is enrolled in DNR Managed Forest Law (MFL) and is intended to remain in the program.
- The property to be rezoned contains no Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESAs; mapped wetlands, floodplains, and slopes greater than 30%).

EXISTING ZONING DISTRICT:

F-1 Exclusive Forestry District. The F-1 District is established to preserve and protect the forestry resources of the county and to limit those uses that are incompatible with or have a detrimental effect upon good forestry practices. The standards set out in this chapter should apply in the district.

REQUESTED ZONING DISTRICT:

A-2 Agriculture-Residential District. *This district is established to "provide an area for limited residential and hobby farm development in a rural atmosphere."*

ZONING/LAND USE CONTEXT:

LOCATION	ZONING	LAND USE
Subject	F-1	Forestry
North	F-1	Forestry
East	F-1	Forestry
South	A-2	Town of Lincoln borrow pit
West	A-2	Wooded

COMPREHENSIVE PLANS:

The Eau Claire County Future Land Use Map includes the property in the Rural Lands (RL) planning area and the Town of Lincoln Future Land Use Map includes the property in the Rural Preservation (RP) planning area. Following are descriptions of the intent of the applicable County and Town comprehensive plan future land use categories and applicable policies.

Eau Claire County:

- Rural Lands Intent and Description: *The primary intent of these areas is to preserve productive agricultural lands, protect existing farm & forestry operations from encroachment by incompatible uses, promote further investments in farming, maintain farmer eligibility for incentive programs, and preserve wildlife habitat and open spaces. In other words, to preserve the rural character of these areas.*
- Applicable Policies:
 1. *Farming and other agriculture uses, agricultural-related businesses, cottage industries, forestry, mineral extraction, open space, and utilities shall be established as the primary land uses within these areas. Other uses may be permitted if found to be compatible with these uses and existing uses adjacent to the property.*
 2. *The preferred housing density is one (1) unit per 20 or more acres; however, local comprehensive plans may be more or less restrictive than this guideline and generally range from one (1) unit per five (5) acres to one (1) unit per 35 acres.*
 3. *For those Towns under County Zoning, the following Eau Claire County Zoning Districts will be considered for approval within RP areas: A-1 Exclusive Agricultural District, A-2 Agricultural-Residential District, A-3 Agricultural District, A-R Floating Agricultural-Residential District, F-2 Forestry District, F-1 Forestry District, and the proposed AC-R District noted below. The following additional policies shall apply to rezoning petitions:*
 - a. *Rezoning land to the A-R Floating Agricultural-Residential District or the proposed AC-R Agricultural Compatible Residential District is preferred over additional non-farm A-2 or A-3 parcels, unless rezoning land to either of these districts will not interfere with, will not disrupt, or will not be incompatible with farming or agricultural use, and will not take land suitable for cultivation or other agricultural use out of production.*

Town of Lincoln:

- Rural Preservation Intent and Description: *The primary intent of these areas is to preserve productive agricultural lands in the long-term, protect existing farm & forestry operations from encroachment by incompatible uses, promote further investments in farming, maintain farmer eligibility for incentive programs, and to preserve wildlife habitat and open spaces. In other words, to preserve the rural character of these areas. As mapped, this designation includes farmland, scattered open lands, woodlots, agricultural-related uses, cottage industries, mineral extraction operations, farmsteads, and existing non-farm single-family residences. Future*

development in the RP area is expected to be consistent with the existing pattern of development, and the policies specified below for RP areas.

- Applicable Policies:
 1. *Farming and agricultural uses shall be established as the primary land uses within these areas. Non-farm development shall only be allowed if it will not interfere with, will not disrupt, or will not be incompatible with farming or agricultural use, and will not take significant tracts of land suitable for cultivation or other agricultural use out of production.*
 2. *Agriculturally related businesses, cottage industries, utility, recreation, mineral extraction, religious and government uses may be permitted based on the conditional use requirements of the appropriate Eau Claire County base zoning districts for RP areas.*
 3. *Proposals for any new non-farm residential development shall be consistent with the following policies:*
 - a. *The maximum gross density for non-farm residential lots shall be one (1) unit per five (5) acres held in single ownership, except as otherwise provided below for conservation subdivisions. The minimum lot size for non-farm residential lots shall be one (1) acre. The balance of the land not included for residential lots shall be placed in a permanent conservation easement for agriculture, forestry, and open space use.*
 - b. *Any new non-farm residential lot shall have a “Right to Farm” disclosure attached to it acknowledging that the potential non-farm owner has been informed that his lot has been established in an area where farming is the preferred land use, and stating that the owner understands that he must abide by the State of Wisconsin “Right to Farm” statute (WI Stat. 823.08). This language shall be recorded on the deed to the property, transferable to subsequent owners.*
 - c. *Non-farm residential development shall only occur on land that is marginal for agricultural productivity. At least 80% of any proposed new lot shall not contain Highly Productive Soils as defined in this plan. In addition, it is the preference of the Town of Lincoln that new non-farm residential lots that are approved in accord with these policies be located adjacent to or near existing non-farm development.*

The application has been found to be substantially consistent with the intent, description, and the applicable policies of the Eau Claire County Rural Lands land use category.

FARMLAND PRESERVATION PLAN:

The property is not included in the Eau Claire County Farmland Preservation Plan.

Comprehensive Plan Summary

The proposed A-2 zoning district is consistent with the intent and description and the applicable policies of the Eau Claire County Comprehensive Plan Rural Lands Planning Area as it is an agricultural district that generally limits non-farm residential development and associated land use conflicts.

ANALYSIS

When rezoning land, a finding should be made that the purpose of the proposed zoning district and the uses that are allowed in that district are appropriate for the location; and that the rezoning will uphold the purpose of the zoning ordinance. A finding should also be made that the rezone is consistent with the County’s Comprehensive Plan.

Town Board Action: The Lincoln Town Board considered the rezoning petition on Monday, February 12, 2023, and recommended approval (3-0 vote).

The rezoning petition has been evaluated for consistency with the purpose of the A-2 District and the uses allowed in the district. The request is generally consistent with the purpose of the zoning code based on the following findings:

- The proposed rezoning is substantially consistent with the intent and purpose of the Eau Claire County Future Land Use plan.
- Existing uses in the area include woodlands, agricultural fields, and farm and non-farm single-family residences.
- Zoning in the area is predominantly A-, RH and F-1 in vicinity of the subject property.

CONCLUSION

The rezone petition has been evaluated for consistency with the following:

- Eau Claire County Comprehensive Plan future land use designation
- Eau Claire County Comprehensive Plan goals, objectives and policies
- Eau Claire County Zoning Ordinance, including purpose of the zoning code and allowable uses in the A-2 District

In addition, the following factors have also been considered:

- Input of surrounding property owners. No correspondence in support or opposed to the proposed rezoning has been received, to date.

FINDINGS

Findings in Favor:

1. The request is generally consistent with the goals, objectives, and policies of the Eau Claire County Comprehensive Plan, as required by Section 19.01.020.B of the Eau Claire County Code; and Wisconsin Statutes §66.1001(1)(am) and §66.1001(3)(j), including the intent, description, and policies of the Rural Lands Future Land Use classification in Section 3.3 of the Eau Claire County Comprehensive Plan and Map 9 (Future Land Use) of the Eau Claire County Comprehensive Plan.
2. There are numerous A-2 zoned lots near the subject property, and adjacent lands are planned for Rural Residential uses.
3. The property has required road frontage on Lincoln Drive.
4. The applicant indicates that they intend to keep the remainder of the 120 acres they have purchased in the DNR Managed Forest Law (MFL) program and to “provide a home *within* the forested land rather than a home in lieu of the forested land”.

2
3 -AMENDING THE 1982 OFFICIAL ZONING DISTRICT BOUNDARY MAP FOR THE TOWN OF
4 LINCOLN -

5
6 The County Board of Supervisors of the County of Eau Claire does ordain as follows:

7
8 **SECTION 1.** That the 1982 Official Zoning District Boundary Map for the Town of Lincoln,
9 described as follows:

10
11 Part of the Northwest Quarter of the Southwest Quarter, Section 2, Township 26 North,
12 Range 7 West, Town of Lincoln, Eau Claire, Wisconsin.

13
14 Commencing at the Northeast corner of Lot 3 of CSM #3760 Document #123926
15 Vol. 22 Page 63;

16 Thence S01°30'24"E, 524.48 feet along the East line of said Lot 3 to the Point of
17 Beginning;

18 Thence continuing S01°30'24"E, 798.09 feet to the Southeast corner of said Lot
19 3;

20 Thence N89°34'48"W, 34.95 feet along the South line of said Lot 3 to the West
21 line of the Southwest Quarter of Section 2, Township 26 North, Range 7 West;

22 Thence S03°01'25"E, 22.84' along the west line of said Quarter Section to the
23 south line of the Northwest Quarter of the Southwest Quarter of said Section 2;

24 Thence N88°40'32"E, 712.70 feet along said South line;

25 Thence N00°00'00"E, 510.87 feet;

26 Thence N50°23'18"W, 354.56 feet;

27 Thence N81°04'43"W, 431.83 feet to the Point of Beginning.

28
29 Said described parcel of land containing 11.4 acres +/-, of land and is subject to the
30 easements and restrictions of record to be reclassified from the F-1 Exclusive
31 Forestry District to the A-2 Agriculture-Residential District.

32
33 **SECTION 2.** Where a certified survey map is required and may alter the above described property
34 description, the official zoning district map for the town shall be automatically amended to reflect the
35 property description of the certified survey map.

36
37 ENACTED:

I hereby certify that the foregoing correctly represents the action
taken by the undersigned Committee on February 27, 2024, by a
vote of for, against.

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51 _____
52 Planning and Development Committee

53
54
55 Dated this 27 day of February, 2024.



Department of Planning and Development
 Eau Claire County Courthouse
 721 Oxford Avenue, Room 3344
 Eau Claire, Wisconsin 54703
 715-839-4741

Application Accepted:	01/03/2024
Accepted By:	Matt Michels
Receipt Number:	1554233
Town Hearing Date:	102/12/2024
Scheduled Hearing Date:	02/27/2024
Application No:	RZN-0001-24
Application Status:	Applied

Rezoning Petition

Owner/Applicant Name(s):

Owner: HG ANDERSON LAND LLC

Applicant: Patrick Sullivan; Atty. Paul J. Mirr and Atty. Ian Colby, 402 Graham Ave, PO Box 187, Eau Claire, WI 54601

Telephone: 715-834-3425

Email: icolby@ruderware.com

RECEIVED

JAN 03 2024

Site Address(es):

No Address Available

Property Description:

Sec 02 Twn 26 Rge 07
 Town of Lincoln

COUNTY CLERK

Zoning District(s):

F-1

Lot Area(s) - Acres:

40.00

Overlay District(s):

PIN
 1801222607023200001

Legal (partial)
 NW-SW ENTERED 40 AC INTO MFL - OPEN BEG 1999 PER 1132/103, MFL AMENDED B

Pursuant to the procedure described in Wisconsin Statutes Section 59.69(5), I hereby petition the Eau Claire County Board of Supervisors to amend the following Zoning District from:

At the public hearing, the applicant may appear in person or through an agent or an attorney of his/her choice. The applicant/agent/attorney may present testimony, evidence, and arguments in support of the application. All site plans, pictures, etc. become the property of the Department, and will remain in the file.



Department of Planning and Development
 Eau Claire County Courthouse
 721 Oxford Avenue, Room 3344
 Eau Claire, Wisconsin 54703
 (715) 839-4741

Office Use Only

Application Accepted:	1/3/24
Accepted By:	mm
Application Number:	R-2-N-0001-24
Town Hearing Date:	2/12/2024
Scheduled Hearing Date:	2/27/2024

REZONING APPLICATION

Pursuant to the procedure described in Wisconsin Statutes Section 59.69(5), I hereby petition the Eau Claire County Board of Supervisors to amend the Zoning District from:

Existing Zoning District: F1	Proposed Zoning District(s): A2
Acres to be rezoned: 11.4 acres	

Property Owner Name: HG Anderson Land LLC (Paul Anderson, Authorized Member)	Phone#
Mailing Address: 880 Willow Ridge Road, Hudson, WI 54016	
Email Address: bmnbrigman@att.net & paulandersonnow@gmail.com	

Agent Name: Patrick Sullivan; Atty. Paul J. Mirr and Atty. Ian Colby	Phone# 715-834-3425
Mailing Address: 402 Graham Avenue, PO Box 187, Eau Claire, Wisconsin 54702	
Email Address: pmirr@ruderware.com; icolby@ruderware.com; psullivan@market-johnson.com	

SITE INFORMATION

Site Address: Property not assigned an address. Property located on north side of Lincoln Drive to the east of Sunrise Drive

Property Description: NW ¼ SW ¼ Sec. 2, T26 N, R7 W, Town of Lincoln

Zoning District: F1	Code Section(s): 18.29
Overlay District: Check Applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> Shoreland <input type="checkbox"/> Floodplain <input type="checkbox"/> Airport <input type="checkbox"/> Wellhead Protection <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Metallic Mining
Computer #(s): or PIN #(s):	012100401000 18012-2-260702-320-0001

Applications will not be accepted until the applicant has met with department staff to review the application and determine if all necessary information has been provided. All information from the checklist must be included.

<input type="checkbox"/> Complete attached information sheet	<input type="checkbox"/> Confirmed with the Town their submittal deadline and process.
<input type="checkbox"/> Provide legal description of property to be rezoned	<input type="checkbox"/> Provide \$620.00 application fee (non-refundable), (\$545.00 application processing fee and \$75.00 mapping surcharge fee). Send application to landuse@co.eau-claire.wi.us or to the address above.

I certify by my signature that all information presented herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge. I give permission for the staff of the Eau Claire County Department of Planning and Development to enter my property for the purpose of collecting information to be used as part of the public hearing process. I further agree to withdraw this application if substantive false or incorrect information has been included.

DocuSigned by:
 Owner/Agent Signature: Paul Anderson Date: 12/29/2023

At the public hearing, the applicant may appear in person or through an agent or an attorney of his/her choice. The applicant/agent/attorney may present testimony, evidence, and arguments in support of the application. All site plans, pictures, etc. become the property of the Department, and will remain in the file.

REZONING APPLICATION CHECKLIST

Applications are due by Tuesday at 12:00 PM three weeks prior to the Committee on Planning and Development meeting. The application must include the items listed below. After a preliminary review, additional information may be needed. A hearing will not be scheduled until the application is deemed complete. Applications are considered complete when all materials and associated fees are received and approved by staff.

Required Application Items:

- Application must be signed by the property owner(s)
- A legal description of land and address of land to be rezoned
- Complete the attached supplemental rezoning information sheet
 - Describe the reason for the request
 - Describe how the proposed zoning district and the uses allowed in that district are appropriate for the selected location, and how the proposed change in zoning will uphold the purpose of the zoning ordinance
 - Explain and justify why this particular property is under consideration for rezoning
 - For rezoning requests from A-P to any zoning district other than the AR district must consider the factors in Section 18.32.055 A. – D.
 - For rezoning requests from the A-P to the AR zoning district must consider the factors in Section 18.06.050 A. – D.
 - For rezoning requests out of the Shoreland-wetland district must consider Section 18.19.100 B

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION FOR A REZONING PETITION

In order to process your application as quickly as possible, please fill in all of the sections below that are applicable to your request, and attach all appropriate maps or plans described below that are relevant to your request.

Describe the reason(s) for your rezoning request:

See Attached

When evaluating a rezoning petition, staff from the Eau Claire County Department of Planning and Development consider whether the purpose of the proposed zoning district and the uses allowed in the district are appropriate for the selected location. Staff also considers whether the change in zoning will uphold the purpose of the zoning ordinance, which is to separate incompatible land uses from one another, to maintain public health and safety, to protect and conserve natural resources, to prevent overcrowding, to preserve property values, and to maintain the general welfare of the citizens. Please describe how the proposed zoning district and the uses allowed in that district are appropriate for the selected location, and how the proposed change in zoning will uphold the purpose of the zoning ordinance.

See Attached

Rezoning petitions to change the zoning of a parcel from the A-P Agricultural Preservation District to any other District must be based upon findings that consider the following factors:

- 1) The land is better suited for a use not allowed in the A-P Agricultural Preservation zoning district based on a review of soil types, historical productivity, location, and adjacent land uses;
- 2) The rezoning is consistent with any applicable comprehensive plans;
- 3) The rezoning is substantially consistent with the certified Eau Claire County Farmland Preservation Plan; and
- 4) The rezoning will not substantially impair or limit current or future agricultural use of surrounding parcels of land that are zoned for or legally restricted to agricultural use.

If you are petitioning to rezone land from an A-P District to another district, please describe how the proposed change in zoning will be consistent with the four findings listed here.

Not applicable

**EXHIBIT TO REZONING APPLICATION
HG ANDERSON LAND LLC**

Property: The southwest 11.40 acres of PIN: 18012-2-260702-320-0001 (see below)

Legal Description of Property to be Rezoned:

Part of the Northwest Quarter of the Southwest Quarter, Section 2, Township 26 North, Range 7 West, Town of Lincoln, Eau Claire County, Wisconsin. The area is more particularly described as follows:

Commencing at the Northeast corner of Lot 3 of CSM #3760 Document #123926 Vol. 22 Page 63;

Thence S01°30'24"E, 524.48 feet along the East line of said Lot 3 to the **Point of Beginning**;

Thence continuing S01°30'24"E, 798.09 feet to the Southeast corner of said Lot 3;

Thence N89°34'48"W, 34.95 feet along the South line of said Lot 3 to the West line of the Southwest Quarter of Section 2, Township 26 North, Range 7 West;

Thence S03°01'25"E, 22.84' along the west line of said Quarter Section to the south line of the Northwest Quarter of the Southwest Quarter of said Section 2;

Thence N88°40'32"E, 712.70 feet along said South line;

Thence N00°00'00"E, 510.87 feet;

Thence N50°23'18"W, 354.56 feet;

Thence N81°04'43"W, 431.83 feet to the **Point of Beginning**.

Said area contains 496,669 square feet or 11.40 total acres, more or less.

General Depiction of Requested Rezoning:

1. Reason for Rezoning:

HG Anderson Land LLC, as seller, recently received an offer to purchase from Patrick and Heather Sullivan for property which includes the above-described land to be rezoned. However, the purchase is contingent upon HG Anderson Land LLC successfully completing a rezoning application for the above-described 11.4 acre piece of land from F-1 to A-2. The Sullivans wish to use 5 acres of the rezoned land to construct a single-family home and garage. The rest of the acreage (in both the rezoned area and beyond) will remain in the Managed Forest Law program. The A-2 zone will permit the Sullivans to establish a home on the 5 acres. The intent is to provide a home *within* the forested land rather than a home in lieu of the forested land.

A confluence of Eau Claire County ordinances and the natural topography of the site require a larger area than 5 acres be rezoned. The intent is to establish the home in a portion of the property that has the lowest density of trees (approximately center left on the aerial included below). Eau Claire County ordinances require that the boundaries of a zoning district be contiguous with a parcel boundary. To ensure the home site is properly zoned, while also ensuring a rational and contiguous parcel boundary, the parcel to be rezoned will be 11.4 acres to encompass the homestead site. The rezoned parcel boundary will follow the natural contours of the land, as the northern parcel boundary will follow an existing creek bed. To be clear, even though 11.4 acres is planned to be rezoned, the intent is to only withdraw 5 acres from the

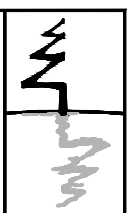
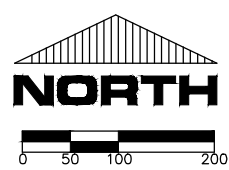
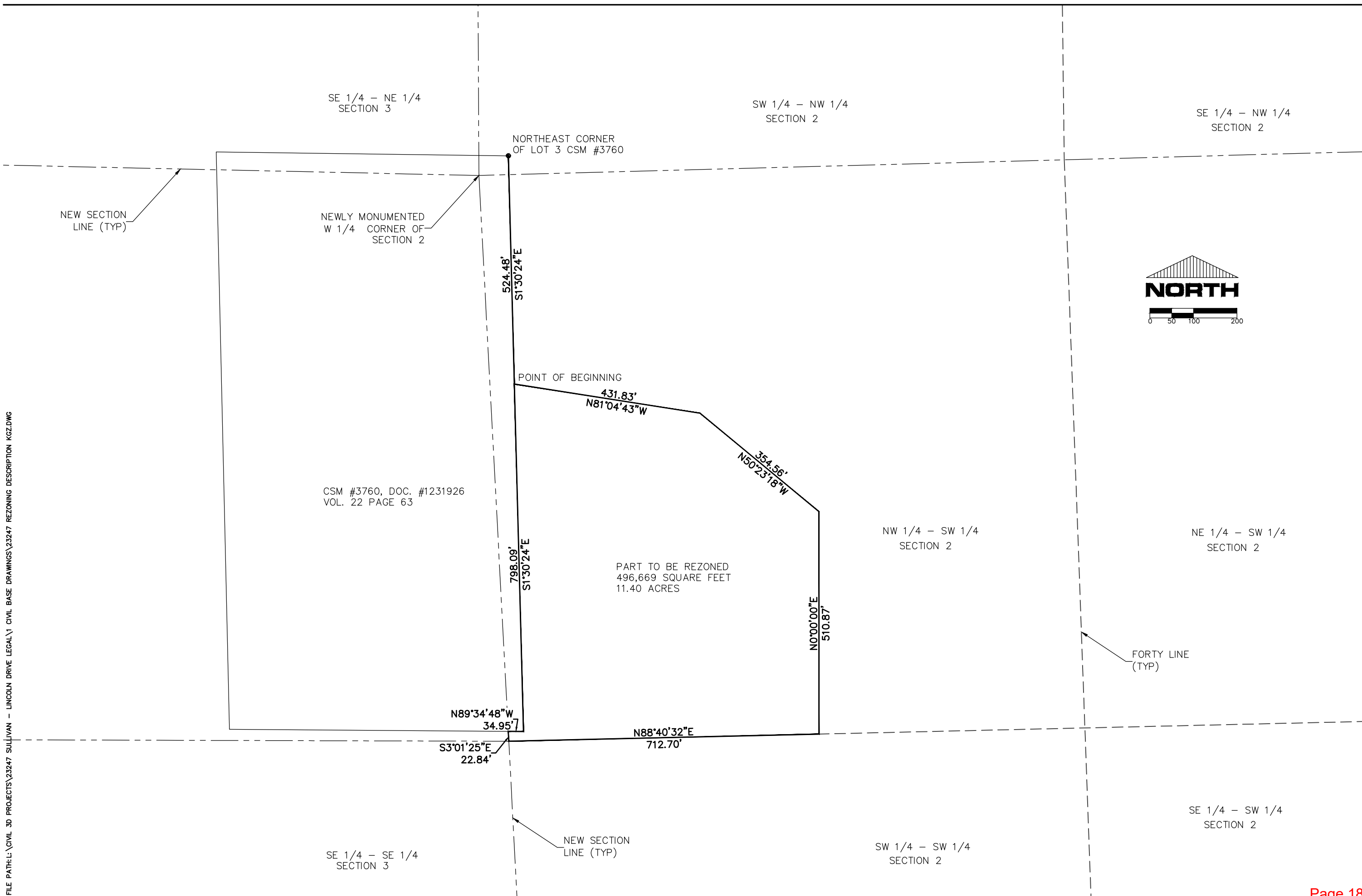
Managed Forest Law for the home. The remainder of the parent parcel, which is currently about 40 acres, will remain zoned as F-1.

2. *Describe how the proposed zoning district and the uses allowed in that district are appropriate for the selected location, and how the proposed change in zoning will uphold the purpose of the zoning ordinance.*

To the best of our knowledge, the Town of Lincoln has not yet adopted Eau Claire County's new zoning ordinance. Per the existing Eau Claire County Ordinances § 18.05.010, the A-2 agricultural-residential district was established to "provide an area for limited residential [use]...in a rural atmosphere [and] preserve the county's natural resources and open space." The Sullivans plan to construct a homestead on the rezoned area, while retaining the rural atmosphere and open space provided by the forested lands on the remaining 35 acres. The applicant and the Sullivans believe this limited residential use is appropriate and upholds the purpose of the zoning ordinance. In addition, the A-2 zoning designation is consistent with other properties in the area. Properties directly to the west, south, and southeast are all zoned A-2. Please reference the attached maps on the next page.

The proposed rezoning of the property is consistent with Eau Claire County's Future Land Use designation of this property as "Rural Lands" (according to the Eau Claire County Comprehensive Plan 2020-2040) and the Town of Lincoln's designation of this property as "Rural Transition" (according to the Town of Lincoln Comprehensive Plan 2015-2035), which both permit A-2 zoning districts within those designations. Rezoning to A-2 permits the Sullivans to construct their home, while preserving the area's rural and forested character.

FILE PATH: L:\CIVIL 3D PROJECTS\23247 SULLIVAN - LINCOLN DRIVE LEGAL\1 CIVIL BASE DRAWINGS\23247 REZONING DESCRIPTION KGZ.DWG

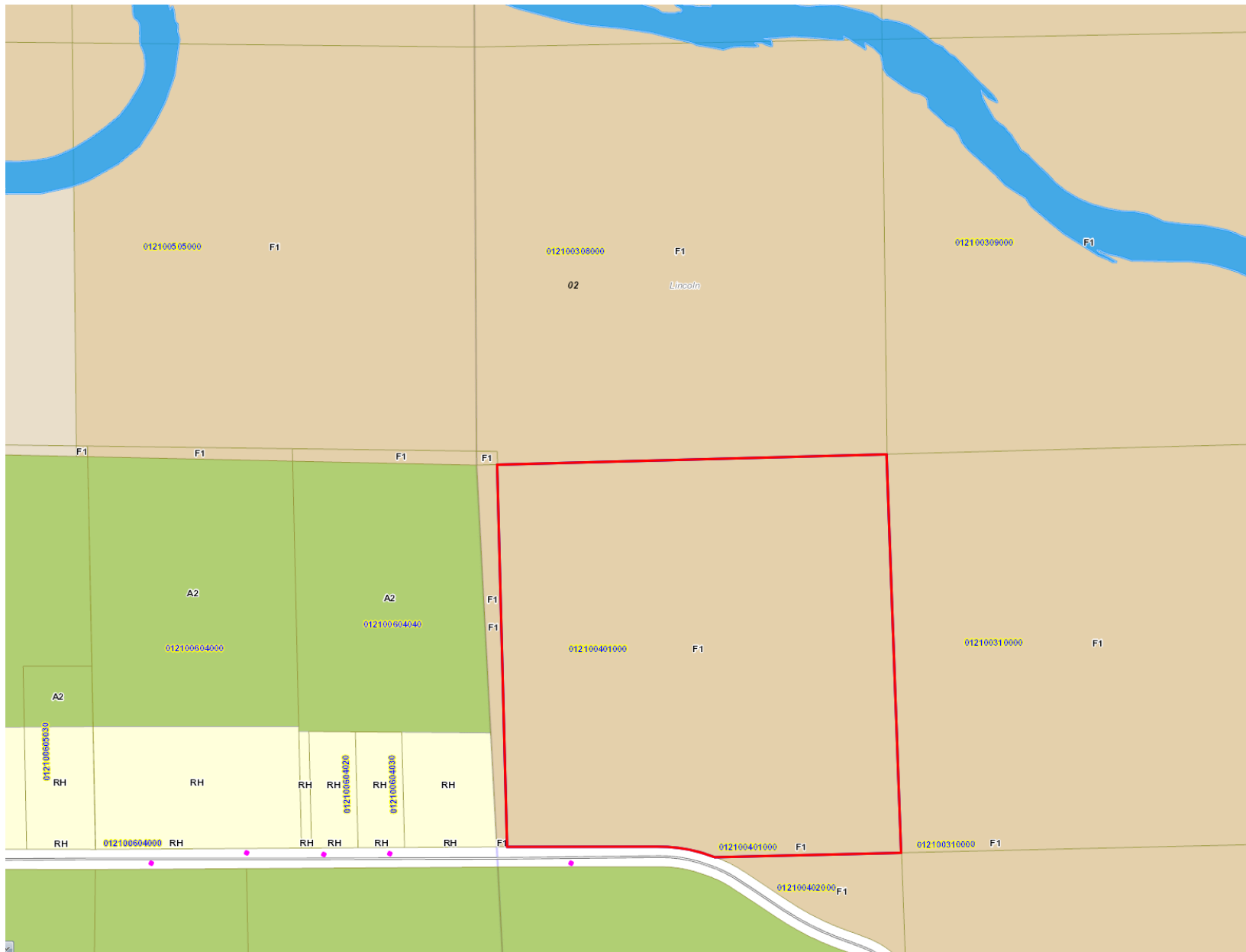


EVERYDAY SURVEYING & ENGINEERING
 711 S. HILLCREST PARKWAY • ALTOONA, WI 54720
 PH: (715) 851-0654 • EMAIL: INFO@ESE.CO

DR BY:	KGZ	JOB NO:	23247
CHK BY:	XXX	DWG NAME:	---
DATE:	12-29-23	APPR:	XX-XX-XX

LINCOLN DRIVE
 REZONING LEGAL DESCRIPTION EXHIBIT
 TOWN OF LINCOLN EAU CLAIRE COUNTY, WI

SHEET NO:
 EX1



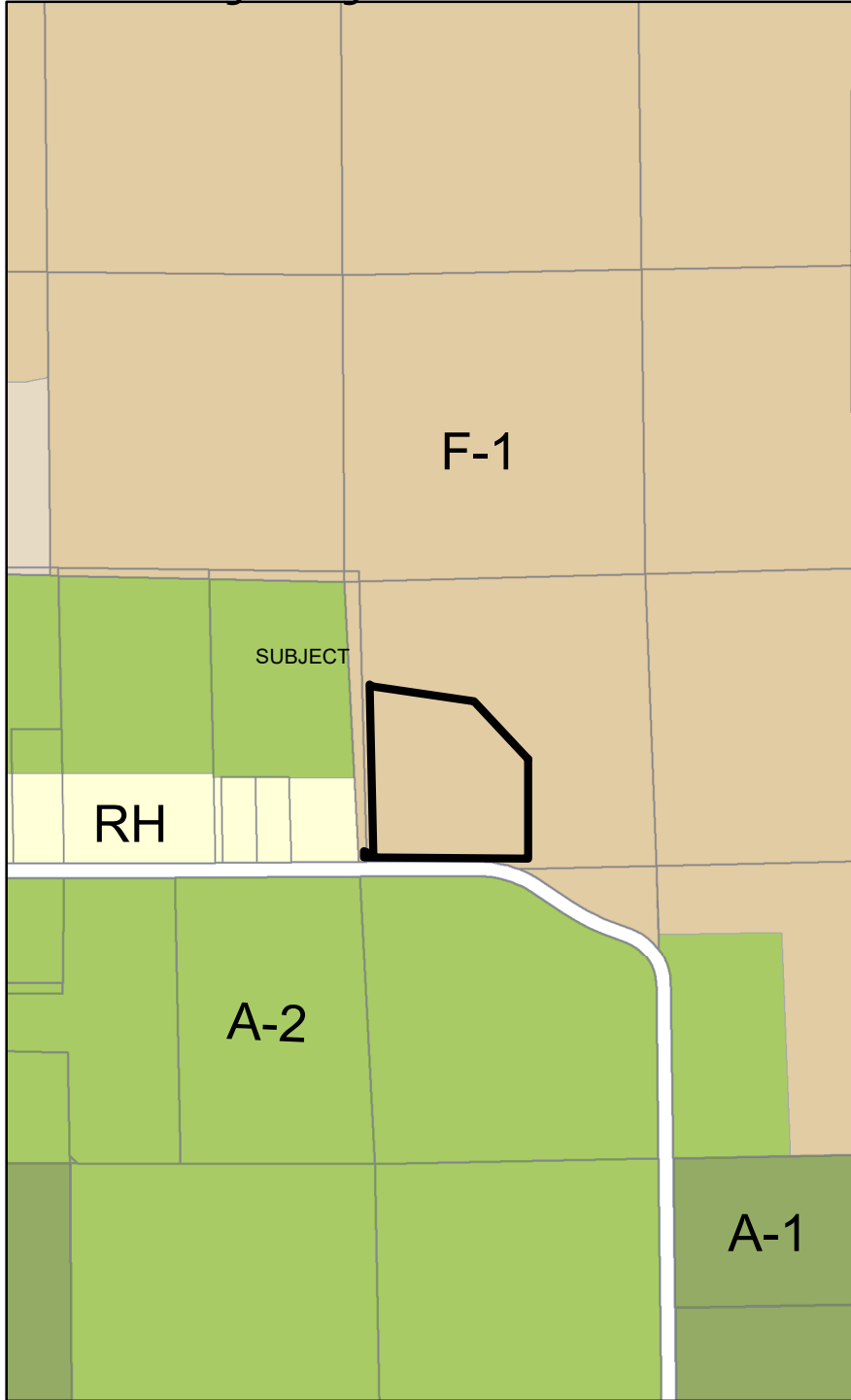




Anderson Rezoning: RZN-0014-23

Existing Zoning

1 inch = 833.333333 feet



- Legend
- A1 - Exclusive Agricultural District
 - A2 - Agriculture-Residential District
 - A3 - Agricultural District
 - AP - Agricultural Preservation
 - AR - Floating Agricultural-Residential District
 - C1 - Neighborhood Business District
 - C2 - General Business District
 - C3 - Highway Business District
 - F1 - Exclusive Forestry District
 - F2 - Forestry District
 - I1 - Nonsewered Industrial District
 - I2 - Sewered Industrial District
 - R1L - Single-Family Residential District, Large Lot
 - R1M - Single-Family Residential District
 - R2 - Two-Family Residential District
 - R3 - Multiple-Family Residential District
 - RH - Rural Homes District

