



**Joint Meeting
Committee on Administration and
Committee on Planning & Development**

Tuesday, March 19, 2024

6:30 p.m.

Courthouse – Room 1301/1302
721 Oxford Ave, Eau Claire, WI

Join by Phone:

Dial in Number: 415.655.0001

Access Code: 2536 210 9335

Join by Meeting Number:

Meeting Number: 2536 210 9335

Meeting Password: 2rkFDBjjJ24

Join from Meeting Link:

<https://eauclairecounty.webex.com/eauclairecounty/j.php?MTID=mdebc0753ebcb893400ff979924b53e59>

*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 for the Committee on Administration
2. Roll Call (Administration)
3. Call to Order and Confirmation of Meeting Notice for the Committee on Planning & Development
4. Roll Call (Planning & Development)
5. Public Comment
6. File No. 23-24/092: Resolution to recognize the County's Community Climate Action and Resilience Plan (CARP) – **Discussion/Action**
7. Adjourn

Prepared by: Samantha Kraegenbrink

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 at (715) 839-5106. For additional information on ADA requests, contact the County ADA Coordinator at (715) 839-7335, (FAX) (715) 839-1669, TTY: use Relay (711) or by writing to the ADA Coordinator, Human Resources, Eau Claire County Courthouse, 721 Oxford Avenue, Eau Claire, WI 54703.

FACT SHEET

TO FILE NO. 23-24/092

The following Community Climate Action & Resilience Plan was developed to provide the broader community with what strategies and action steps should be utilized from now until 2030 to meet the county's carbon neutrality goals and interim goal of 30% reduction by 2030. This plan was created in collaboration with various stakeholders, residents, and references several existing county plans as well as other plans within the community related to the county's carbon neutrality goals.

Within the document you will find historical greenhouse gas emissions data, emission projections based on plan implementation, strategies, and action steps to meet the goals within the plan. Efforts were made to estimate the staff time requirements and funding that would be needed and available for each action step.

At the end of the document, you will see two surveys that were conducted throughout the planning process. The first one was conducted in April 2022 and was used to gauge the community's perception of climate change related issues, their concerns, and what they thought the county should include in the plan. The second survey was conducted from February to March 2024. This allowed residents to provide feedback on the goals, strategies, and action steps within the plan. The first survey received about 150 responses and the second received 144 responses after removing responses from those residing outside of Eau Claire County.

Fiscal Impact: \$0.00

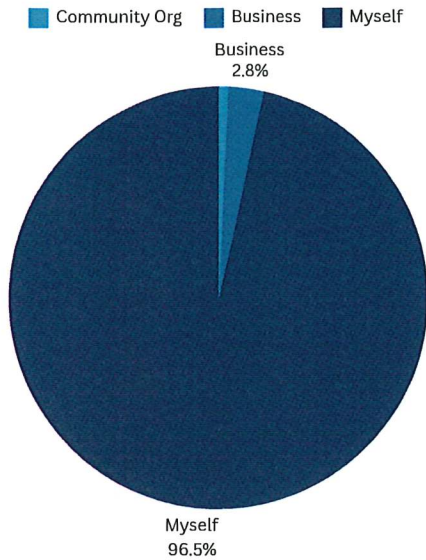
Respectfully Submitted,

Regan Watts
Recycling & Sustainability Coordinator

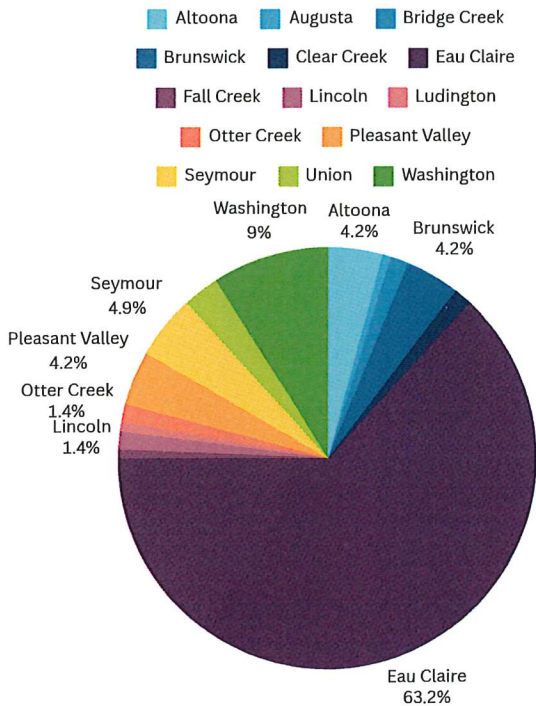
Community CARP Feedback Survey

Demographics

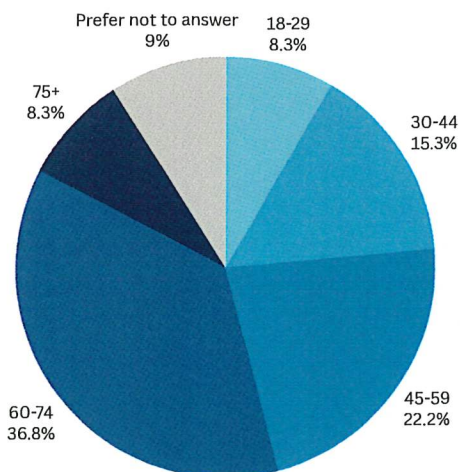
Total Survey Responses: 144 Feb-March 2024



Your questions represent the feedback of



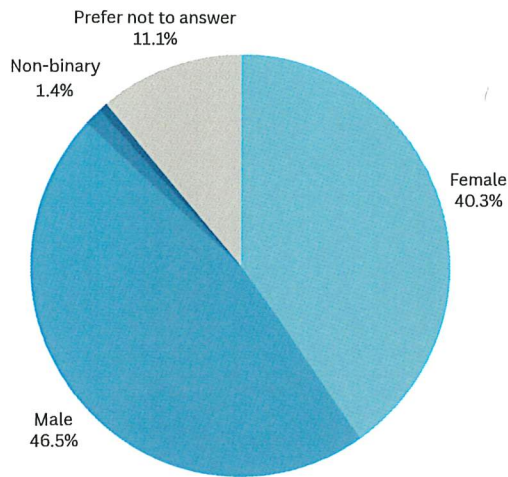
Where do you reside?



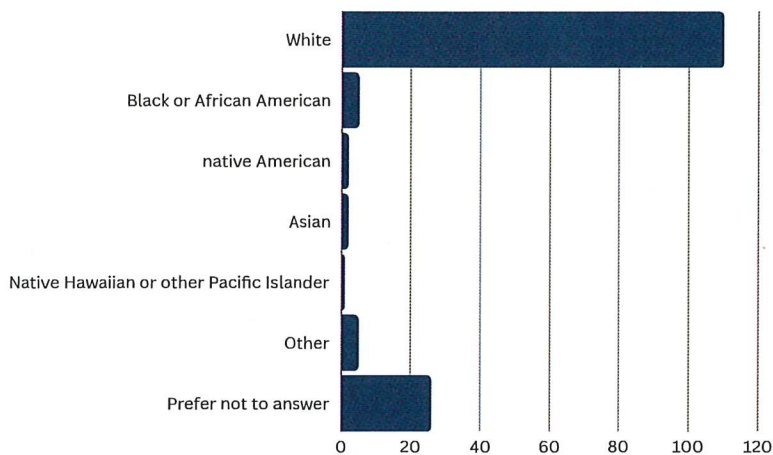
What is your age?

Community CARP Feedback Survey

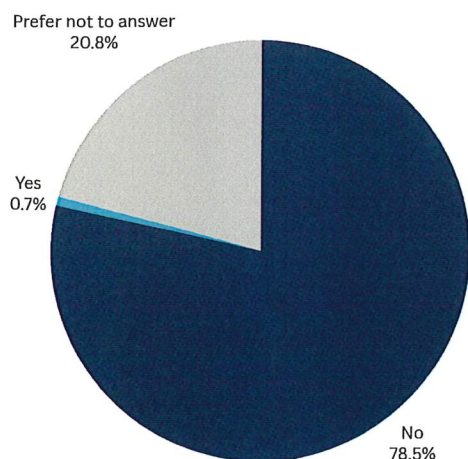
Demographics Continued



What is your gender?



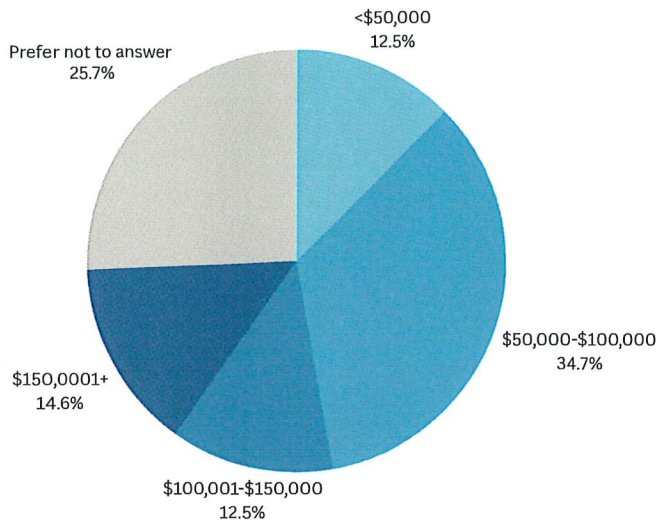
What is your race? (choose all that apply)



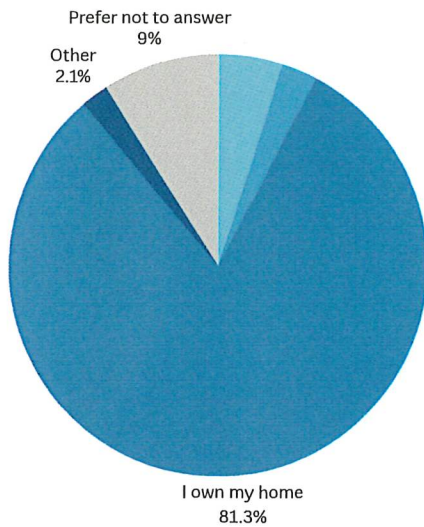
Are you Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish in origin?

Community CARP Feedback Survey

Demographics Continued



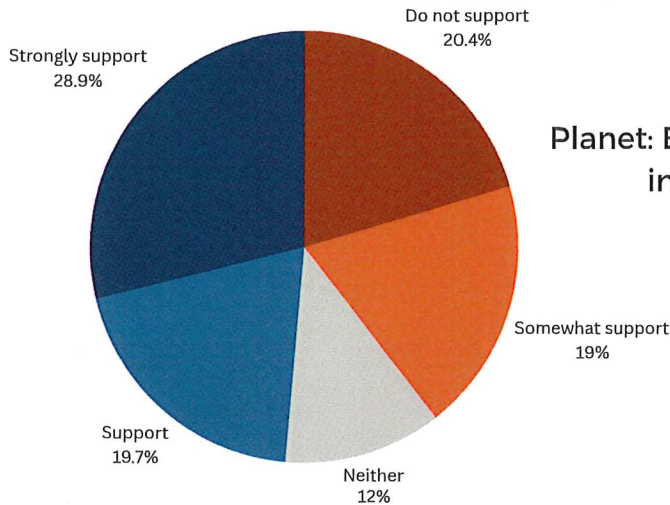
What is your annual household income?



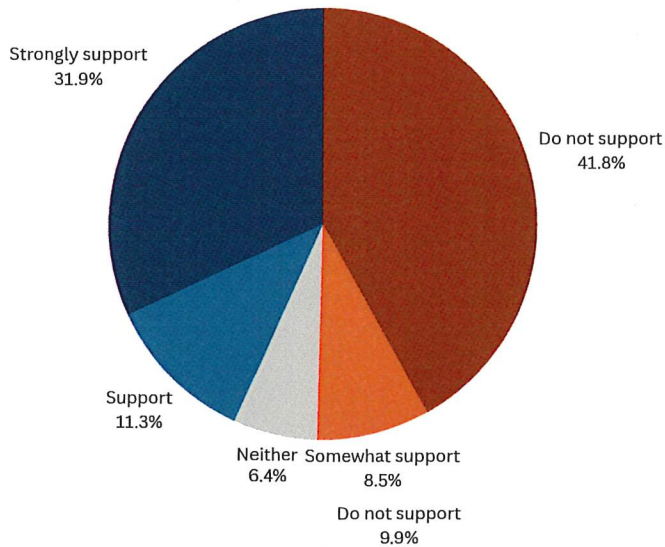
Describe your housing situation.

Community CARP Feedback Survey

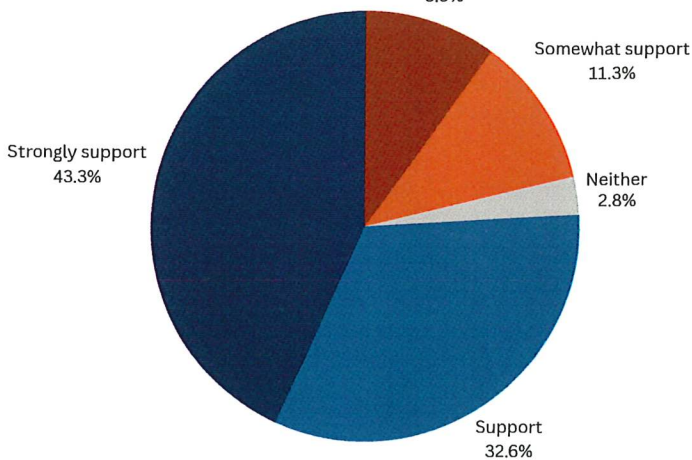
Key Values



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



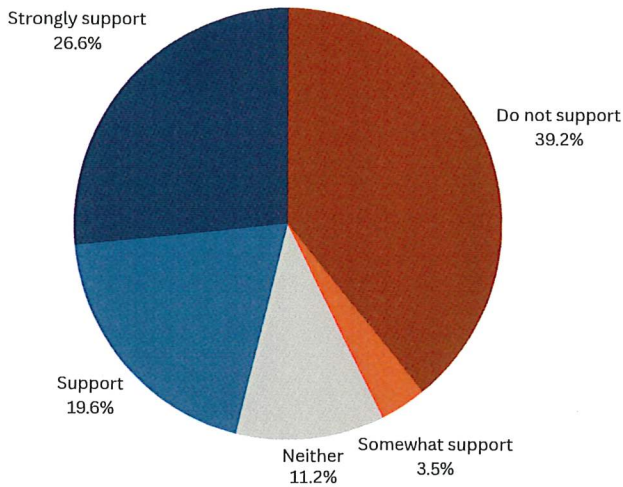
People: Eau Claire County will consider the impact of decisions, policies, and processes on all members of Eau Claire County and strive to implement equitable, diverse, and inclusive solutions for sustainability.



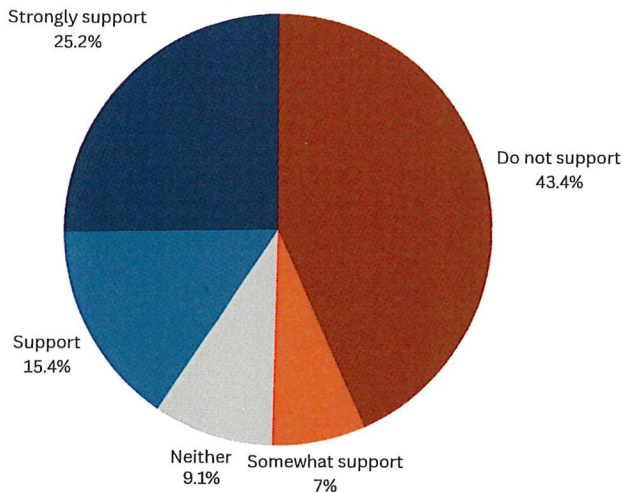
Profit (Economy): Eau Claire County will consider the fiscal impact that all decisions, policies, and processes have on the community and County budget.

Community CARP Feedback Survey

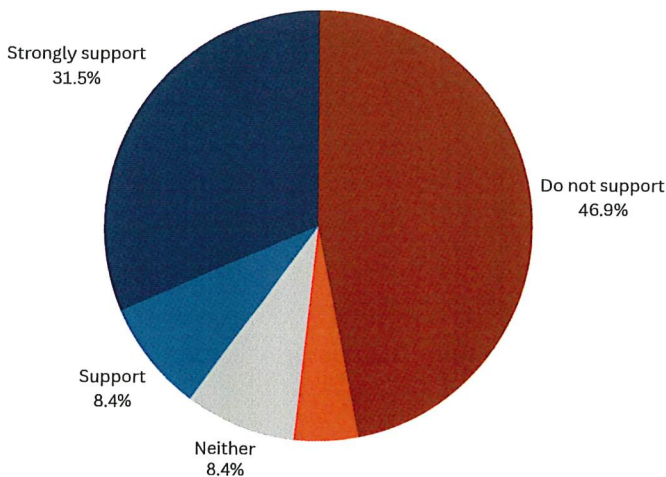
Key Themes



Educate: Eau Claire County should develop a more expansive education and community engagement program to reach the variety of sectors in the community that can leverage resources that will move the needle toward the county's sustainability goals.



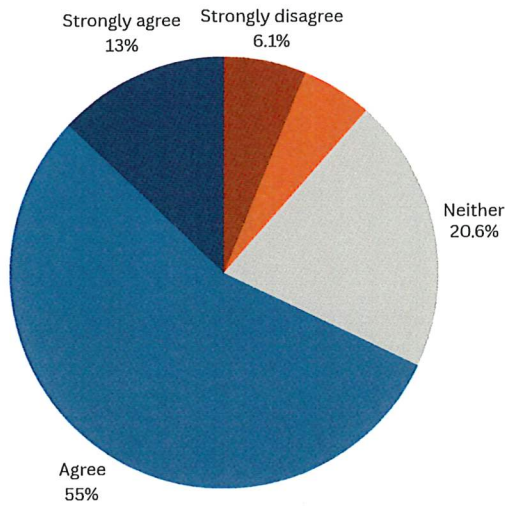
Support: The County acknowledges the work that is being done by members of the community to advance climate action and improve our local environment. The County should work to leverage the momentum in the community and support and incentivize others to adopt these practices.



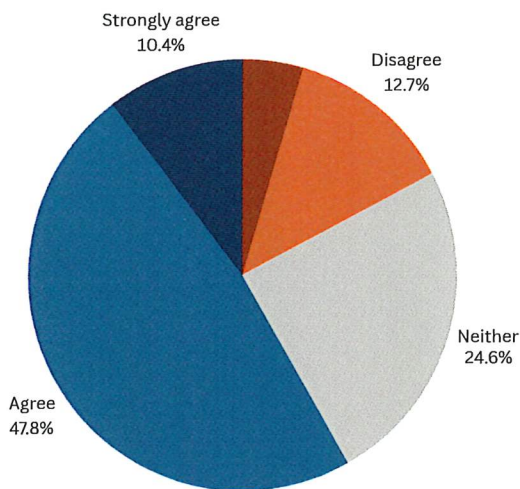
Lead: The County should continue to be a leader within the community in regard to sustainability. Ensuring that county policies are created to support climate action rather than serve as a barrier and continue to advocate for state policies that support local gov. climate action.

Community CARP Feedback Survey

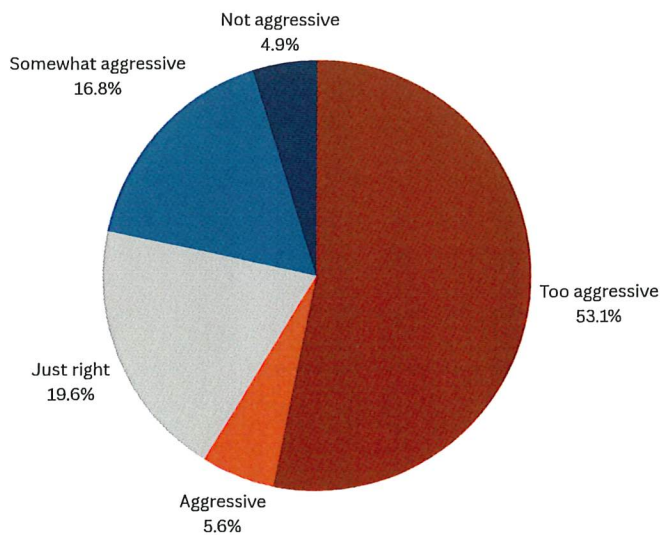
Overall Document



The document is accessible, and I am able to read and navigate through the document with ease.



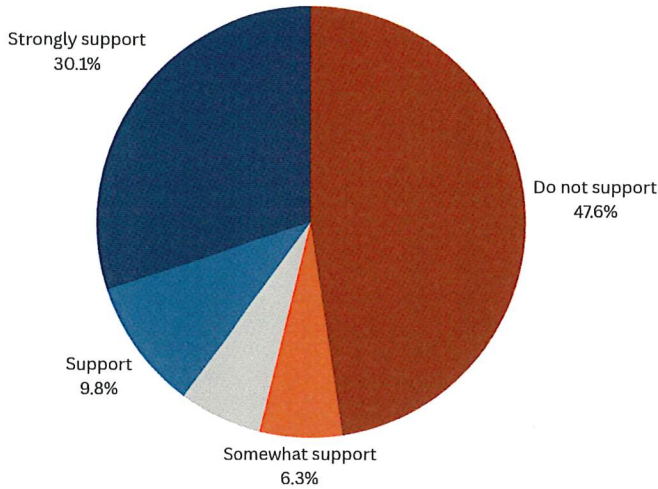
The document provides adequate background information for the reader to understand the contents of the plan.



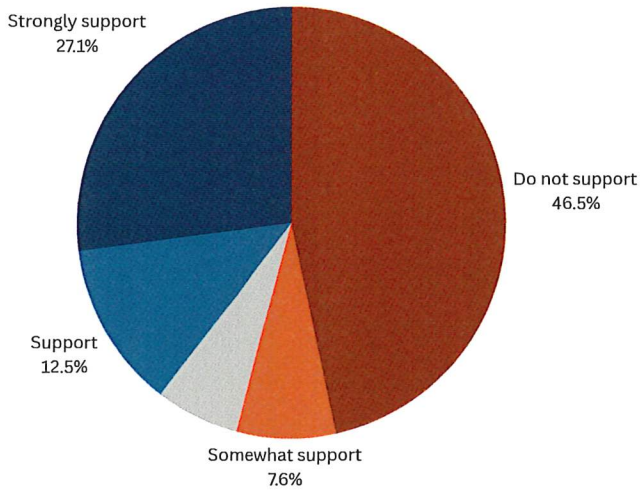
The projected emission reductions in this plan are

Community CARP Feedback Survey

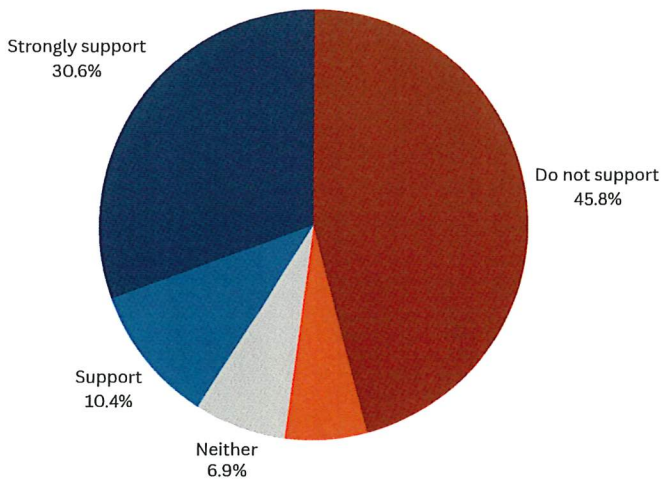
Energy Goals



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



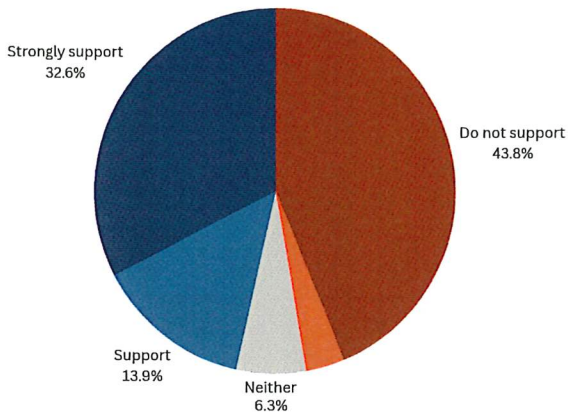
Goal 2: Reduce residential energy use by 20%.



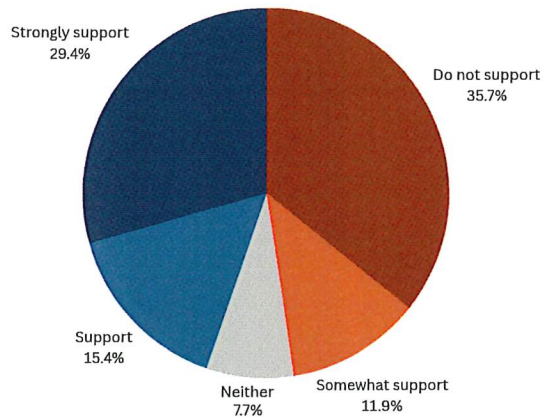
Goal 3: Reduce commercial energy use by 20%.

Community CARP Feedback Survey

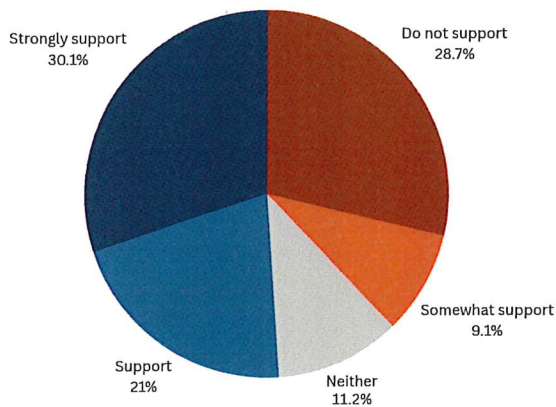
Energy Objectives



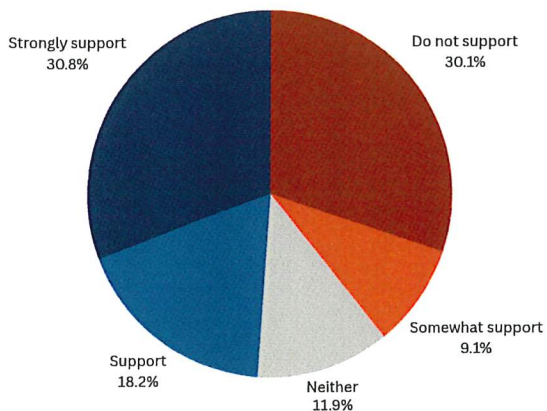
Objective 1: Support increased infrastructure to support expanded use and transmission of renewable energy.



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



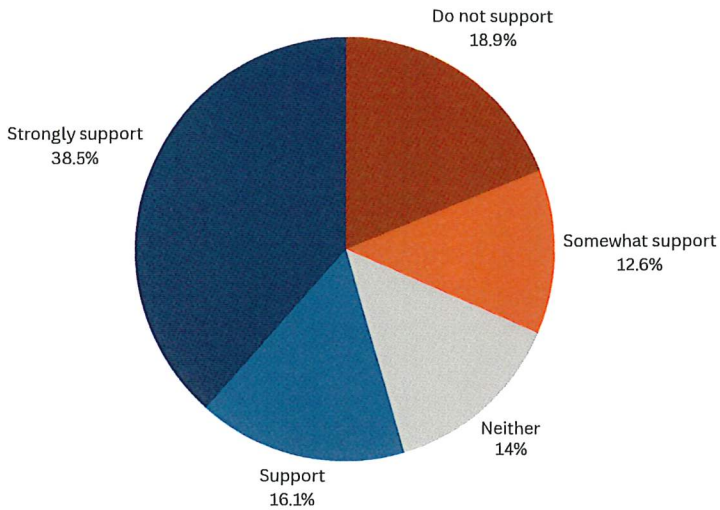
Objective 3: Increase residential awareness and participation in energy efficiency and beneficial electrification resources and incentive programs.



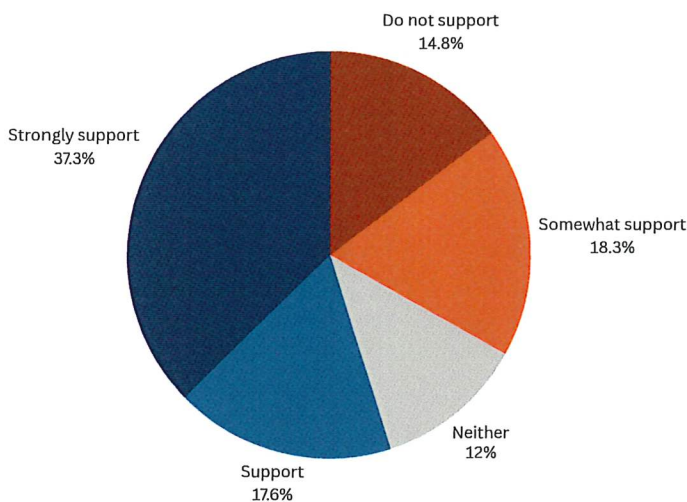
Objective 4: Increase commercial and contractor awareness and participation in energy efficiency and beneficial electrification resources and incentive programs.

Community CARP Feedback Survey

Solid Waste Goals

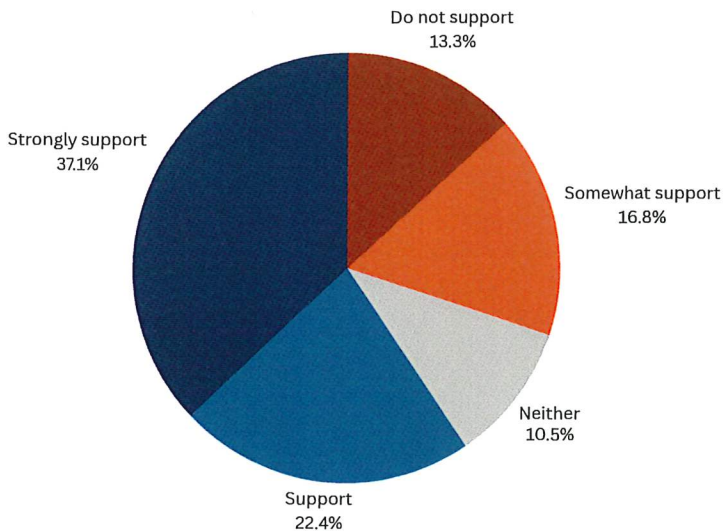


Goal 1: Divert 50% of organic material from the waste stream.



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

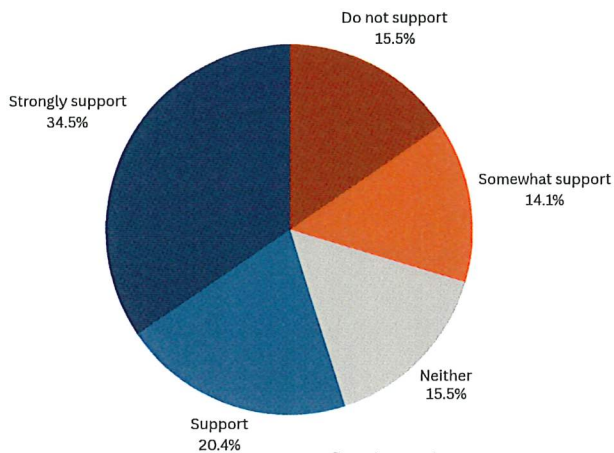
Solid Waste Objectives



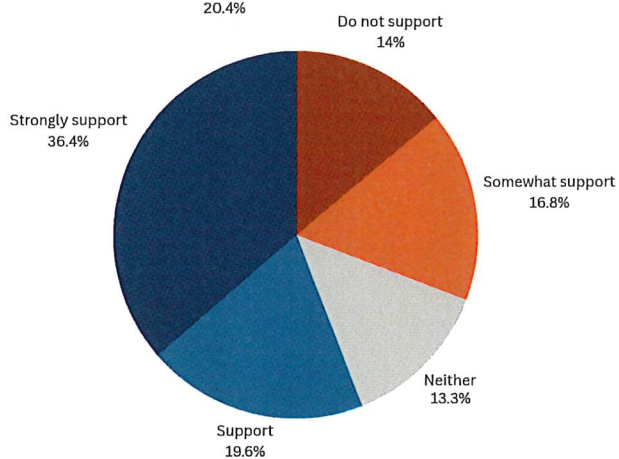
Objective 1: Increase awareness and access to composting in the County.

Community CARP Feedback Survey

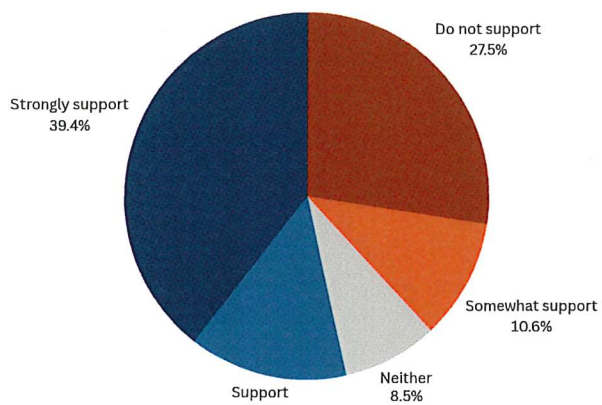
Solid Waste Objectives Continued



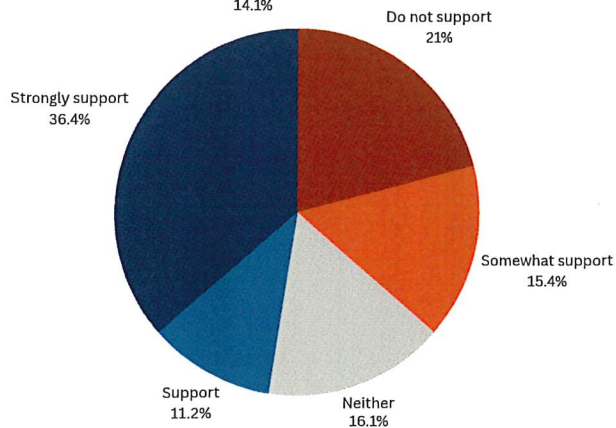
Objective 2: Increase amount of waste diverted through specialty recycling programs.



Objective 3: Increase residential awareness and participation recycling programs and events.



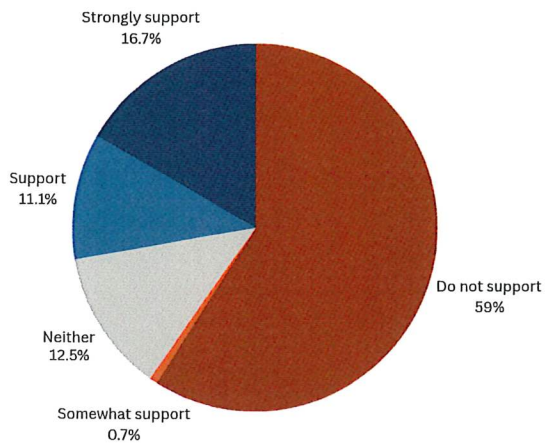
Objective 4: Increase commercial participation and compliance with recycling programs and regulations.



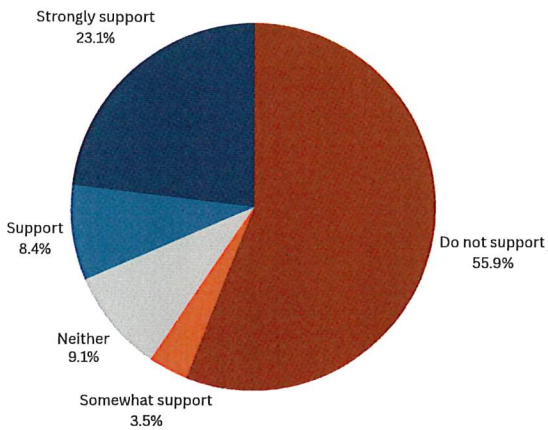
Objective 5: Establish plan for a Waste Recovery Center.

Community CARP Feedback Survey

Transportation Goals

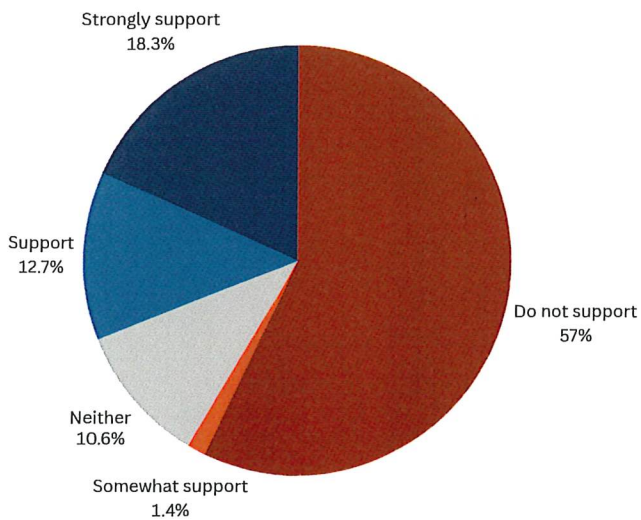


Goal 1: Have 7% of registered vehicles in the County be EVs.