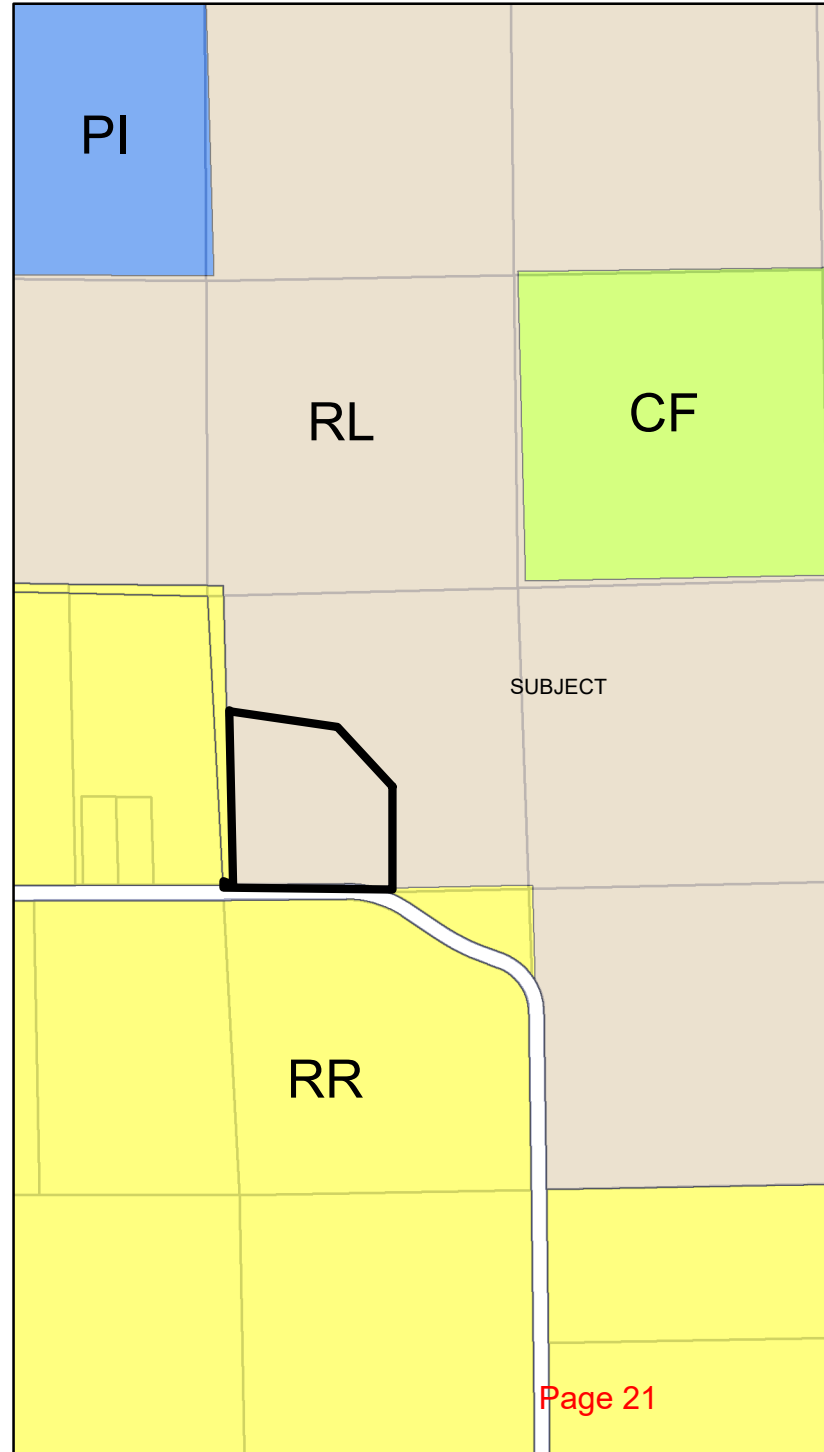
- Commercial Industrial
- County Forest
- Natural Resource Protection
- Park and Recreational
- Public Institutional
- Recreational Commercial
- Rural Commercial
- Rural Hamlet
- Rural Industrial
- Rural Lands
- Rural Residential
- Rural Residential - Mobile Home
- Rural Transition
- Urban Mixed Use



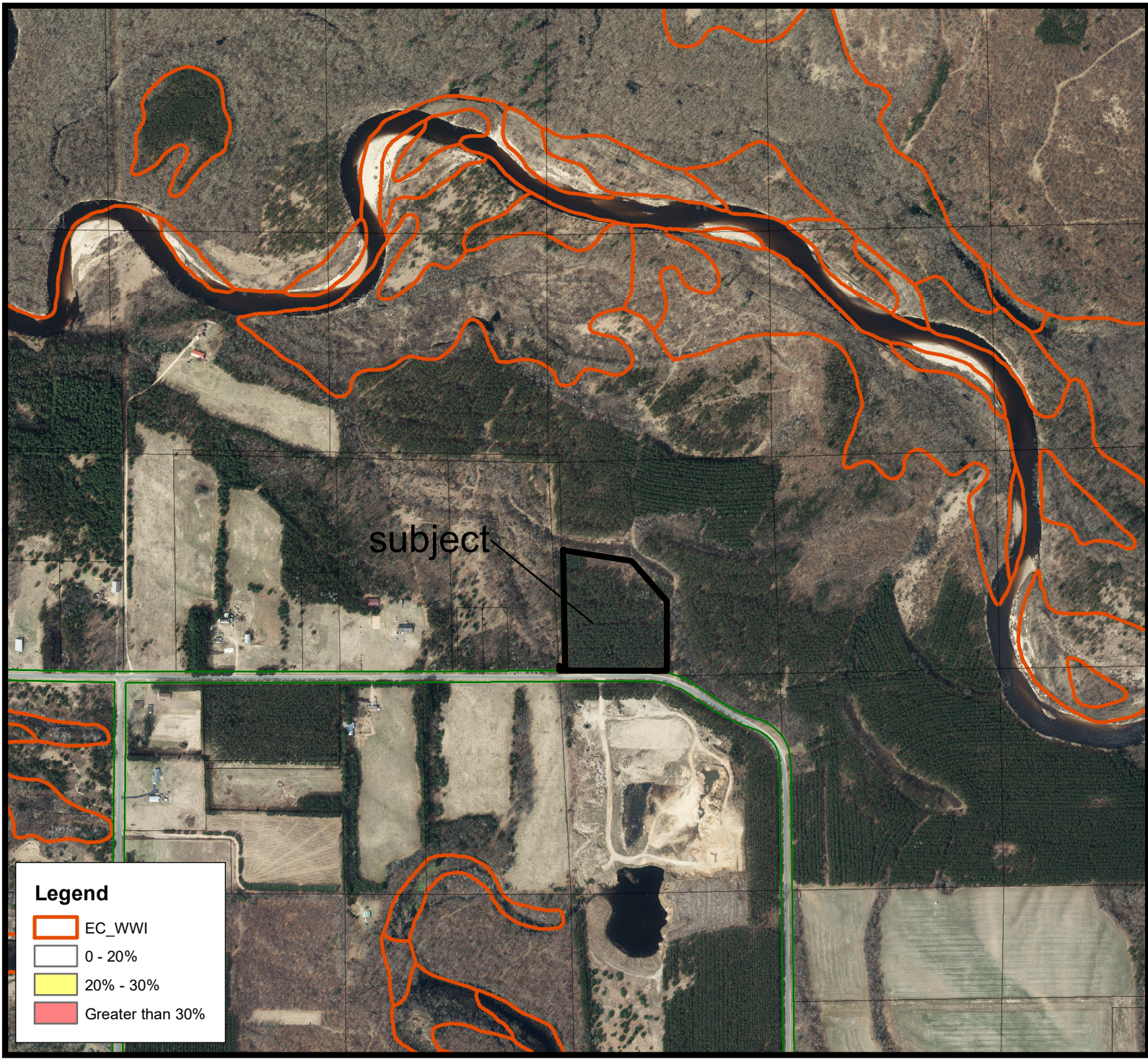
Parcel Mapping Notes:
 The horizontal datum is based on the Eau Claire County Coordinate System NAD_1983_HARN_Adj_WI_EauClaire_Feet.
 This map is a collection of public record information and was prepared as an ongoing commitment to provide quality and up-to-date information to the public. This map is intended for information use only. Although significant care has been exercised to produce maps that satisfy mapping accuracy standards, these maps are only as accurate as the source data from which they were compiled. These maps are intended to be advisory and are NOT designed or intended to be used as a substitute for an accurate field survey, as performed by a Wisconsin Credentialed Land Surveyor, to determine precise property location.
 Eau Claire County does not warrant, guarantee or make any representations regarding the use of, or results from the use of the data in terms of correctness, accuracy, reliability, currentness, or otherwise; and the user relies on the map and results solely at their own risk.

Future Land Use

1 inch = 833 feet



ANDERSON REZONE AERIAL - SLOPE - WETLANDS MAP



subject

Legend

- EC_WWI
- 0 - 20%
- 20% - 30%
- Greater than 30%

Parcel Mapping Notes:

The horizontal datum is based on the Eau Claire County Coordinate System NAD_1983_HARN_Adj_WI_EauClaire_Feet

This map is a collection of public record information and was prepared as an ongoing commitment to provide quality and up-to-date information to the public. This map is intended for information use only. Although significant care has been exercised to produce maps that satisfy mapping accuracy standards, these maps are only as accurate as the source data from which they were compiled. These maps are intended to be advisory and are NOT designed or intended to be used as a substitute for an accurate field survey, as performed by a Wisconsin Credentialed Land Surveyor, to determine precise property location.

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Town of Lincoln Eau Claire County

02/13/2023

To: Department of Planning and Development Eau Claire County

RE: RZN-0001-24

Property Owner: HG Anderson Land LLC-Paul Anderson

Applicant: Patrick Sullivan, Attorney Paul J. Mirr and Attorney Ian Colby

Town: Lincoln

Site Address: Located North of Lincoln Drive and East of Hiawatha Road.

Legal Description: Located in the Northwest 1/4 of the Southwest 1/4, Section 2, Township 26 North, Range 7 West, Town of Lincoln, Eau Claire County, Wisconsin.

The Town of Lincoln board met on February 12, 2024 and discussed the above Rezoning Petition. The full board was in attendance and was in full agreement to approve the applicant's request as outlined in the zoning petition.

Matthew Krenz, Chairman

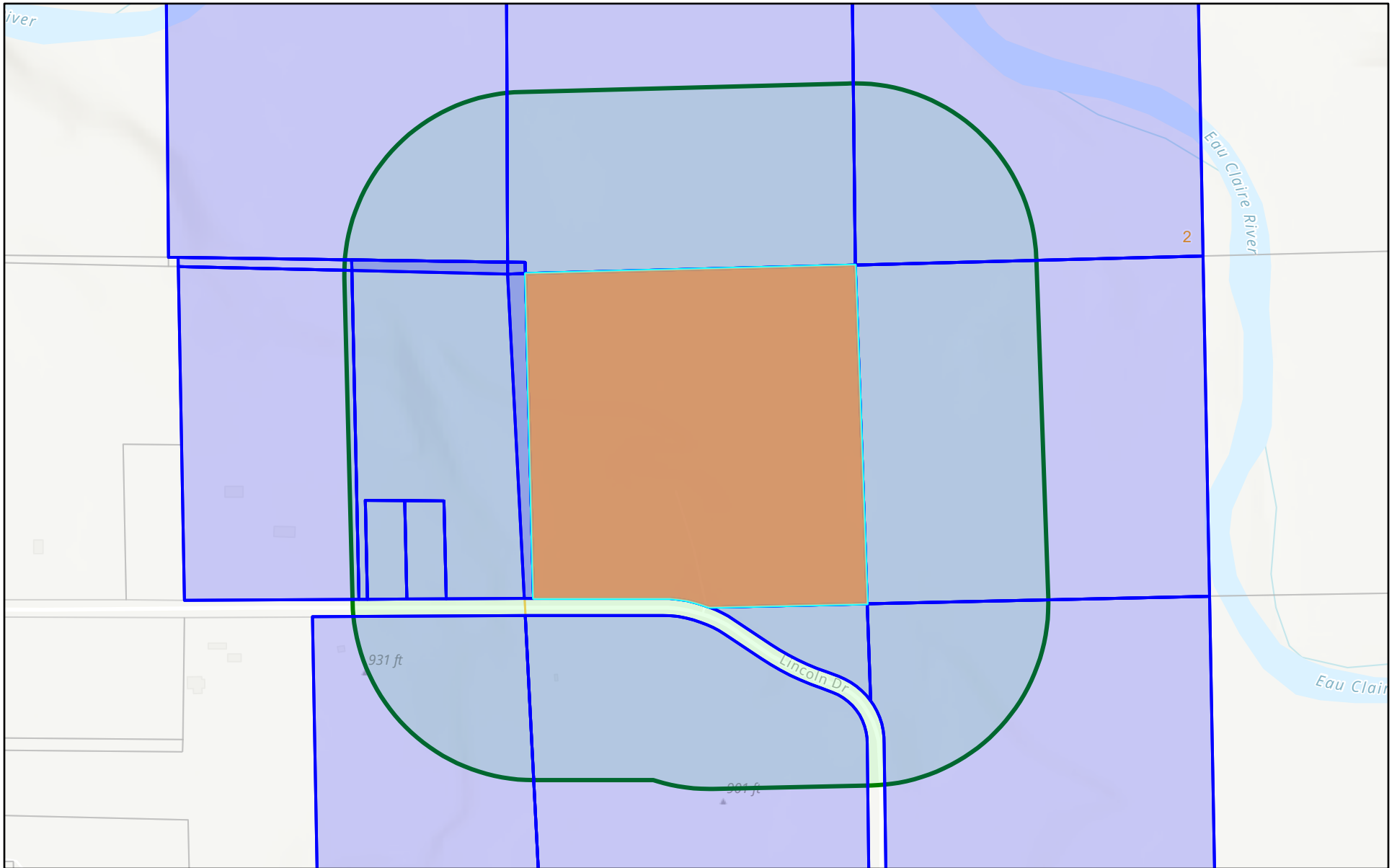
Dean Klingbeil, Supervisor

Matthew Orysen, Supervisor




Sherri McCormick, clerk

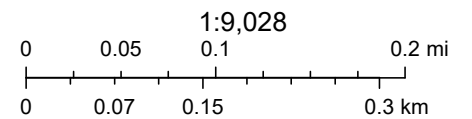
On behalf of the Town of Lincoln Board

Public Notification



1/3/2024, 10:51:38 AM

-  County Boundary
-  Tax Parcel
-  Section



Esri, NASA, NGA, USGS, FEMA, Esri Community Maps Contributors, © OpenStreetMap, Microsoft, Esri, HERE, Garmin, SafeGraph,

FirstName LastName	Address	City State Zip
JOSHUA NIGBOR	27905 VASSAR ST NE	STACY MN 55079-3118
TOWN OF LINCOLN	S5705 COUNTY ROAD J	FALL CREEK WI 54742-4018
DUSTIN WALTERS	3128 KOHLHEPP RD	EAU CLAIRE WI 54703-3636
DANA BROWN	E 15800 LINCOLN DR	FALL CREEK WI 54742-4835
MICHAEL MAYHEW	401 PINNACLE WAY STE 311	EAU CLAIRE WI 54701-3420
DANA D & TRACY L BROWN	E 13895 STELTER RD	FALL CREEK WI 54742-4316
MARK THALACKER	E15520 LINCOLN DR	FALL CREEK WI 54742-4812



Community Climate Action & Resilience Plan (CARP)

2024-2030

Adopted: XXX

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Land Recognition Statement

Eau Claire County acknowledges the County of Eau Claire occupies the sacred and ancestral lands of indigenous people of the Ojibwe and Dakota Nations. You can view a detailed map of Tribal Lands in Wisconsin at <https://wisconsinfirstnations.org/map/>

Acknowledgements

Eau Claire County acknowledges the County Board, Staff, and the Sustainability Advisory Committee (SAC), and the community for their efforts and work to create an increasingly sustainable county and for their work to create the Community Climate Action and Resiliency Plan (CARP). Thank you to the following individuals for their contributions:

Eau Claire County Staff

Regan Watts - Recycling & Sustainability Coordinator
Ben Young - Recycling & Sustainability Intern
Matt Michels - Senior Planner
Rod Eslinger - Planning & Development Director

Sustainability Advisory Committee

Tami Schraufnagel - Chair
Jim Dunning - Vice Chair
Amy Alpine
Nathan Anderson
Jeni Thorpe
Kathy Campbell

Tim Davis
Cathy Lea
Lily Strehlow
Eleanor Wolf

County Board

District 1: Todd Meyer
District 2: Amanda Babb
District 3: Joe Knight
District 4: Stella Pagonis
District 5: Larry Hoekstra
District 6: Dane Zook
District 7: Steve Chilson
District 8: Cory Sisk
District 9: Allen Myren
District 10: Nancy Coffey (Board Chair)
District 11: Nathan Otto
District 12: Brett Geboy
District 13: Connie Russell
District 14: Kirk Dahl
District 15: Nick Smiar

District 16: David Hirsch
District 17: Thomas Vue
District 18: Jim Dunning
District 19: Gerald "Jerry" Wilkie
District 20: John Folstad
District 21: Mark Beckfield
District 22: Dr. Katherine Schneider
District 23: Robin Leary
District 24: Heather DeLuka
District 25: Jodi Lepsch
District 26: Tami Schraufnagel
District 27: Kyle Johnson
District 28: Kimberly Cronk
District 29: Missy Christopherson

Terms & Definitions

***If viewing digitally, clicking on the definition terms below will direct you to the page where the term is first discussed.**

Ag Enterprise Area (AEA): a contiguous land area that is devoted primarily to agricultural use and is locally targeted for agricultural preservation and development.

Carbon neutrality: When the greenhouse gas emissions are equivalent to the emission offsets/sequestration to equal net-zero emissions.

CO2e or CO2 equivalent: A unit of measurement that converts greenhouse gases like methane (CH₄), nitrous oxide (NO₂), carbon dioxide (CO₂) and ozone (O₃) to a single unit of measurement in proportion to its impact on global warming.

Energy Burden: Percentage of household income that goes toward energy costs.

Greenhouse gas (GHG): Gases which absorb solar radiation and traps heat through the greenhouse effect. Includes commonly emitted pollutants such as carbon dioxide, methane, ozone, nitrous oxide, and hydrochlorofluorocarbons.

Landfill: Engineered site used for the disposal of solid waste.

Renewable Energy: Renewable energy is energy produced from sources like the sun and wind that are naturally replenished and do not run out (Office of Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy).

VMTs: Vehicle Miles Traveled

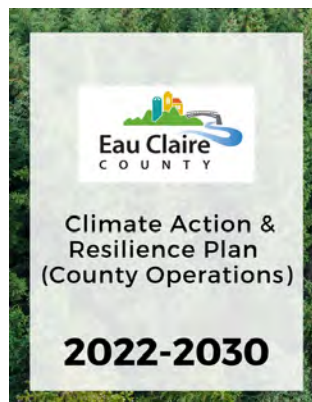
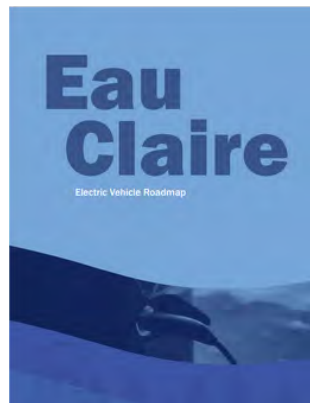
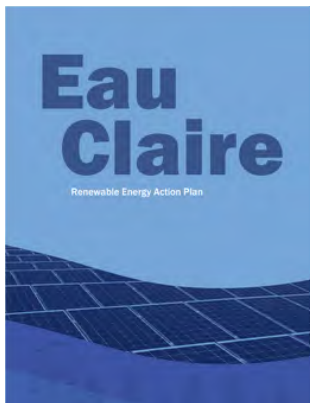
WICCI: Wisconsin Initiative on Climate Change Impacts

Derecho: A widespread, long-lived, straight-line windstorm that is associated with a fast-moving group of severe thunderstorms

Introduction

The Community Climate Action and Resiliency Plan (CARP) is the complementary plan to Eau Claire County's Operational CARP. Within the Operational CARP County staff outlined strategies to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and increase renewable energy within Eau Claire County's facilities and operations. **The Community CARP outlines strategies and action steps to leverage the current work being done in the community and how Eau Claire County can support community action to reach the County's interim goal of 30% emission reductions by 2030.** Eau Claire County's overall goal is 100% renewable energy and carbon neutrality by 2050.

This plan focuses on strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions while leveraging the existing work happening in our community by utilities, municipalities, residents, non-profits, businesses, etc. Achieving these goals will require significant investment. Each implementation strategy will aim to have a potential funding source, program cost, and staff time allocation estimated in order to plan for enough resources for plan implementation. This plan will serve as a "living document" that can be updated and adapted to new technologies, funding sources, and opportunities that were not present during the time of plan development. All data and initiatives in the plan encompass all of Eau Claire County unless noted otherwise. At the time of writing this plan the City of Eau Claire has an existing Renewable Energy Action Plan. The County's plan does not aim to override existing plans but rather identify areas for potential collaboration. Below are some of the community plans that were referenced during plan development. **If viewing digitally you can click each image to see each plan in detail.**



Historical & Projected Climate Change in Wisconsin

Since 1950, statewide temperatures have risen approximately three degrees Fahrenheit and will continue to rise according to projections made by the Wisconsin Initiative on Climate Change Impacts (WICCI). Precipitation has also increased 17% in that time. This means warmer winters, wetter springs and more extreme weather events will occur. This is having a significant impact on agricultural practices in the state as it is harder to keep soil in place and protect water quality. Warmer winters has also reduced snowpack in the state of Wisconsin resulting in summer droughts and change in growing seasons.

Forest ecosystems are being stressed due to increased temperatures which increased new pests and diseases. This has caused the decline of species within the forest which it relies on to keep an ecosystem-wide balance. Paper birches are one of the species which are in jeopardy due to climate change. Forest management and companies which use the forest as a resource like the logging industry now face uncertainty due to climate change.

Climate change also affects human health. Extreme heat has become increasingly common. Days over 90 degrees in Wisconsin historically have been around 10 days per year. By mid-century extreme heat days over 90 degrees Fahrenheit in Wisconsin will likely triple (WICCI). Anyone can be harmed by extreme heat but older adults and those with chronic conditions are at increased risk for heat stroke and dehydration.

An average increase of between 4.4-4.7 degrees Fahrenheit by 2050. This rise in temperature is rapidly occurring. This will affect the local ecosystems as plants and animals rely on certain weather conditions which may be disrupted to know when to migrate, reproduce, and hibernate. Weather patterns would shift as well due to the flux in climate. Severe storms and resulting storm damage from floods and hail would increase in severity with change in climate. Aging infrastructure and housing will be disproportionately affected by climate change.

+4.7°

Average daily temperature in Eau Claire County projected to increase by **4.4-4.7° F**

+7°

Average winter nighttime temperature in Eau Claire projected to increase by **6-7° F**

+10

Number of extremely hot days expected to increase from 5-15 per year to **15-25** extremely hot days in Eau Claire on average



Impacts of Climate Change

In September of 2016, one severe storm and subsequent flooding in Eau Claire caused approximately \$300,000 in damage to public property, with additional costs to private individuals (Eau Claire County 9/21/16 Storm Damage Estimates). Roadways and other infrastructure were inundated, washed out, and even collapsed in some cases, while water levels rose in Lakes Eau Claire and Altoona by 4.5' and 2' respectively.



September 22, 2016. CTH Q East of CTH K.



September 22, 2016. CTH G near Hathaway Creek.

Once rare extreme weather events are becoming more commonplace in Eau Claire County. In July of 2019, two derechos hit Wisconsin, damaging forests across the state with particular devastation to Northeastern Wisconsin. These storms damaged 63,000 acres of the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest, disrupting supply chains, degrading lumber quality, and dropping the price of wood from people selling trees felled by the storm before they rot. Between 2011 and 2021, severe storms and droughts caused an estimate \$110 billion in damage to the state of Wisconsin (Wisconsin Clean Energy Plan). Due to climate change, these events and similar events are likely to continue to increase in regularity. This will impact farmers, local businesses, and the people who live in Eau Claire County.

\$110 billion in damages to Wisconsin from 2011-2021



July 2019 Derecho. For the Journal Sentinel by Larry Parnass



July 2019 Derecho. For US Forest Service, from Jon Lampereur

Community Engagement

Community engagement has been and will continue to be an important part of climate action in Eau Claire County. To reach a goal of carbon neutrality by 2050, perspectives and lived experiences from all areas and backgrounds need to be heard. Working with the residents, businesses, community organizations, and education institutions will help to successfully implement the Community CARP.

Throughout 2022 and 2023, stakeholders and community members were given numerous opportunities to express their opinions through a community survey, community input sessions in Augusta and the Town of Washington, and topic specific focus groups with industry experts.

County staff also engaged the community and youth at community events, career fairs, etc. where individuals could describe what they felt a sustainable community in Eau Claire County looks like to them.

All this input allowed the Sustainability Advisory Committee and staff to develop a plan that addresses the needs and concerns of the community in relation to climate change and sustainability.

April 2022
Community survey distributed

July 2022
GHG inventories completed

November 2022
Operational CARP approved

January 2023
Sustainability Advisory Committee appointed

April 2023
Community forums hosted throughout the County

May-Nov. 2023
Plan development & stakeholder engagement

Dec 2023-Jan 2024
Plan writing & revision

February 2024
Open houses & community engagement

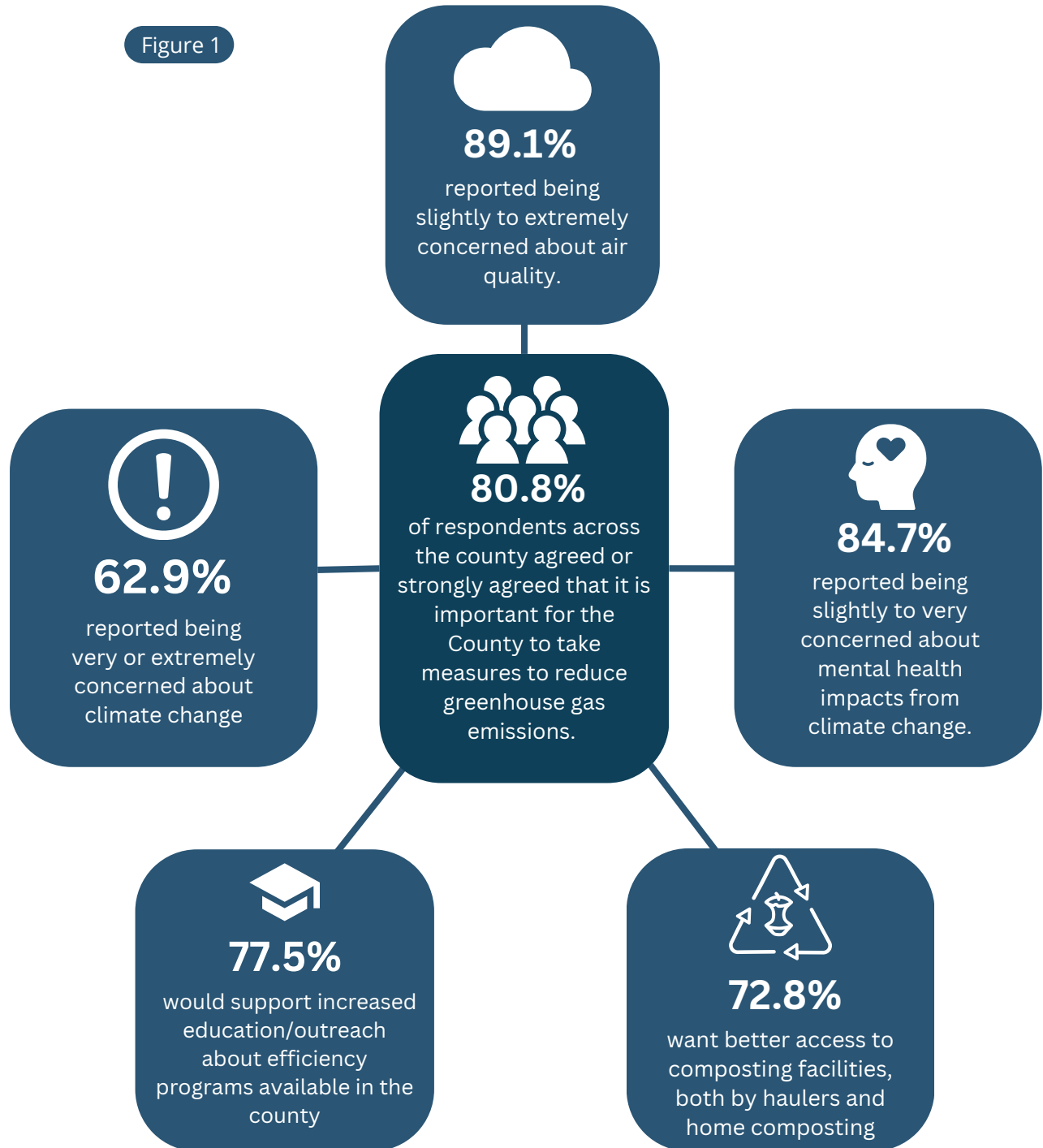
March 2024
Committee & County board adoption



Community Engagement

Educating the community about the county's goals and gaining their insight on how Eau Claire County should be tackling the issue of climate change as a community was an essential first step in developing this plan. In April of 2022 a community survey was released to gather resident input on a variety of topics regarding climate change and sustainability. The survey received 151 responses from all areas of the County. The full survey report can be found in the Appendix.