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

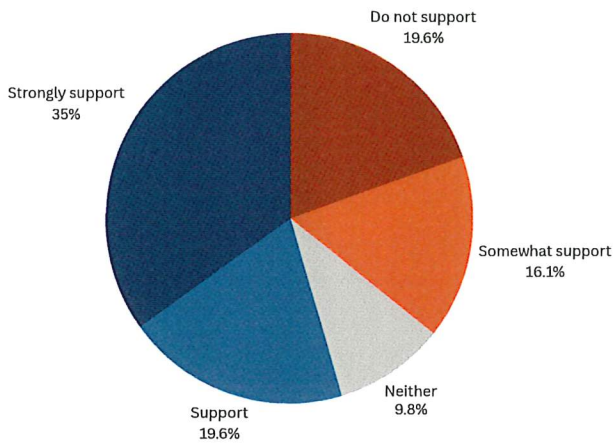
Transportation Objectives



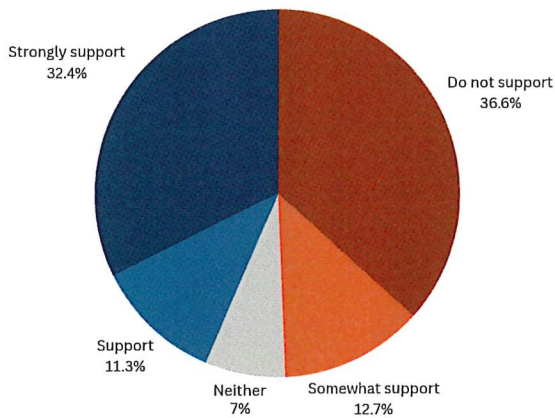
Objective 1: Collaborate on implementation of City of Eau Claire's EV Roadmap.

Community CARP Feedback Survey

Transportation Objectives Continued

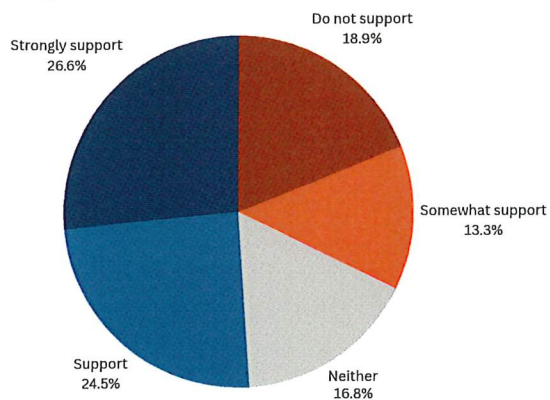


Objective 2: Support continued implementation of County Bike & Pedestrian Plan.



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

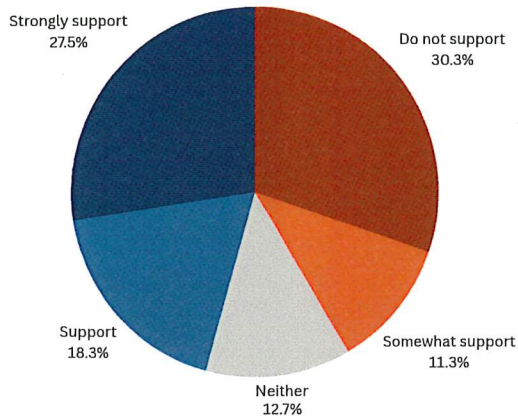
Agriculture & Natural Resources Goals



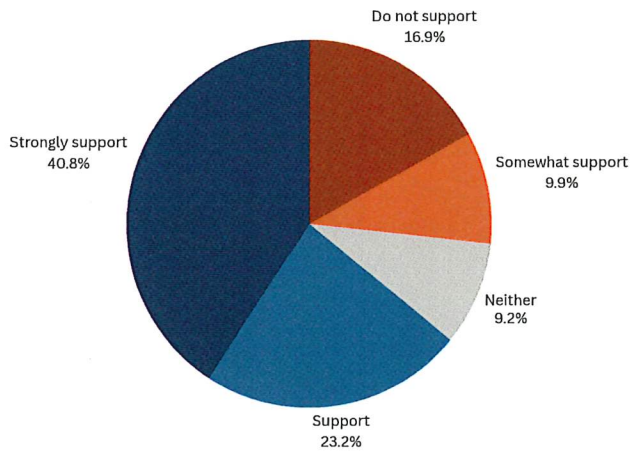
Goal 1: Increase enrollment in Farmland Preservation Program and Ag Enterprise Area

Community CARP Feedback Survey

Agriculture & Natural Resources Goals Continued

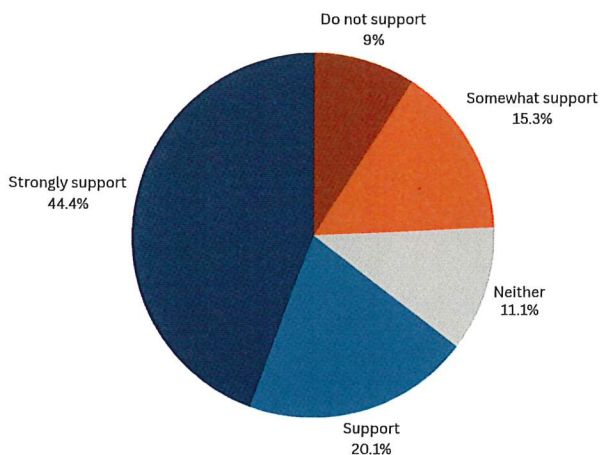


Goal 2: Increase participation in programs that support climate smart agriculture, energy savings, etc.



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

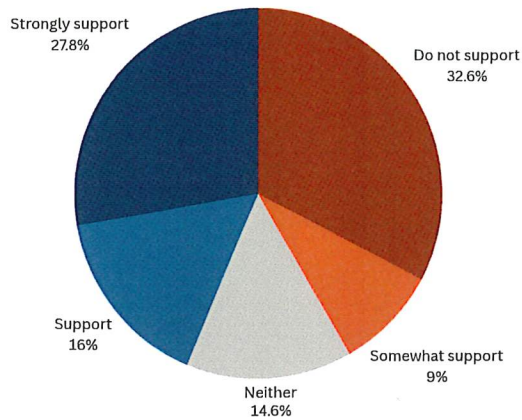
Agriculture & Natural Resources Objectives



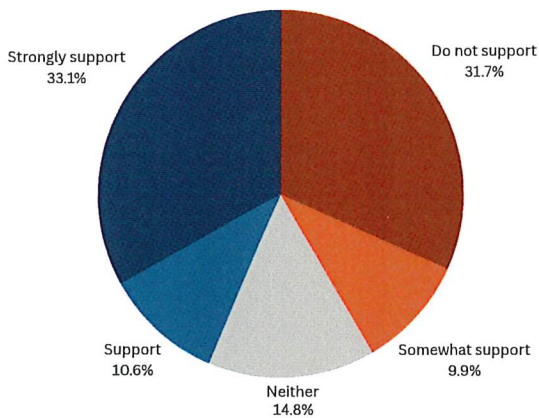
Objective 1: Retain, restore, and enhance natural spaces.

Community CARP Feedback Survey

Agriculture & Natural Resources Objectives Continued

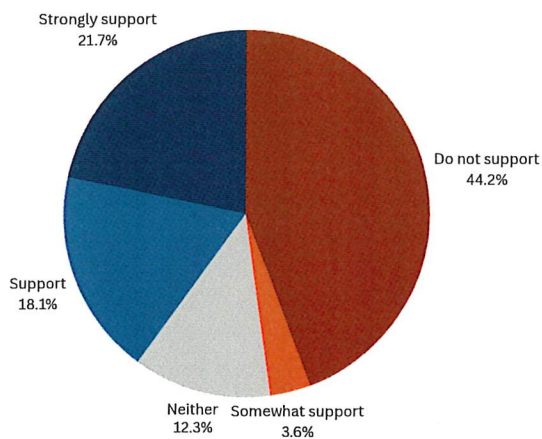


Objective 2: Educate landowners on the ins and outs of solar energy development to encourage landowner confidence and protections when approached by developers.



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

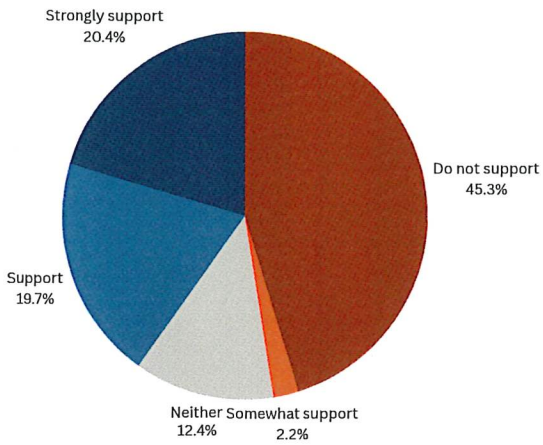
Energy Action Steps



Phase 1

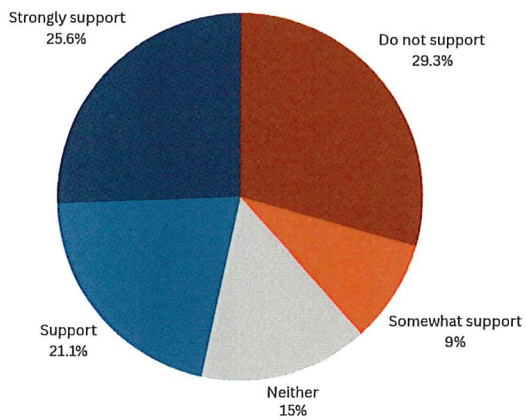
Community CARP Feedback Survey

Energy Action Steps Continued

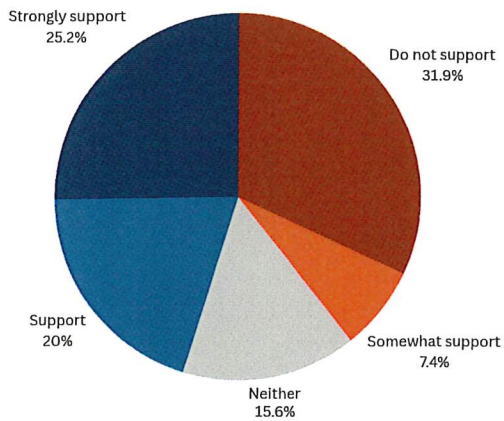


Phase 2

Solid Waste Action Steps



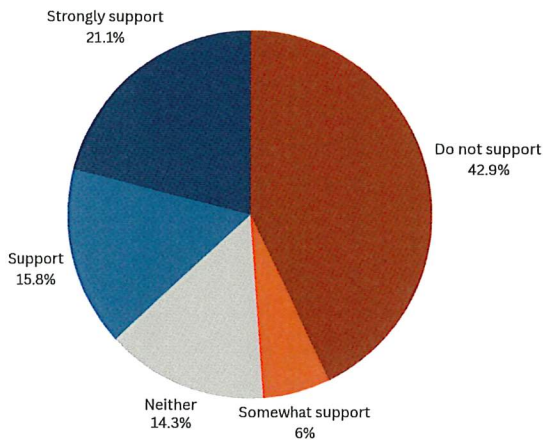
Phase 1



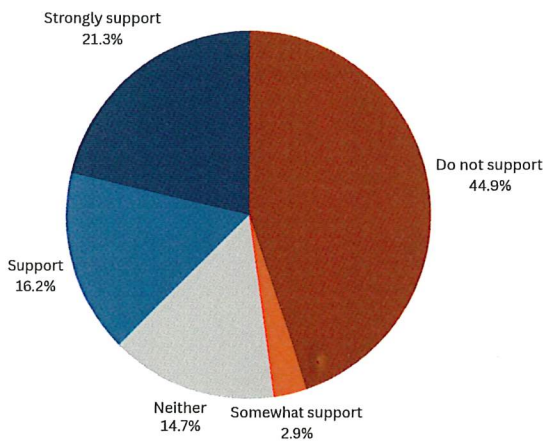
Phase 2

Community CARP Feedback Survey

Transportation Action Steps

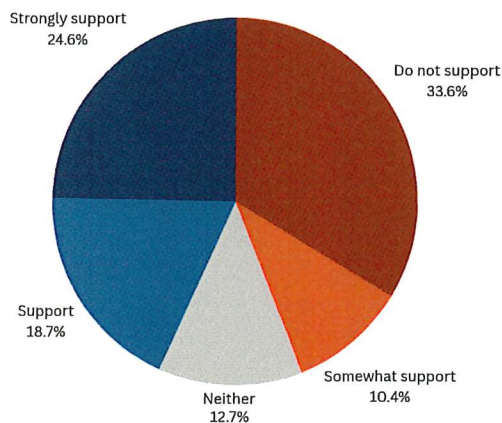


Phase 1



Phase 2

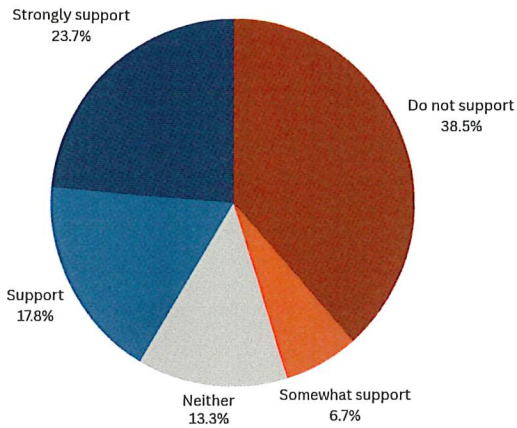
Agriculture & Natural Resources Action Steps



Phase 1

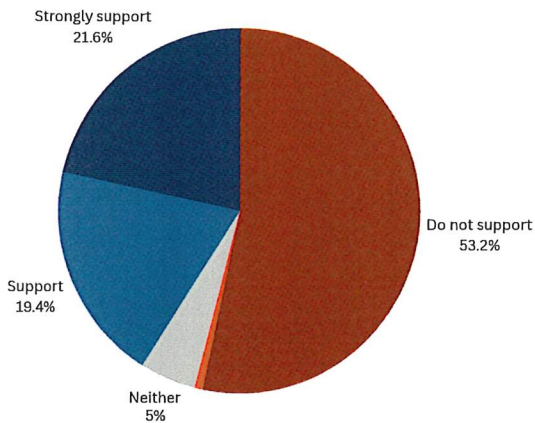
Community CARP Feedback Survey

Agriculture & Natural Resources Action Steps Continued

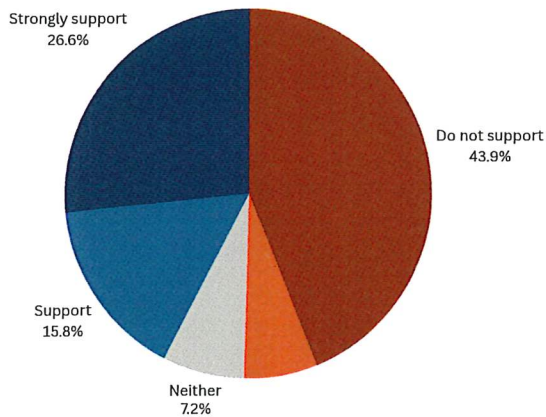


Phase 2

Supporting Action Steps



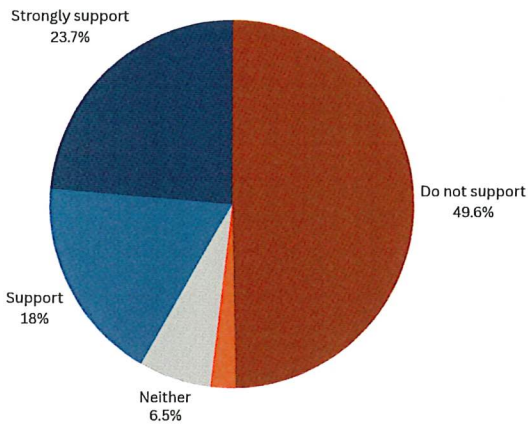
Increase staff capacity by hiring additional staff person within 3 years.



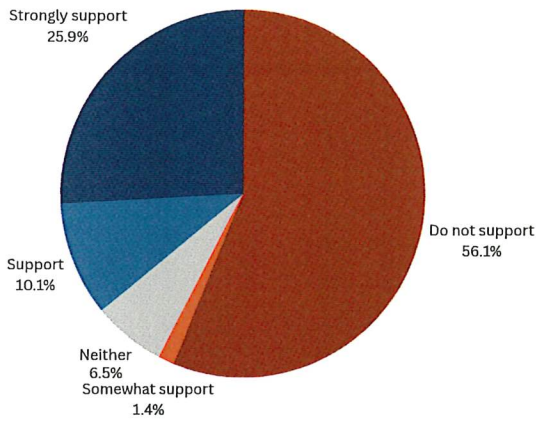
Develop a comprehensive education & outreach campaign for sustainability initiatives and programs.

Community CARP Feedback Survey

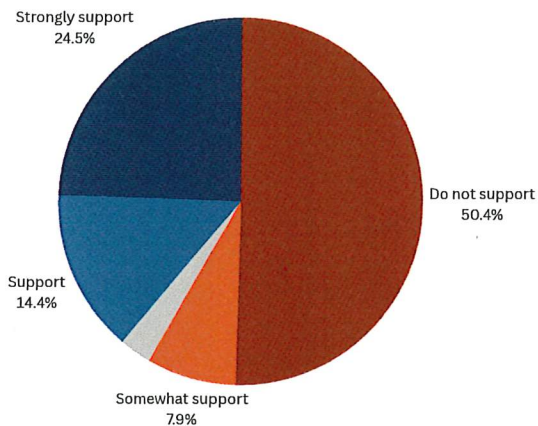
Supporting Action Steps Continued



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



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



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.

2
3
4 RESOLUTION TO RECOGNIZE THE COUNTY'S COMMUNITY CLIMATE ACTION AND
5 RESILIENCE PLAN (CARP)

6
7 WHEREAS, the county has developed a Community Climate Action and Resilience Plan
8 (CARP) to provide the broader community of the priority actions needed to meet the county's
9 carbon neutrality goals; and

10
11 WHEREAS, the Community CARP was created in collaboration with a variety
12 stakeholders and residents throughout the county. The sustainability advisory committee and
13 staff worked to engage a diverse audience throughout the process to incorporate the unique needs
14 and concerns of the community into the plan. This plan also works to incorporate actions and
15 strategies already outlined in existing county plans; and

16
17 WHEREAS, the county has identified goals, strategies, and action steps to achieve the
18 county's interim goal of 30% emission reductions by 2030. These goals, strategies, and action
19 steps look to address the needs of the community while also leveraging existing resources
20 including grants, existing programs, and educational materials that the community can leverage;
21 and

22
23 WHEREAS, the Eau Claire County Board approved Resolution 19-20/003 in March 2019
24 to establish goals of 100% renewable energy and carbon neutrality by the year 2050 for Eau Claire
25 County; and

26
27 WHEREAS, the Eau Claire County approved Resolution 22-23/042 in July 2022 to
28 recognize the County's Operational Climate Action & Resilience Plan. This plan directs staff to
29 develop a Community Climate Action & Resilience Plan.