Figure 1

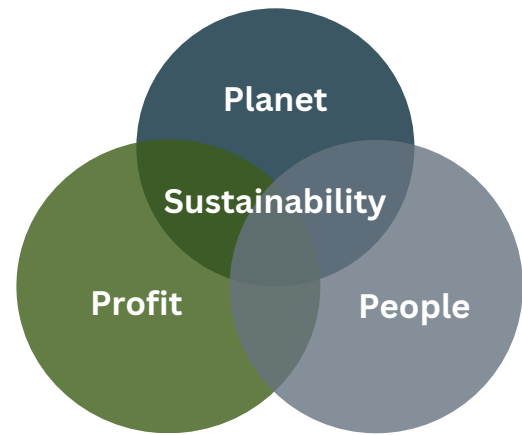


Key Values

Eau Claire County defines sustainability as the practice of meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs. There are three main pillars: People, Planet, and Profit (Economy). Sustainability is a balance between all three pillars.

Working alongside these ideas, Eau Claire County has created a plan to eliminate GHG emissions, work with community groups and businesses to educate about sustainability and help to generate renewable energies for the county.

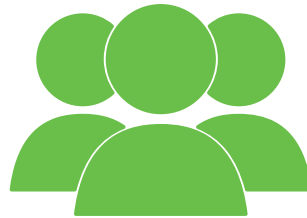
Figure 2



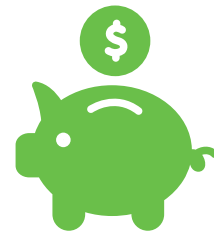
Eau Claire County is committed to sustainability goals which align with key themes and values highlighted in this CARP. Those values are:



Eau Claire County will consider the environmental impacts of decisions, policies, and processes.



Eau Claire County will consider the impact of decisions, policies, and processes on all members of Eau Claire County and strive to implement equitable, diverse, and inclusive solutions for sustainability.



Eau Claire County will consider the fiscal impact that all decisions, policies, and processes have on the community and County budget.

Key Themes

During the community and stakeholder engagement sessions three themes were brought to light throughout the process that guided the development of the strategies and action steps identified in this plan.



Education and community engagement are already an integral part of the Recycling & Sustainability program, but with new technologies, grants, incentives, and tax credits available to residents, businesses, local governments, and community-based organizations, a more expansive education and community engagement program is needed to reach the variety of sectors in the community that can leverage resources that will move the needle toward the county's sustainability goals.



Eau Claire County acknowledges the work that is being done by members of the community to advance climate action and improve our local environment. Eau Claire County should work to leverage the momentum in the community and support and incentivize others to adopt these practices.



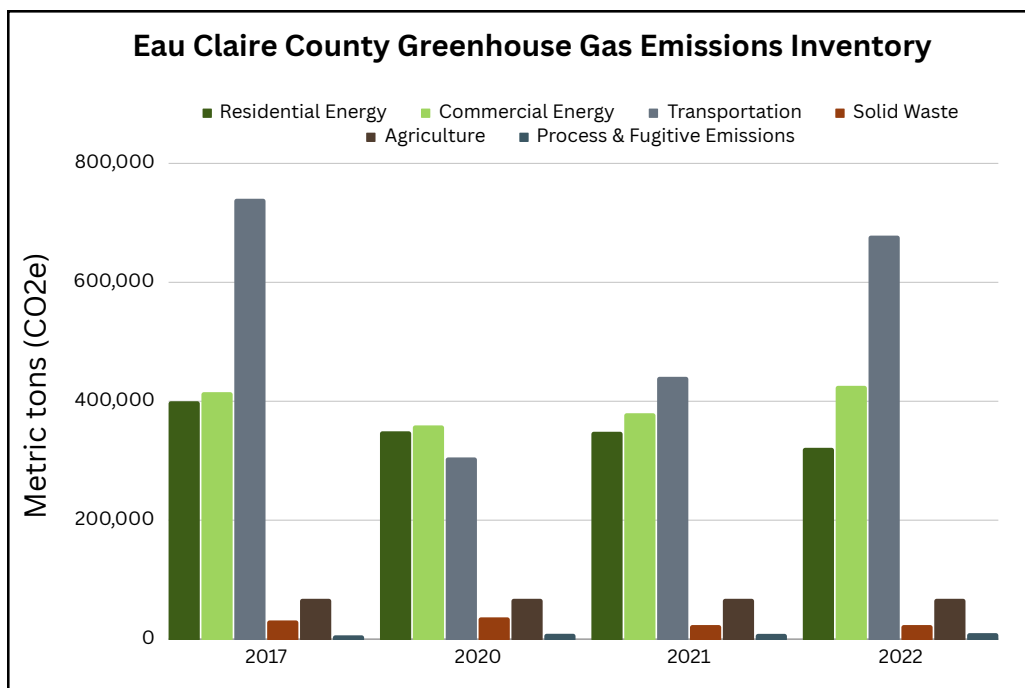
Eau Claire County should continue to be a leader within the community in regard to sustainability. Ensuring that county policies are created to support climate action rather than serve as a barrier. The County should continue to advocate for state policies that support local government climate action.

Community Greenhouse Gas Inventory

Figure 3 shows GHG emissions in Eau Claire County by sector. A detailed explanation of the protocol followed for the community level GHG inventory can be found at <https://icleiusa.org/us-community-protocol/>

Based on the inventory data priority areas and highest impact actions will take place in the transportation, residential, and commercial energy sectors.

Figure 3

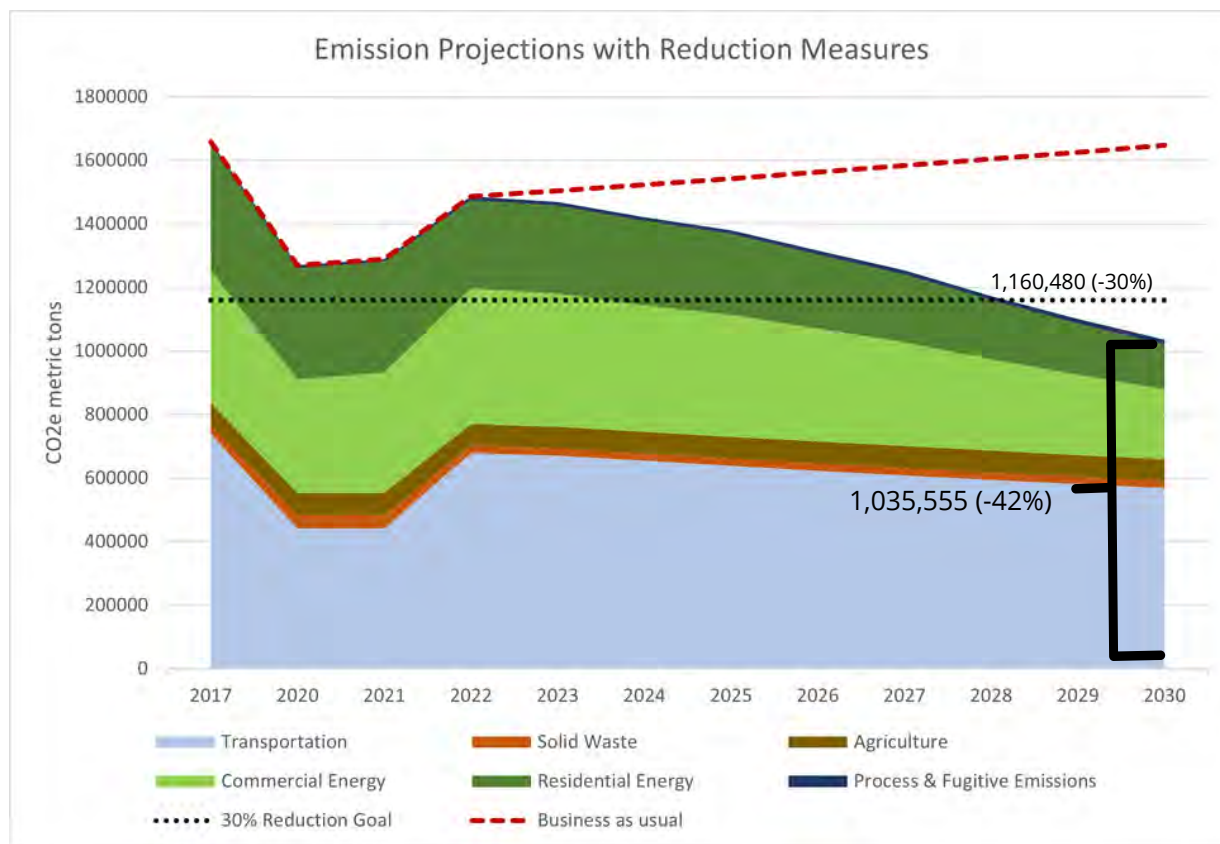


In 2020, with the COVID-19 pandemic, we saw a noticeable shift in emissions. Analyzing the graph, there was a dramatic shift in transportation emissions. This is likely correlated to the shift in lifestyle which so many had to quickly adopt during the pandemic which resulted in more people working remote. Transportation emissions have continued to rise post pandemic almost back to 2017 levels. Commercial and residential energy have mostly remained steady. The decrease in residential energy in 2022 is due to improved data collection from Eau Claire Energy Cooperative which now separates residential and commercial energy usage which is part of the reason for the increase in commercial energy emissions in 2022.

Successful Plan Implementation

Figure 4 shows the expected community emissions through 2030 based on the high impact goals outlined in the plan. This includes a heavy emphasis on commercial and residential energy efficiency, electrification of transportation sector, and investments in renewable energy. If successfully implemented it could result in a 42% reduction in GHG emissions from 2017 levels. The business as usual line is the expected community emissions if no action were taken to reduce emissions by any sector. This is projected assuming a conservative 1% growth each year.

Figure 4



High Impact Goals

The emission reductions in Figure 4 are based on the high impact goals outlined in the plan:

- **Generate 50% of community energy from renewable resources**
- **Reduce residential energy use by 20%**
- **Reduce commercial energy use by 20%**
- **Have 7% of registered vehicles in the County be electric vehicles**
- **Reduce vehicle miles traveled(VMT) by 10%**

Community Invested in Sustainability

Eau Claire County is one of the many stakeholders in the community with renewable energy and carbon neutrality goals. The City of Eau Claire, Xcel Energy, and Eau Claire Area School District, and University of Wisconsin - Eau Claire (UWEC) have goals of carbon neutrality by 2050. Dairyland Power, energy provider for Eau Claire Energy Cooperative, has a goal of reducing carbon intensity by 50% by 2030. Leveraging the momentum in the community and supporting the climate action initiatives of these stakeholders will move the needle much quicker and this plan aims to put emphasize collaboration as an essential component to achieving these goals.

Energy Goals



Reduce residential energy use by 20%



Generate 50% of community energy from renewable resources



Reduce commercial energy use by 20%

A Clean Future for All

Eau Claire County is committed to ensuring all County residents have opportunities to access renewable and affordable energy. Local area businesses are partnering with Eau Claire County sustainability staff to increase residential awareness about participation in energy efficiency and beneficial electrification resources and incentive programs. Using customized tools, resources and financing mechanisms, renewable energy options are becoming increasingly more available for those in the community.

Energy Goals

Goal 1: Generate 50% of community energy from renewable resources

- **Key Indicators**
 - Annual energy mix reported by utilities
 - Energy burden
 - Low- and moderate-income home energy efficiency data completed through programs like Western Dairyland
- **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: Reduce residential energy use by 20%

- **Key Indicator**
 - Residential energy use
- **Supporting Indicators**
 - Number of residents using Focus on Energy (FOE) and utility incentives
 - Estimated savings from FOE and utility programs
 - Number of utility incentives claimed

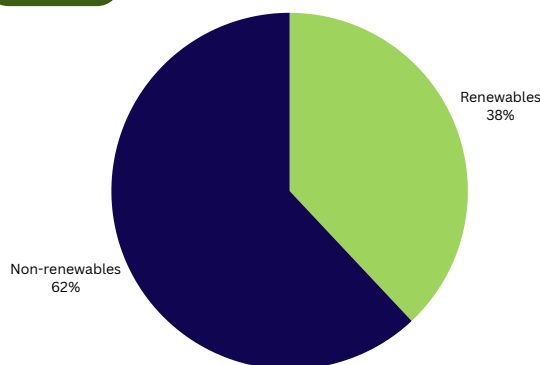
Goal 3: Reduce commercial energy use by 20%

- **Key Indicator**
 - Commercial energy use
- **Supporting Indicators**
 - Number of businesses using FOE and utility incentives
 - Estimated savings from FOE and utility programs
 - Number of businesses using PACE Loan program

Energy Baseline Indicator Data

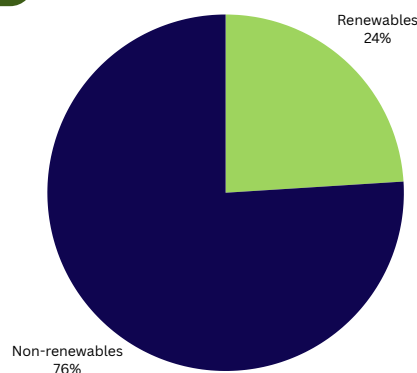
Annual Electricity Generation Mix

Figure 5



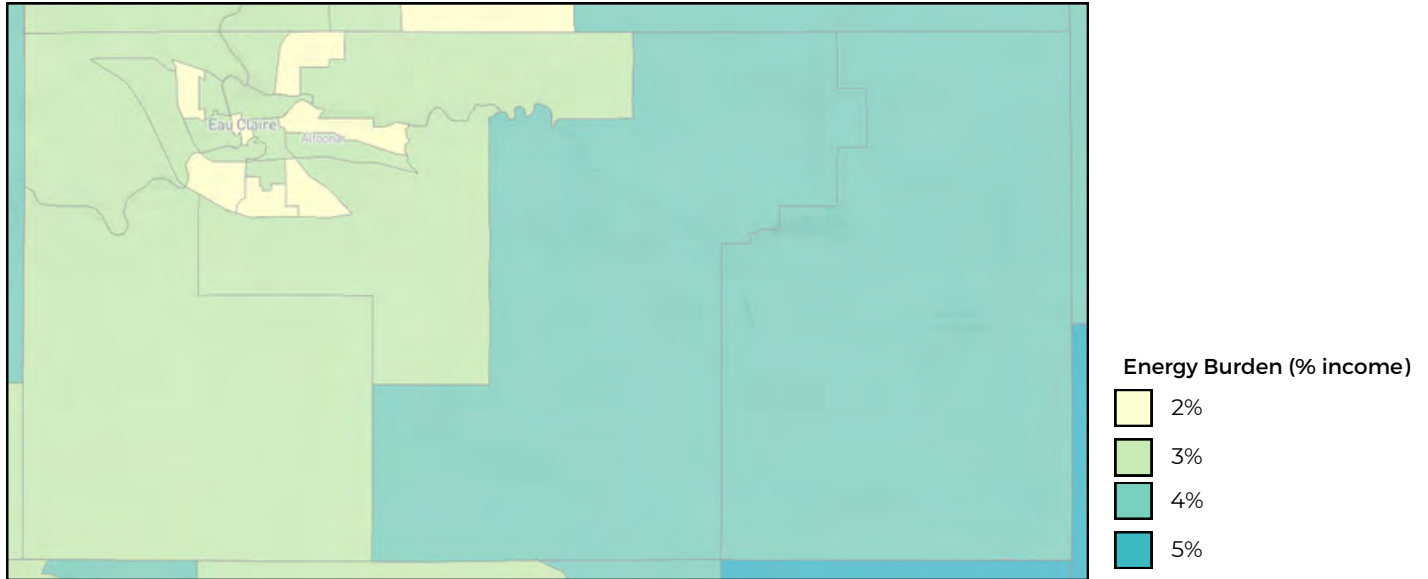
2022 Xcel Energy Wisconsin Energy Mix

Figure 6



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: 11 business, 245 residential

Number of solar permits issued (2022)

City of Eau Claire: 37

City of Altoona: 3

Eau Claire County: 54

Energy Use

Figure 7

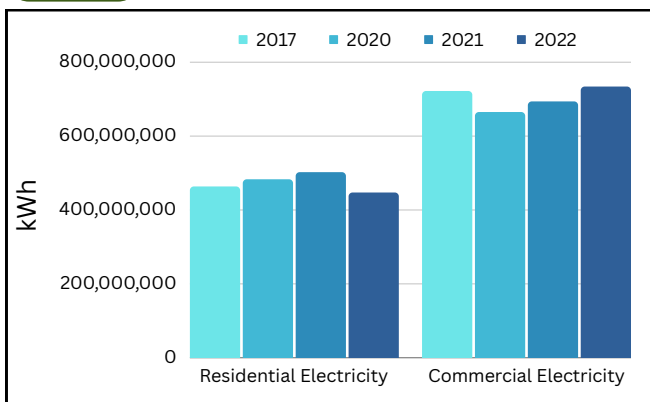
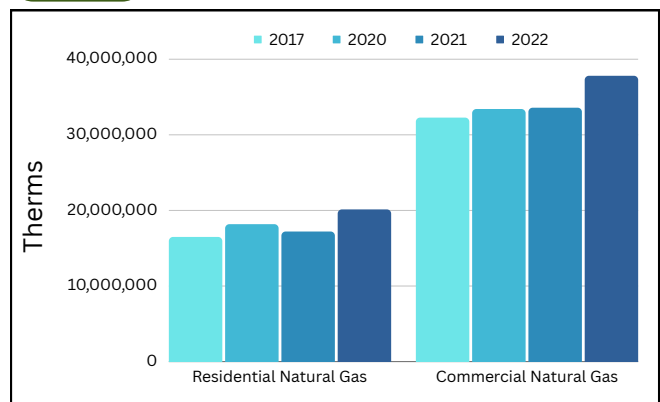


Figure 8



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

Focus on Energy Participants

Figure 9

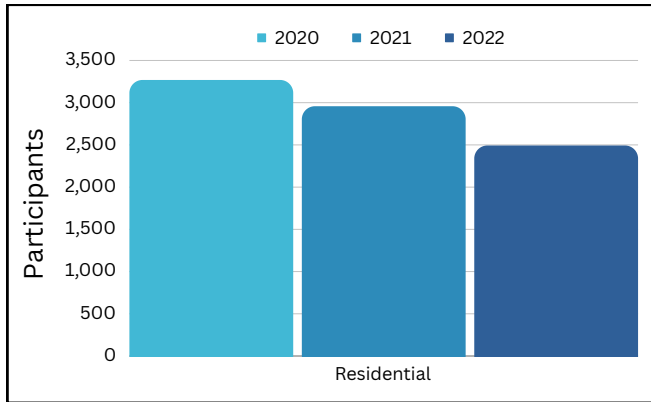
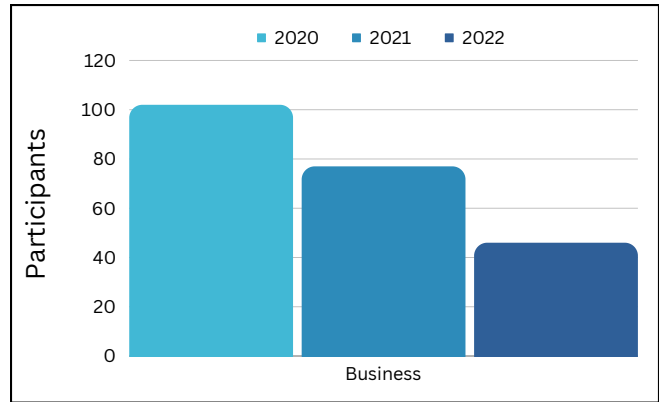


Figure 10



Focus on Energy Estimated Energy Savings

Figure 11

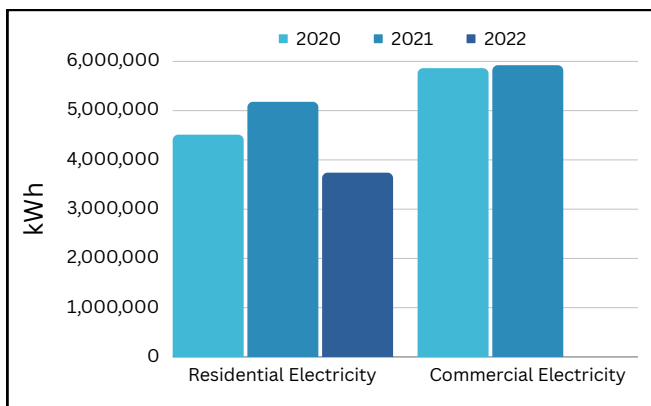
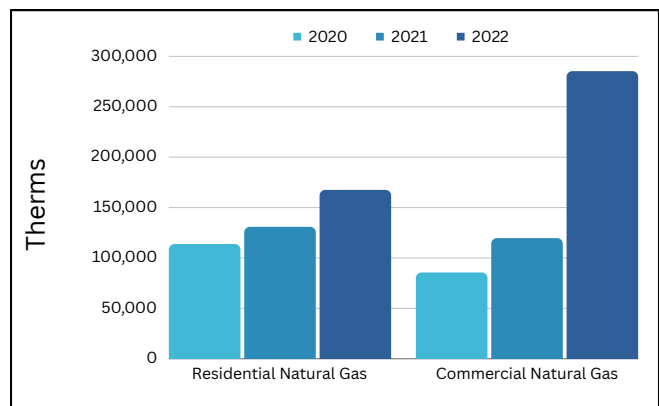


Figure 12



All data on this page is provided by Focus on Energy.

Community Highlight - ECEC MemberSolar

Eau Claire Energy Cooperative brought its 872 kW community solar array online in January of 2016 and quickly energized the community. Approximately 230 Cooperative members voluntarily subscribe by purchasing production credits. Each production credit subscription produces around 400 kWh per year. In its first year the solar array generated enough kilowatt hours to offset the carbon emissions from 85,881 gallons of gasoline.

Since the panels are mounted near the ground, they require vegetation management in the spring, summer, and fall. Eau Claire Energy Cooperative partners with Lambalot Acres in Augusta on a mutually beneficial arrangement that provides 5 acres of grazing land for the sheep herd while controlling vegetation growth around the solar panels.



Energy Implementation Strategies

Go to Action Steps ->

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

Objective 1: Support increased 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: Work with property assessors, title companies, and realtors to raise awareness of Home Energy Rating scores.

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.

Strategy 3.3: Coordinate with community organizations, businesses, etc. to distribute information and accelerate implementation.

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: Collaborate with businesses and community partners to increase commercial participation in energy benchmarking.



Blower door test being performed.



Tour of Huntsinger Farms' solar array at Farm Tech Days 2021.

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 rural 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

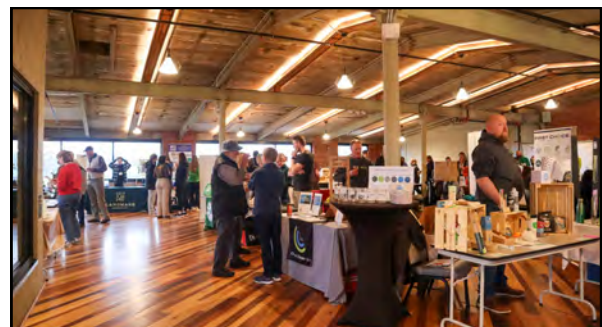
R.1: Monitor community-wide energy data including overall energy use, renewable energy generation, incentive program participation, and energy costs.

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 in Eau Claire County

Solid waste is a pressing issue in Eau Claire County due to the Seven Mile Creek Landfill, located near the Town of Seymour. In 2022, the landfill emitted 23,622 metric tons of greenhouse gases. The landfill has also gone through several expansions in the past two decades. To preserve the lifespan of the landfill and reduce its impact on the community it is important to divert waste and increase the rate of recycling and composting in the community.

According to the community survey, the primary way residents engage in waste reduction is through traditional recycling.

When asked about new initiatives they would participate in reducing single use plastics and streamlining recycling of non-traditional recycling. Residents preferred these programs to be funded primarily through grant funding and user fees rather than additional taxes.

Solid Waste Goals



Divert 50% of organic material from the waste stream



Increase recycling and waste diversion opportunities and participation in the community

Minimizing Waste in Eau Claire County: A Community Effort

Reducing waste is a crucial step that everyone can take part in. There are a variety of community groups and businesses working to reduce the waste they produce or help others reduce their waste. Eau Claire County should continue to leverage and expand these partnerships and support expanded waste diversion services in the community.

Solid Waste Goals

Goal 1: Divert 50% of organic material from the waste stream

- **Key Indicators**
 - Tons of organic material 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

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

- **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**
 - Number of new programs, waste diversion/recycling locations, etc.

Community Highlight - Fighting Food Waste

Earthbound Environmental is a waste hauling company that offers curbside composting services in addition to recycling and garbage hauling. Since they opened in 2016, they have diverted over 700 tons of organic matter from the landfill.

In an effort to increase organic diversion in the community, Earthbound Environmental, Eau Claire County, and JONAH Environmental Taskforce partnered on a 2 year grant opportunity through the USDA.

This program will promote composting and food waste education, at home composting, and provide direct funding to schools throughout the community to implement composting.

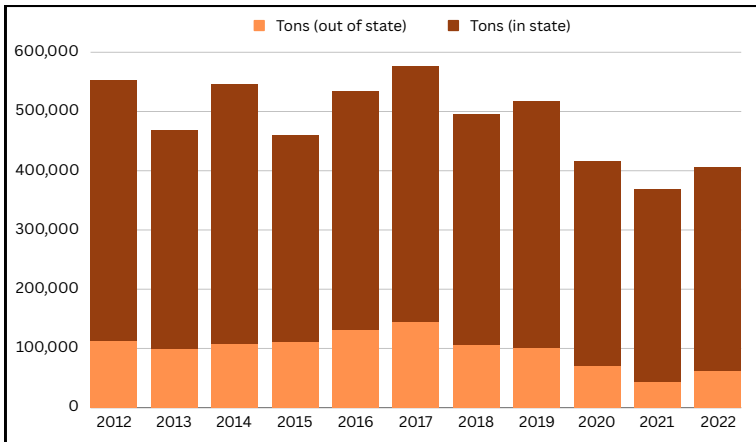
At the end of 2023 this private-public partnership resulted in:

- 300+ Home Composter bins sold at reduced price.
- 6-\$1,000 grants to schools in the County to implement composting.
- Rental of screening equipment to distribute free compost to residents, community gardens, and community based organizations.



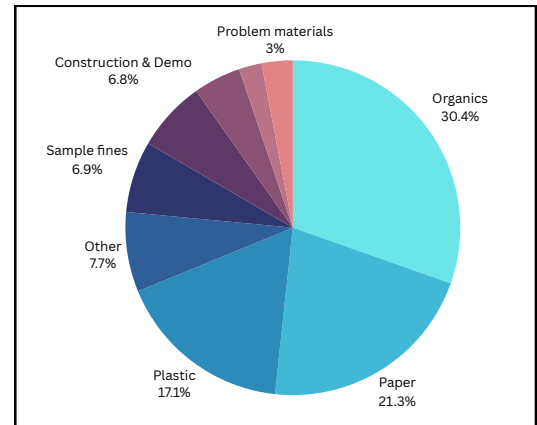
Solid Waste Baseline Indicator Data

Figure 13



Data from Wisconsin DNR Landfill Tonnage reports for Seven Mile Creek landfill.

Figure 14



Landfill waste composition from Wisconsin DNR Waste Characterization Study.

Organics Waste Diverted

716 tons of organics collected through composting services since 2016

Public Events with recycling/ and or composting

Not previously tracked

Residential curbside compost subscribers

Not previously tracked

Non-residential curbside compost subscribers

Not previously tracked

Compost bins sold

2023: 310

Residential Recycling

2022: 6,149 tons collected through curbside and drop-off sites

Specialty Recycling Programs

Mattress

- 2022: 220 mattresses and box springs

Household Hazardous Waste

- 2022: 62,629 pounds
- 2023: 47,429 pounds

Electronics Recycling

- 2022: 492,575 pounds
- 2023: 691,164 pounds

Solid Waste Implementation Strategies

Go to Action Steps ->

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.

Strategy 3.2: Partner with community organizations to provide community outreach about recycling programs.

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.



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.

Curbside Composting

16 respondents participate in curbside composting to help reduce solid waste.



At Home Composting

165 respondents participate in at home composting to help reduce solid waste.



County Recycling Drop sites

31 respondents participate in county recycling drop sites to help reduce solid waste.



Curbside Recycling

122 respondents participate in curbside recycling to help reduce solid waste.



How Do You

REDUCE ?
WASTE

Electronics Collection Events

80 respondents participate in electronics collection events to help reduce solid waste.



Clean Sweep Events (Household Hazardous Waste)

71 respondents participate in Clean Sweep events to help reduce solid waste.



All statistics were pulled from 2022 community survey results.

Transportation in Eau Claire County

Transportation is among the leading causes of emissions in Eau Claire County. The large majority of community members get around via personal vehicle. However, during the community input sessions there was a lot of discussion about the need to expand transportation options in the eastern portion of the county as it has the highest proportion of households without a vehicle within the rural portions of the County. An aging population also indicates that the need for affordable transportation options in the rural portions of the county should be a priority.

Changing the way, you get around

This shift towards more sustainable transportation options has the potential to not only reduce greenhouse gas emissions, but also improve the overall health and well-being of the community. By encouraging more active modes of transportation, such as walking and biking, residents can increase their physical activity levels and reduce their risk of chronic diseases. Additionally, investments in public transportation infrastructure can improve access to job opportunities and essential services for those who may not have access to a personal vehicle. As the county continues to prioritize sustainability and the health of its residents, these transportation initiatives will play a key role in achieving these goals.

Transportation Goals



Have 7% of registered vehicles in the County be EVs



Reduce Vehicle Miles Traveled by 10%

TAKE CHARGE OF CHANGE!

Investing in infrastructure like EV charging and renewable energy in a way that ensures equitable access is important to 72% of Eau Claire County residents who responded to the community input survey in 2022.



Transportation Goals

Goal 1: Have 7% of registered vehicles in the County be EVs

- **Key Indicators**
 - Number of registered EVs in Eau Claire County
 - Publicly accessible and ADA accessible charging stations (50:1 ratio)
- **Supporting Indicators**
 - Number of education/outreach events promoting EVs

Goal 2: Reduce Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) by 10%

- **Key Indicator**
 - Total community VMT
- **Supporting Indicator**
 - Miles of expanded shoulders completed to create bike friendly roads.
 - Number of public rural transportation options within the County
 - Participation in ADRC transportation programs

Community Highlight - A Cycling Community

Eau Claire County, located in the Chippewa Valley, contains numerous bike trails for those looking for alternative transportation methods near their place of residence. There are resources available online for those looking to make routes for road biking, mountain biking, and snow biking. The map also contains resources for bike shops in the Chippewa Valley.