30
31 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors of Eau Claire
32 County, that it recognizes the Community Climate Action and Resilience Plan as a guidance
33 document to implement key strategies in collaboration with the community to meet the county's
34 carbon neutrality goals.

35
36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED to collaborate with the City of Eau Claire's Sustainability
37 Advisory Committee, Wisconsin Local Government Climate Coalition, other governmental bodies
38 within the county, PACE Wisconsin, UWEC, CVTC, school districts, other civic entities, and
39 encourage community participation; and,

40
41 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that county government will continue to educate, lead, and
42 support sustainability initiatives in the community that are in line with the Community CARP and
43 work toward the county's carbon neutrality goals.

1 ADOPTED

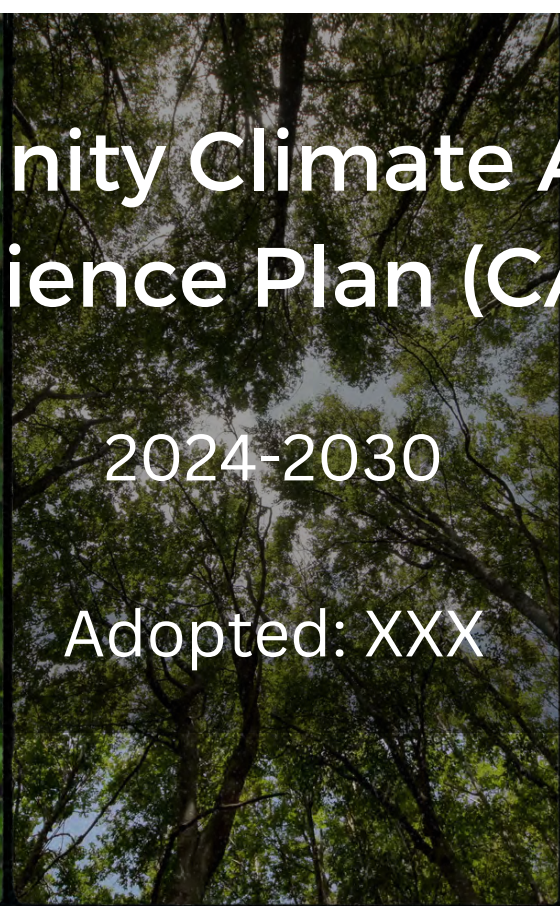
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Committee on Planning & Development

VOTE: _____ AYE _____ NAY

Committee on Administration

VOTE: _____ AYE _____ NAY



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

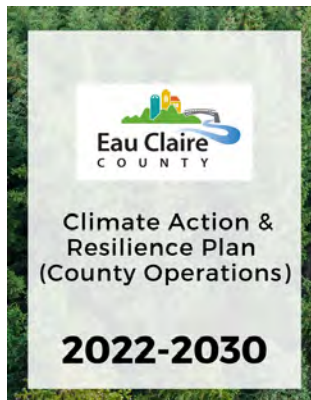
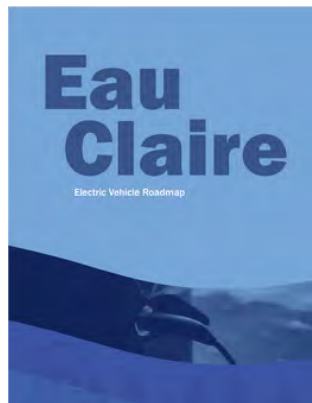
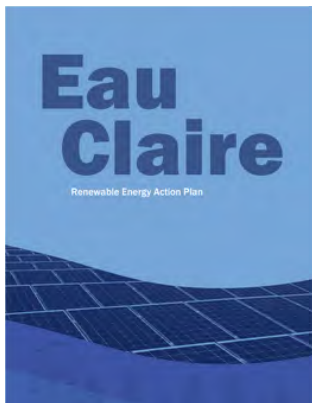
WICCI: Wisconsin Initiative on Climate Change Impacts

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

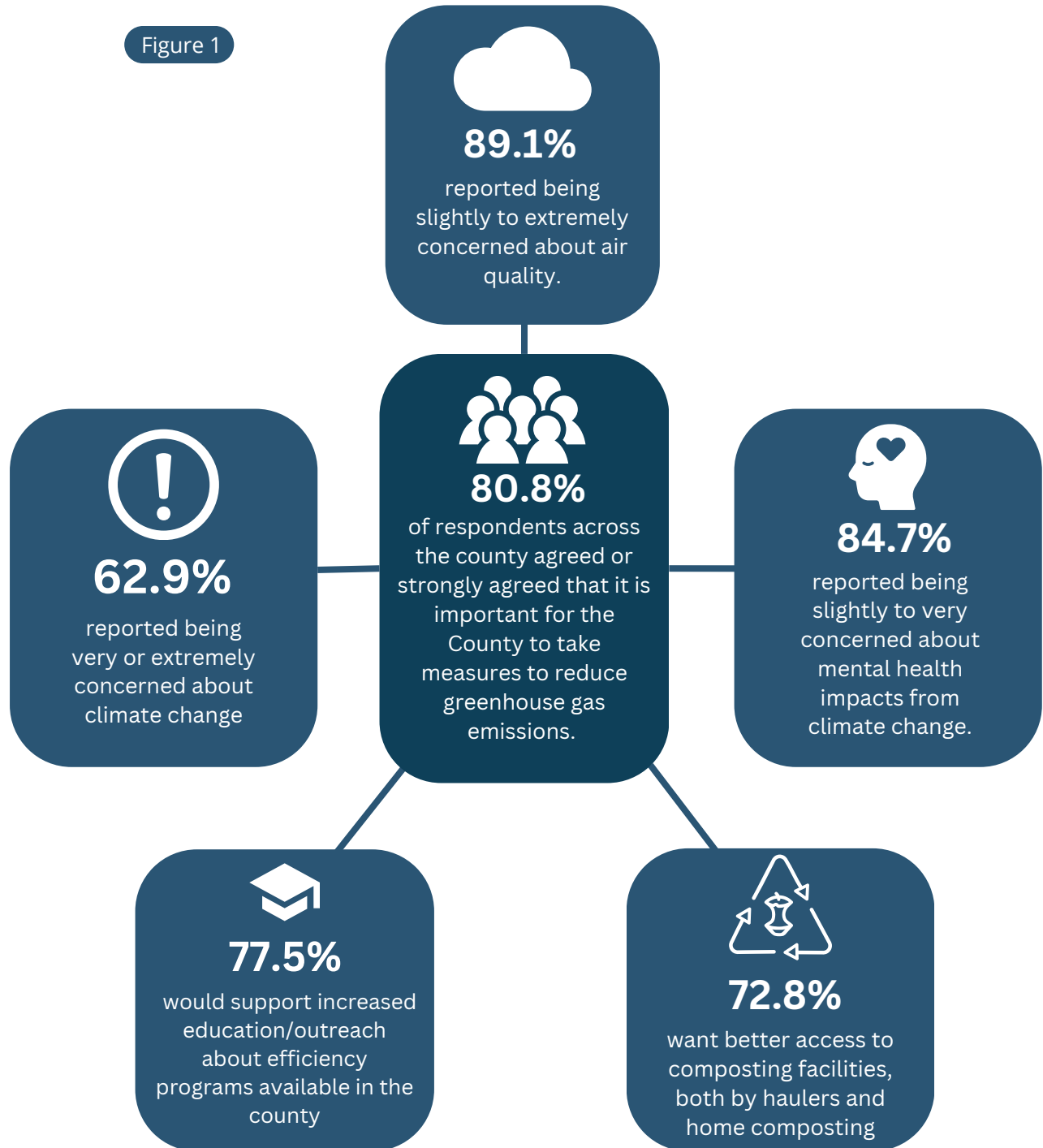
March 2024
Committee & County board adoption



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

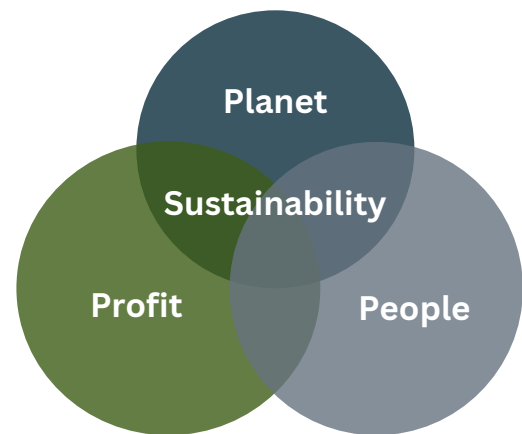


Key Values

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.



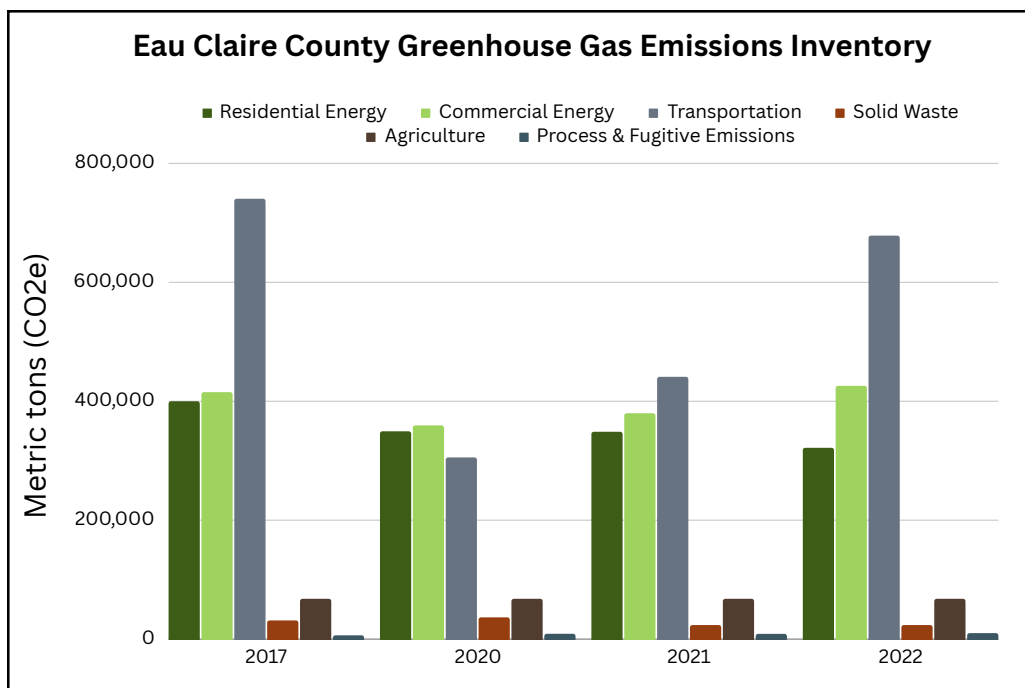
Eau Claire County should continue to be a leader within the community in regard to sustainability. Ensuring that county policies are created to support climate action rather than serve as a barrier. The County should continue to advocate for state policies that support local government climate action.

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



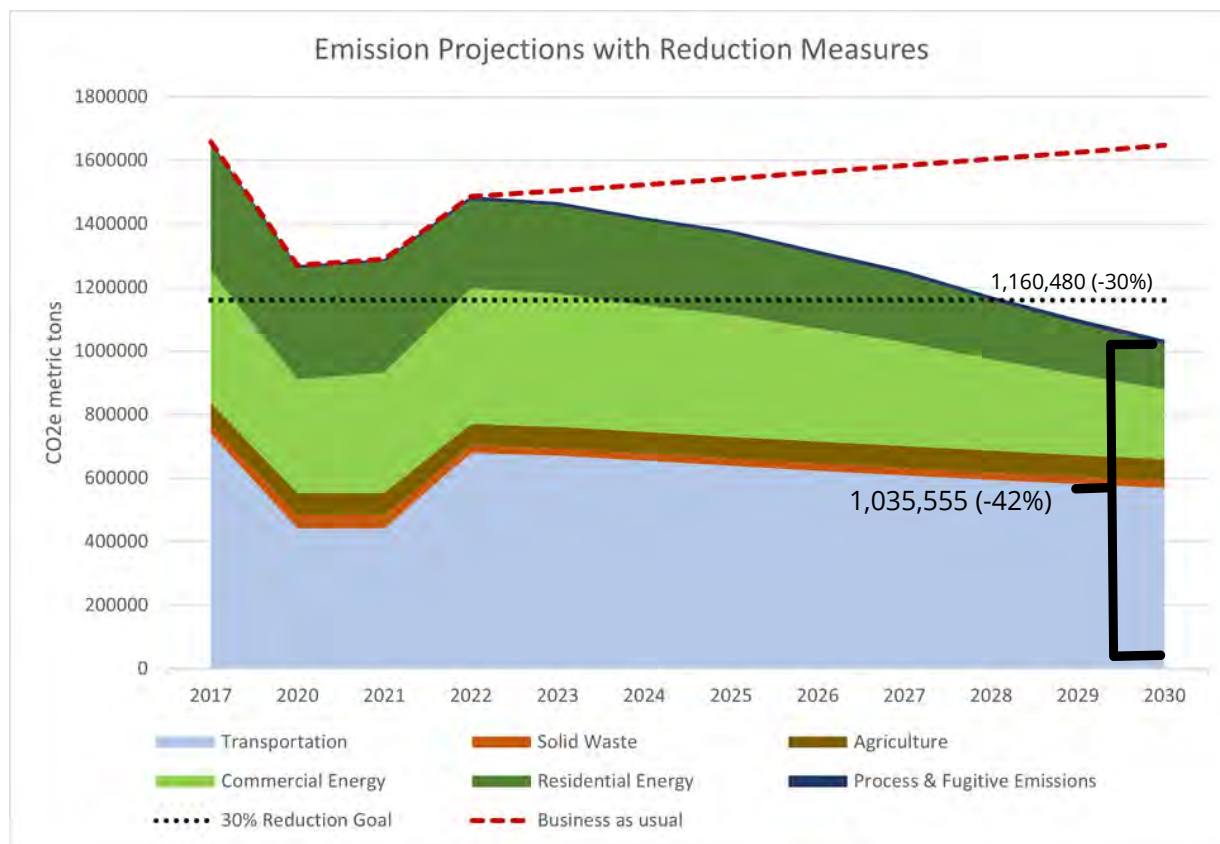
In 2020, with the COVID-19 pandemic, we saw a noticeable shift in emissions. Analyzing the graph, there was a dramatic shift in transportation emissions. This is likely correlated to the shift in lifestyle which so many had to quickly adopt during the pandemic which resulted in more people working remote. 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.

Projected Impacts

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

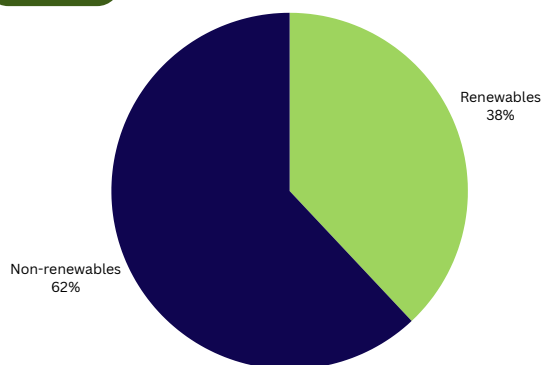
Goal 3: Reduce commercial energy use by 20%

- **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

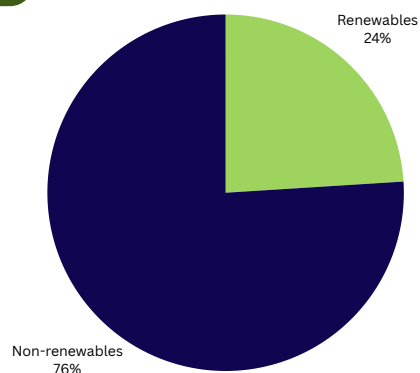
Annual Electricity Generation Mix

Figure 5



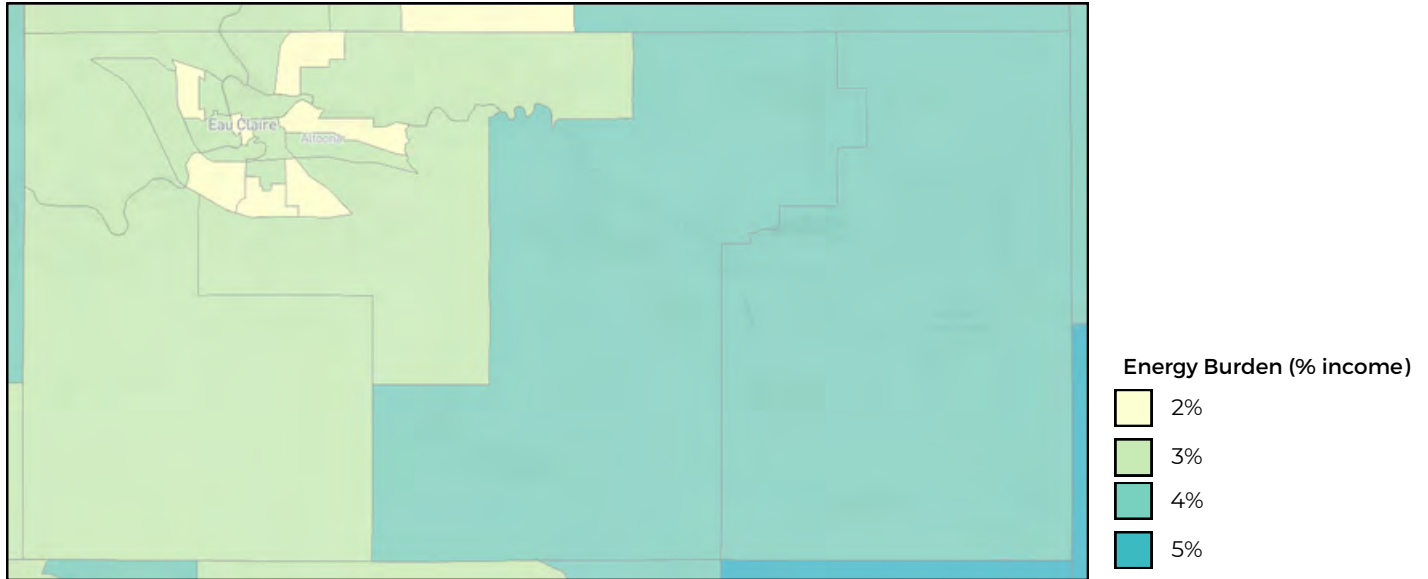
2022 Xcel Energy Wisconsin Energy Mix

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

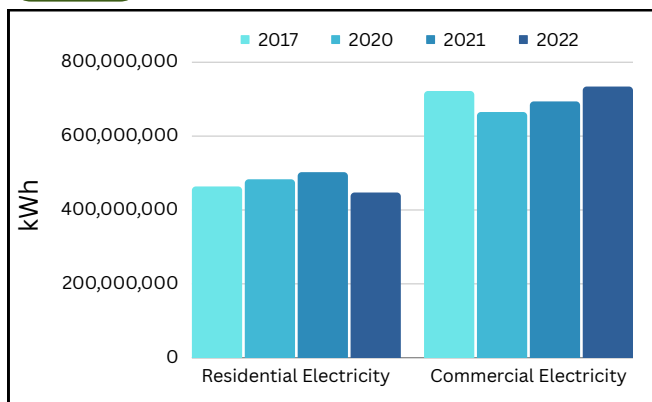
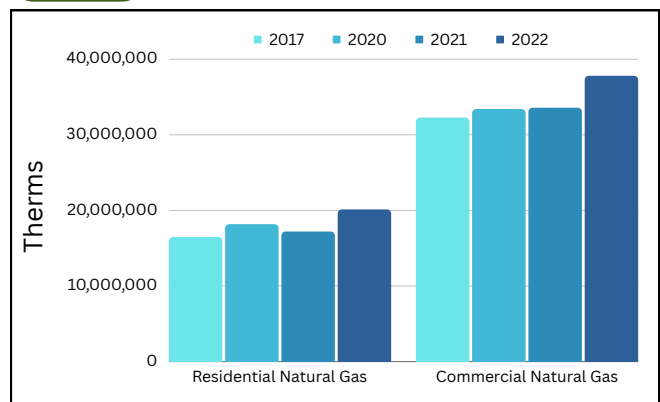


Figure 8



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

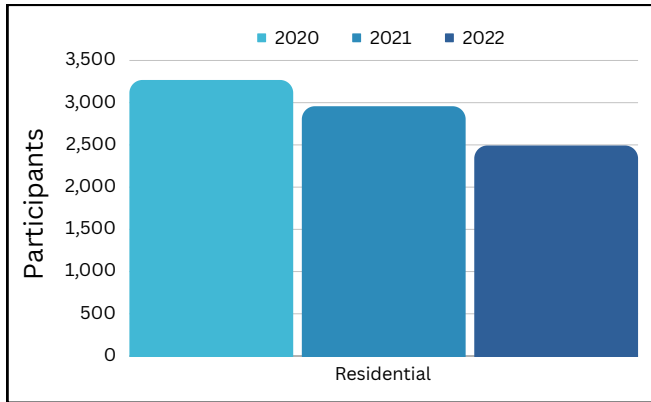
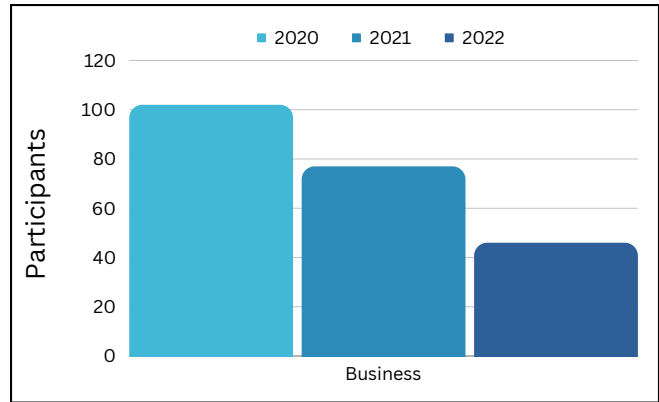


Figure 10



Focus on Energy Estimated Energy Savings

Figure 11

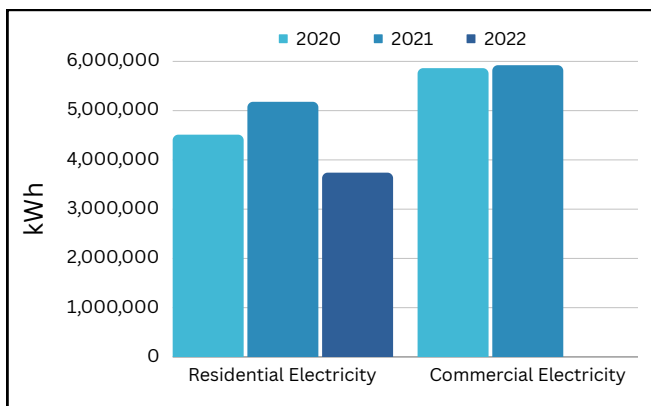
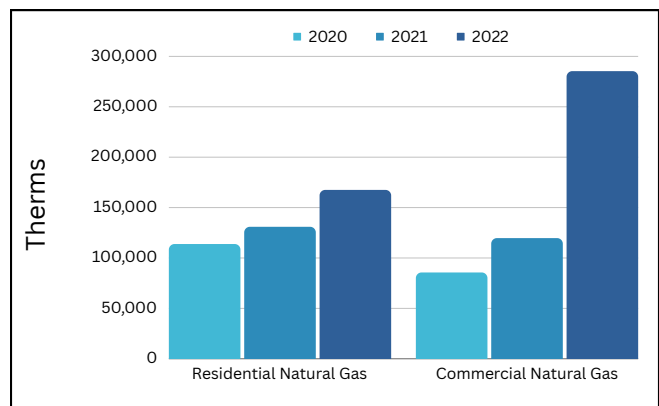


Figure 12



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.

Energy Supporting Strategies

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

Collaboration

C.1: Leverage programs, funding, and resources from state, federal, and non-profit agencies.

C.2: Provide grant writing support to 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

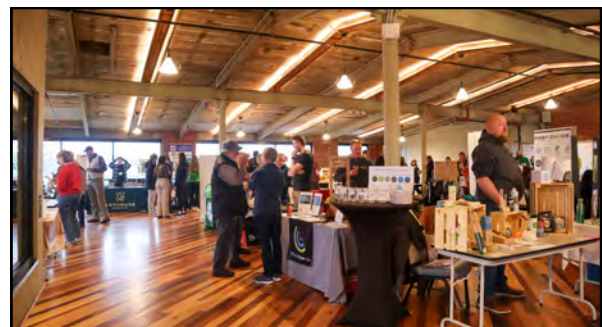
R.1: Monitor community-wide energy data including overall energy use, renewable energy generation, incentive program participation, and energy costs.

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.

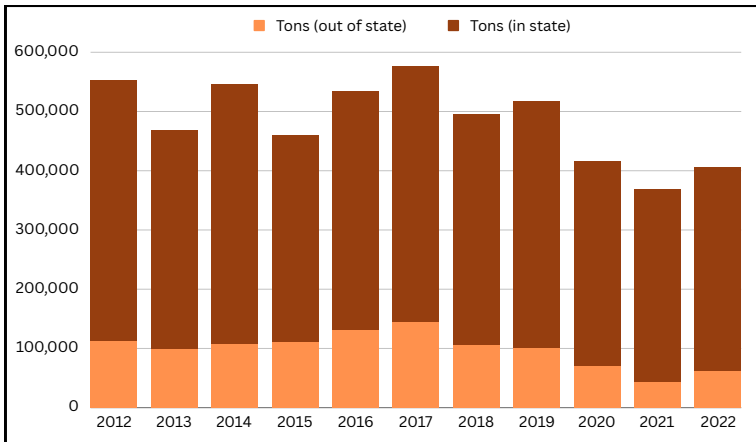
At the end of 2023 this private-public partnership resulted in:

- 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.



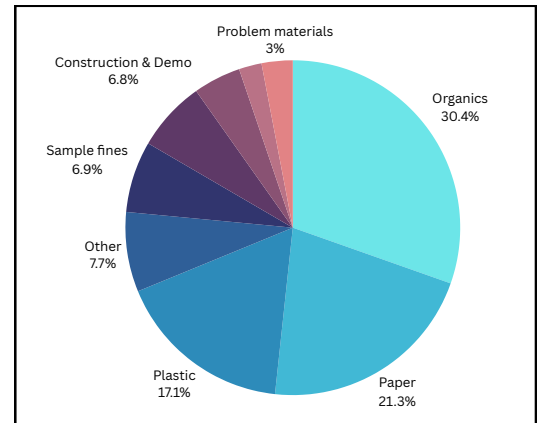
Solid Waste Baseline Indicator Data

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

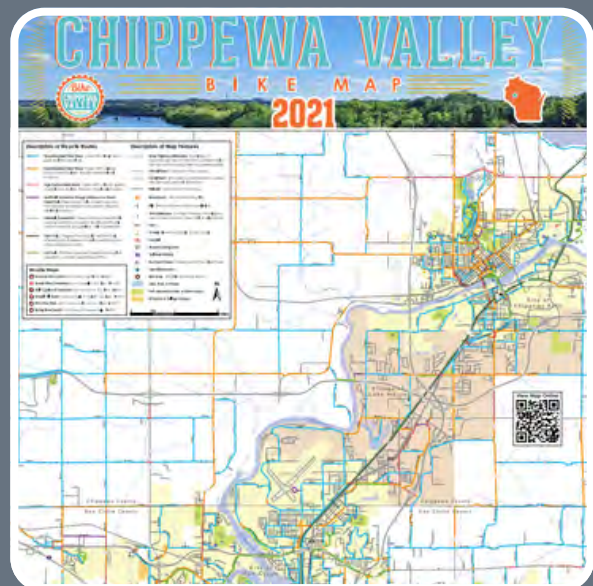
Goal 2: Reduce Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) by 10%

- **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.

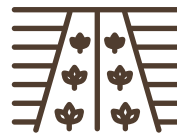
In Eau Claire County, there are a total of **246 participants** and **45,456 acres enrolled in FPP**. To date, the Farmland Preservation Tax Credit has returned almost \$10 million in income tax credits to Eau Claire County landowners since its inception in 1977.

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.

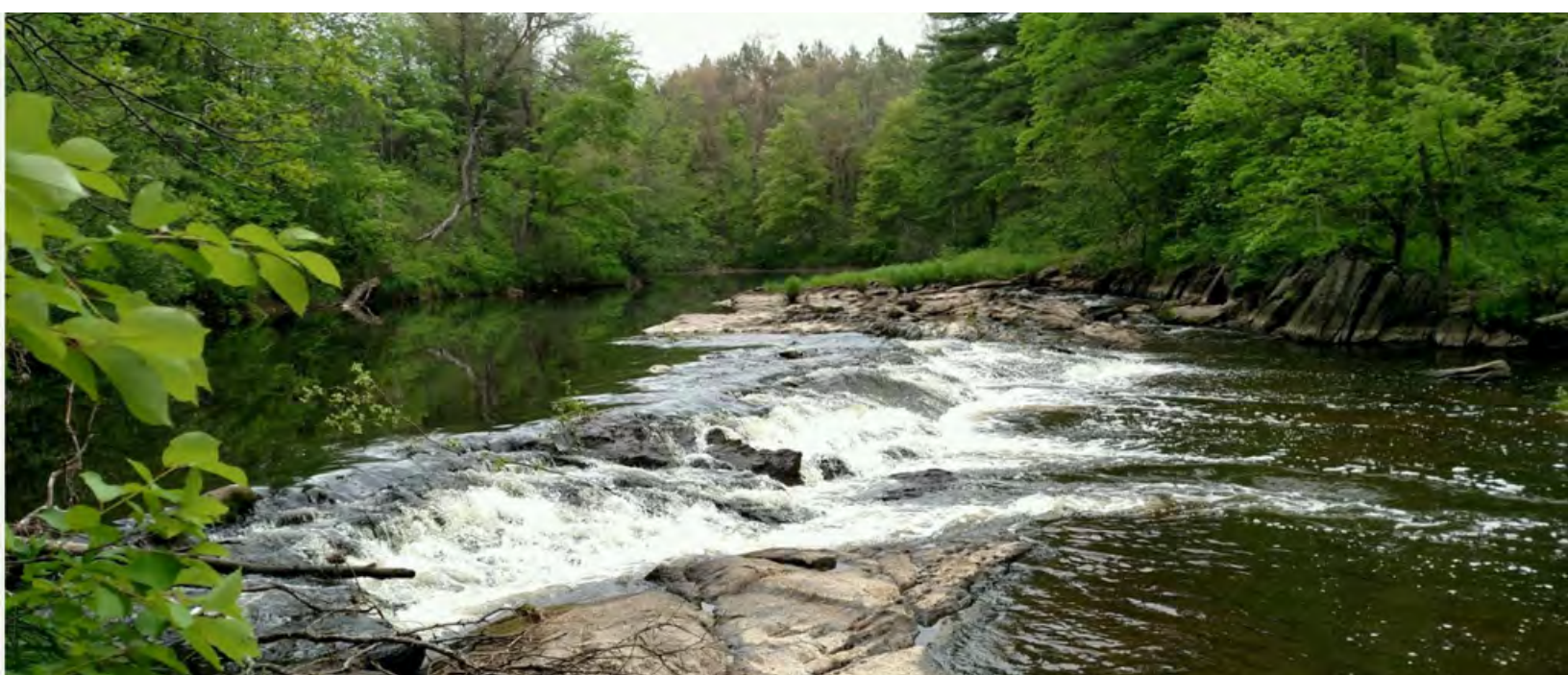
Strategy 2.1: Provide guides and resources online.

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.



ACTION STEPS

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



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



\$50,001-\$250,000



\$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	(\$)	(L)
<u>1.3, 4.1</u>	Coordinate with community events to increase recycling and composting rates. Potential Funding Sources: Existing budget, CFWR pilot program	(\$)	(L)
<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	(\$)	(L)
<u>3.1, 4.1</u>	Update County recycling code. Potential Funding Sources: Staff time	(\$)	(L) (L)
<u>1.1</u>	Establish community compost drop-off sites Potential Funding Sources: CFWR Pilot (new application), user fees, and/or existing budget.	(\$) (\$)	(L)
<u>1.1, 2.2</u>	Continue implementation of food waste reduction pilot. Funding Sources: CFWR Pilot Program (received 2023)	(\$)	(L)

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	(\$)	(L)
<u>3.1</u>	Identify locations for “Park & Rides” in rural parts of county. Potential Funding Sources: Public private partnerships, sustainability program budget	(\$)	(L)
<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	(\$)	(L)

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>

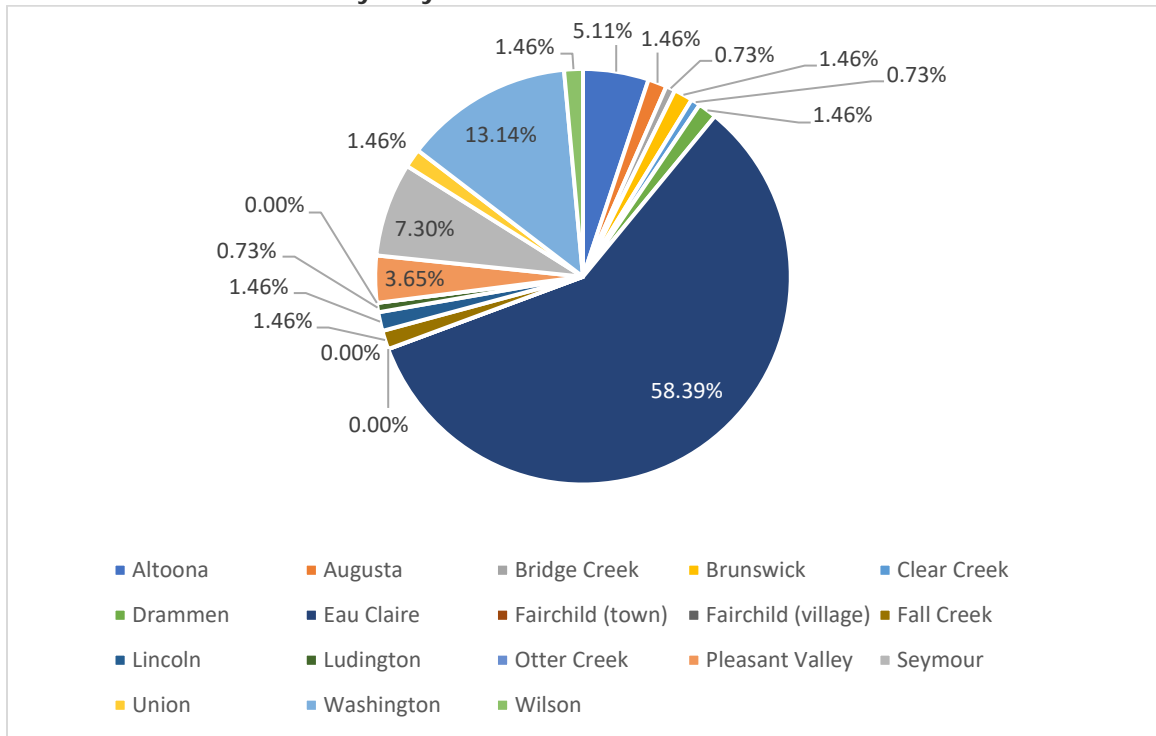
Eau Claire County Parks & Forest- forest management and parks information.

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

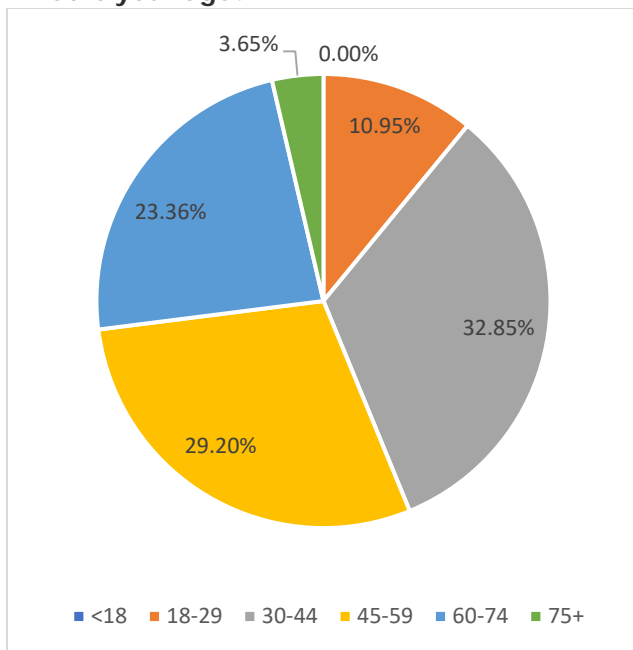
National Resource Conservation Service- Variety of conservation programs, initiatives, and resources.

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

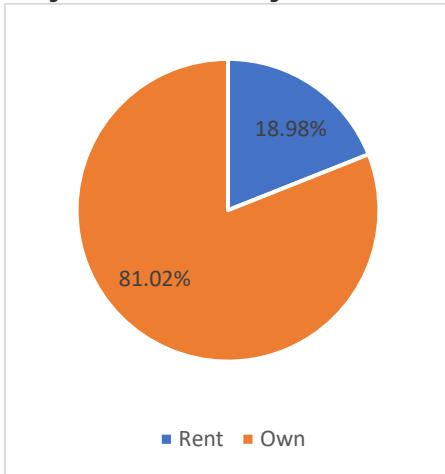
1. Where in Eau Claire County do you reside?