Bike Chippewa Valley along with several other organizations work in the community to educate on safe cycling, resources for cyclists (like the map to the right), while also providing valet bike parking at community events to promote cycling instead of driving.



Transportation Baseline Indicator Data

County Highway Shoulder Expansions

Eau Claire County Highway Department has expanded 8.95 miles of shoulder to 4 feet wide or more in the past few years as part of the Bike & Pedestrian Plan. A map can also be found at the link below that shows preferred biking paths and roads within the Eau Claire metro area.

http://bikechippewavalley.com/cvbikemap/2021_Chippewa_Valley_Bike_Map.pdf

Registered Electric Vehicles



2021



2022

Public Electric Vehicle Charging (2022)



Locations



Ports

Community VMT

2022: 1,356,553,862 vehicle miles traveled. Based on Google Environmental Insights Explorer data.

Alternative transportation options

To date, most of the alternative transportation options available to rural portions of the county are through ADRC and Abby Vans. In 2022 over 11,800 rides were given to people age 60+ and those with disabilities. There are a few bus stops within the City of Eau Claire Transit system that go into the City of Altoona but none that go into other municipalities.

Transportation Implementation Strategies

Go to Action Steps ->

Objective 1: Collaborate on implementation of City of Eau Claire's EV Roadmap.

Strategy 1.1: Establish policies or amend current ones to encourage EV infrastructure development.

Strategy 1.2: Implement relevant recommendations.

Objective 2: Support continued implementation of County Bike & Pedestrian Plan

Strategy 2.1: Expand shoulders on County highways during eligible improvement projects.

Strategy 2.2: Collaborate with community organizations to promote existing and new bike friendly roadways and community events around cycling.

Objective 3: Support expansion of transportation options within the County including passenger rail, expanded bus service, on-demand micro-transit, etc.

Strategy 3.1: Promote carpooling and "Park & Ride" locations.

Strategy 3.2: Support the expansion of passenger rail into the community.

Strategy 3.3: Provide education and outreach opportunities around alternative transportation options within Eau Claire County.

Strategy 3.4: Work with municipalities and private sector to expand affordable rural transportation options.

WICCI 2021 report sheds light on the impact of climate change on Wisconsin agriculture. According to the report, Wisconsin's agriculture sector is experiencing the effects of climate change. The report indicates that land, water, and built environment in the state will be negatively impacted as Wisconsin's climate continues to rise. It also includes responses to these changes and the implementation process.

Warmer and wetter weather patterns in Wisconsin have led to management and economic difficulties for producers, causing delays in planting and harvesting, harming water quality, and reducing milk production. Implementing climate smart agricultural and conservation practices can reduce emissions and support improved carbon storage, soil health, and water quality.

Agriculture & Natural Resources Goals



Increase native habitat and tree canopy within the County.



Increase participation in programs that support climate smart agriculture, energy savings, etc.



Increase enrollment in Farmland Preservation Program & Ag Enterprise Area

The goals and strategies in this section of the plan aim to support initiatives that encourage producers and landowners to implement practices that are mutually beneficial to soil health, water quality, biodiversity, and when applicable a producer's revenue. While there is a heavy emphasis on the agriculture sector, it is important to acknowledge the impact that impervious surfaces in the built environment have on soil health, water quality, and biodiversity. This section is also not all encompassing of the conservation efforts already established in other plans within Eau Claire County but instead highlights areas of existing initiatives and how this plan could support them.

Agriculture & Natural Resources Goals & Targets

Goal 1: Increase enrollment in Farmland Preservation Program and Ag Enterprise Area

• **Key Indicators**

- Acres enrolled in Ag Enterprise Area
- Acres enrolled in Farmland Preservation
- Farmers with up to date and compliant Nutrient Management Plans

Goal 2: Increase participation in programs that support climate smart agriculture, energy savings, etc.

• **Key Indicators**

- Number of participants
- Estimated energy savings
- Estimated environmental impact related to improved farming practices
- Money received by producers from programming

Goal 3: Increase native habitat and tree canopy within the County

• **Key Indicators**

- Number of native plants and trees sold
- Acres of native plants planted with No-Till Drill and other programs
- Total acres of County Forest land

Community Highlight - No Till Drill

Farmers in Eau Claire County can rent a 10-foot-wide Great Plains No-Till Drill from the Land Conservation Division. In 2023, 28 renters and seeded approximately 605 acres of farmland in Eau Claire County with a cover crops, native plantings, and row crops.

No-till farming is a conservation technique that involves refraining from tillage operations before planting a crop. The practice of no-till planting has numerous advantages for both the soil and the cultivated crop. Firstly, it helps to maintain the soil structure by reducing the amount of disturbance it undergoes. Additionally, it preserves residue on top of the soil, which acts as a protective layer against wind and rain. Once a successful no-till system is established, many farmers report increased yield and profitability on their farms.



Agriculture & Natural Resources Baseline Indicator Data

Farmland Preservation Program (acreage)



The Farmland Preservation Program (FPP) provides landowners with an opportunity to claim an income tax credit by meeting soil and water conservation standards. For participants of the FPP with Agricultural Preservation zoning (AP), they can receive an income tax credit of \$7.50 per acre. Additionally, those within the Golden Triangle Ag Enterprise Area who sign a 15-year Farmland Preservation Agreement can receive further income tax credits.

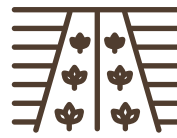
In Eau Claire County, there are a total of **246 participants** and **45,456 acres enrolled in FPP**. To date, the Farmland Preservation Tax Credit has returned almost \$10 million in income tax credits to Eau Claire County landowners since its inception in 1977.

County Forest

57,712 acres managed for public recreation, wildlife habitat development, and timber production.



Ag Enterprise Area (Golden Triangle)



7,618
acres
enrolled

2022

**over
30%**

total land located in
the Golden Triangle
AEA.

Since 2016, Eau Claire County farmers have established the Golden Triangle as an Agricultural Enterprise Area (AEA). The staff has since worked with landowners to sign a voluntary 15-year farmland preservation agreement in these designated areas. Currently, **7,618** acres of land are under this agreement, accounting for over 30% of the total land area in the Golden Triangle AEA. Thanks to these agreements, the local farms receive an additional \$20,226 in tax credits every year.

Nutrient Management Planning



8 workshops hosted, 37 farmers
in 2022

40+ Plans with over 15,000
acres in 2022

No-Till Drill Program (2023)



28 renters
605 acres planted

Tree & Native Plant Sale



1.1 million+ trees since 1982



2,000+ native plants since 2019

Agriculture & Natural Resources Implementation Strategies

Go to Action Steps ->

Objective 1: Retain, restore, and enhance natural spaces.

Strategy 1.1: Support Land Stewardship Committee and expansion of County Parks & Forest land

Strategy 1.2: Promote County and community native plant and tree sales.

Strategy 1.3: Collaborate with community organizations to provide education & outreach about native plants, alternative lawns, natural buffers, rain gardens, etc.

Objective 2: Educate landowners on the ins and outs of solar energy development to encourage landowner confidence and protections when approached by developers.

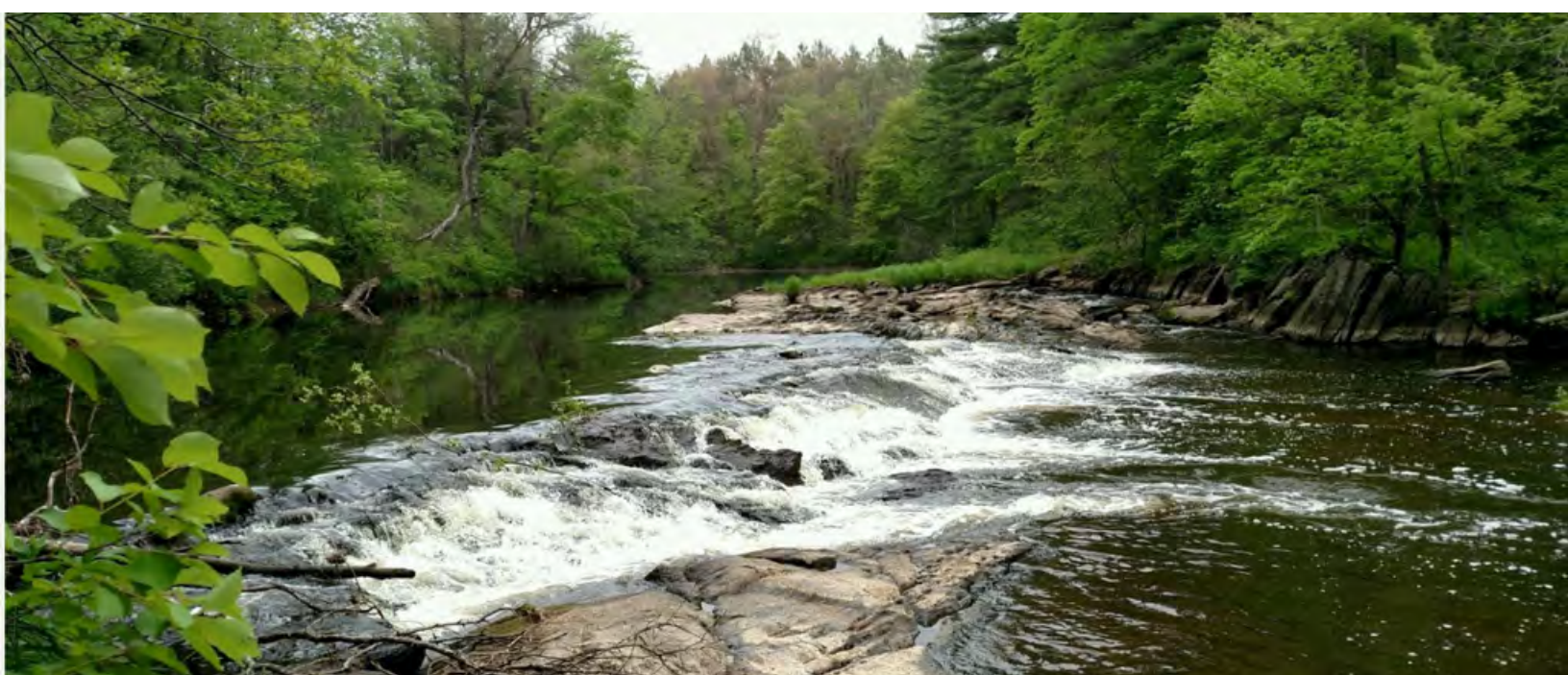
Strategy 2.1: Provide guides and resources online.

Strategy 2.2: Host workshops and seminars with industry experts.

Objective 3: Support the implementation of the Land, Water, and Resource Management (LWRM) Plan.

Strategy 3.1: Partner with organizations like National Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), FOE, and LCD to distribute information to agriculture community through a variety of methods.

Strategy 3.2: Increase awareness and participation in agriculture programs and incentives.



After identifying the goals for each focus area, 40 action steps have been identified that will guide plan implementation. If the plan is implemented as described the action steps will create capacity within the community and the County to achieve the goals outlined throughout this plan.

These action steps are separated by phase 1, which will be from 2024-2026, and phase 2, which will be from 2027-2030. The implementation of the action steps will require the involvement of various stakeholders, including community members, non-profit organizations, businesses and local governments.

The success of the plan will be measured by the achievement of the annual GHG inventory, identified goals, as well as the key and supporting indicators. By working together, the community of Eau Claire County can take significant steps towards achieving a more sustainable and equitable future for all its residents.

Allocating Resources

Each action step and will need time and funding in order for them to be successful. To show the level of funding and time needed per action step, there are two icons (shown below) which show the amount of time and funding required. The more symbols there are in the category, the more time or funding it will require.

Key for pages 31-36

Cost

① \$0-\$50,000; also includes projects that only require staff time.

②
③ \$50,001-\$250,000

④
⑤
⑥ \$250,000 +

Staff Time

⌚ 0-0.2 FTE/year; includes passive projects that will be ongoing.

⌚
⌚ 0.2-0.4 FTE/year; also includes projects that will go across 1-2 years

⌚
⌚
⌚ 0.4 FTE +/-year; also includes projects that will require an additional staff person or consulting services to be implemented.

Action Steps Phase 1 (2024-2026)

Energy

Strategy	Action Steps	Cost	Staff Time
<u>1.1, 1.3</u>	Participate in the State's climate and clean energy action planning process. Potential Funding Sources: Staff time	(\$)	🕒
<u>2.2, 3.2</u>	Develop a Solar 101 guide for residents specific to Eau Claire County. Potential Funding Sources: Staff time	(\$)	🕒
<u>1.2, 2.1</u>	Investigate options for additional community solar developments, especially for low-income households. Potential Funding Sources: GHG Reduction Fund, Community Power Accelerator Prize	(\$)	🕒
<u>2.2</u>	Explore feasibility of incentive program for homes that are built solar-ready. Potential Funding Sources: GHG Reduction Fund, Community Power Accelerator Prize	(\$) (\$)	🕒
<u>2.1, 3.1, 3.2, 4.1</u>	Leverage grant funding and community partnerships, to develop a program that provides direct funding to residents to improve energy efficiency, beneficial electrification, and comfort of older and low-income homes. Potential Funding Sources: Energy Improvements in Rural and Remote Area Program, CPRG, Community Change Grants, and various other programs.	(\$) (\$) (\$)	🕒 🕒 🕒
<u>3.1, 3.3, 4.1</u>	Host workshops for businesses and residents focused on energy efficiency, incentives, etc. Potential Funding Sources: Staff time	(\$)	🕒
<u>4.2</u>	Develop a "Sustainable Business" program in collaboration with community organizations and stakeholders. Potential Funding Sources: Staff time, program budget, public private partnership	(\$)	🕒 🕒

Action Steps Phase 1 (2024-2026)

Solid Waste

Strategy	Action Steps	Cost	Staff Time
<u>2.1</u>	Collaborate with businesses and community partners to bring back mattress recycling options to residents. Potential Funding Sources: User fees	\$	⌚
<u>1.3, 4.1</u>	Coordinate with community events to increase recycling and composting rates. Potential Funding Sources: Existing budget, CFWR pilot program	\$	⌚
<u>2.1, 3.1</u>	Collaborate with community groups on waste reduction efforts. (Bring your own container, Plastic Free Eau Claire, etc.) Potential Funding Sources: Existing budget	\$	⌚
<u>3.1, 4.1</u>	Update County recycling code. Potential Funding Sources: Staff time	\$	⌚ ⌚
<u>1.1</u>	Establish community compost drop-off sites Potential Funding Sources: CFWR Pilot (new application), user fees, and/or existing budget.	\$ \$	⌚
<u>1.1, 2.2</u>	Continue implementation of food waste reduction pilot. Funding Sources: CFWR Pilot Program (received 2023)	\$	⌚

Transportation

<u>1.1, 1.2</u>	Assess County policies and align to promote EV readiness and Bike & Pedestrian plan. Potential Funding Sources: Staff time	\$	⌚
<u>3.1</u>	Identify locations for “Park & Rides” in rural parts of county. Potential Funding Sources: Public private partnerships, sustainability program budget	\$	⌚
<u>2.2, 3.3</u>	Promote and educate about County and City bike systems and public transportation. Potential Funding Sources: Sustainability program budget, private public partnership	\$	⌚

Action Steps Phase 1 (2024-2026)

Transportation (cont.)

Strategy	Action Steps	Cost	Staff Time
<u>1.1</u>	Identify opportunities for public charging infrastructure in rural communities and pursue funding. Potential Funding Sources: Private public partnership, user fees	(\$) (\$)	(L) (L)
<u>3.4</u>	Work with existing transportation services to provide fixed route services in rural parts of the County. Potential Funding Sources: public private partnership, sustainability program budget, user fees.	(\$) (\$)	(L) (L)

Agriculture and Natural Resources

<u>1.1</u>	Establish a funding source to aid Land Stewardship Committee in land acquisition. Potential Funding Sources: Future Parks & Forest revenue, DNR grants	(\$) (\$) (\$)	(L)
<u>1.3</u>	Work with partners to raise awareness within the community on the benefits of native plants, trees, alternative lawns, etc. Potential Funding Sources: Existing budget	(\$)	(L)
<u>2.1, 2.2</u>	Develop resources and provide workshops for landowners on the ins and outs of solar energy development. Potential Funding Sources: Staff time	(\$)	(L)
<u>3.1, 3.2</u>	Collaborate with community partners to distribute information about programs and incentives to producers and landowners. Potential Funding Sources: Staff time	(\$)	(L)

Action Steps Phase 2 (2027-2030)

Energy

Strategy	Action Steps	Cost	Staff Time
<u>2.3</u>	Work with property assessors, title companies, and realtors to raise awareness of Home Energy Rating scores. Potential Funding Sources: Staff time	Ⓢ	🕒
<u>3.1, 3.3</u>	Promote energy efficient homes with tours/ local case studies. Potential Funding Sources: Staff time, public private partnership	Ⓢ	🕒
<u>4.3</u>	Collaborate with businesses and community partners to increase commercial participation in energy benchmarking. Potential Funding Sources: Staff time	Ⓢ	🕒
<u>2.1</u>	Develop community-sited solar and offer subscriptions to residents with a specific allocation for low- to moderate-income housing. Potential Funding Sources: Public private partnership, user fees	Ⓢ	🕒

Solid Waste

<u>5.1, 5.2</u>	Feasibility study and develop plan for Waste Recovery Center. Potential Funding Sources: Private public partnerships, Recycling program budget	Ⓢ	🕒
<u>1.1</u>	Expand curbside composting services to majority of residents in the County. Potential Funding Sources: User fees, CFWR grant, public private partnership	Ⓢ	🕒
		Ⓢ	🕒
		Ⓢ	🕒

Action Steps Phase 2 (2027-2030)

Transportation

Strategy	Action Steps	Cost	Staff Time
<u>3.4</u>	Explore feasibility of micro-transit and other solutions for rural community that connect to existing transportation infrastructure. Potential Funding Source: RAISE (DOT), Community Change Grant	(\$) (\$)	(L) (L) (L)
<u>1.1, 1.2</u>	Support implementation of the City of Eau Claire’s EV Road map. Potential Funding Sources: Staff time	(\$)	(L)
<u>1.1, 1.2, 2.2, 3.3</u>	Collaborate with partners on demonstration events for alternative transportation E-bikes, electric cars, public transit, etc.) Potential Funding Sources: Staff time	(\$)	(L)
<u>3.2</u>	Support the expansion of passenger rail service into Eau Claire County. Potential Funding Sources: RAISE (DOT), Community Change Grant	(\$)	(L)
<u>2.1</u>	Work with municipalities and highway department to improve connectivity of bikes and trail systems between rural and urban communities. Potential Funding Sources: DOT, public private partnership	(\$) (\$)	(L) (L) (L)

Agriculture and Natural Resources

<u>1.1</u>	Purchase lands to improve continuity and expansion of the County Forest. Potential Funding Sources: DNR grants, donations, future Parks & Forest revenue	(\$) (\$) (\$)	(L) (L)
<u>3.1, 3.2</u>	Support peer to peer education among producers through creation of a producer led group as noted in LWRM plan. Potential Funding Sources: DATCP, public private partnership	(\$) (\$)	(L) (L) (L)

Supporting Action Steps

Supporting action steps unless noted otherwise are ongoing or should be implemented within a year of adopting the plan in order to facilitate effective implementation.

Increase staff capacity by hiring additional staff person within 3 years.

Potential Funding Sources: Sustainability program budget and grants from various projects if applicable.



Develop a comprehensive education & outreach campaign for sustainability initiatives and programs.

Potential Funding Sources: Sustainability program budget and grants from various projects if applicable.



Support municipalities within Eau Claire County looking to pursue funding or leverage incentives that promote the goals of the CARP.

Potential Funding Sources: Staff time



Partner with City of Eau Claire to promote Net Zero Energy Building Guide and EV Roadmap.

Potential Funding Sources: Staff time



Allocate funding for sustainability program. While all efforts should be made to leverage grants, partnerships, and other alternative funding, these often still require matching funds to receive them.

Potential Funding Source: County budget



Appendix: References

City of Eau Claire. Eau Claire Renewable Action Plan, 25 Feb. 2020, www.eauclairewi.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/30746/637321522054730000.

City of Eau Claire. City of Eau Claire Electric Vehicle Roadmap, 13 Mar. 2020, www.eauclairewi.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/33197/637321571052800000.

City of Eau Claire. "City of Eau Claire Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan ." City of Eau Claire , 2019. <https://www.eauclairecounty.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/29858>

Eau Claire County. "Eau Claire County Climate Action and Resilience Plan (County Operations) ." Eau Claire County, 2022, <https://www.eauclairecounty.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/46697/637943529336600000>

Eau Claire County. "Eau Claire County Land & Water Resource Management Plan 2022-2023." Eau Claire County, 2022. <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1yGQAAIA6uT-bGFCKX3Vdd54BfwYan-ro/view>

Wisconsin's changing climate: Impacts and solutions for a warmer climate. 2021. Wisconsin Initiative on Climate Change Impacts. Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies, University of Wisconsin-Madison and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Madison, Wisconsin.

uwmadison.app.box.com/s/qi5evkp4nac87chjmfxa6kn9840sh35.

Appendix: Resources

Below are just some resources that the general public can use to learn more about resources that could benefit themselves, their business, church, or community based organization.

Energy

Sustainability Home Page - Information on sustainability efforts in Eau Claire County.

<https://www.eauclairecounty.gov/sustainability>

Focus on Energy home page - energy efficiency and solar programs.

<https://focusonenergy.com>

FOE tax credit information - Information for tax credits and incentives.

<https://focusonenergy.com/blog/ira-federal-tax-credits>

Energy efficiency services - information on services to help you get started with energy efficiency.

<https://focusonenergy.com/services>

Home page

<https://wi.my.xcelenergy.com/s/>

Renewable opportunities - information on Xcel's renewable opportunities.

<https://wi.my.xcelenergy.com/s/renewable>

Xcel Energy's Carbon Reduction Plan - plan for reducing Xcel's carbon emissions.

<https://wi.my.xcelenergy.com/s/our-commitment/carbon-reduction-plan>

Eau Claire Energy Cooperative home page

<https://www.ecec.com/>

Member Solar home page - information about the MemberSolar program.

<https://www.ecec.com/energy-efficiency/renewable-energy/membersolar>

Save Energy and Money - cost effective options and incentives for energy.

https://www.ecec.com/energy-efficiency/save_energy_and_money

Inflation Reduction Act - learn what tax incentives and rebates you could be eligible for as a result of the Inflation Reduction Act.

<https://www.rewiringamerica.org/app/ira-calculator>

Solid Waste

Eau Claire County Recycling - Information on curbside, drop off and specialty recycling programs in the County.

<https://www.eauclairecounty.gov/recycling>

Earthbound Environmental Solutions - Curbside compost provider

<https://www.earthboundenviro.com/>

Appendix: Resources Continued

Below are just some resources that the general public can use to learn more about resources that could benefit themselves, their business, church, or community based organization.

Transportation

Xcel Energy EV Incentives- incentives for purchasing or owning an EV.

<https://ev.xcelenergy.com/incentives>

Eau Claire Energy Cooperative SmartCharge Program- program to help you charge your electric vehicle at home.

https://www.ecec.com/energy-efficiency/energy-programs/electric_vehicles

Eau Claire Transit- Bus routes, schedules, and fare information

<https://www.eauclairewi.gov/government/our-divisions/transit>

Chippewa Valley Bike Map- Updated in 2021, suggested trails and routes within Eau Claire metro area.

<http://bikechippewavalley.com/cvbikemap/>

Aging and Disability Resource Center Resource Library- Variety of programs and services available through ADRC including transportation options.

<https://www.eauclairecounty.gov/our-government/departments-and-facilities/department-directory/aging-disability-resource-center/resource-library>

Agriculture and Natural Resources

Eau Claire County Land Conservation Division- Farmland preservation, Ag Enterprise Area, native plant and tree sales.

<https://www.eauclairecounty.gov/our-government/departments-and-facilities/department-directory/planning-and-development/land-conservation-division>

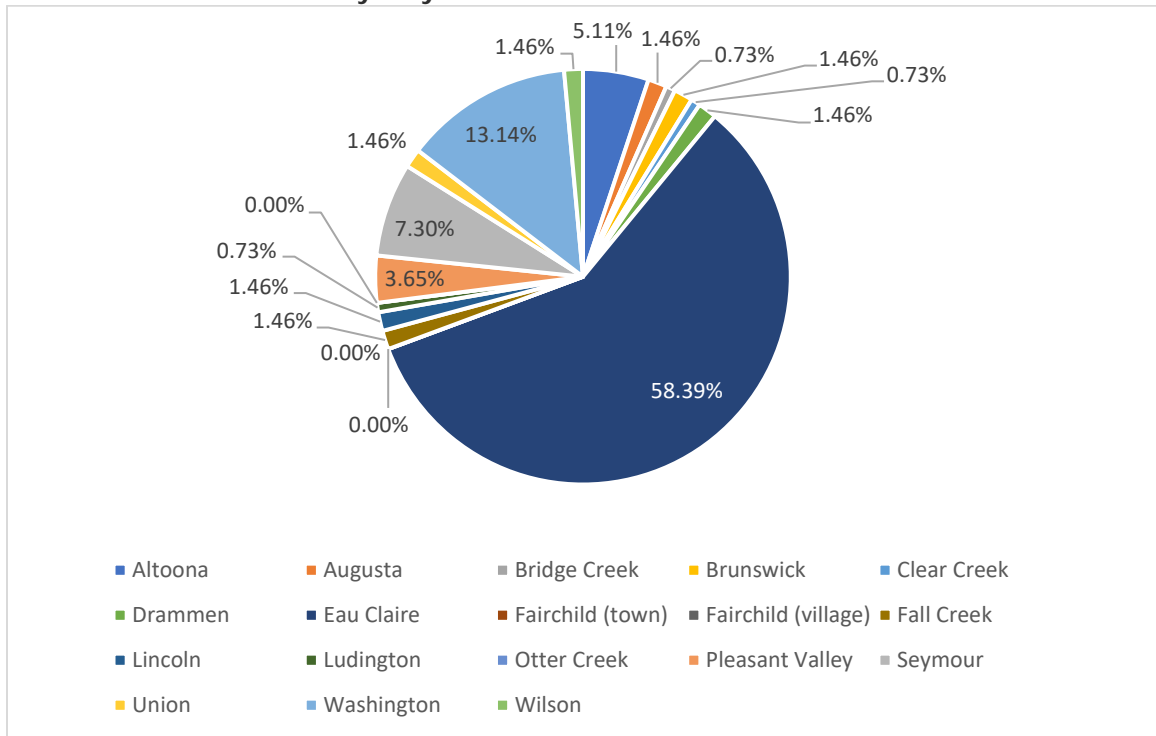
Eau Claire County Parks & Forest- forest management and parks information.

<https://www.eauclairecounty.gov/our-government/departments-and-facilities/department-directory/parks-forest>

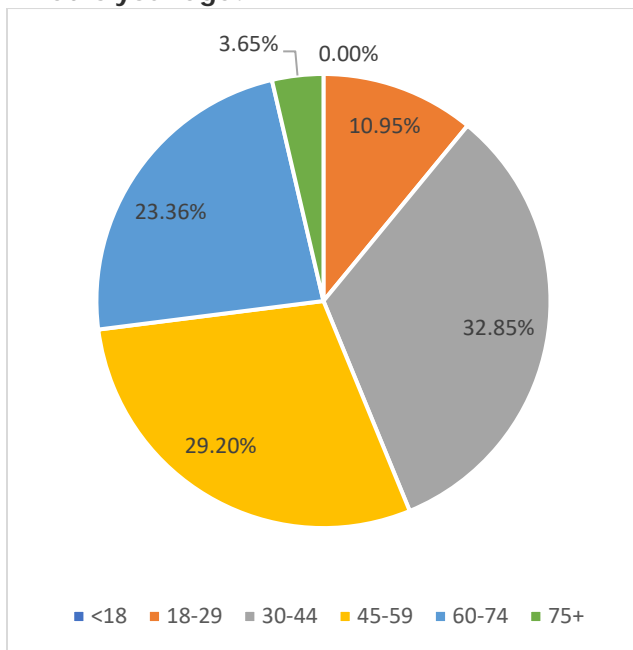
National Resource Conservation Service- Variety of conservation programs, initiatives, and resources.

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/>

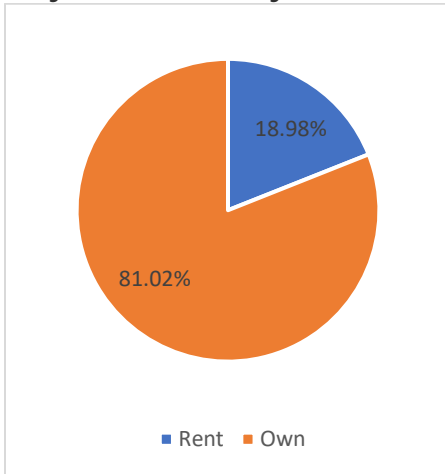
1. Where in Eau Claire County do you reside?



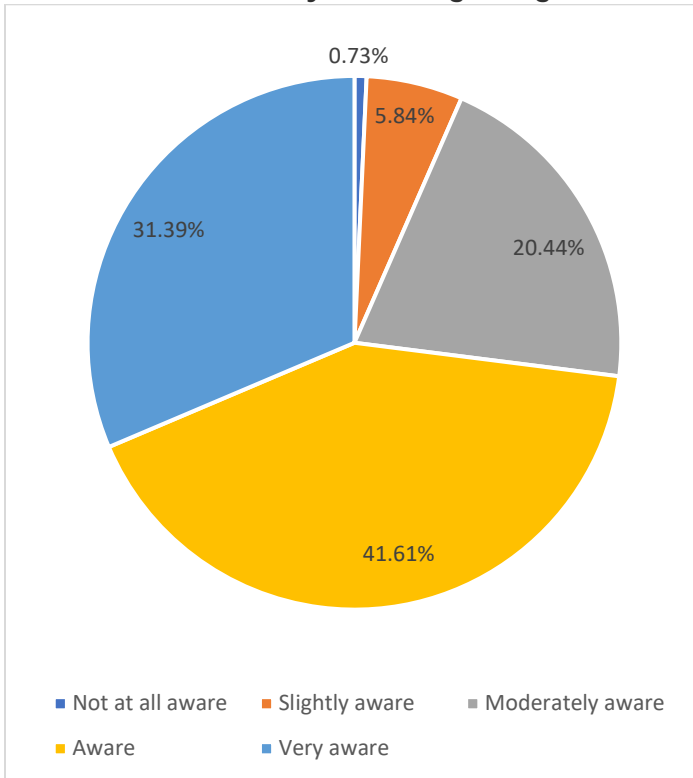
2. What is your age?



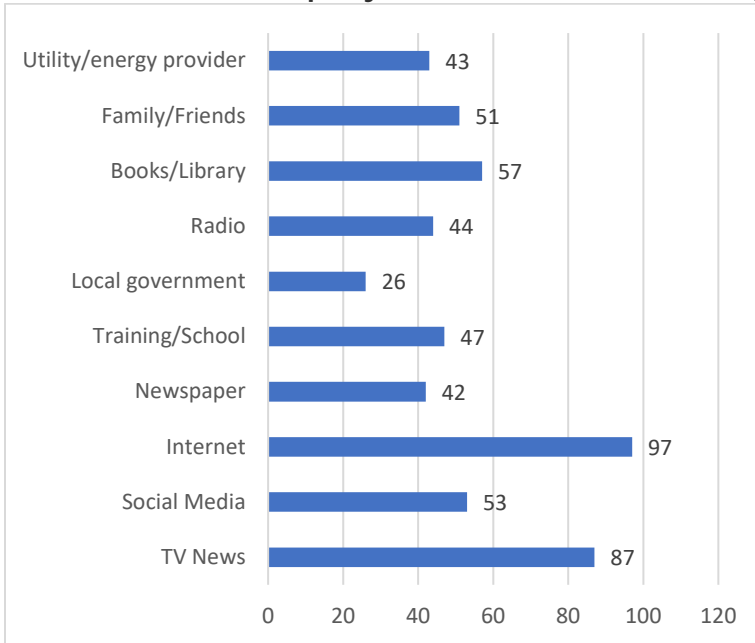
3. Do you rent or own your home?



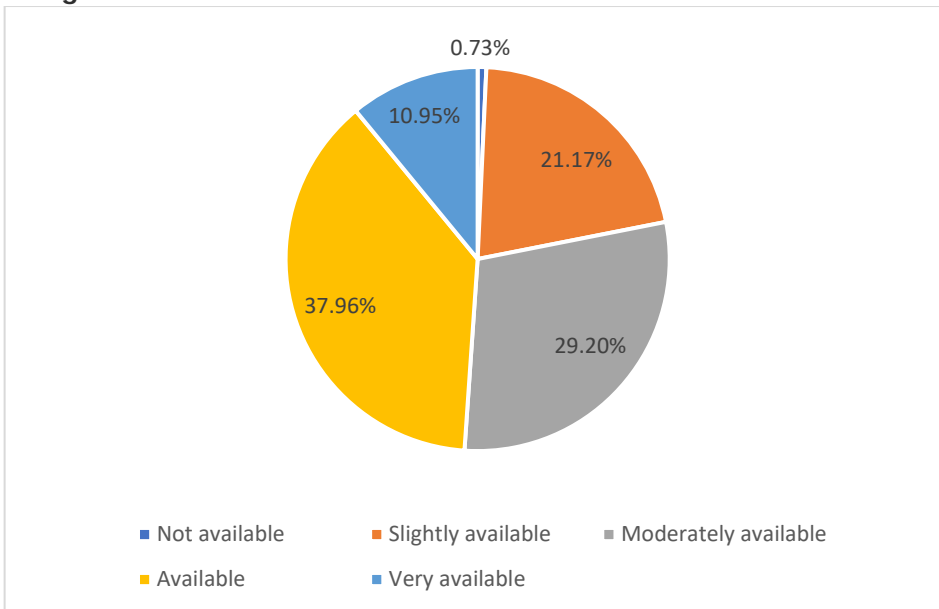
4. How well informed do you feel regarding the effects of climate change?



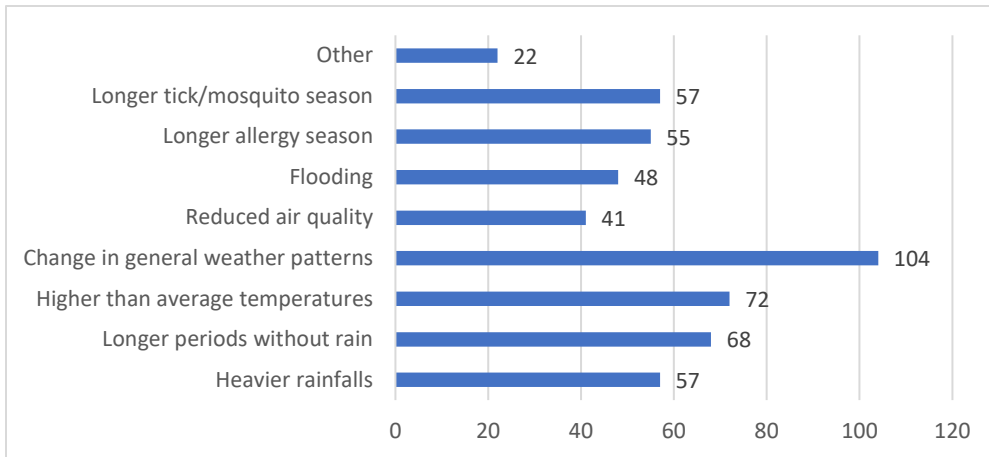
5. What sources have helped you understand climate change?



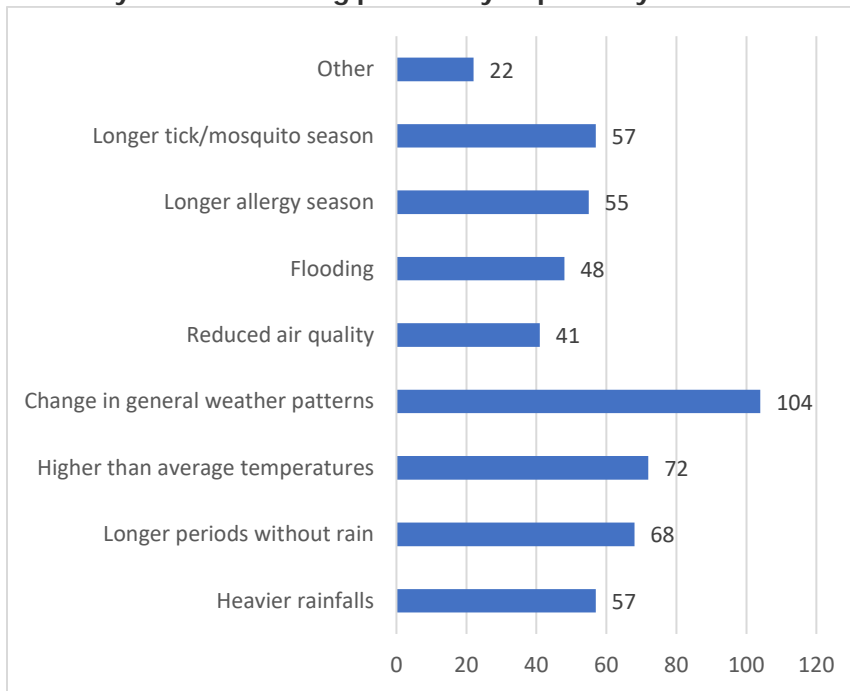
6. How would you rate the availability of reliable and quality information about climate change?



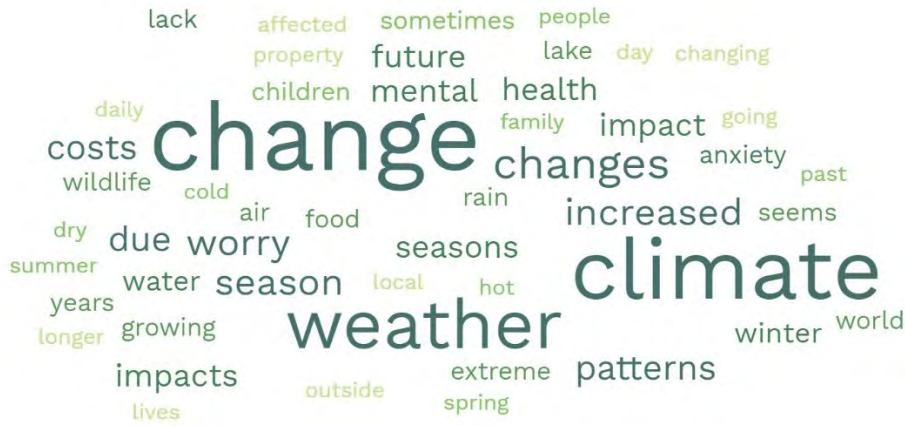
7. Have you noticed any of the following?



8. Have any of the following personally impacted you?



9. Please list any other ways you have been personally affected by climate change.



I realize the great majority of my friends and family completely lack information about climate change or the willingness to change their habits to reduce climate impact. These are smart, responsible people - why don't they understand how critical this is NOW.
Climate Change Anxiety
The ugly spring season between blue-sky winter and flowering summer seems more interminable.
washed out roads/trails
Stray animals Type of Weeds in yard
As a gardener, every growing season is different than the last but seems to be more dry/cold in the spring and wetter/warmer in August/September. Kind of like our seasons are off by a couple months. Been seeing this for past 10 years at least. We don't really have spring anymore - just goes from winter to summer.
Hot summers.
People are a part of nature. Much of the stress affecting young people (many teens are medicated, as well as adults to function on a daily basis) may directly be tied to climate change. I'm personally concerned about the lack of education and information in mainstream media about this topic, and more importantly the lack of world leadership needed to address human impacts and climate change concerns. Insect and animal populations declining. We're all connected.
Longer or shorter seasons.
Have endured higher costs for products and services related to climate change regulations and mandates
economy fluctuations Decreased bird sightings
Eco-anxiety - overwhelming feeling of doom, like there is nothing I can do to change the course we are on
Mental health
Ice dams have damaged property.

Heavy rain delaying my golf season
I haven't been affected
The climate has always changed throughout history, nor do I believe in global warming. Media Hype.
It affects my mental health by causing more worry and frustration at the irresponsibility, wastefulness, carelessness, ignorance and lack of urgency in the general population.
Heavier rainfalls have probably increased the rate of filling in of Lake Altoona and effected water quality because of increased runoff.
Reduced enjoyment of being outdoors and also the stresses it has put in wildlife.
Climate change is a nebulous term without sufficient historical data, therefore I am unable to answer the supposition that climate change is occurring or is human caused?
Food availability, seeing air with ashes from Boundary Waters fires
The extreme weather/unusual weather has impacted us in terms of heating and cooling costs and in terms of planning our lives around extreme climate related weather events.
Changes to the growing season for major field crops.
More so retail change. When seasons change unexpectedly or appear sooner/last longer than usual, purchasing weather appropriate clothing for children is challenging outside of "normal" retail seasons.
Worry for the future of my children and their children. I worry that we are not doing enough quickly enough!
Changes in weather patterns are most noticeable and effect my day to day plans, like going outside.
The climate changes seasonally. We call it weather. Sometimes it is hot and sometimes it is cold. Sometimes it rains and sometimes it snows. That's what climate change is - the changing of seasons. Now please don't give up local sovereignty to the international Cabal who's real agenda is to depopulate the world. Their theory is that reducing the population will help to cure "mother earth". That philosophy is going to bring on the ruin of society. Please do not participate in the malarkey.
Very concerned for the impact on health and future generations
I worry. I have changed my diet and the source of my 96 year old mother's meat to avoid contributing to the animal industry and methane production, etc.
For me the impacts have been minor annoyances this far. However, if I was a farmer who relied on predictable weather conditions to produce crops; if I had my property destroyed by a hurricane, tornado, or flood; if my coastal Florida high rise condo collapsed due to damage from salt water intrusion from rising sea level; if I was a polar bear or other critter facing extinction from habitat loss; then my answer would be different.
Maybe not today, but if actions aren't taken with intention and follow through, impacts to food chain and supply will occur. I would like to see more info about our community and what experts in the field see that is occurring right here to learn more on what can be done to lessen the impacts & tap into new ways of thinking towards solutions.
Pollinator decline, changing weather patterns than what we are used to
Changing weather patterns, concerns for tragic weather changes in other parts of the country and world.

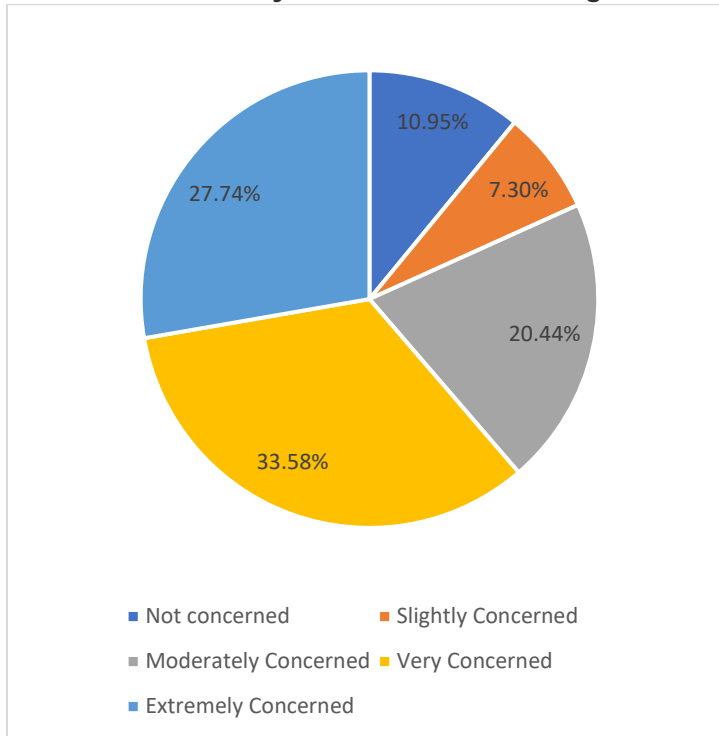
Fewer large snowstorms and more mild winters make for easier winter driving and less salt use on the roads so better for my car too.
Taxes going to programs and increased costs from utilities and service providers due to restrictive measures that have no impact on the climate.
Climate changes daily. On this day in 1962, Eau Claire had a temperature of 87 degrees. Today, it is expected only to reach 60 degrees. Maybe we are headed back to an ice age?
When we do not receive as much rain, it causes our water bill to increase as I have to water my garden.
Either heavier snowfalls or very little snowfall each winter
Wildfires in the previous two states I have lived in
I have not been affected by climate change
The higher temperatures causes us to use the air conditioner more frequently.
Allergies are the biggest. I worry about wildlife if something does not change.
Traditional seasons are mixed up or mixed together. The whole year is a constant transition into the same season.
The mental impacts such as anxiety for the future.
Increased "greening" (algae) of lake
Primarily and personally I stay abreast of national/world affairs and the effects of climate changes are vividly evident creating a growing unease and worry that the ramifications will be increasingly apparent closer to home.
Taxing us to death over this crap just stop!!
Plant diseases Increase in invasive species
I think many of the rising costs we see can be somewhat attributed to affects of climate change.
Winter commute impact; wildfire smoke; increased heating use; record freezing temperatures shut down work/affect health
Heavy rain mostly
Loss in productivity do to unpredictable weather
Dry gardens and lawns
Costs, costs, costs.
Temperature
Variable water levels at the lake where we have a cabin
My sister lives in Idaho and almost lost her home to wildfires
Decreased ability to get outside due to poor weather (too cold/too hot/too wet).
More severe weather (tornadoes, etc) and have had to take more precautions and be more prepared for such instances.
Allergy season has been painful these past few years. I developed asthma as a teenager and have unfortunately been growing into it.
Ability to walk without weather interference
Effects in other places have impacted food supplies and prices
My dog was bitten by a tick when, in decades past, it wouldn't have been tick season. He got a tick-borne disease and had an overnight in the hospital, but he's alright now. This will only become more common as our winters warm.

The global ecosystem is slowly being boiled to death and knowing I have to spend my life watching it happen but unable to change it is extremely depressing
Climate anxiety/grief
Change in agriculture
The mental health stress associated with the bad news about climate change and no local, state, or federal efforts to address the issue.
I feel very hopeless and depressed because it seems like nobody is doing anything about it.
Worry for the future of our grandchildren, children.
We are extremely well-informed, having read ALL the latest (IPBES, IPCC, etc.) major scientific reports, watched numerous significant/awarded videos, and done many hours of research. We're all affected on many fronts, and since things are now moving even faster, we must face what's happening now and what's coming, and build LOCAL resilience, especially since NONE of the accords since Rio in 1992 have done anything of substance.
Worry about the future of our kids and grandkids daily lives if things don't change in respect to climate change
Mental distress, concern for future of grandchildren, sorrow over profound change to the natural environment and our responsibility for that change
I live about three miles from where one of the December tornadoes touched down; we were lucky that only one tree lost a limb in that storm, but living in a never-ending tornado season is definitely frightening!
feeling worried about the fate of humanity
No longer can we take clean air and skies for granted. Multiple times weekly our skies here in Eau Claire County show the evidence of geo-engineering which turns blue skies into a white opacity within hours obscuring sunlight and seeding our air and soils with barium, strontium, aluminum and many other molecules and nano-particles. Insect die off is evident in the soils and grasses with untold consequences to the eco-system.
seems like snow and rain amounts have been less than normal for several years
Have observed changes in some migratory bird life cycle patterns and nesting success where I live, in wildlife presence and absence here, and expanding ranges of many invasive plant species on our property and along roadsides. There are also more garden pests and warmer lake temperatures. Our family has experienced more tick-borne diseases (at least three that we know of) in recent years. These are indicators of change and I believe it will get worse.
Change in wildlife and insects.
more extreme severe weather patterns
The changes in weather
Increased difficulty in gardening due to changes/unreliability in weather patterns (rainfall, frost date) and changes in pest distribution and increased intensity of impact. Emerald ash borer and general forest and plant-life impacts of climate change (pests, distribution & die off, invasive species).
Not able to spend as much time outdoors in summer because of excess heat/ humidity.
Increased high humidity days.
Weather patterns noticeably more extreme
more difficult to grow my own food due to a combination of the above factors
Toll on mental health due to anxiety surrounding impending environmental impact.

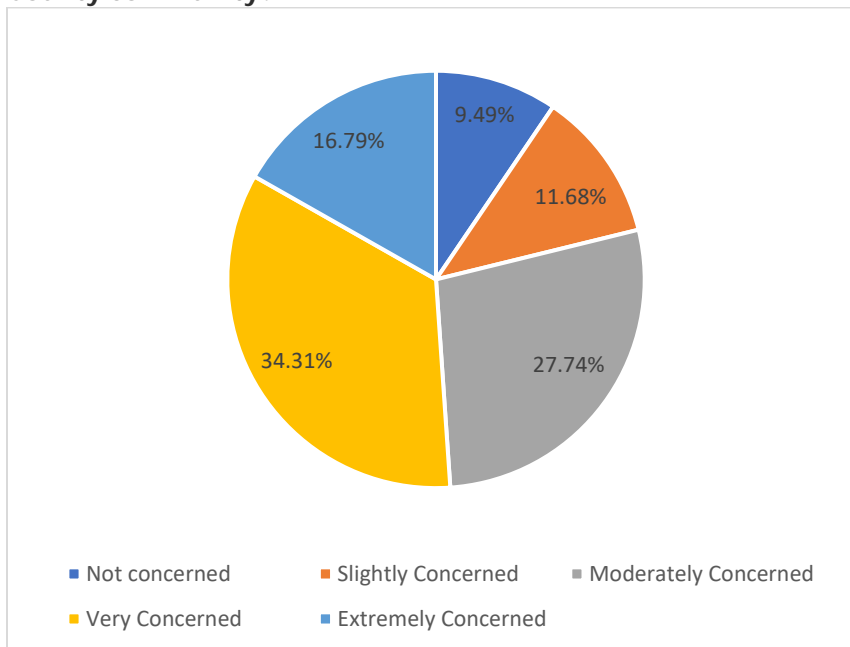
Extended family in construction industry has job instability due to climate change - climate instability.

Dry lawn

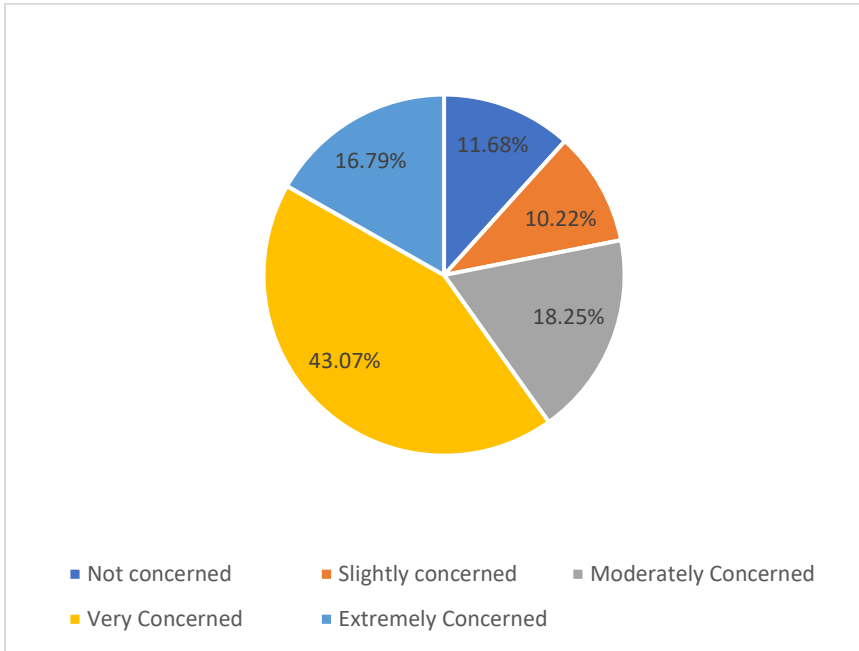
10. How concerned are you about climate change?



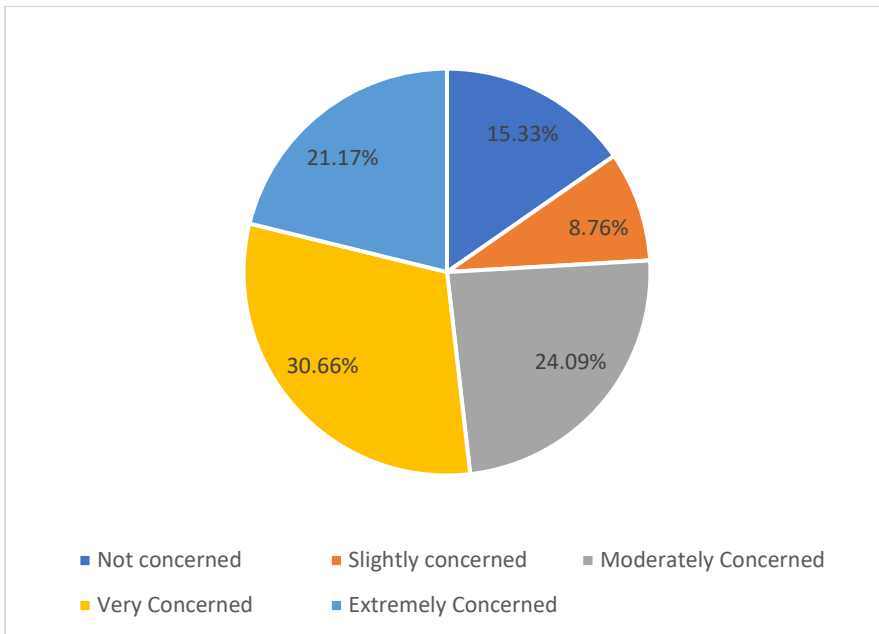
11. How concerned are you about the impacts climate change will have on the Eau Claire County community?



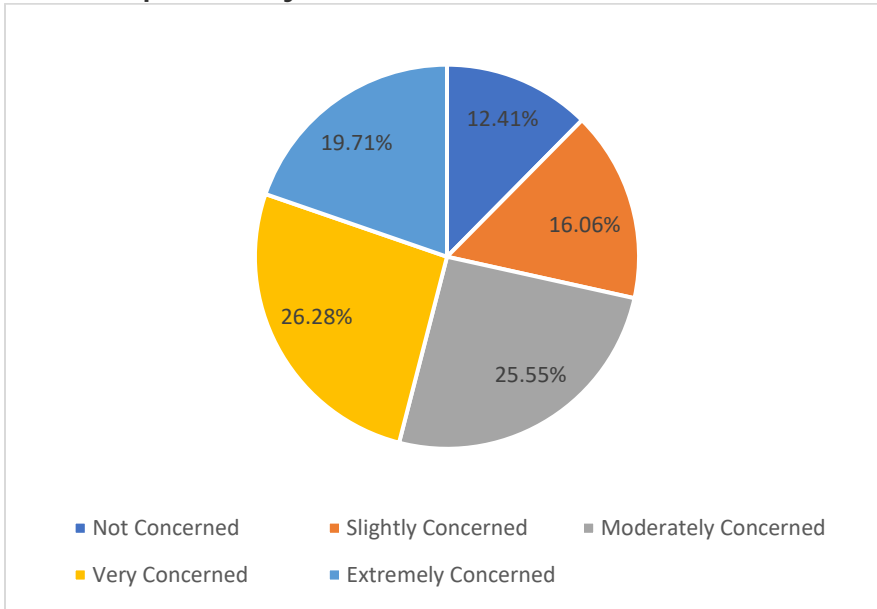
12. Extreme heat/cold



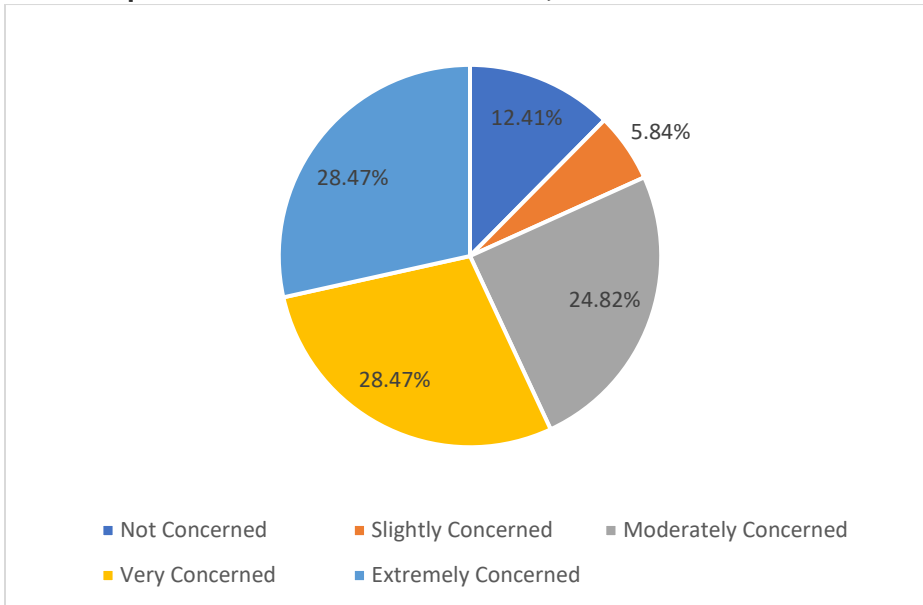
13. Shift in seasons



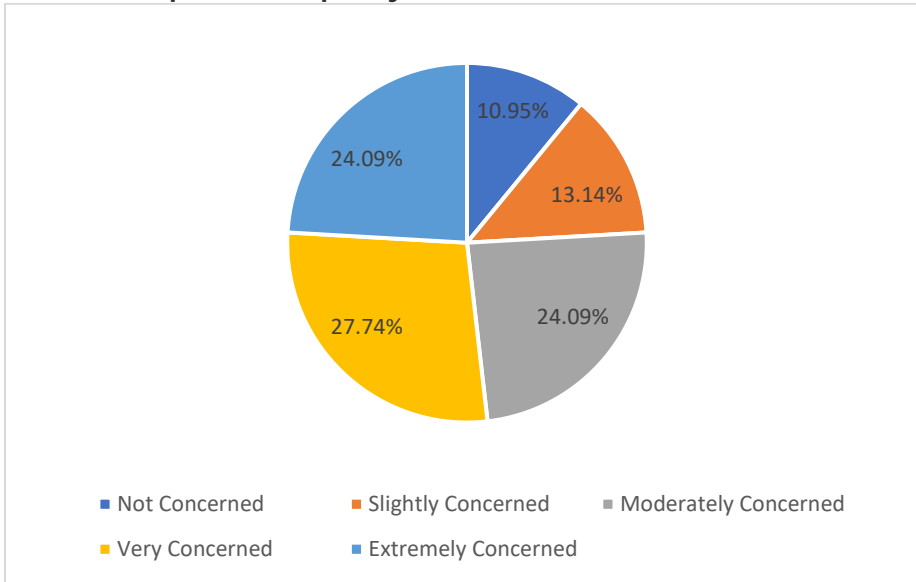
14. More frequent heavy rain events



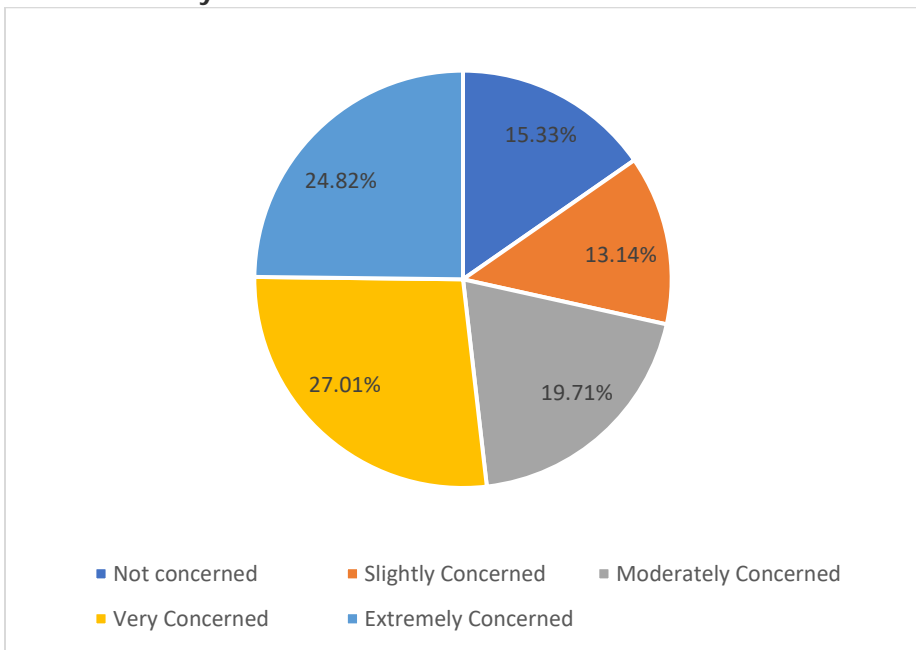
15. More frequent extreme weather events (blizzards, tornadoes, wild fires, etc.)