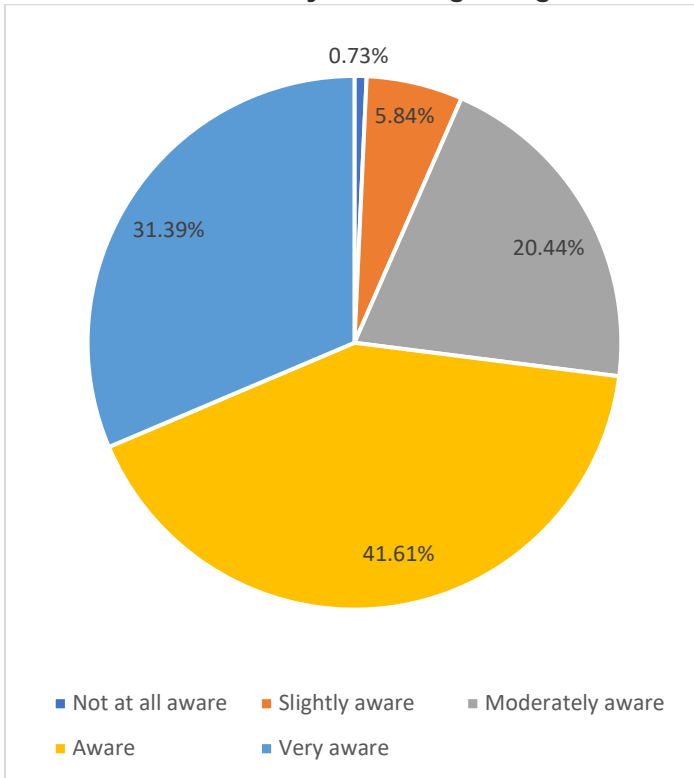
2. What is your age?



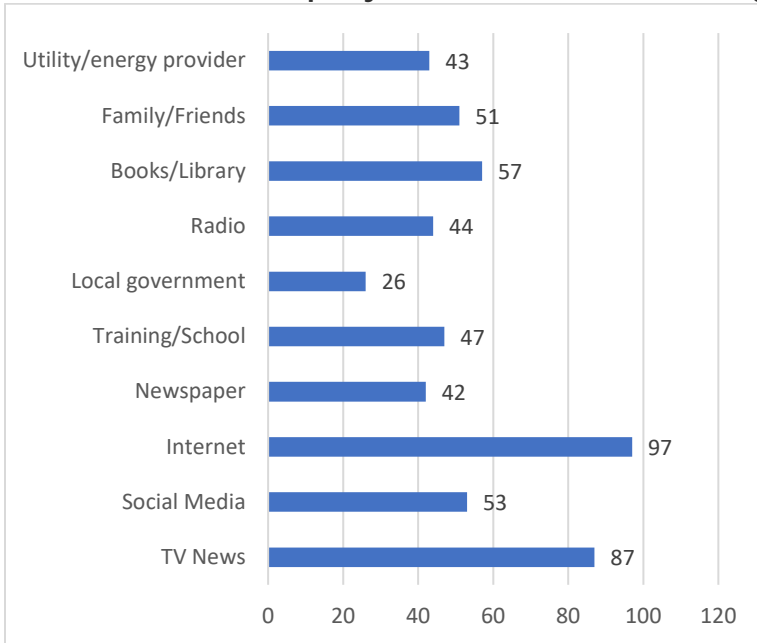
3. Do you rent or own your home?



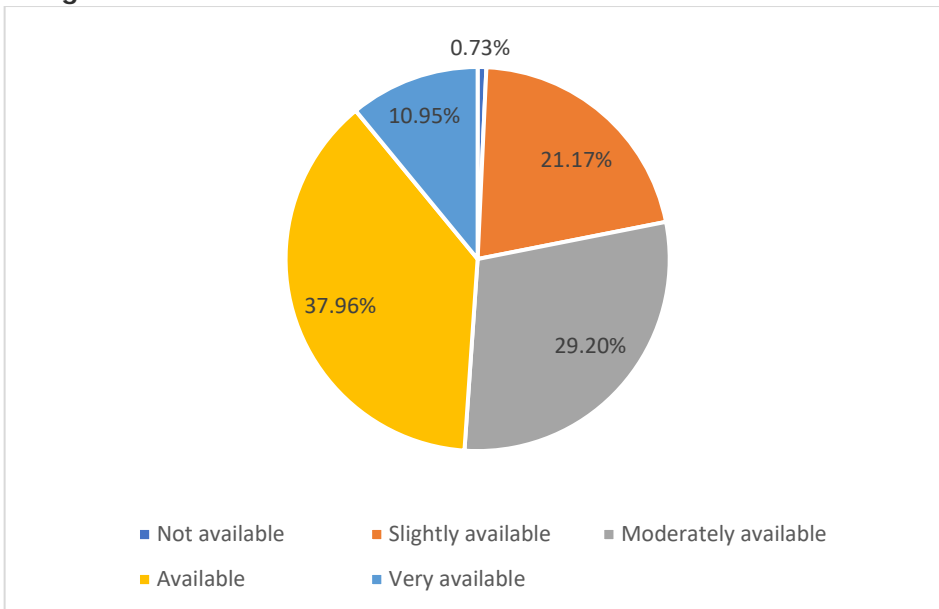
4. How well informed do you feel regarding the effects of climate change?



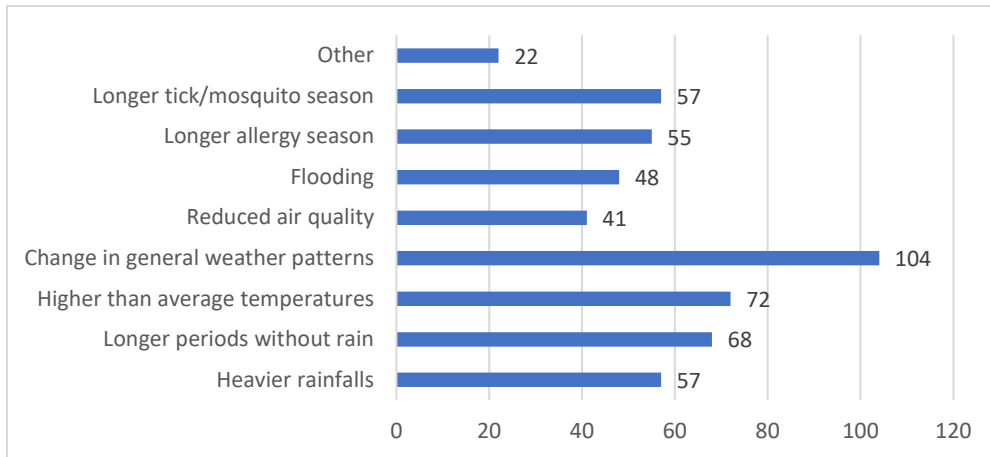
5. What sources have helped you understand climate change?



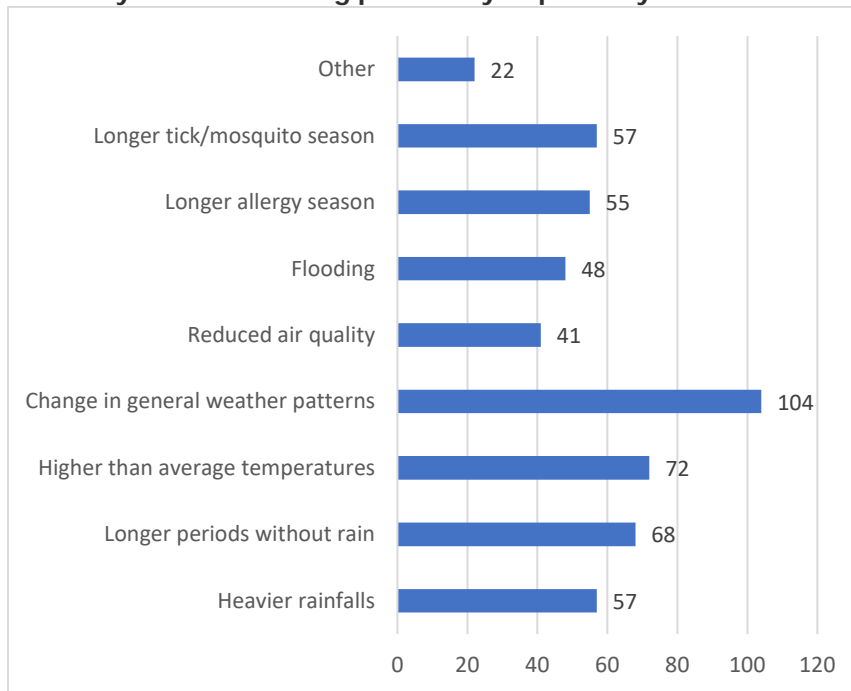
6. How would you rate the availability of reliable and quality information about climate change?



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.

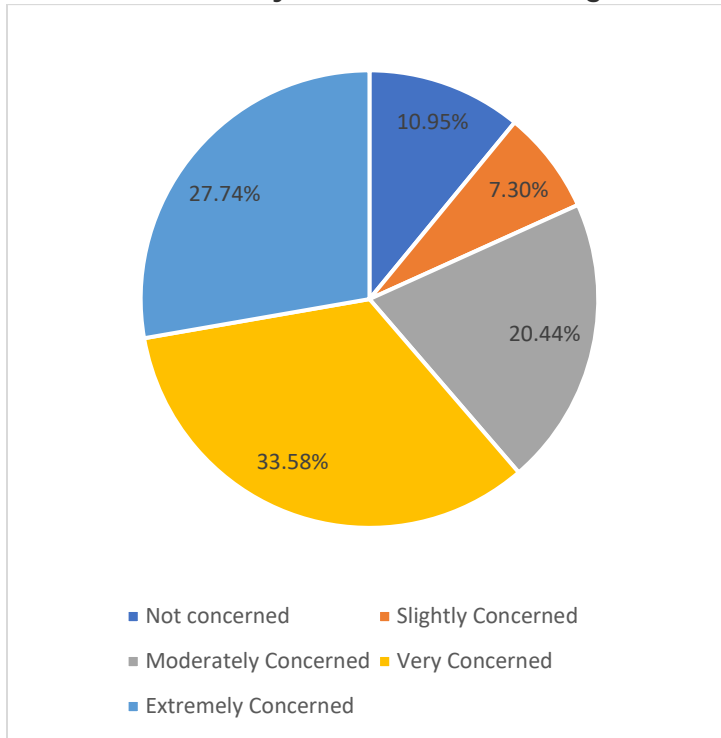
Fewer large snowstorms and more mild winters make for easier winter driving and less salt use on the roads so better for my car too.
Taxes going to programs and increased costs from utilities and service providers due to restrictive measures that have no impact on the climate.
Climate changes daily. 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.

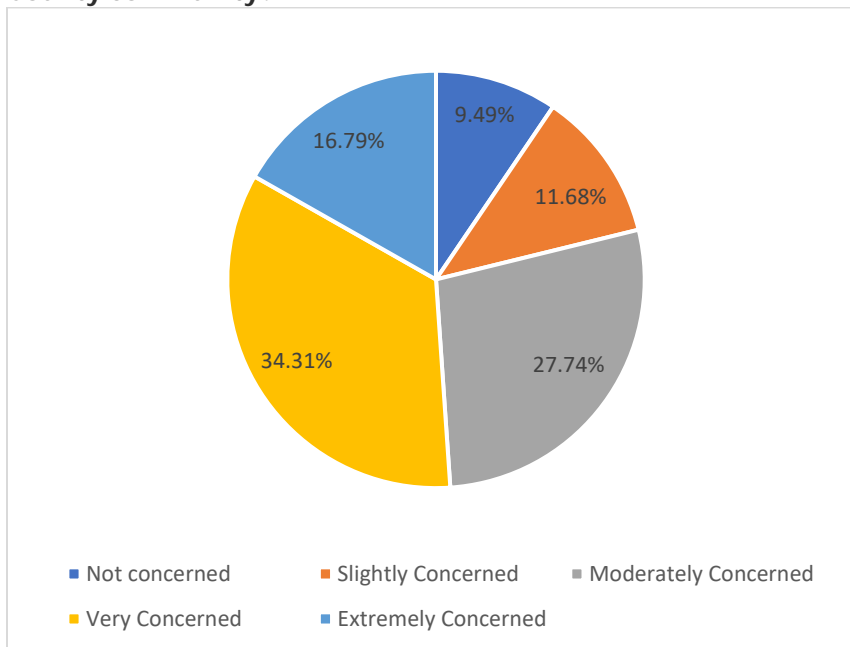
Extended family in construction industry has job instability due to climate change - climate instability.

Dry lawn

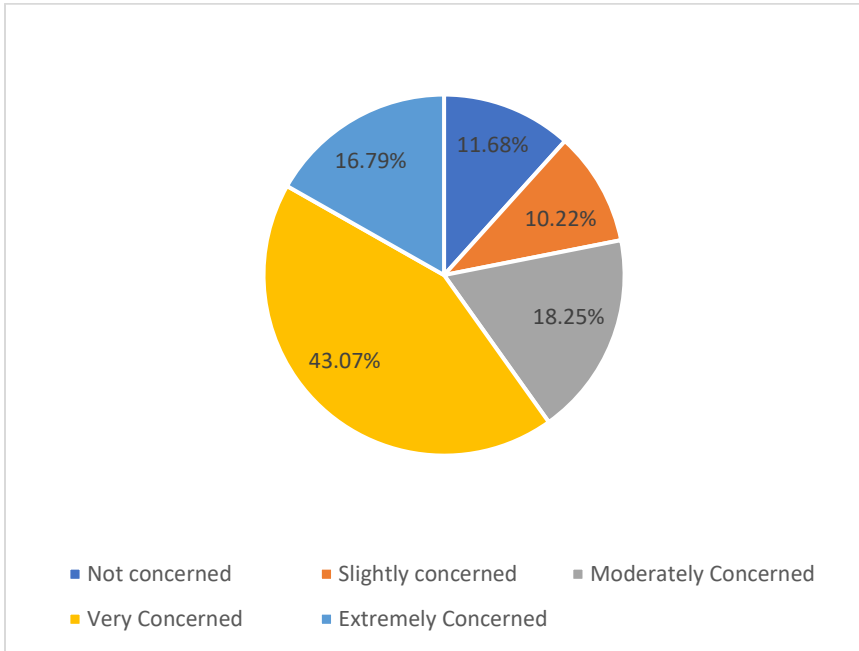
10. How concerned are you about climate change?



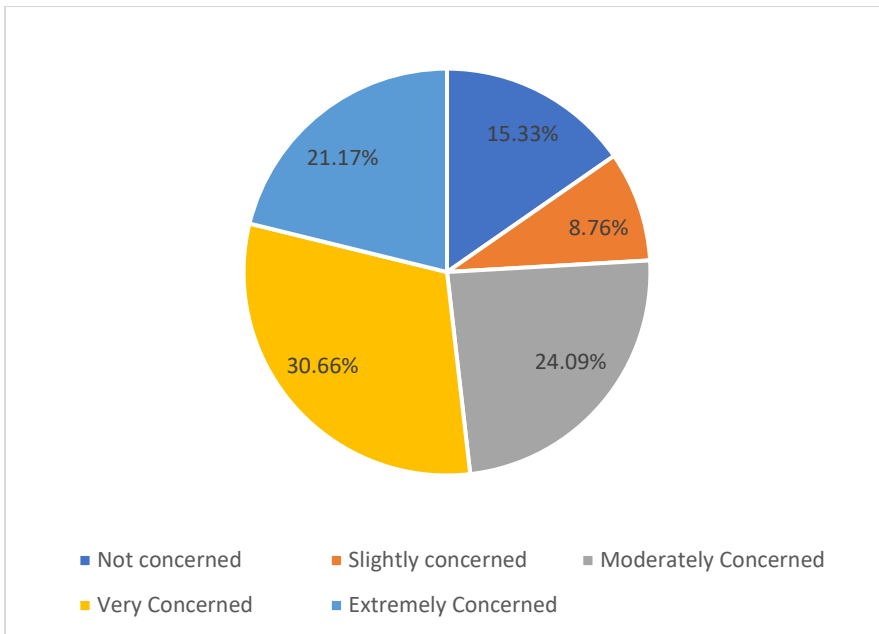
11. How concerned are you about the impacts climate change will have on the Eau Claire County community?