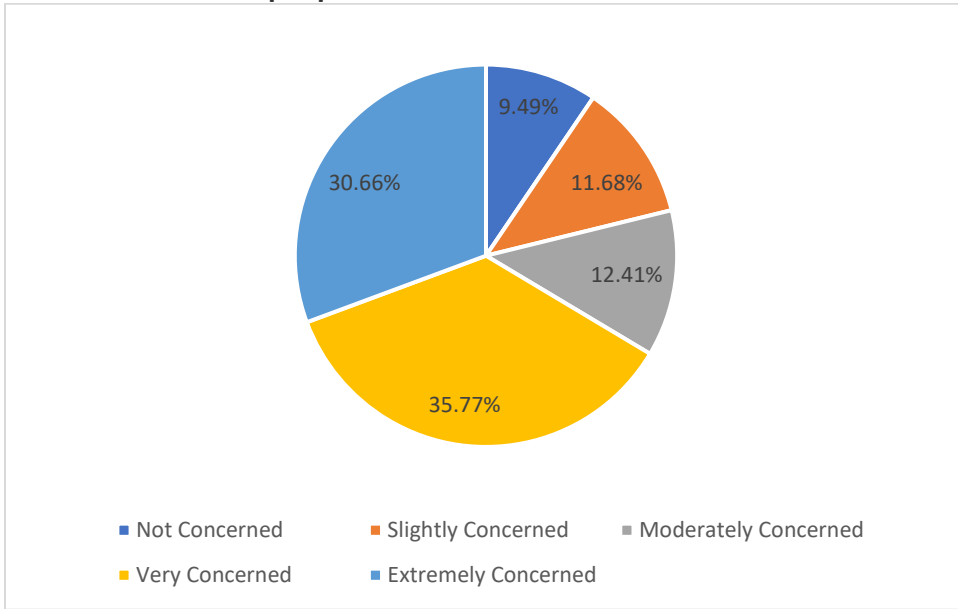
16. Reduced/impacted air quality



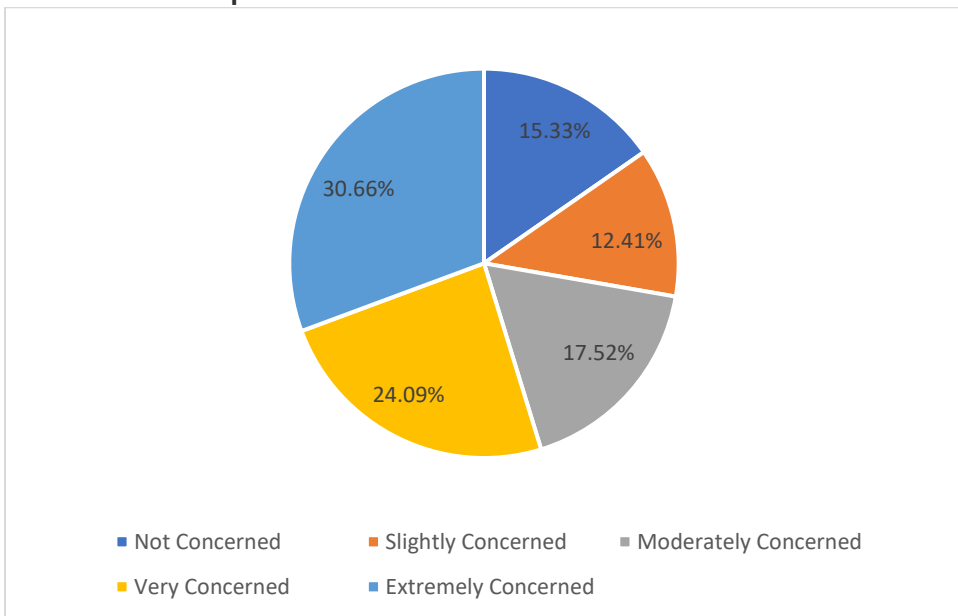
17. Food Insecurity



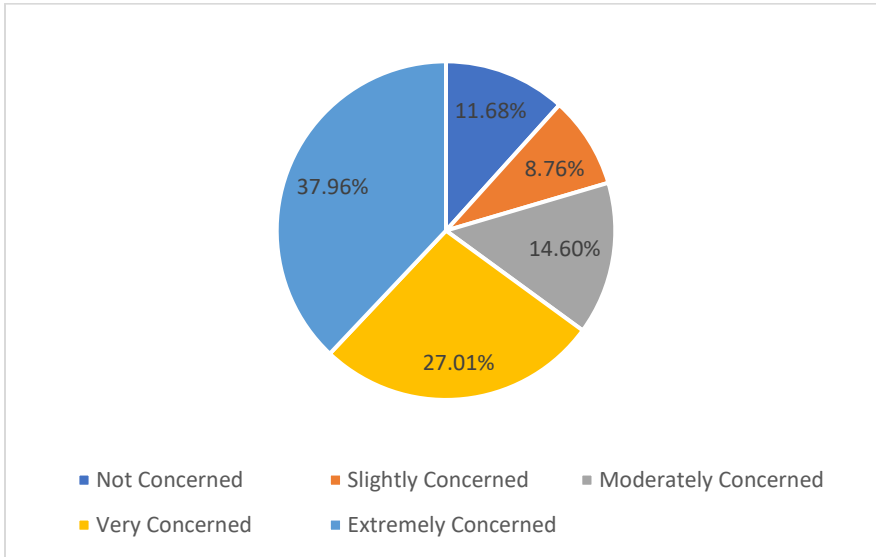
18. Risks to vulnerable people/communities



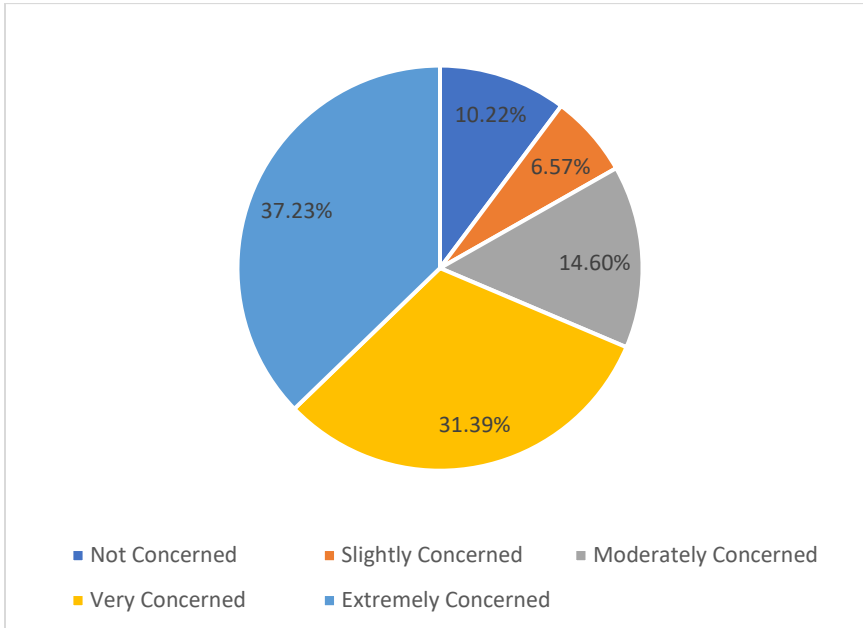
19. Mental health impacts



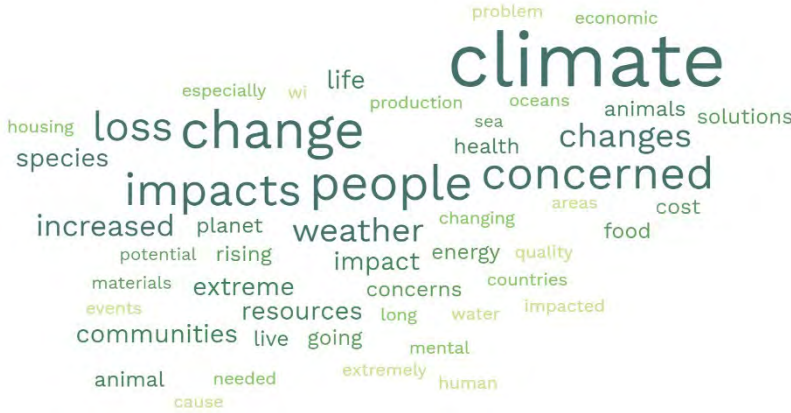
20. Availability of clean drinking water



21. Ecosystem Loss



22. What other concerns do you have about the possible impacts of climate change?



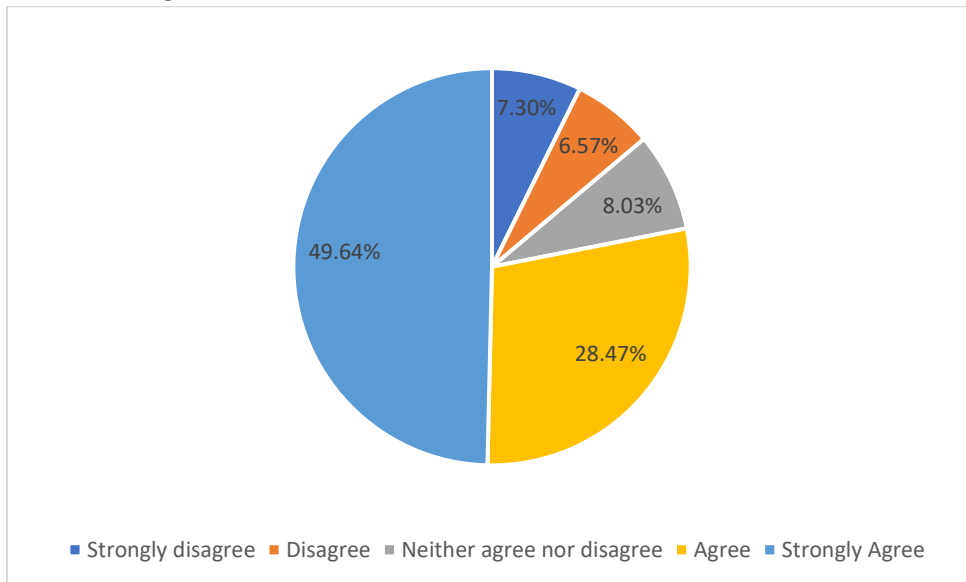
The next question (below) states "for the potential of..." it isn't a potential, it is real!
Material consumption, single-use plastic consumption, non-reusable materials
I am most concerned that we do our part to reduce our contribution to warming.
Impacts on native plants/species
Costly
Sea level rise and population migration.
Oceans and animal
The continual barrage of "bad" news causing people to live in a constant state of fear has a far more concerning effect on mental health status than climate change does.
changing policies to extreme measures that are unnecessary
The massive loss of diversity in plant communities affecting insects and all animals. Too many people on the planet, the rising prices of everything, especially food and housing, causing economic disparity. I hope we as a whole (locals and people worldwide) can adapt in short order and respectfully towards the needed changes to live respectfully within nature's limits.
How we are going to pay for the long term costs of the climate agenda
I am concerned about the economic impacts that will come along with all the devastating environmental impacts.
How this will impact future generations; how this is already impacting certain countries and communities, particularly those most vulnerable
Invasive species
We are not making any real changes in lifestyles to help reduce impacts.
I don't have any concerns, with climate change. What I do have concerns about is the amount of raw materials and resources it takes to create a "green energy producing machine" like a windmill. The cost of one windmill can not be recovered before the end of useful life. Also the amount of concrete and resources needed for the unit makes more pollution than the machine can offset. Concrete production and steel production are extremely high polluters.
Continued loss of plant and animal habitats, pollinators.
Fewer brook trout
Reduced quality of life for all living things. Our planet could be destroyed! It could lead to the end of human life on earth.

I am concerned that climate change is discussed as a fact and that we must address this supposed existential threat without verifiable solutions. It seems to me that the most sustainable solutions are never discussed without those who present those solutions being treated like a time-share salesperson
Western drought the worst in 1200 years. I have VERY concerned they'll want to ship WI water out west.
Impacts to rural communities with little funding to help mitigate changes, especially with extreme weather events and flooding.
large swings in temperatures, and severe weather
People will migrate to areas of better climate and water availability which is right here. Overpopulation of the upper mid-west.
Overall quality of life. Climate change will effect major portions of our day to day lives.
I checked not concerned for all the above. The reason I did that is because I am not concerned with climate being the cause of any of the above noted issues. I think the misguided interventions will be at the root of the problem. The idiocy that will be imposed from international policy imposed on local communities will destroy us. Their death agenda is already in full swing in a plethora of misguided ways with policies of lunacy. Do not participate. Tell those folks to suck sand!
Eco-migration, as people from other more severely impacted countries must leave their homelands due to drought, famine and lost habitat.
Climate change will cause mass migrations of impacted human populations around the globe leading to political and social disruptions.
Looking at what is occurring in different parts of the country, living in WI, we have it good...it won't take long for people to consider WI and other midwest states to move to. A potential increased population and the demands that puts on all services is a concern that should be taken into account now. More opportunities for education are needed to educate the community on changes in our region & steps we can take now.
The increased chances of more animal to human infections as seen in COVID-19
Colder winters
I can't say moderately concerned because for me to stress over something I have almost no impact on to change makes no sense.
Impact of the increased cost of utilities.
None. Changes in weather and climate have been fluctuating long before the industrial revolution and will continue.
Science is about always questioning current theories and assumptions. Remember when climate change was going to cause a new ice age. Just yesterday, Doctors admitted they got low dose aspirin wrong and now the evidence shows that low dose aspirin can be harmful. So yes there are a lot of "today's" science that is proven wrong so I don't trust it.
eventual collapse of infrastructure to support our community (utilities, power grid, internet accessibility, etc)
Some of the beauties of our work are going away. Animals are becoming extinct, natural resources are scarce. We are luck enough to live in an area where we don't witness to the extreme, like other areas.
I've not been significantly impacted
EV is great; however, people can't afford it - so why bother!
Loss of wildlife important to eco-system and agriculture, e.g. bees

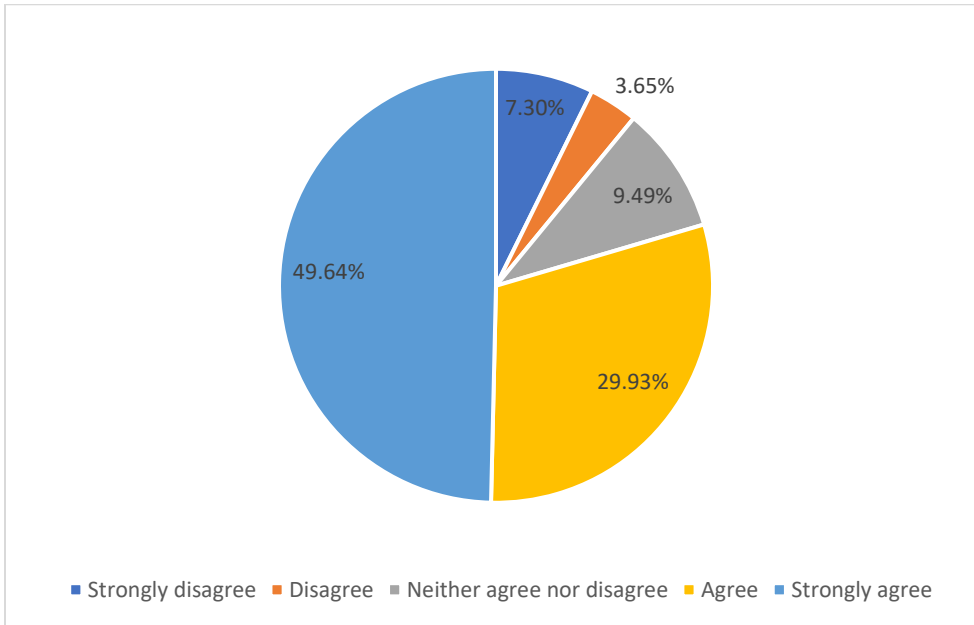
That we're closing in on the tipping point of accelerated climate change which will complicate and increase the cost of mitigating these changes considerably.
None. You are looking for reasons to raise our taxes.
Housing shortage
Animal extinction
Concern that this is becoming a political issue
Loss of biodiversity, increased extinction, habitable planet
I worry about how things will be by the time my children are older.
Rising sea levels
Protection of Biodiversity in wildlife and vegetation
Rising cost of raw materials, food products
I'm extremely concerned about the lack of planning.
Insect migration, loss of wildlife
Increased health problems
As these extreme conditions occur, the societal impacts could be concerning as well.
Everything that it involves is a concern to me.
Economic development
species losses which upset balance; warming oceans and destruction of coral reefs
Some places will become climate refuges for those able to afford to move, while underserved communities and people will remain in the high-danger areas.
Soil erosion. Political instability and authoritarianism caused by dwindling resources and livable land. Refugees, especially from coastal and very hot regions.
Loss of native plants and animals.
Rising sea levels (not in EC specifically, but just generally), mental health impacts on people my age, mass species loss
Hostilities between countries and peoples
The synergistic and unanticipated impacts of climate change that will not be noticed until little can be done to address them; failure to respond at the same scale as the problem;
Increase in war and conflict over resources
Loss of natural habitats
Melting glaciers, melting permafrost (releasing even more methane), CO2 that continues to be released, and which can stay in the atmosphere for hundreds of years, etc., etc.
Food concerns
An inhabitable natural world with death of species and declining diversity
I'm really scared about what will happen when changes in weather pattern affect food production and the availability of potable drinking water. How are we going to handle all the climate refugees who will have no choice but to leave their homes?
that we won't appreciate what we have until it's gone
If excessive carbon is a problem in the environment there are many solutions one of the most basic is planting more trees as they 'breathe' in the carbon and 'breathe out' oxygen. Eliminating fossil fuels at this time is a fool's folly, there are NO reliable alternatives that can provide the equivalent energy needs for industry and commercial uses let alone the average citizen not to mention the costs of unreliable green energy.
The shift from use of fossil fuels to renewable energy sources will be very hard economically for a time but it must be done.

Effects globally on people and animals who can't "buy" their way out of the negative ramifications.
impact of more dangerous virus pathogens
Impact on outdoor activities
along the lines of mental health impacts, I have concerns about divisive and ineffective approaches to the problems among various leaders and stakeholders. I am concerned about climate change augmenting the wealth gap and increasing societal conflict. I am also concerned that those with the least power in our society are expected to bear the greatest burden in terms of lifestyle adaptations and negative impacts, while those with the greatest wealth and power are not forced to make sacrifices.
Rise of oceans
I'd love to know where exactly the information is coming from on "climate change". Our planet has had an extensive history of changing climate and weather patterns and I find it extremely hard to believe that we, as humans, can do anything to change it. I do not believe in the propaganda that is being shouted by every politician and celebrity. I will believe when they start to live like the climate is actually changing and stop buying ocean front property and flying in their jumbo jets.
The breakdown in society as scarcity and crises events accelerate.
Loss of biodiversity
ultimately economics and general quality of life will suffer for everyone
I worry about the even more increased risk to the lives of homeless people and housing insecure due to the increasing number of severe weather events.
Extreme weather

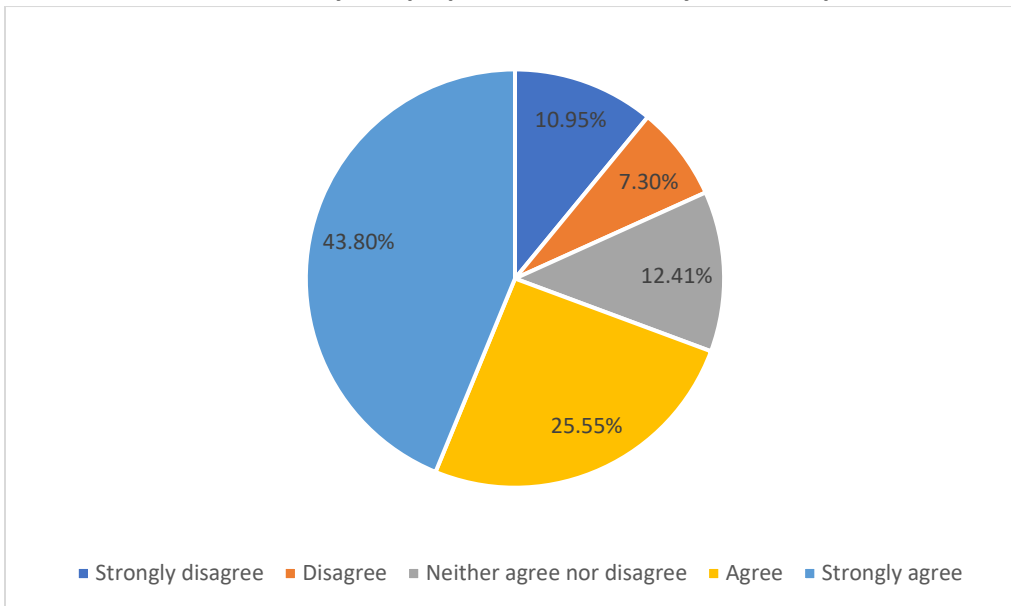
23. It is important for Eau Claire County to take action to prepare for the potential impacts of climate change.



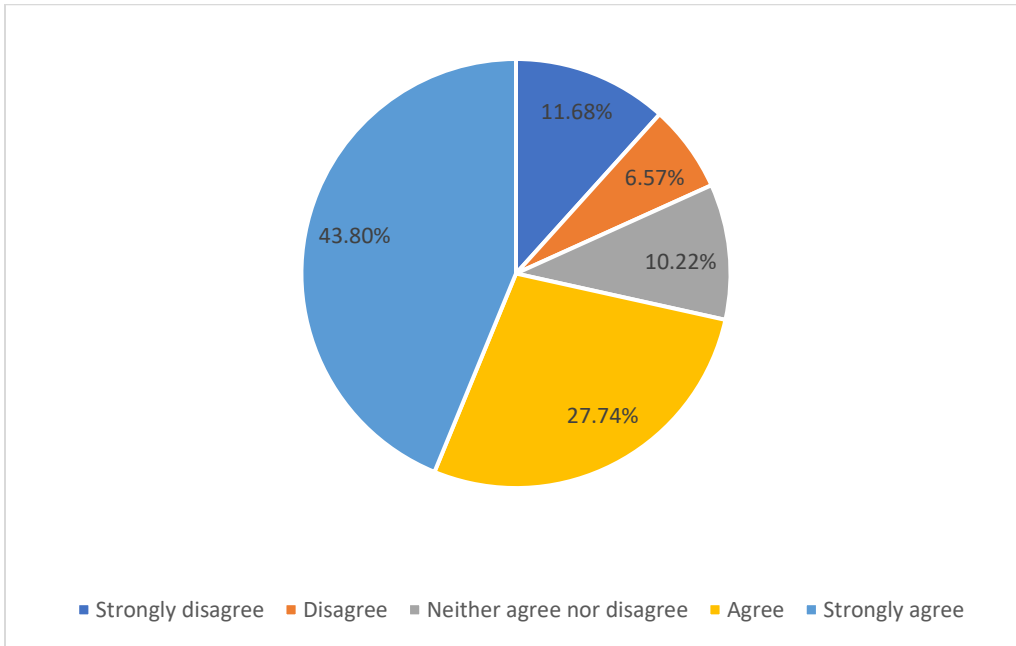
24. It is important for Eau Claire County to take action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions within the community.



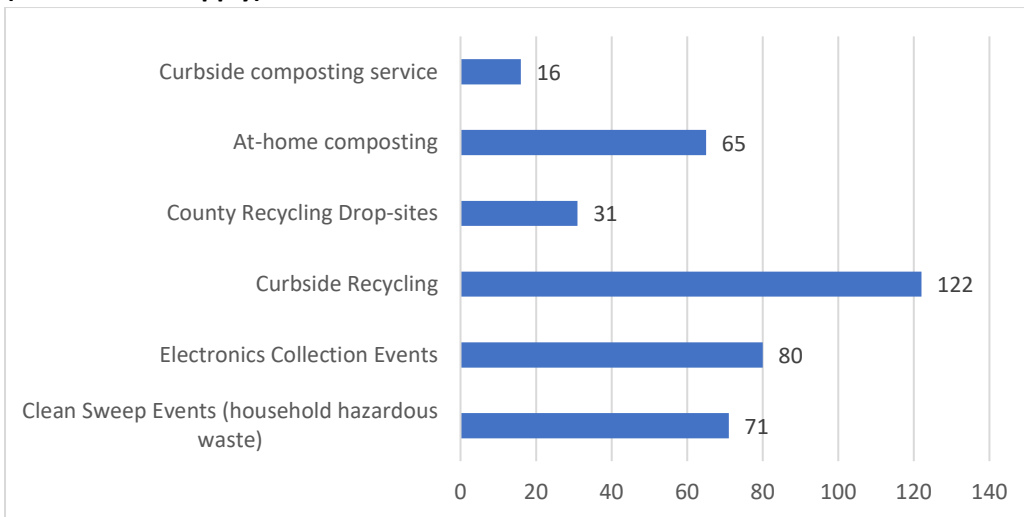
25. It is important to commit tax levy dollars to support the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in the community and prepare the community for the impacts of climate change.



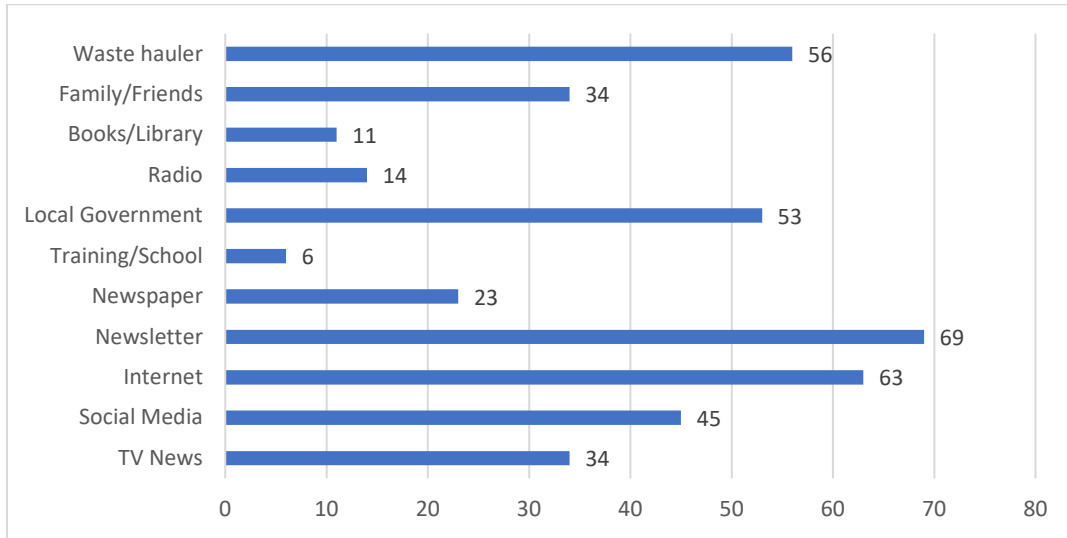
26. It is important to invest in infrastructure like EV charging and renewable energy in a way that ensures equitable access.



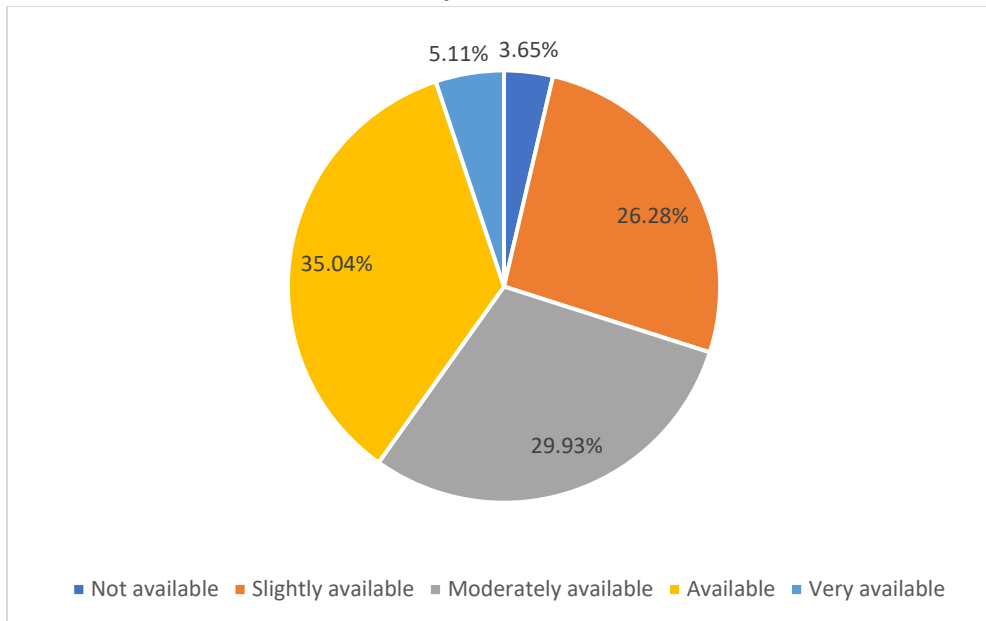
27. Do you currently use any of the following recycling services or waste reduction practices? (Select all that apply)



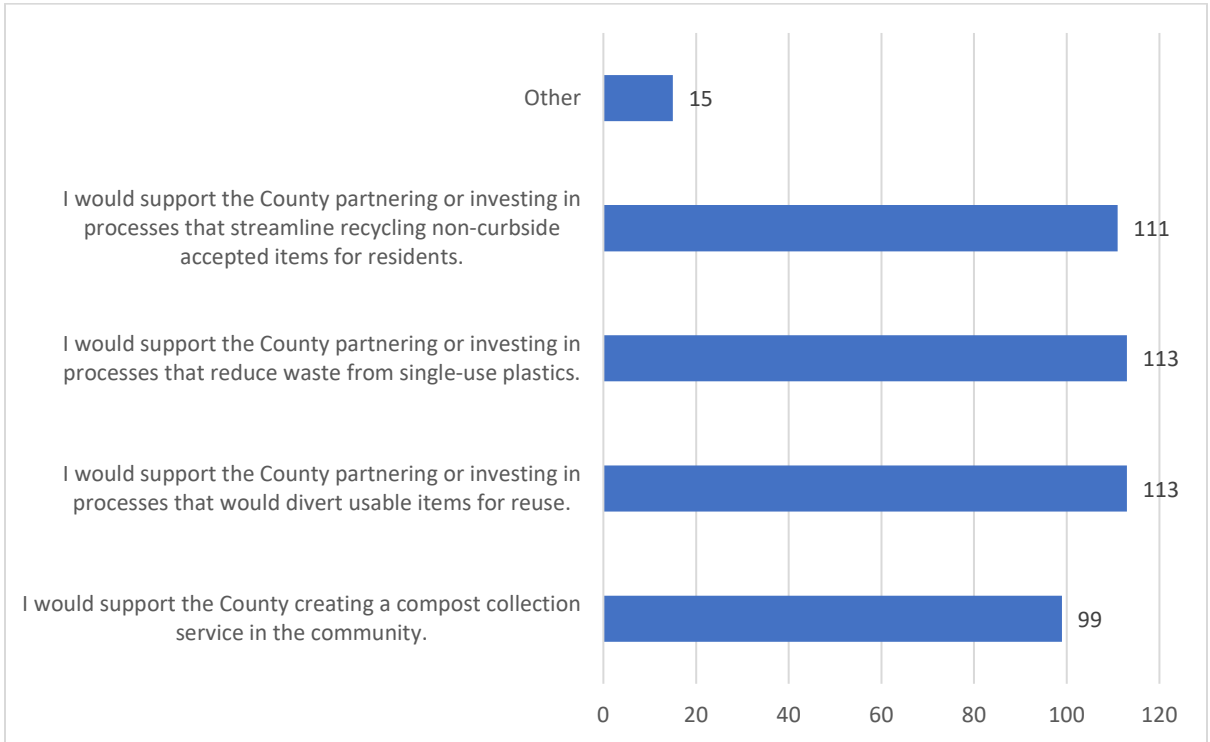
28. Where do you receive your information about recycling and waste reduction options in Eau Claire County?



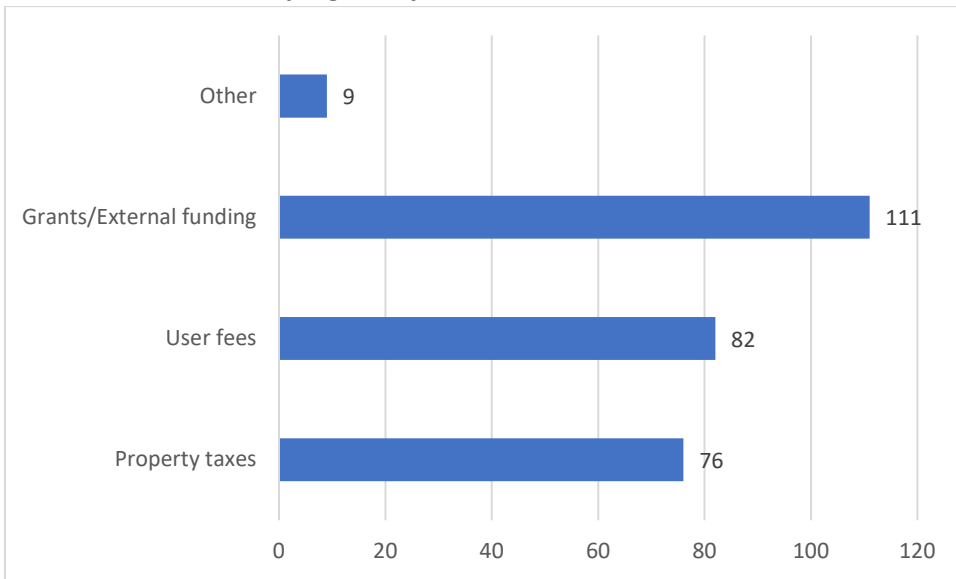
29. How would you rate the reliability and availability of information regarding recycling and waste reduction in Eau Claire County?



30. Please select all that you would support or participate in.



31. How should the above programs you selected be funded?



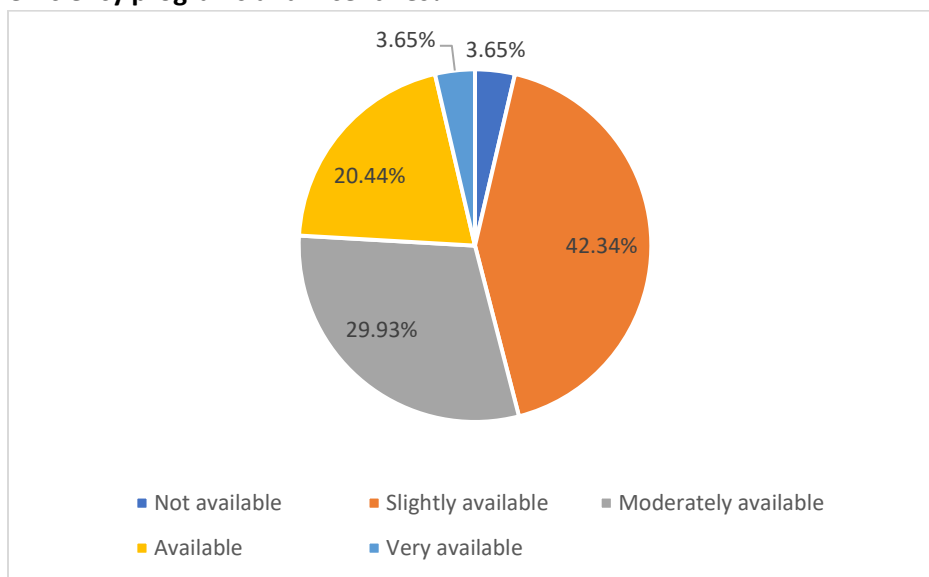
Best way to go green would be to Stop making junk that is constantly filling the landfills. Get rid of plastics and use recycled glass. And STOP importing daily garbage from Twin Cities to ECCTY 7 mile landfill.
Plant small pockets of urban "forests" where there is space, do "No mow May", have garbage collection be charged by volume or pound rather than a flat rate. Partner with businesses that use terrible styrofoam products. Charge people for plastic bags at stores, and incentivize bringing your own bags and cups by more than 5 cents - make it a dollar, and people will be motivated.
Allow rural residents to put up small wind turbines to generate electricity.
Generate electricity at the landfill.
Encourage all stores and businesses to stop using one time plastic bags and encourage the public to use multi -use bags.
Get business to change packaging. Raise rates for businesses to pay for their profits, not taxpayers.
Make Clean Sweep more frequent and easier to get into and out of.
Looking to recycle plastic used to cover silage and baleage on farms. Maybe already established here in Eau Claire County.
Increased public transportation
turn plastic into asphalt and pave roads with recycled material
Influence the state government to allow communities to make their own regulations like use of plastic bags, etc.
Taxing or putting fines on major contributors of greenhouse gas emissions, like large corporations and manufacturers who make the majority of the pollution.
Leave the cattle alone folks. I know there is paranoia about their farts, but jeepers creepers, we need the beef!
Recycling should be mandatory. The farmer's market vendors could be encouraged to not hand out plastic bags. Farmer's market consumers could be encouraged to bring their own bags. Stores could be encouraged to give a 5 cent rebate for customer's use of their own bags, as does Festival Foods. Single use plastics at restaurants should be discouraged. Some, Infinity Distillery and the Lakely do not use plastic straws. I don't know what we can do about water bottled in plastic but we could tr.
Reducing use of single use plastics and composting, while both worthy efforts, will never solve the climate crisis. The county needs to focus on promoting electrification of transportation and heating/cooling buildings and also the retrofitting of existing homes and businesses to make them more energy efficient.
Plant more trees--so many are being removed to build housing here...maybe a campaign to add more, working with Beaver Creek? Utilizing the Extension office--what can and are WI farmers do/doing to minimize greenhouse gases; more food growing/preserving food education/classes, education on utilizing farmers markets to buy local--more advertising along with educating the public on WHY it matters. Employers looking at Remote work options more. Start a trend...green space on top of the CH? :)
Incentive programs
Solar panel awnings in the county bldg parking lot. Produce electricty and provide shade parking in the summer. People will come from miles around just to see it.
Transportation options

Not charging stations since it promotes the mining of the mineral they require for their batteries which uses serious amounts of diesel fuels in the mining equipment and completely destroys our land where the mines are.
You are killing seniors and others on a fixed income by always increasing property taxes. Their incomes are fixed and do not go up at the same high rates as property taxes. If you are going to use property taxes, then exempt all who are on a fixed income. Maybe then you will have affordable housing. Give them a break and start taxing those who have the ability to earn more.
Improved public transportation that reaches more folks. More investment in solar and wind energy. Tax credits for people who invest hybrids, alternative energy sources for their homes, grants for people who want to upgrade their homes. Incentives to replace grass with native plant life or more sustainable ground cover to reduce the use of water for non native and non consumable plant life.
I was recently in Montana - in the city we were in, they had 3 different ways to dispose of trash; garbage, recycling and compost. Maybe EC County could add a 3rd container - showing what you can put in there. We can keep some unnecessary items out of landfills.
Lets focus on crime in our communities
extend bus service to outlying areas
"No till"/updated farming practices. There is an excellent video "Kiss the Earth" (or something similar) that was available for viewing through Beaver Creek Reserve last year.
Enhance the partnership with the City of Eau Claire and the provisions in this regard as noted in their REAP document.
Continue to encourage residents to make small, easy changes: reusable grocery bags, reusable food baggies and containers, and say NO to Styrofoam.
Just stop.
provide incentives for green home improvements like solar, geothermal, etc.
Teach us how to compost at home
Encourage rideshare
Not necessarily reducing greenhouse gas emissions, but purchase additional forest lands to generate carbon credits.
Better recycling programs/availability of recycling. Not all recyclable waste can be recycled where I live, and it needs to be thrown away. And our recycling gets thrown in the garbage truck with the garbage.
Mentioned above, but I think that making composting convenient would be a great place to start.
Look into expanding biofuels, EV's into county/city owned vehicles. Planting natural and native plants for carbon capture
Encourage supporting and advertising farmers markets or home gardening and how it can help environment instead of trips to the grocery store
Ban plastic soda/water bottles or place a large fee on their use.
Organize a place where people can drop off things that can be used for making art—used art supplies, bottle caps, paint, glue—ask local artists to create examples of the art that can be created with these things, and open the location at regular intervals so people can take what they want to be creative for a free will offering.
Carpool or bike incentives to reduce cars on road

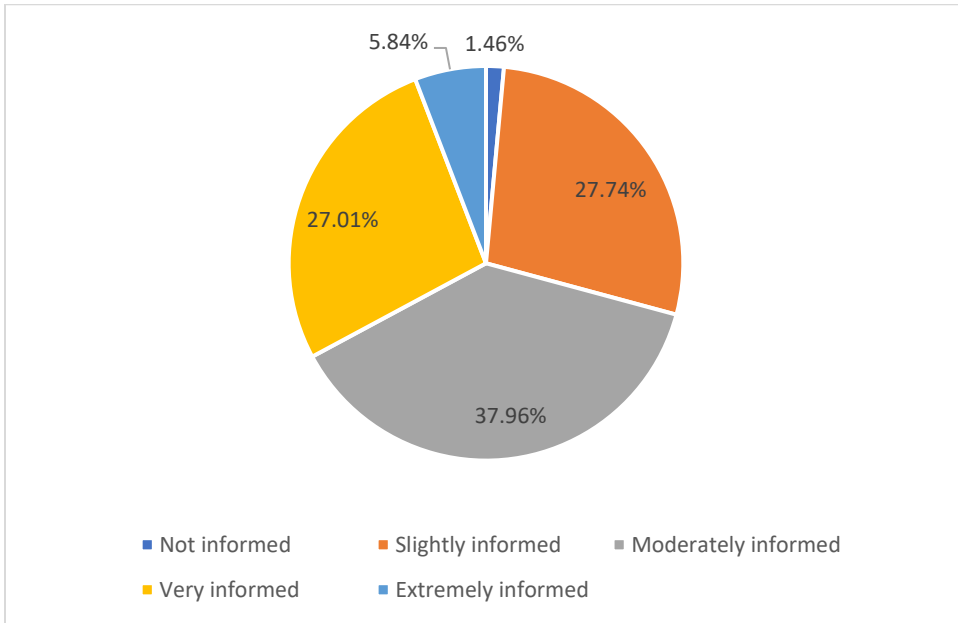
Education
With the number of people renting in the area (due to college, etc) make information and access easier and some ideas and tips aimed specifically at renters.
The landfill and it's expansions are concerning as well, we should look into that as a community
More frequent free electronic recycling dates
Set up EV stations. Advocate for rail transportation and bus commuter transportation to eastern EC County
Promote limitations on use of chemicals on yards
make waste management a public service rather than private, and have consistent recycling guidelines. curbside composting!
Yeah, go fully renewable by 2030 instead of 2050
Encourage composting
I would really support a county-wide composting initiative and a municipal composting system that could compost bioplastics, so the University and other businesses could make use of those products.
encourage use of public transportation, encourage people to eat local foods, encourage people to consume less, help pressure manufacturers to eliminate single use plastics
I am concerned that you are asking a lot of questions about waste when there are much more significant sources--power generating plants, transportation, agriculture, etc. What are the plans for these?
More information about what can be recycled/more options and the landfill should have a trash (methane) powered generator.
Make information widely accessible. As a UWEC student, incorporate more information in classes or make a new class about environmental practices and how we can contribute.
Overconsumption is THE main driver of all of this. There should be more on the local news, in local newspapers, Volume One, etc. about what we, as people in the U.S., are doing to drive not only climate change but biodiversity loss. It should be taught at least at UWEC, but also in a creative way in schools. Barring that, the County could put on a series of presentations to offer the facts of what our overconsumption does.
County composting
Reawaken the old mantra - Reduce, Reuse, Recycle. Concentrate teams of each of the three approaches to educate and motivate people to really do stuff. Set up composting bins on people's property for free. Collect and pay them for the dirt their composting generates. Bag it up and sell it at the farmer's market, or anywhere else people buy dirt. Label the bags of dirt by neighborhood to generate micro-level pride in most dirt by pound.
Maybe more community education on the economic impact that climate change is already making and will continue to make; it seems like many people don't care about the environment but DO care about their wallets!
Waste accounts for 3% of total greenhouse gas emissions in 2017. Most emissions come from combusting fuels (77%), followed by agriculture (10%) and industrial processes (8%). 3% is a small number in the overall picture and I do NOT support further taxation or user fees. The County, State and Federal government have sufficient resources to fund projects and the burden on the taxpaying public is quite heavy. User fees are another form of taxation.

some recycle / disposal item could be more accessible or less fees, for example if people have to wait for a clean sweep only a few time a year or have to pay fees to dispose of some items, it kind of discourages recycling these items (electronics, paint, etc)
Control methane flaring at Seven Mile Landfill and go back to using it as an energy source. Promote renewable energy use, either decentralized as single residential/business installations, or as centralized sources, e.g., solar farms (but multiple uses of the land should be encouraged).
Encourage solar power; education about minimalistic sustainable living.
PLEASE, find a way, subsidize if necessary, the recycling of plastics that fall into the "film" category. Everything comes wrapped in plastic film, plus the shopping bags. Also, need a way to recycle styrofoam.
start with getting more residents/businesses to opt in for solar/wind power
As an event organizer, I am frustrated that there is not better clarity and availability of resources with regard to reducing event impacts on our environment and climate. I feel similarly frustrated at my place of employment, and I feel that the county could do a whole lot more to communicate and collaborate with businesses and organizations in improving waste management.
Work to allow a ban on plastic bags. Work with the university and landlords to decrease litter and waste around UWEC.
Encourage work from home policies for Eau Claire county area employers to reduce emissions from commuting.
Diverting usable items is HUGE - so wasteful to just throw used things out. Let's ban plastic shopping bags! An individual store making the move would lose business, but if the community gives all stores no choice it would work. Phase in - e.g. must pay 25cents/bag if you need one, then eventually get rid of them. Ontario and cities in California did this decades ago!
I'm honestly not sure. Maybe host workshops on composting (how to get started, what's needed, guidelines if composting within city limits, start up costs, etc)

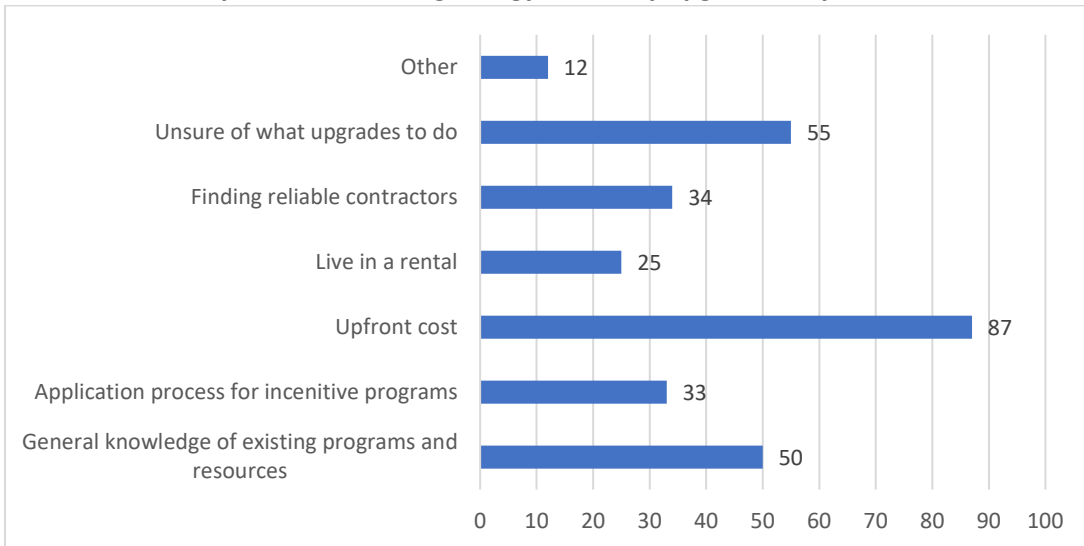
33. How would you rate the reliability and availability of information about residential energy efficiency programs and incentives?



34. How informed do you feel on actions you can take in your home to reduce your energy consumption and energy bill?



35. What barriers do you face in making energy efficiency upgrades to your home?



Education; create policies at the county level that impact what we do individually (e.g. eliminate the use of single-use plastics)
Electric-powered public transportation.
Incentives
Better public transportation more available.
Require community composting, create a community system for safely disposing of dog waste bags, which take up a substantial % of landfill.
Give the middle class access to monies to go green. Don't make it just for the low income and definately dont allow the rich. Maybe go by property value to determine benefit received. You live in a million dollar house you dont need govt money to help you do anything!
More charging stations, bike lanes
The landfill needs to be carefully monitored to assure that it operating at it's best to reduce green house gases, and that it works with other entities to reduce things like metal, electronics, and organic waste that can handled with less impact on the environment.
How are we tracking greenhouse gases today? How will we know if what we are currently doing is working?
Get business to pay as they do most of the pollution
Switch to a system by which one refuse hauler bids for a contract and serves the entire community instead of having multiple refuse haulers traveling the same roads every day of the m-f week.
Promoting Healthy soils and planting more native plants species (returning soil back to what it originally was to sequester carbon. Restoring native habitat to help create corridors for native species can help decrease stress and impacts created by climate change.
More public transportation
Provide electric transit systems
I think we should have an energy event where you can bring in energy companies, solar panel companies, haulers that compost, recycling information, other energy efficient education.
Finding the major contributors to greenhouse gas emissions and making them switch to greener, renewable energy.
Plant more trees and quit building houses in the fields.
Encourage commuting by bicycle, including allowing people to carry their bikes into their offices. Eau Claire already has great bike trails. Have tree planting events. Promote native landscaping [Phoenix gardens are great!], less sod on private property and consequently less lawn mowing.
Regarding #36, yes, we need all of this and we need it to happen quickly as if our lives depended on it.
Remote work has decreased car emissions and honestly, has reduced water consumption for those not coming into work each day (an unexpected bonus). Education and spreading the word on this info is key. Utilizing Volume One, a week long tv news/social media article spotlighting the different ways how climate change is impacting the Chippewa Valley could help bring more awareness.

Eliminate competing trash haulers following each other down the same streets. What a waste of fuel. Divide the city into zones and let them bid on each zone. Maybe a city issue, but that doesn't mean the county can't get involved.
I don't know since I don't know what level we are producing greenhouse gas emissions. Since I didn't read anything about our current state in this survey, I'm guessing you don't know either. Typical government idea. Like gender neutral bathrooms - aren't they just bathrooms that are able to accommodate the handicap? Those signs are a waste of tax payers dollars.
Incentives to repair/remodel existing structures instead of razing and building new. Encourage/incentivize businesses and landowners to plant native trees and wildflowers. More public transport options like light rail, increased bus routes, and shared bicycle programs.
emission standards for vehicles.
Have the majority of county employees work from home.
See previous page
More charging stations for vehicles, incentives or grants to individuals who want to participate in solar energy.
none - and I don't think "assisting" in the question above should be translated into mandates
Per the REAP document
Stop looking for wasteful ways to spend tax money
Invest in geothermal in new homes, upgrades to existing homes, County buildings, and educating the public about geothermal.
Education on what individuals can do.
More solar power
More reliable composting, more composting at UWEC
Just more solar at private residences.
Divesting from fossil fuels/dirty fuels and embrace renewable energy sources
More solar panels/wind energy to power decorative lighting. (Lighted bridges, for example)
Go to returnable glass bottles and far less waste at fast food places.
Engage UWEC in finding ways to use things that would otherwise be recycled or wasted to make homes more energy efficient. Could milk cartons stuffed with plastic bags be used to insulate homes? Can unusable clothes be rolled into tube shapes and secured somehow to create draft barriers for doors? Or could a pattern be developed to easily weave old clothes or plastic bags into insulating panels for windows?
Increase electric vehicles in city fleet
Make more information available and ideas for renters.
Landlords need to be more adaptable to making changes in their homes.
Convert the land fill to process methane
Increase renewable energy sources; make use of electric vehicles when possible
programs for low-income folks to utilize solar power as tenants
Invest heavily in local production of clean energy. This should be an absolute top priority. Also, a robust and upgraded fully electric public transportation system, fully paid for by taxes and free at point of service
Incentives for solar power would be great.

my primary concern is the upfront costs for using solar
Highlight or ask people what they know about Focus on Energy; create a parallel or complementary Focus on Energy type program at the county level; partner with FOE
Ways to use less energy in general.
Providing more solar options for homes would be a great idea. Incentivize homeowners to add solar panels on roofs.
Education of the general public must be included in this--most people have no real idea of what's actually going on/coming. The county could step up and find a way to reach more people--bring in more experts, perhaps; most especially--and this is stated even in the massive IPBES report--get Native Americans involved, if you can. They've been living sustainable for millennia.
Change gas stove tops to electric.
Maybe publish a directory of contractors and other businesses that offer energy upgrades so all the information is in one place.
I do not believe that the negligible benefits of reducing GGE outweigh the costs. If you really want to address the climate issues look at the geo-engineering that is already being done (and yes, it is a real thing...Harvard offers a Solar Geo-engineering program). The County of Eau Claire cannot possibly combat the geo-engineering done in the skies overhead multiple days per week.
More support for bike paths, EV charging stations, demo of EVs, try to recycle a wider range of materials, especially plastics (other communities can do this).
The bike paths are wonderful for recreational biking, but riding on city street, out to the mall, etc. needs work. Riding the bus is also an unattractive option in Eau Claire. Study some European cities where the average person doesn't depend on/or own a car.
invest in solar panel farms to increase city efficiency is a start to show how it can be done.
incentivize and reward alternative modes of transportation. Increase the (time, human resource) efficiency and safety of bus & bike-based transportation. Stop permitting so many drive-up windows. Create a "no idling" ordinance and enforce it. Become more strict with burn permits. Phase out wood-fuel for residential heating.
Are we really sure that our community can survive without ANY fossil fuels? How much energy do we really get from solar and wind?? Which are both extremely expensive to implement.
Access to funding support to update heating units eg: furnaces.
Work with the electric utilities to ensure grid reliability as we transition to a carbon free future.
Education on wasting energy - we need a mind-shift. It is great to say "let's use solar rather than burn coal", but creation of ANY energy requires resource input. "REDUCE" is the most important of the "R's". Air conditioning needs to be comfortable, not 70F. You don't need to leave the lights on in your house when you are at work/school all day, etc.
Even more clean sweep events, I understand cold WI temps may impact electric vehicles' batteries, but switching to more hybrid vehicles for county government, buses (school & transit)
Solar and/or wind power plant. More info on geothermal power

Looks like a lot of wasted tax payer money and government oversight that is not needed when you already have programs such as focus on energy that reaches out to any utility customer. With greenhouse gas reduction, what is the county's plan tell someone to buy an electric car and or lawnmower? People don't have the resources nor does what is proposed apply to everyone's situation.
Affordable options for homeowners even at moderate income.
One that does everything it can to reduce our carbon footprint.
Electric vehicles. Public buildings using renewable energy.
It is a community that works together with common goals and a willingness to keep in communication and goal setting on a regular basis regarding reducing co2 emissions, use of solar and wind energy, and best management of waste. We all share the responsibility.
A community that has a self-determinate attitude which seeks that which is least dependent on gov't for solutions.
Clean water, lower energy uses
Better network of safe walking and biking routes.
One that relies on renewable energy resources produced within Eau Claire County.
Need more of a holistic approach, not only do we need to focus emissions that but focus on restoring habitat and soil to what it was, this could be focus on urban and rural communities.
more demonstration projects
Being pedestrian friendly, multiple options for energy resources, and a high level of recycling options.
Less cars driving in the urban area and more renewable energy modes of transportation at low costs
An educated community. They know what their options are and there is open communication about what is being done by the government to help lower our admissions not only for the county aspect, but also as a community.
Availability to recycle in more places and the ability to choose greener options.
Like a pickle in a jar with garlic to season the brine
Not sure-but I am open to learning more!
I would not see much usable stuff or recyclable stuff discarded into the landfill. Even more people walking and biking about, buses to outlying areas. Restaurants would not dispense plastic or styrofoam products. There would be solar panels on the roofs of public buildings, water barrels to collect rainwater and gardens everywhere. Public roadsides would be planted with prairie plants rather than sod. Waste heat would be collected. There would be less black top making the city hot.
Solar on every rooftop that faces the sun. Perhaps some wind turbines on appropriate sites. More diversified local agriculture.
solar panels are commonplace; more rooftop green spaces; less lighting of buildings when not in use (this includes schools that are excessive with their in/outdoor lighting, and other buildings/businesses); getting businesses onboard with using less heat; less lights when not needed; greatly reducing/ending plastic bags; getting rid of styrofoam products altogether.
Quick transition to EV and programming. The more accessible and easier for folks the better
reduced reliance on driving

100% renewable is not really ambiguous. Someday no energy should enter Eau Claire by truck or wire or pipeline. Totally dependent on hydro, solar, wind.
public transportation, good bike routes, easy access to recycle electronics, paint, etc, more than a few times a year, solar on houses and insulation supported-easy access-affordable and tax breaks
People actually trying. Like basic recycling - so many still don't do it.
Fewer parking structures and more green space. More community involvement/education in maintaining our wild spaces, removing invasives, and discouraging non-native landscaping.
Clean air, water. Change in food packaging to reduce non-recyclable containers.
less single use plastics. more options for recycling.
Upgrades to energy efficient products should be dictated by cost vs pay-back. When products reach the level of paying back the investment in a reasonable time period (3-5 years) it makes good business sense for that investment. Spending regardless of cost under the guise of 'saving the planet' is irresponsible to the tax payers.
Just like it is today.
High community participation in programs and efforts taking place
people are encouraged to act sustainably, more local produce, more sustainable power/energy sources used on a county wide scale. The actual county buildings powered with sustainable options
I think all of us, just trying our best to make better choices.
Public awareness of the impacts of climate change, programs available to support citizens with access to resources such as energy efficiency, composting, etc.
Clean air, clean water, lots of trees and green spaces
That sustainability measures become integral to the community culture; i.e. that it's the norm and not a minority of citizens who make conscious efforts to do what they reasonably can do with the available resources.
Less garbage creation overall and more public recycling bins in parks and on streets. More electric vehicle charging stations.
Leaving us alone.
Everyone working to reduce their carbon footprint.
Cleaner streets
I think EC County should not only be looking to reduce their carbon footprint, but also looking at strategies for coping with climate change.
Devoted to sustainability, less trash everywhere, less energy waste
One that focuses and celebrates use of reusable and sustainable products. One where we are consistently looking at how we can use more renewable sources of energy. One where recycling and composting are easy and expectations are clear.
Clean air and water.
Energy independent, food security and resiliences, reduced waste
Renewable energy options in use by the County for the public to see, setting an example
Something that exists in the future b/c it's not here, now!
One where a resident can get assistance in helping find resources for special recycling needs.

A place full of trees to absorb greenhouse gases where everyone has solar energy, plants a garden, can get most of what they need within walking distance, is comfortable with car pooling and has the ability to make their residences energy efficient.
All residents using reusable bags, no plastic bags allowed at retailers
Working together
Lots of information available for a variety of levels of knowledge, skill, and participation.
More biking less loss and a decrease in frightening statistics.
Everyone doing their part
A community of growth
Availability of climate friendly energy sources Lawns and gardens that promote sustainable practices, help pollinators, and don't pollute
localized energy sources, waste management in the county with less reliance on landfills
A walkable Eau Claire, maybe with downtown closed off to most traffic. This has worked well and been very popular in cities all over the country and world. State of the art public transit that makes our community stand out among most similar-size cities where car ownership is almost a necessity to get around efficiently
Everyone working together to keep our water clean.
Where people of all income levels and races/ethnicities have equal access to sustainably-grown food, renewable energy, and public transportation.
A place where we have sustainable sources of energy that are common place - electric cars and charging stations, solar & wind generated power (and other sources that I am not yet aware of!) and take out containers are all compostable. A community where single use plastics are a thing of the past.
A community that is sourced by locally or regionally produced healthy and nutritious foods; one in which you see people walking/biking and out of their cars; one in which more landscape is transformed to native species plantings; farm fields with no-till lands and no exposed soil; businesses competing to show who can be the most sustainable; lots of local news shows and stories about local efforts to reduce carbon emissions or adopt sustainable practices; inclusive decisionmaking.
One that doesn't need outside sources of energy- independent on what energy we can produce here. It would also focus on walking and biking way more. Plus, more of our food and other products would be locally produced.
More sustainable practices wherever possible, especially ones that have been brought up in this survey. Does not have to be a 100% clean community by any means, just more and more year over year. Some progression.
It looks like Totnes, England--one of the Transition Towns in that successful international movement (transitionnetwork.org). EVEN MORE: It would look like many of the places in the movie "Tomorrow." The county could offer a local showing of this film, which we have recently purchased for the library. It's a beautiful, positive film about local resilience and how it's working in many places internationally.
Community cooperation and willingness to put n the effort.
A community that uses less of everything than it generates - heat, food, clothing, plastic, car emissions.
I would like to see a community that makes environmental and social justice a priority. Programs that help businesses transition from plastic and styrofoam takeout containers would be great as well.

one in which it's obvious that most people care about this
For a community to be sustainable and resilient it must offer residents the rights and opportunities enshrined by our Constitution without being being oppressive in taxation, land use and daily life. The County should focus on sound infrastructure, reducing tax burdens and better utilizing the resources it is already in possession of.
More neighborly, diverse and inclusive, open to necessary change.
People happily living with less "stuff"; saving water; harnessing the sun's power; driving less
Green, public transportation convenient and popular with most people, culture of walking to work and to shop which should increase health of residents, fewer parking lots, parking garages.
no plastic bags usage in stores, use biodegradable utensils like UW Stout, recycle more, compost food waste, regulate waste haulers who dump my recycling in the same truck bin as the garbage.
More plug ins for ev,
People from every life and family situation have choices and means available that maintain or improve their quality of life and ability to live in and move about the community while having a reduced environmental impact.
People are able to use the types of energy they feel is the most cost effective for their families. The United States was energy independent just a few years ago, now we are not. Maybe we should focus on how to become energy independent again, instead of pie in the sky ideas of everyone using wind and solar.
Fewer cars, more mass transit. Less impervious pavement. More greenery, less destruction of trees during street improvements, solar on individual homes. Shelter and food for all citizens.
Thoughtful transition to more renewable energy resources.
Safe and realiable water supply
more renewable energy sources, buying back to grid for excess energy production
One where initiative is taken and action is followed through on. Not just suggestions, surveys and meetings. Literal action on making changes happen for our community.
We'd finally be on a high-speed rail line, grants so that lower income homes like mine have a chance at solar, clean water, phasing out single use plastic that can't be recycled, public transit, more reliance on renewable energy
Clean air. Less reliance on property taxes

Plant natives, collect rainwater, remove lawn, and change materials to avoid water runoff.
Govt. lead by example.
Everything that is built today is designed to handle 100 yr rains and has wind/snow ratings for conditions that are greatly overkill. Our existing infrastructure when updated is also designed as such. Preparing a resident would be more how to give them upfront information for powerful storms, extreme heat, extreme cold etc. so they can prepare themselves and not rely on government to do that for them.
Affordable options for homeowners with moderate incomes.
solar energy
Better insulated homes. More natural landscaping.
Keep residents informed and hold everyone responsible in helping reduce energy use, keeping waterways and our environment clean and free of toxins and reducing overall waste. Some guidelines and regulations may have to be implemented.
What are the impacts? Without that knowledge there can be no solutions.
Education. Small steps to take to eventually make big change.
education, grants
Education and outreach from specialist and universities using scientific and peer-reviewed sources.
more info from county
More recycling options and more options for energy
better recycling programs, county owed recycling center and re-use of those materials
Nothing needs to be done. Climate change is god's way
Education. Outreach.
Remove plastic bags. Reusable bags in grocery stores/shopping can be very effective in getting people to think more about the impact they have on the planet.
Allow for alternative points of view to be shared and considered. We are the world and we are the children. We are the ones who make a brighter day so lets start chillin. There's a choice we're making and we're saving our own lives. It's true we make a better day - just you and me - now let me hear you.
open to learning more...
Things to foster *38.
Homes and businesses are where people spend most of their time and also where huge proportions of greenhouse gasses are emitted. By helping people upgrade their homes heating/cooling and insulation and installing rooftop solar people will rightfully feel like they are part of creating a positive and more resilient future minimizing negative climate changes and they will be better prepared for the changes that do occur.
Ongoing education through various means, incentives to make changes, getting education continually into the classrooms as the youngest need to learn now to help shift the trajectory.
Increased grant options
Eliminate neolithic-thinking leaders.
affordable and easy to get solar panels