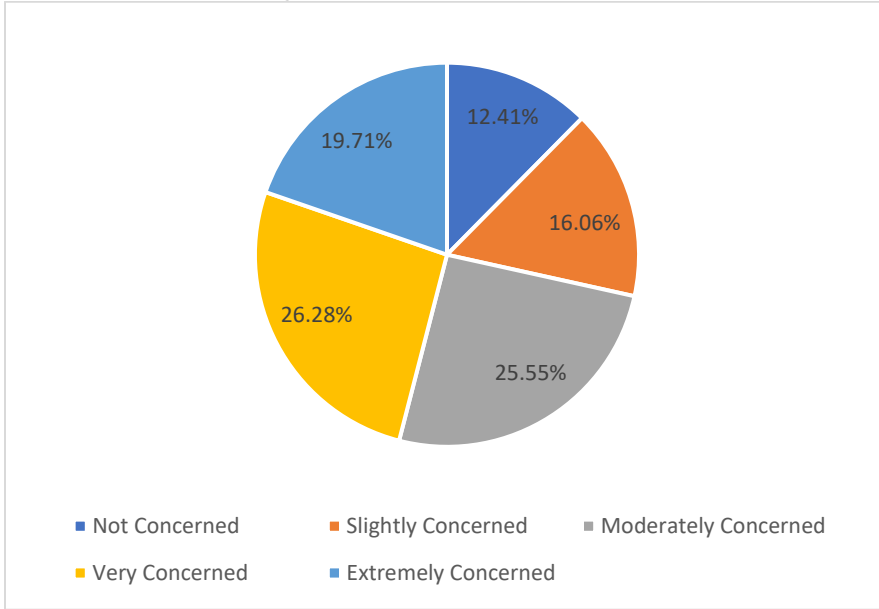
12. Extreme heat/cold



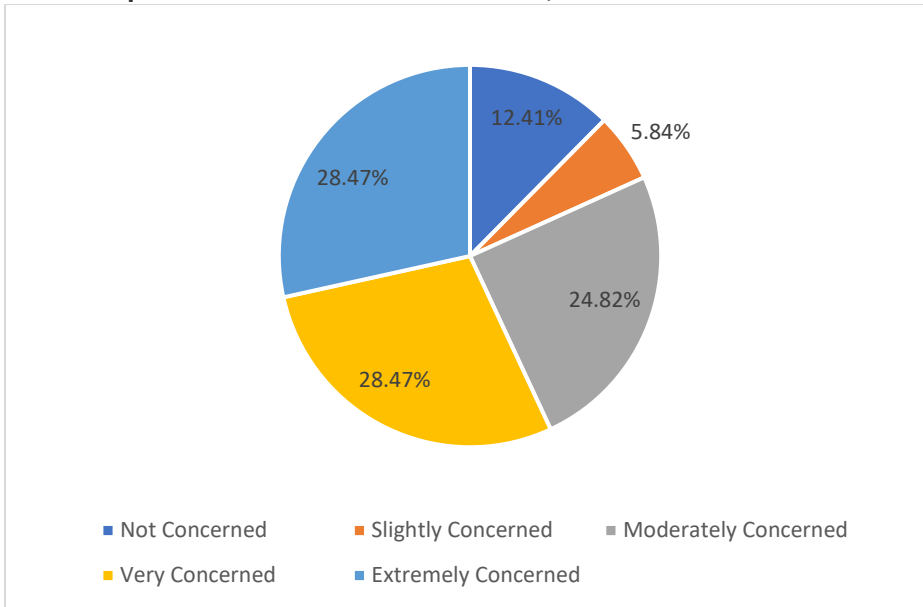
13. Shift in seasons



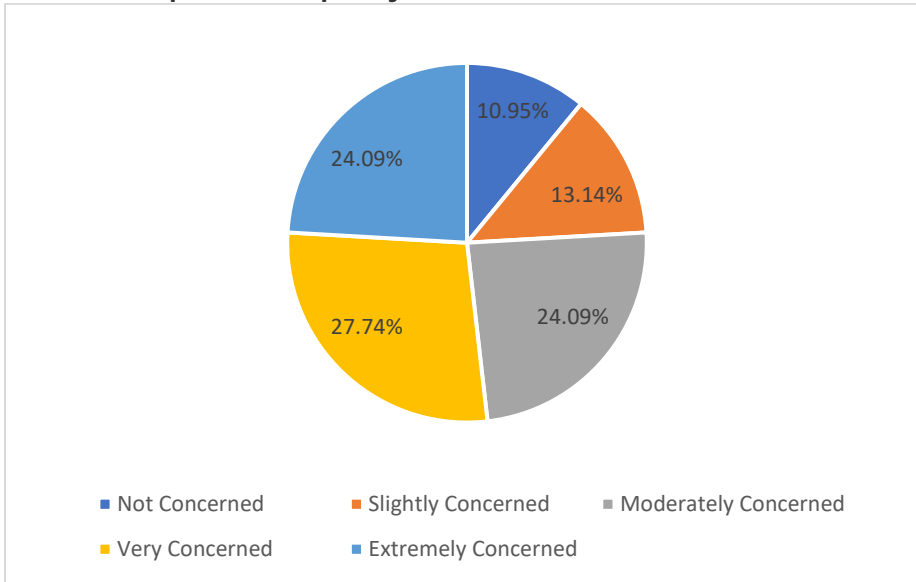
14. More frequent heavy rain events



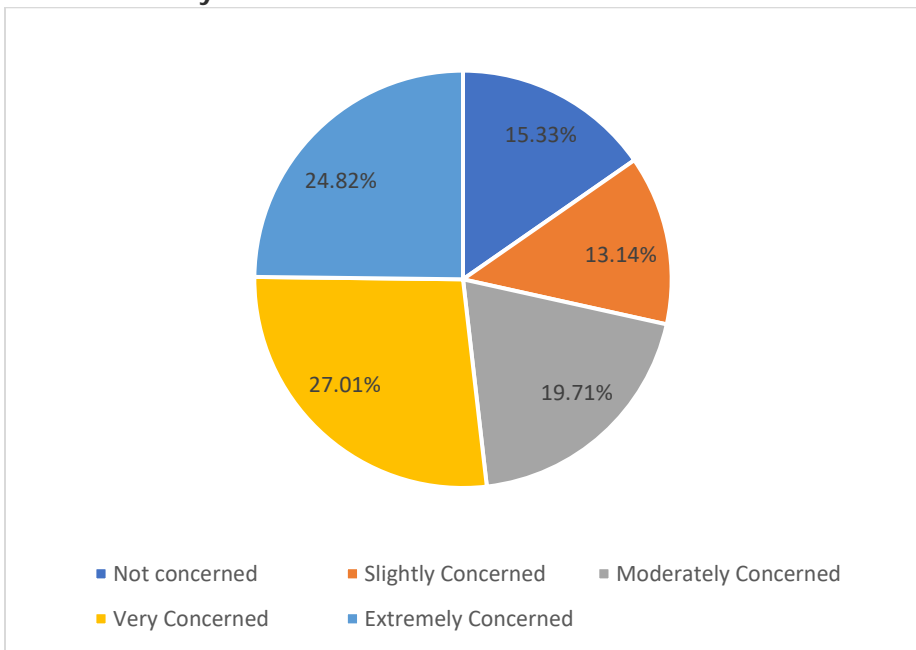
15. More frequent extreme weather events (blizzards, tornadoes, wild fires, etc.)



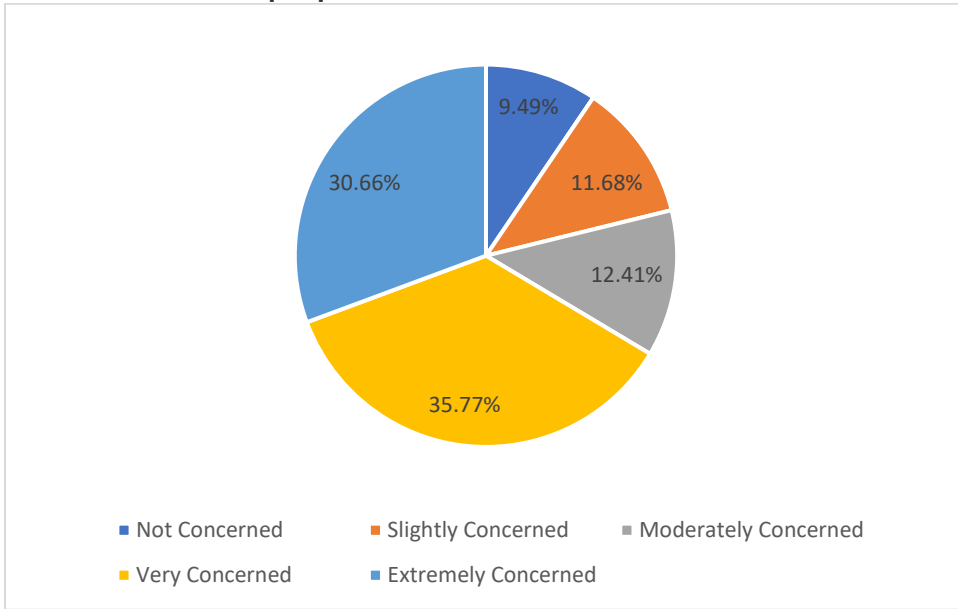
16. Reduced/impacted air quality



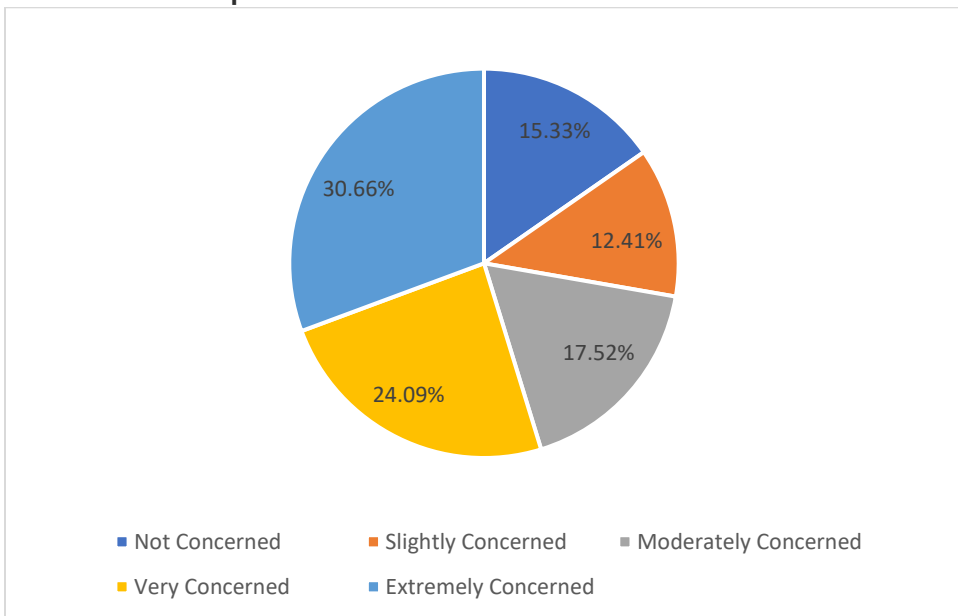
17. Food Insecurity



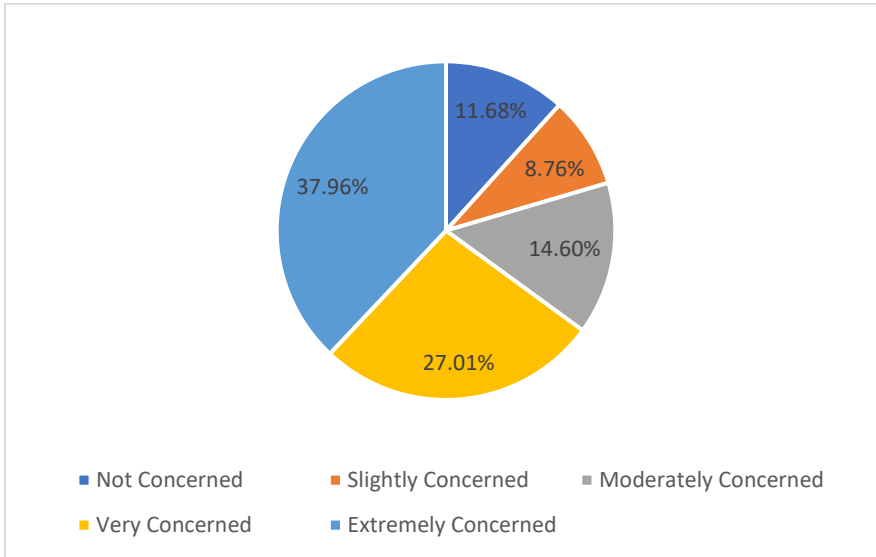
18. Risks to vulnerable people/communities



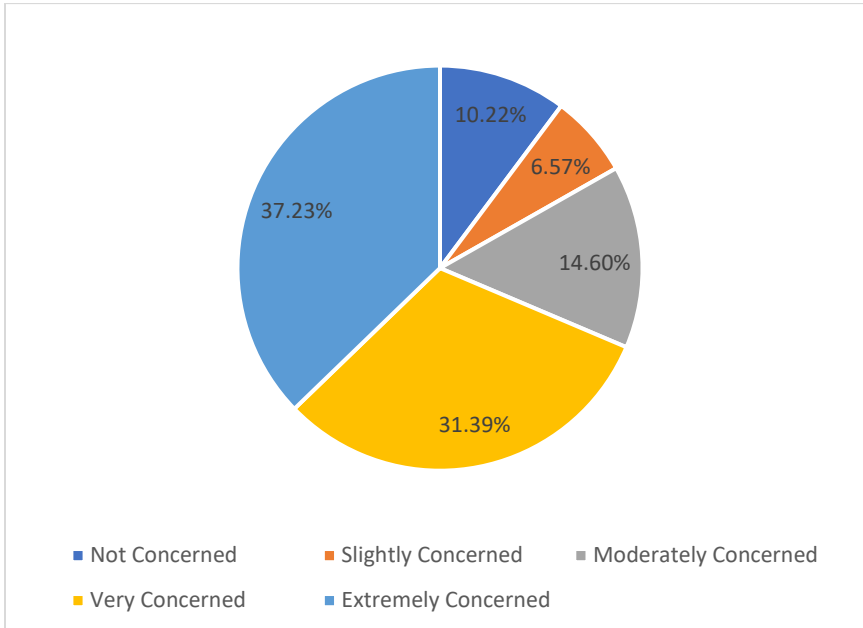
19. Mental health impacts



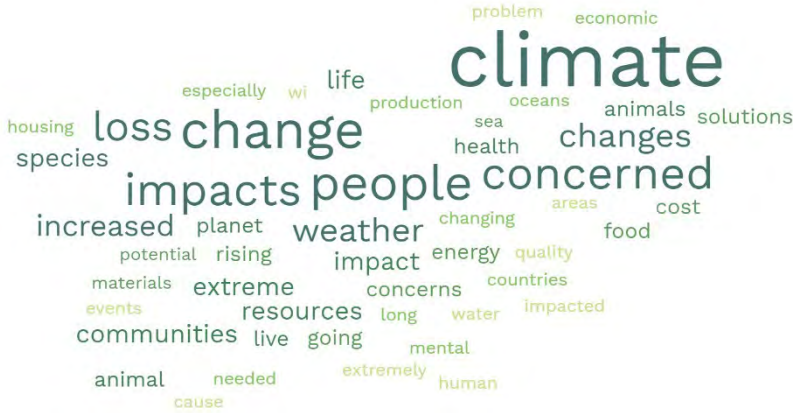
20. Availability of clean drinking water



21. Ecosystem Loss



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



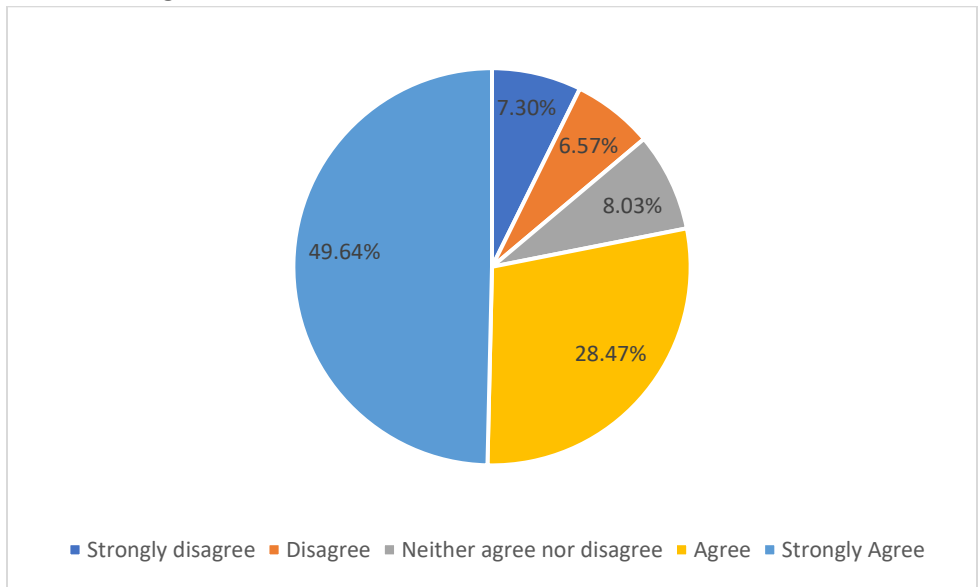
The next question (below) states "for the potential of..." it isn't a potential, it is real!
Material consumption, single-use plastic consumption, non-reusable materials
I am most concerned that we do our part to reduce our contribution to warming.
Impacts on native plants/species
Costly
Sea level rise 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 take 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

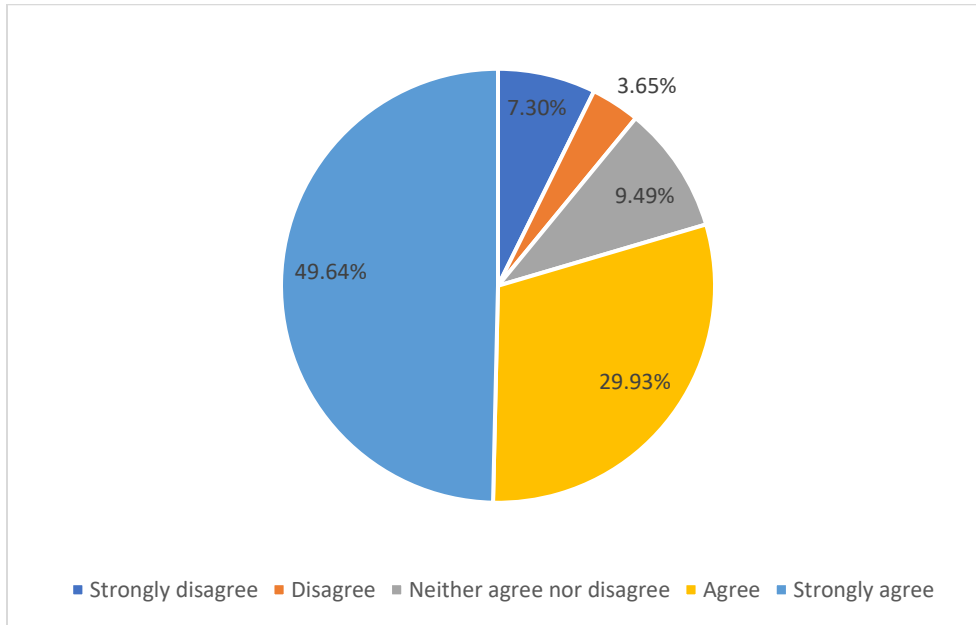
That we're closing in on the tipping point of accelerated climate change which will complicate and increase the cost of mitigating these changes considerably.
None. You are looking for reasons to raise our taxes.
Housing shortage
Animal extinction
Concern that this is becoming a political issue
Loss 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

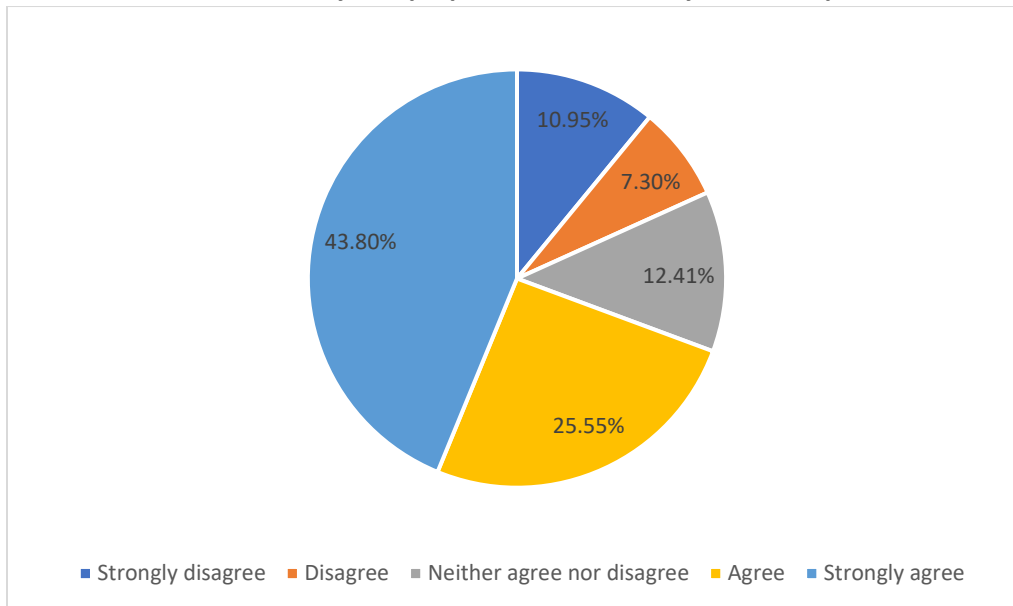
23. It is important for Eau Claire County to take action to prepare for the potential impacts of climate change.