Provide real data from educated people (not government officials) and do not present it as our next thing to fear (like covid).
Monetary incentive by reduction of utilities. I pay Xcel to fund WHEAP but had to watch my utilities nearly double but I am slightly over utilizing the program. Climate changes directly affect consumer costs. Do our utility for profits have the ability to fund projects with grants?
more education. it does not seem a priority.
Let people determine for themselves (on an individual level) how they choose to participate or invest in climate change initiatives.
We are prepared. Tomorrow it maybe warmer or it may be colder or it may be the same. But if you can't tell me what the weather is going to be in 1 week with 100% confidence, how can you tell me what it will be like in 10 years.
Keep providing information
grants and tax breaks for those who act sustainably, higher taxes for those who refuse to move forward.
More help with people affording those changes.
information and knowledge
more education and assistance
Laws and/or incentives for businesses to make changes (reducing single use plastics, etc.)
A city-wide campaign to inform and motivate into action
Education! Convey how climate change is effecting us and what the trends portend. Then, educate and highlight what individuals/households/businesses can do that are realistic, affordable, simple, time-efficient, and meaningful. How to make seamless changes in our every day lives, which for most are busy enough, but that how we all can address climate change doesn't necessarily need to take additional time or other precious resources. We can do things differently without disruption.
Education, education ,education...in multiple capacities and modes to reach as many residents as possible.
Nothing. Residents and businesses can make their own decisions and don't need the government telling them what to do or how to spend their money.
Lots of education
Inspire everyone to do it
More local government action/awareness
Incentives for using renewable energy sources and easy ways to recycle more products.
More education or outreach to help inform residents about solar energy.
Mitigation and adaptation. Providing tax incentives or tax breaks and or free programs for alternative energy production
Booths at Farmers Markets or county fairs on simple steps that the average family can take
More info and incentives.
Educate the masses more. Either by mailers, newsletters, or radio interviews from specialists.
We need more information on affordable options
Increase education and events for community members
Education and encourage energy efficiency such as rebates

More information and options for renters.
More widespread information through the internet.
Education
Focus more resources on the most vulnerable
energy efficiency initiatives, home solar installations
Community waste collection, small scale energy generation, retrofitting old properties with high efficiency upgrades, air filtration systems, etc.
Community events
Incentive programs, more education about what sustainability means
I sure wish I had better ideas on how to impress on folks the importance of this issue - We are getting closer and closer to the place where we won't be able to fix the mistakes we've been making.
Introduce possible scenarios of things we may have to face in our community and hold workshops for businesses and diverse residents to plan together options for adapting to climate change; Mayo, health clinics, health-related agencies and businesses need to be developing a plan on addressing the multiple health impacts of climate change from physical to mental.
Free healthcare, defunding police and reforming prisons (and putting that extra money towards more poverty, mental health, and racial justice resources).
Educate them on billboards, schools etc.
I need to know of the programs available. Better communciation
Everyone should see "Extinction: The Facts," "Facing Adversity," and "Once You Know," then followed by the aforementioned "Tomorrow." Yes, the first two of these are terrifying, but if people don't know what's REALLY happening and what's coming, how will they know the appropriate level of action? Yes, the first 2 films are scary, and personal change is hard, but if we're all doing this together, supporting each other-- THAT's the real basis of resilience.
Make recycling a social good that is rewarded with earning a higher stature in the community.
The City should provide them with information about the economic impacts of failing to prepare and a cost/benefit analysis of preparation so they can see that the initial investments in upgrades will pay off eventually.
everything that has already been mentioned
I cannot think of anything at this time.
Water saving education (aka stop watering grass/yards)
Education and promote/subsidize private businesses that help reduce carbon footprint.
Direct, on-site education to businesses. Collaboration and cooperation with Eau Claire Chamber of Commerce in sharing expected models of expected impacts of climate change in key interest/business areas. Red Cross and Health Department and even area hospitals should proactively communicate regarding likelihood of various health outcomes connected to climate change. Emergency heating and cooling shelters mapped and communicated publicly well in advance of their anticipated need.
Not sure that this is the counties job.
Much more accurate information for the general public is needed, including information coming out of the UN. Emphasis can be put on the ultimate savings of preparing NOW. It will take money and consistent preparation. Conservation of

Not really. I am more aware of resources that are intended to prevent or reduce climate change such as Focus on Energy and other incentive programs.
Not sure--Focus on Energy has a free program sending LED's and other energy-efficient products. The Extension office and Health Dept promote healthy eating (more plant based=less emissions) which is VERY needed (more is needed) in our community.
Curbside Composting
Yes.
I don't think there is in Eau Claire.
I have not been made aware of existing local resources, but I feel somewhat confident that I could find them if I looked.
Yes. Brochures.
REAP document--City of Eau Claire
I am aware of what is out there but this is not the job of our local government
some information is on Facebook
Yes, from UWEC. Programs and events provided by the Student Office of Sustainability. Also the Beaver Creek Reserve
Eau Claire County recycling office and Beaver Creek newsletters.
Focus on energy Wisconsin
Solar panels and wind resources.
Not other than the power companies or the internet.
Not much. Especially for renters.
I know of some national ones, but not local ones.
Focus on Energy. Agriculture programs
Not really, because I'm a renter and I don't own a business in Eau Claire
The county sustainability office probably has resources that I haven't taken advantage of
University of Wisconsin Eau Claire has climate scientists and students who could help with information; and graphic design faculty and students who could help make the climate information accessible to our community.
Geoengineeringwatch.org is a vital website to understand the scope and scale of what humans have done and are doing to the Earth.
County recycling office, Beaver Creek Reserve resources, parks and trails and green space, community gardens.
Love Focus on Energy, especially energy analysis of existing homes.
several incentives from energy suppliers and government, several solar business in the area to install items.
I value the community garden spaces that help address food insecurity and more direct and personal connection to the state of our environment. I know there are rebates and incentive programs, but I don't know the specifics.
Local gas and electric companies have some
There are a lot of resources, but honestly we should be doing more to get people the energy that they need and are used to at the lower costs they are used to. The county is not able to run at its current load if fossil fuels are taken out of the equation. It is not feasible for everyone to have all of their energy needs met by wind and solar at this point in time.
Many existing programs through the utilities.

Everything possible.
More solar for both business and residential. More charging stations. Public vehicles should be electric.
We will have to encourage going solar. We will have to encourage using less water in daily use. We will have to encourage using less lawn fertilizer. Reducing amount of waste going into landfills by composting, reducing one time plastic use, and putting metal in a recycling center.
I would like a serious discussion on the implementation of nuclear power generation. Zero emissions with reliable energy for next 60 years.
I'm not even sure what greenhouse gas emissions are
Incentives for individuals and businesses to use cleaner fuel sources/reduce pollution.
Promoting Healthy soils and planting more native plants species (returning soil back to what it originally was to sequester carbon. Restoring native habitat to help create corridors for native species can help decrease stress and impacts created by climate change.
demonstration projects
More public transportation options
Alternative fuel transportation implemented slowly
Explore influencing the landfill on use of methane gas to provide energy.
As I've stated, making major corporations reevaluate their greenhouse gas emissions because they are the biggest contributors in greenhouse gas emissions. Otherwise, removing plastic bags and finding other ways the county can reduce one use materials.
Like mentioned earlier, leave the cattle alone. We need the beef. Their farts are not going to harm us (unless you get to close and inhale).
Electrify all transportation and heating/cooling of buildings.
More solar energy use, more remote work where possible (need quality broadband working in all areas of the county),
Quick transition to EV and programming, especially in the school and government program. The more accessible and easier for folks the better
More bike racks in major areas and at government buildings, better sidewalk system for safer walking, more under/overpasses for major roads, adequate road shoulders for biking, stronger traffic enforcement related to pedestrian/biker safety
Solar panels on building tops. Thank you, JAMF
solar on county buildings
I have no idea. Perhaps start by providing us which businesses are producing greenhouse gas emissions AND how much. Then compare that to other cities so we know where we are truly starting from. Otherwise how do know you made improvements?
More community involvement/education in maintaining our wild spaces, removing invasives, and discouraging non-native landscaping. More public transport options like light rail, increased bus routes, and shared bicycle programs.
more restrictions on vehicle emissions. and more public transportation options.
Reduce the number of county board members so there are less members who need to drive into meetings.
I have answered this multiple times.
Offer an incentive for people who reduce emissions.

The City of Eau Claire and the County can practice what they preach. Transition to EV to the degree possible, add solar to County buildings over time, use geothermal for new buildings if feasible, incorporate more energy efficiency in county buildings--then highlight and trumpet these improvements to demonstrate leadership by example.
More electric vehicle charging stations so we can increase the use of them.
Absolutely nothing. It is not the responsibility of the local government.
Lots of education and motivation
More efficient engines... solar power
Purchase forest land for carbon sequestration
Increased renewable energy use, especially solar power
More use of solar or wind energy.
More support for transition to electric vehicles and solar energy.
Reduce energy use in buildings, transportation. Use renewable energy technologies and designs
More EV charging stations. More competitions and challenges to encourage citizens to make changes. More encouragement of carpooling.
More incentives for energy efficient appliances/equipment
Ride share programs?
Cooperations need to lead the way
Improve agriculture practices Reduce usage of trucks and autos Increase forest coverage
Increase renewable energy; build up green spaces. . .
community solar, better public transit + passenger rail, local produce
100% non fossil fuel energy production
More composting and solar power
Improved public transit, bike- and scooter-share programs (especially with electric bikes/scooters)
Can we do more to limit travel? Can we afford electric vehicles? Can we encourage more use of public transportation - making the bus routes more time efficient. I considered riding the bus to work in Altoona - what is a 10 minute drive would have been a 40 minute bus trip
Investments in partnership with energy producers to create solar farms/gardens to offset emissions from the county; agricultural and landuse practices that keep carbon in the ground--could even pay farmers.
Create more accessible public transportation - trains, buses, etc.
See more EV's. Public transport could also invest in EV's. Bird Scooters could be a great addition downtown Eau Claire and around UWEC campus.
all electric vehicle fleet
Maybe smaller buses and/or electric ones if any are available; while public transportation is absolutely necessary, it seems like buses are often virtually empty.
County vehicle fleets should be EVs.
More reliance on solar, wind, renewable energy. Convince people that they can drive (slower) on roads with up to 6 inches of snow, rather than plowing 1/2 " .
better bus system to make it feasible to ride. my 3.8 mile drive would take 1 hour (\$1.75 fee) by bus but 8 minutes (\$.40 gas) by car.
incentivize and reward alternative modes of transportation. Increase the (time, human resource) efficiency and safety of bus & bike-based transportation. Stop

<p>permitting so many drive-up windows. Create a "no idling" ordinance and enforce it. Become more strict with burn permits. Phase out wood-fuel for residential heating.</p>
<p>Last time I checked, we still live in the United States of America, and I am not sure that a nanny-state is the type of place I want to live.</p>
<p>Small, efficient cars; more small farms instead of increasing farm size; cropping to hold carbon in the soil; disallow the import of garbage from other states and cities;</p>
<p>Find a balance between reducing emissions, rather than outsourcing emissions to other areas.</p>
<p>more solar/wind power and better use of energy</p>
<p>There's no easy answer. We need to be more reliant on renewable energy, make solar more accessible for lower income homes, phase out plastics use that isn't easily recycled, use of hybrid vehicles for government use, make curbside composting easier, or host workshops about composting, education about climate change</p>
<p>More EV stations. Solar and wind farms</p>

42. Additional comments that should be considered in the development of the Climate Action & Resilience Plan.

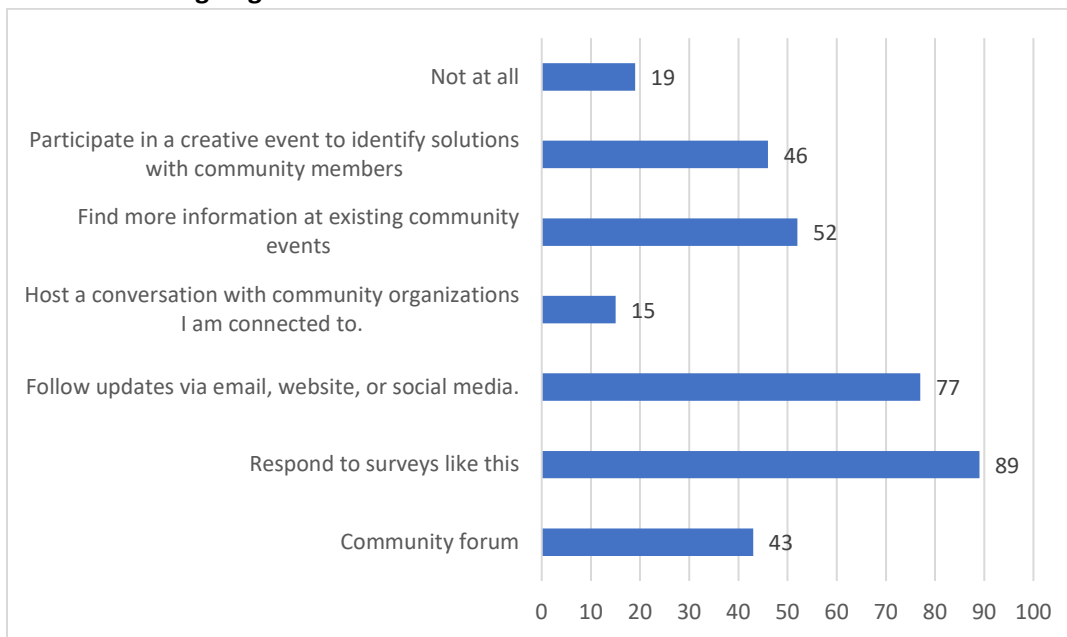


<p>Make recycling an affordable option for poor people who rent and who live in mobile home courts that are managed for profit</p>
<p>Not nuclear power until they find a way to neutralize the waste as this is worse then climate change just a different way to destroy are planet.</p>
<p>Thank you for leading the charge on this important issue of our time.</p>
<p>Don't. Keep our corrupt county out of it. You can't spend money on it. use our taxpaying dollars on something that benefits us not you.</p>
<p>Partnerships with your local DNR, Audubon groups, land conservancys and NRCS representatives should be explored as they can provide valuable expertise.</p>
<p>Before the County and City of EC get all warm and fuzzy about greenhouse gas and climate change, please try to focus on getting existing programs solidified. Our local recycling program is kind of a joke and needs to be improved to be more robust. We should be able to recycle far more product than we currently do. I understand its a market thing, but so will all the other areas you are talking about here on this questionnaire....it will coem down to our marketable area and whats' available.</p>
<p>I would like to learn and share.</p>

Ask businesses to stop over-cooling with AC - it's freezing! Expand plant-based diet options, since raising animals for food massively contributes to global warming.
The citizens all must understand it and it must be user friendly. It can't be cost prohibitive for the average person.
We must not allow any discussion on sustainability to be filtered through a prism of political correctness. If we are serious about addressing this issue, we must think outside of the box
Change rainfall charts (not changed since the 1960's) to accurate update building codes measures.
Work more with rural communities. Many of the residents in the rural communities feel that most of the efforts are focused around the City of Eau Claire and Altoona.
Private Public Partnerships with application of federal assistance for funding options
Invest in renewable energy. Make sure we are not supporting developments that threaten our ground water. Make policies that protect it first before rezoning! Once it is contaminated we might not be able to repair it. Be cautious, our groundwater is one of our most important resources!
Consider the costs to the average population. Most people cannot afford to switch to greener energy. Large businesses are able to make those switches easier than a single household. If a business makes a switch to something greener, say Festival Foods removing plastic bags, that creates a much larger impact on the county than one household choosing not to use plastic bags. Individuals cannot make as big of a dent in greener living.
Do not take federal money for this. It comes with strings attached and the strings will lead to bondage. They want total control taken away from local municipalities. Do not give them that.
thank you for considering making changes
I view this as the most serious issue of our time. This plan needs to be ambitious and action oriented.
Thank you for reaching out for our thoughts on this!
should be high priority! Put gardens in public spaces
Tell us where we are at; where we want to be; how do we do this; and who will pay for it
Help educate residents of the causes and how projects will impact the community both pro and con. There are people near my community with signs against wind turbines. They might feel differently if provided with that information.
Have 90% of all county employees work from home
Thank you for addressing this urgent and important issue. Best wishes for getting a viable program off the ground!
Use the REAP document as a guide but modify it to suit County features.
Stop spending our tax dollars on this crap
I see lots of City/County parks watering the lawns during the middle of the day in summer. Should switch to watering at night to curb evaporation.
Higher taxes for those who choose not to participate.
Offer assistance and resources to residents to help them be compliant and feel good about their choice without drastic expense to resident.
People want change
Reduce non-permeable surfaces in parking lots

Make sure you present the multiple benefits of addressing climate change. If you use the bus and bike to work, you reduce carbon emissions and improve your physical health. Also--focus on strategies that address multiple issues. Keeping carbon in the soil prevents soil loss, sedimentation in water bodies, and protects critical soil microbes that improve plant growth, etc.
Thanks for spearheading this important effort!
The County is going to County and proceed with this fool's errand no matter what is said by those who oppose it, so I have little more to say on the subject. This survey is likely just a token and those in charge will move ahead with their plans regardless of feedback.
have all the " true " facts straight before implementing and programs.
Establish partnerships with city, university, school district, chamber of commerce, and among county departments.
I am disappointed that our "leaders" have decided that they know what is best for us little people. I don't think that their timeline is feasible at this point. The infrastructure for wind and solar is still in its infancy and there is no way to continue our current way of life without fossil fuels. I hope that some people on this panel or reading these surveys is able to see a little bit into the everyday life of citizens of Eau Claire and not think quite so much about lining their own pockets.
It's the money. charging stations are great, but I cannot afford a new car. And so it goes.
Let's lead, not follow. I believe 2050 is WAY too late. Try 2030. We pay the price now or we pay more (financially and in misery) later.

43. How would you like to be involved in creating the Eau Claire County Climate Action & Resilience Plan going forward?



Planning and Development

SELECTED PERFORMANCE MEASURES	
Value of new construction, land use permits (Year to date)	70.3 million
Number of acres planted with the County's "no till planter" (Year to Date).	420 acres were planted in 2023.
SUMMARY OF CURRENT ACTIVITIES	
<p><u>Land Conservation</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Bond and SEG cost share contracts approved by LCC and extended into 2024 with \$37,100.00 in extended funds. ▪ The new no-till drill was delivered in December and put into storage for spring of 2024. ▪ UniverCity project wrapped up in December with students presenting their projects. ▪ 2024 Multi Discharger Variance Funds to start arriving in March. ▪ LCC Conservation Awards were presented at the December County Board meeting. <p><u>GIS</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Completed our Emergency Service Atlas Project, produced a print ready pdf document and successfully worked with for the DNR and Fire Chiefs receiving a second grant for printing. ▪ Completed our 2023 NG911 grant project with DATAMARK. Conducted remediation pass of our NG911 GIS data making sure our migration to the new WI NG911 data standards meets the county and statewide needs. ▪ Submitted an updated address point layer to the Wisconsin Elections Commission, with the new NG911 data standard this submission dramatically improved the spatial accuracy a usability of our data for the WisVote system. ▪ Finished our public facing GIS website migration from the sunset WGX site to the new Beacon platform. ▪ Continued remapping of Township 25N Range 7W. <p><u>Planning and Sustainability</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Hired 2 recycling attendants to fill vacant positions and hired a Recycling & Sustainability intern. ▪ Awarded 6 grants of \$1,000 each through the Schools Fight Food Waste program to area schools. County staff and JONAH Environmental Taskforce Volunteers assisted all awardees in performing waste audits and educating students on composting. ▪ Hosted final stakeholder engagement meetings for Community CARP and finalized document. ▪ Working with steering committee to review and update 2015 County Farmland Preservation Plan. The plan update is anticipated to be completed this year. ▪ Received \$18,000 grant from Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) to update Farmland Preservation Plan. The grant money will primarily be used to offset county staff costs associated with the plan update. ▪ Will be contracting with the Town of Drammen to update portions of their comprehensive plan. <p><u>Emergency Management</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Focused on closing out FY23 grants ▪ Assisting with reviewing phone apps and mass notification system options ▪ Offered trainings on Vulnerable Populations, Cybersecurity, Event Security Planning, and Incident Management Team Liaison Officer Position-Specific course ▪ Conducted a significant Emergency Operations Center exercise focused on sustaining operations for a long-term power outage with severe winter conditions <p><u>Land Records</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Wrapped 2023 road maintenance corners –draft tiesheets, proof, sign, scan, push to web. ▪ Warm, permissive weather allowed additional field collection in some lesser-accessible 	

- Cleaned data for records that were pushed to web.
- Closed 2023 tax roll year.
- Assisting with reviewing phone apps and mass notification system options

Land Use Controls

- Continue the implementation of the updated title 18 and assist Towns as they move forward with adoption.
 - 6 towns have adopted and three others appear to be considering adoption.
- Nearing completion of 2023 NMM annual reporting.
- Review permit application and land division requests.
- Self-audit and ensure existing NMM permits are complete. Any missing information will need to be obtained.
- Continued onboarding of Land Use Technician and increasing responsibilities as knowledge expands.

ISSUES ON THE HORIZON AND SIGNIFICANT TRENDS

Land Conservation

- Town of Clear Creek working on acquiring petitions to expand the Golden Triangle AEA.

GIS

- We applied for and were successful in receiving a 2024 NG911 Grant. This project will significantly improve the quality and completeness of our NG911 data.
- With the migration to the Beacon platform, we will need to update our GIS Hub site to highlight this new app along with several other new additions.
- To complete our 2023 Ortho project, we will integrate the new images into our AWS account and make them available for public download.

Planning and Sustainability

- It is unlikely that there will be an affordable option for pesticides and fertilizer disposal anytime soon through our Clean Sweep program. Need to make decision whether to continue not taking those items, allocate substantially more money to be able to allow residents to dispose of them for free, or start charging a fee during the events for disposal.
- As the Community CARP is adopted it will require a shift in staff time and resources to implement the new initiatives outlined in the plan.
- Will be updating recycling code and recycling related contracts to hopefully streamline program administration.
- Waste haulers have decided to not continue the bulk item pick up dates anymore.
- There has been a notable reduction in the number of inquiries regarding residential subdivision development, which may be construed as a leading indicator of near-term (next 1-2 years) development activity and new home permitting. Higher interest rates, high construction costs, economic uncertainty, and challenges with intergovernmental cooperation regarding annexation are all likely factors adversely impacting housing development in unincorporated Eau Claire County.

Emergency Management

- Continued reduction of federal grant funding is forcing state and local governments to start reducing training and potentially services
- Increasing number of GIS tools that will help streamline disaster response and recovery, but staff needs to learn how to use GIS effectively
- Number of billion-dollar weather-related disasters hit a record for at least the 3rd time in the past 5 years, and with the lack of winter precipitation to date, there is concern for wildfire and drought conditions locally to impact the spring

Land Records

- Weather conditions have not allowed us to access areas that require frozen ground or swamp surface.
- Moving into a new project area with two current project areas open will be difficult. -We need to wrap Town 26 North, Range 6 West. The pausing of the field position eliminated the field staffer

that had visited those sites and corners. Making decisions about the corner position requires firsthand visit experience, so we've had to revisit many of those corners.

Land Use Controls

- Higher interest rates than what's been available in recent history are causing concern that permitting will slow causing any permit revenue to decrease. The permit activity has not slowed over the previous year, but this is still a concern moving forward.

CURRENT COLLABORATIONS (INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL)

Land Conservation

- Met with a UW student to review a potential spring semester UniverCity GIS project.
- Assisting the Lake Altoona District by attending bi-weekly meetings with the US Army Corps of Engineers.
- Continue to partner with the WI DNR on NR 151 violations.
- TTECH is supposed to go live with the Stormwater Module.
- Corporation Counsel preparing draft Title 17 revisions.

GIS

- The move to NG911 is a collaborative effort between the City and County of Eau Claire. We are working together to improve the completeness and quality of our data. We have created a grant funded GIS LTE Tech to work on both City and County address data.
- Working with the Highway department and their GIS needs during staff turnover.
- Continue collaborating with the City of Eau Claire in our migration to the Beacon platform.
- Serving on the Wisconsin Land Information Association's legislative committee collaborated with many other county-based organizations (WCA, WRDA, WRPLA) on statewide land records issues.

Planning and Sustainability

- Partnering with ECASD, JONAH Environmental Task force, and Earthbound Environmental on the first round of Schools Fight Food Waste grant program.
- Working on a joint Energy Innovation Grant Program application with Facilities, Highway, and Planning and Development for EV infrastructure and 3 electric vehicles.
- As part of the Wisconsin Local Government Climate Coalition applying for grant opportunities to improve data access and availability of greenhouse emissions inventory software to local governments across the state.
- Planning the 2nd Earth Week Open House with Beaver Creek Reserve and JONAH ETF.

Emergency Management

- FEMA Regional Advisory Council
- Wisconsin Emergency Management Association and International Association of EM's
- Hazard Mitigation Steering Committee

Land Records

- Began working with Airport on legal description work for lease areas depicted on the lease exhibit map. These descriptions will be recorded in compliance with new rules for tracking/taxing personal property that has a geographic location.
- Worked very closely with GIS to ensure the move of survey information to the new Beacon GIS webserver still provided surveyors web access to land records.

Land Use Controls

- Continue to work with the public, Towns, and County Board Members that have an interest or concern regarding zoning, shoreland, floodplain, and other program areas our office covers.
- Work with Towns to implement the updated title 18.

GOALS FOR NEXT QUARTER

Land Conservation

- Nutrient Management Farmer Education workshops held in January 2024 with 47 participants. 1 on 1 meetings to continue throughout spring.
- Apply for 2025 DATCP funding.
- Hire summer Conservation Intern.
- Bring Title 17 revisions to the LCC and P&D Committees for approval.

GIS

- Complete the redesign of our ESRI Hub site, highlighting many of our new GIS Apps.
- On board a new GIS LTE Tech for our NG911 grant project.
- Finalize our 2023 Flight by having our data available for public download on our Open Data site.
- Launch the next remapping project area.

Planning and Sustainability

- Host open houses for the community to provide feedback on the CARP.
- Adoption of Community CARP by county board.
- Update design and function of recycling & sustainability webpages.
- Hire and onboard Planning Intern.
- Finalize contract with Town of Drammen to update portions of the town's comprehensive plan.

Emergency Management

- Kick off hazard mitigation plan revision
- Start or continue planning for 3 exercises in 2024 (hazardous materials, airport, county disaster/EOC)
- Start work on 2024 Integrated Preparedness Plan items

Land Records

- Continue to work with Airport in creating legal descriptions for leased parcels.
- Assemble corner folders for road maintenance work, 2024.
- Begin recruitment for a summer survey intern.
- Continue to work in Town 26 North, Range 6 West corner decisions and finalizing of tie sheets.

Land Use Controls

- Assist and support Towns as they move forward with the implementation of the updated title 18.
- Submit Title 18 to DATCP for review and certify compliance with farmland preservation standards.
- Update NMM reclamation overlay to ensure compliance with NR135

**Planning and Development
January 2024**

The following bills were sent to the Finance Department for payment:

Planning

Vendor	Amount	Description	Line Item#
ECC Highway	69.40	November Fuel (2023)	100-15-56920-330-000
Kalahari-Pcard	315.00	WSLS Conference Lodging (2024)	100-15-56920-340-000
Dept of Admin-Pcard	1,327.10	Red Building Seals (2023)	100-15-56920-310-000
Amazon (Pcard)	47.86	Office Supplies (2023)	100-15-56920-310-000
Amazon (Pcard)	56.22	Copy Paper (2023)	705-08-51451-310-381
American Planning (Pcard)	468.89	APA Membership (2023)	100-15-56920-324-000
Tommy's Express (Pcard)	14.00	Vehicle Maintenance-Car Wash (2023)	100-15-56920-241-000
Menards (Pcard)	13.97	Vehicle Supplies (2023)	100-15-56920-241-000
Voyager	196.19	December Fuel (2023)	100-15-56920-330-000
APG	83.48	Public Hearing Notice 12/12 First Run (2023)	100-15-56920-321-000
WRPLA	80.00	2024 WRPLA Membership	100-15-56920-324-000

Resurvey

Vendor	Amount	Description	Line Item#
Menards (Pcard)	36.93	Resurvey Supplies (2023)	100-15-51740-360-200
Fleet Farm (Pcard)	144.00	Resurvey Supplies (2023)	100-15-51740-360-200
WSLS (Pcard)	90.00	WSLS Membership (2024)	100-15-51740-324-000
UWSP (Pcard)	375.00	WSLS Conference Registration	100-15-56920-340-000

Emergency Management

Vendor	Amount	Description	Line Item#
Disaster Management Systems (Pcard)	367.09	EM Supplies (2023)	100-15-52927-310-726
City of Eau Claire	20,400.00	Hazmat Contract (2023)	100-15-52926-200-000
City of Eau Claire	7,234.99	Hazmat Equipment (2023)	100-15-52926-812-722

Recycling

Vendor	Amount	Description	Line Item#
City of Madison (Pcard)	4.20	Parking (2023)	100-15-56920-330-000
Town of Wilson	120.00	November 2023 Recycling Attendant	211-15-53635-208-000
Town of Wilson	150.00	December 2023 Recycling Attendant	211-15-53635-208-000
Ben Young	28.82	Mileage Expenses	211-15-53635-330-000
Regan Watts	60.64	Mileage Expenses	211-15-53635-330-000
First Choice	3,333.33	Electronics & Battery Recycling-Nov 2023	211-15-53636-309-745
First Choice	3,333.33	Electronics & Battery Recycling-Dec 2023	211-15-53636-309-745
Trash on Trucks	4,353.42	Curbside-Dec 2023	211-15-53635-201-000

Land Conservation

Vendor	Amount	Description	Line Item#
UW-Extension (Pcard)	125.00	Training (2023)	100-15-56920-340-000
RTK Mobile (Pcard)	30.00	GPS Data (2023)	100-15-56920-226-000
Voyager	42.96	December Fuel (2023)	100-15-56920-330-000
Erica Phillips	250.00	Well Abandonment (2024)	207-15-56924-390-703
West Central Land & Water Conservation	30.00	2024 West Central Land & Water Registration	100-15-56920-340-000
Austin Tollefson	15.00	Tree Sale Refund (2024)	100-15-46810-000-701
Advanced Engineering Concepts	615.50	Remington Auto Stormwater Closeout (2023)	100-00-23172-000-000
James Beesley	4.40	Tree Sale Refund/Overpayment (2023)	100-15-46810-000-701
Multiple	35,000.00	No Till Drill Grant Reimbursement (2023)	207-15-56924-200-707

Division	Totals
Planning	2,672.11
Resurvey	645.93
Emergency Management	28,002.08
Recycling	11,383.74
Land Conservation	36,112.86
Total	42,703.86