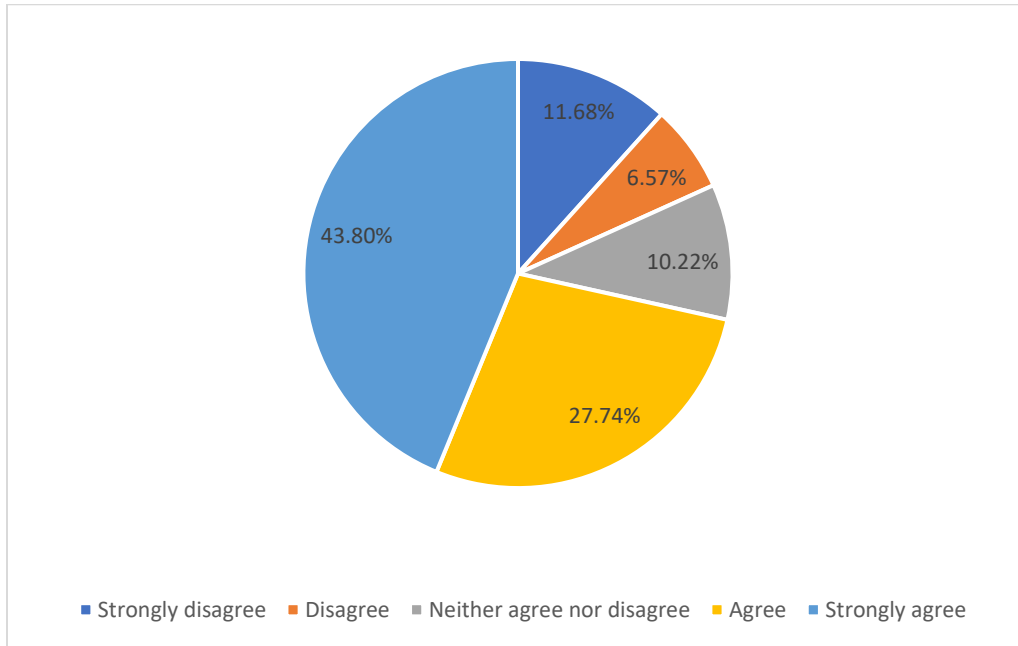
24. It is important for Eau Claire County to take action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions within the community.



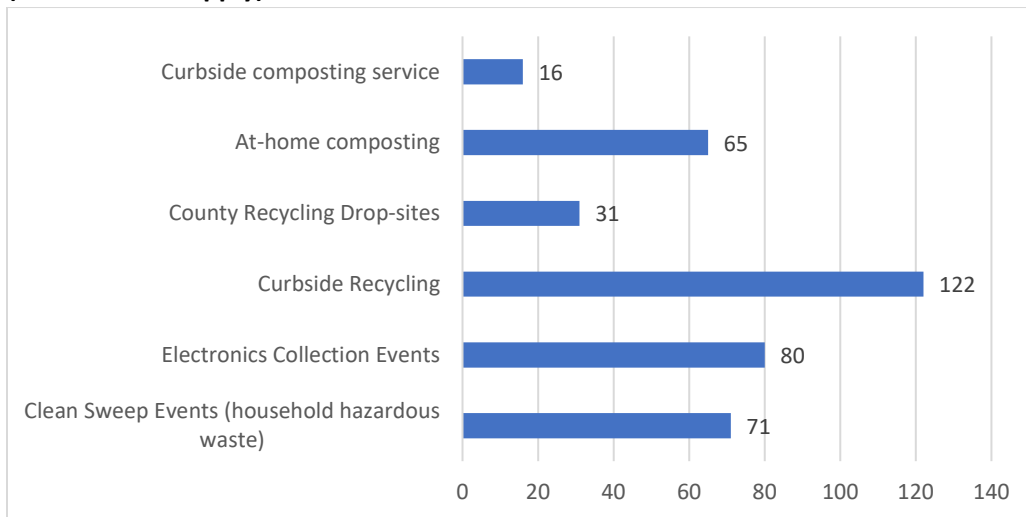
25. It is important to commit tax levy dollars to support the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in the community and prepare the community for the impacts of climate change.



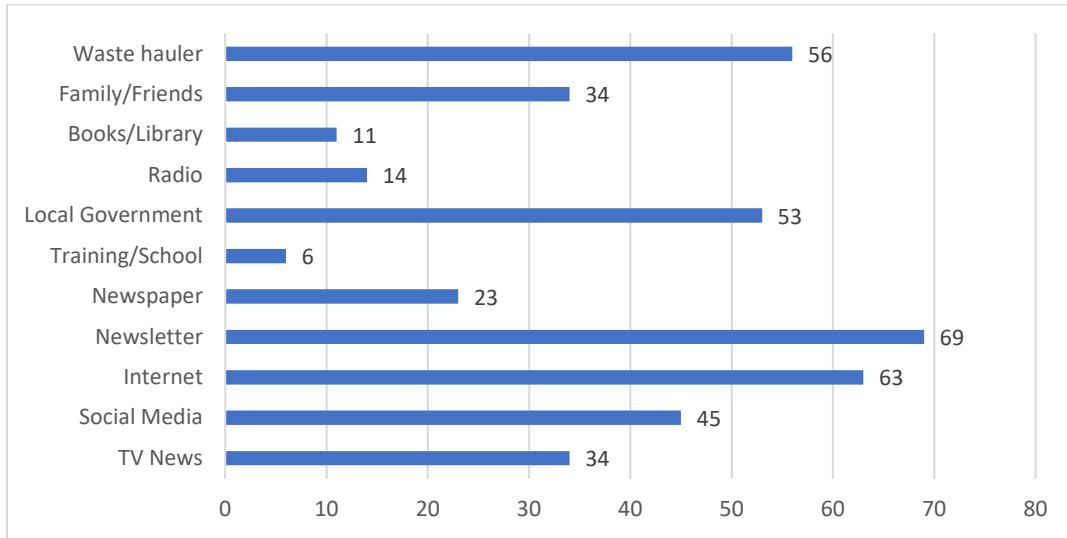
26. It is important to invest in infrastructure like EV charging and renewable energy in a way that ensures equitable access.



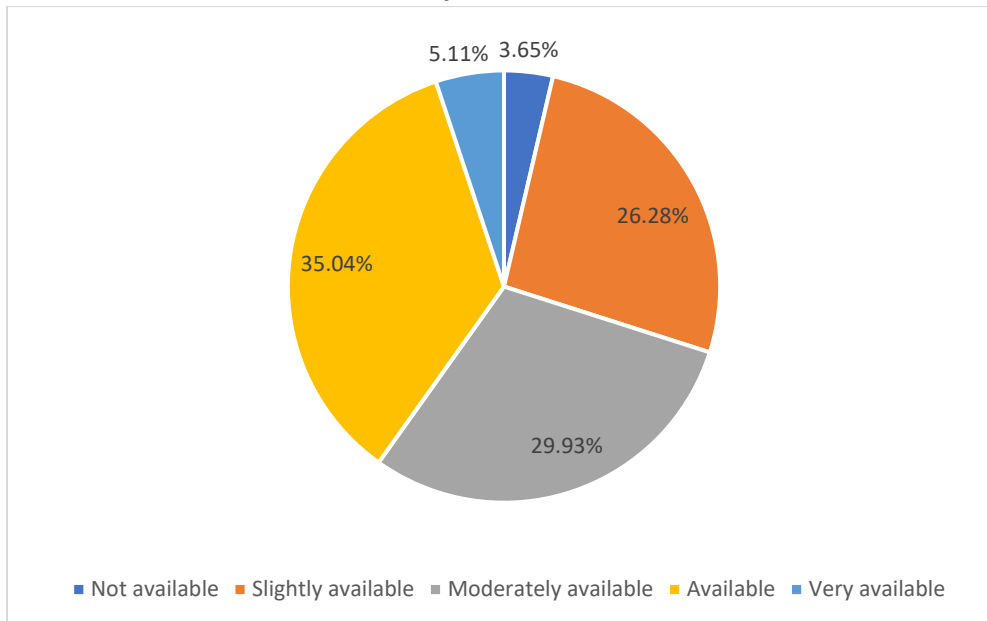
27. Do you currently use any of the following recycling services or waste reduction practices? (Select all that apply)



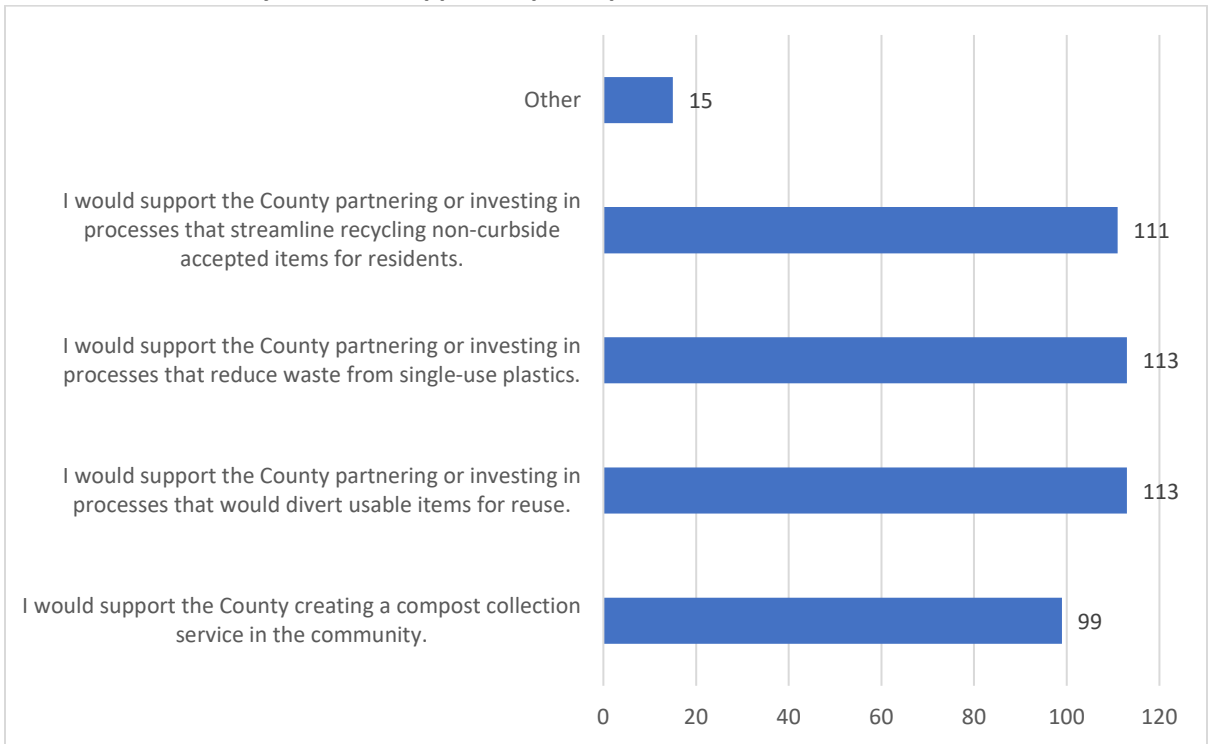
28. Where do you receive your information about recycling and waste reduction options in Eau Claire County?



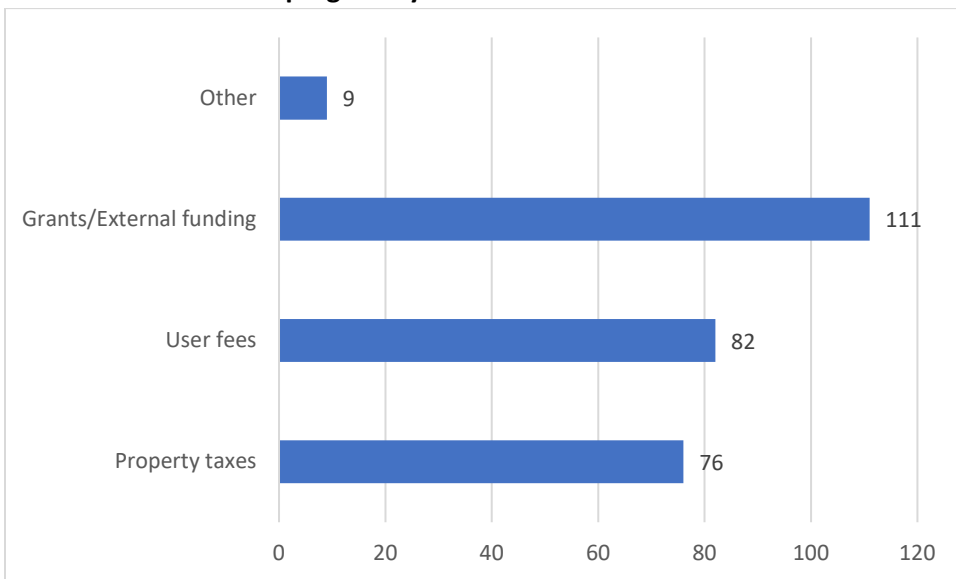
29. How would you rate the reliability and availability of information regarding recycling and waste reduction in Eau Claire County?



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



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



32. What other ideas do you have on how the County can reduce greenhouse gas emissions from waste within the community?



more recycling and compost bins around the city and in parks
Continue to support solar power. Invest in community based arrays, financial incentives for rooftop solar, etc.
Increase fuel taxes
Use county forest carbon credits and use the money that would be earned (potentially millions of dollars) to create sustainable energy practices (solar, wind etc). Why not get paid for a product that we are producing, but not using, and use the money earned to create community composting, curbside pickup etc.
Subsidize businesses that can recycle and make things from materials that need to be kept out of the landfill. Help poor neighbors with appropriate actions to recycle bulk items. Create a place for bulk items to be dropped off and ways to recycle
It is pretty silly to have three garbage trucks coming down our road every Friday to pickup residents garbage/recycling/compost. Wouldn't having one garbage truck (ie municipal service) itself reduce emissions? It would be a start....and part of property taxes.
Recycling, electric charging stations, tax breaks for homes that has solar and electric cars.
More solar? Electric cards? Even more beautiful and safe bicycle and pedestrian pathways to encourage daily use for commuters?
The county can't. They seem to have enough issues trying to keep our streets repaired. trying to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from a government level is laughable. let the private sector do what it does and keep government out.
Restore native landscapes.
Education, education, education! This is so important and needs to be done in a way that all levels and abilities can access.
Reduce emissions from industry. Make factories in town accountable.
Education. Incentives. Individual investment in solar panels, electric vehicles, solar water heating...
Invest in efficient building infrastructure such as geothermal and cleaner burning fuels such as natural gas vs oil burners etc.

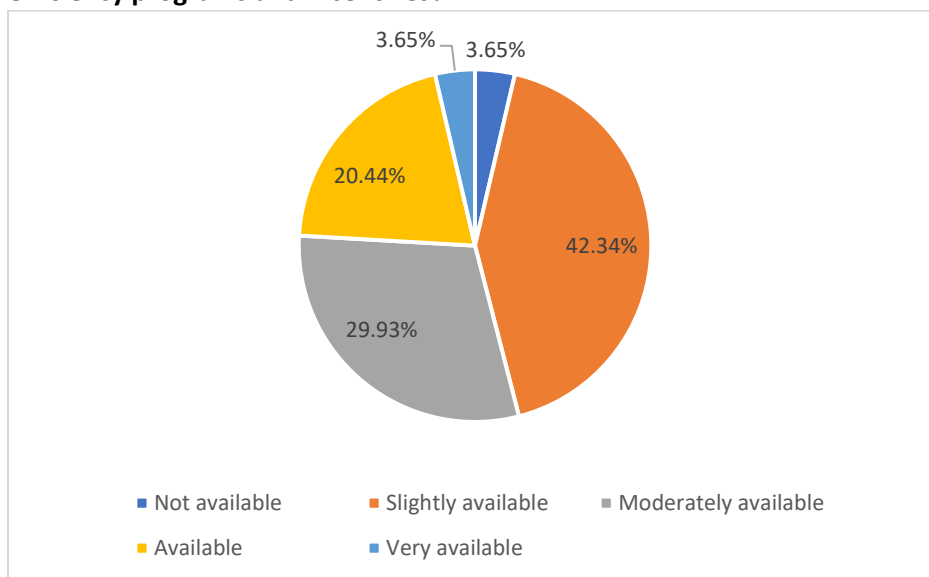
Best way to go green would be to Stop making junk that is constantly filling the landfills. Get rid of plastics and use recycled glass. And STOP importing daily garbage from Twin Cities to ECCTY 7 mile landfill.
Plant small pockets of urban "forests" where there is space, do "No mow May", have garbage 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

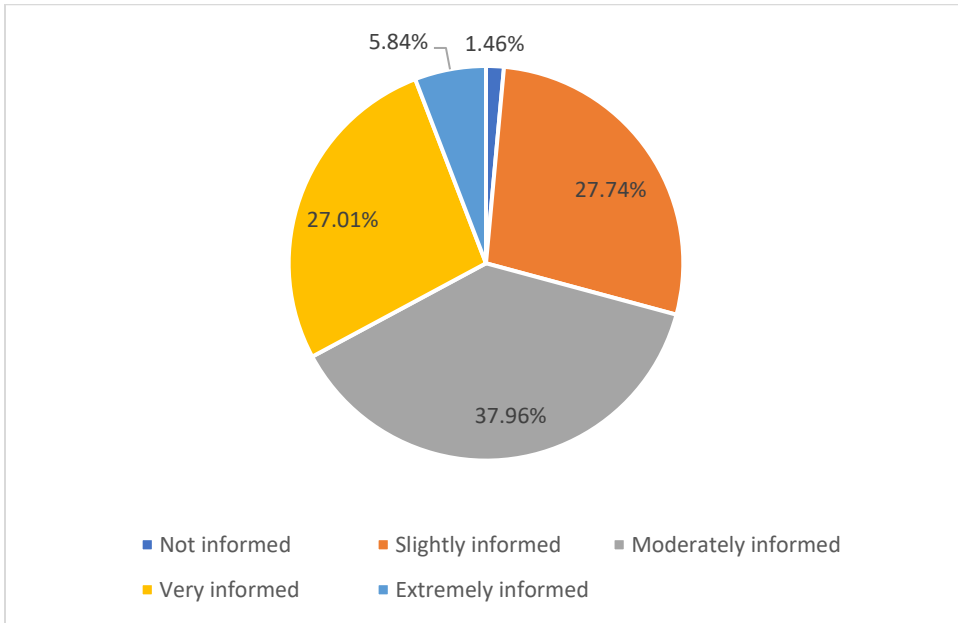
Education
With the number of people renting in the area (due to college, etc) make information and access easier and some ideas and tips aimed specifically at renters.
The landfill and it's expansions are concerning as well, we should look into that as a community
More frequent free electronic recycling 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 educated 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)

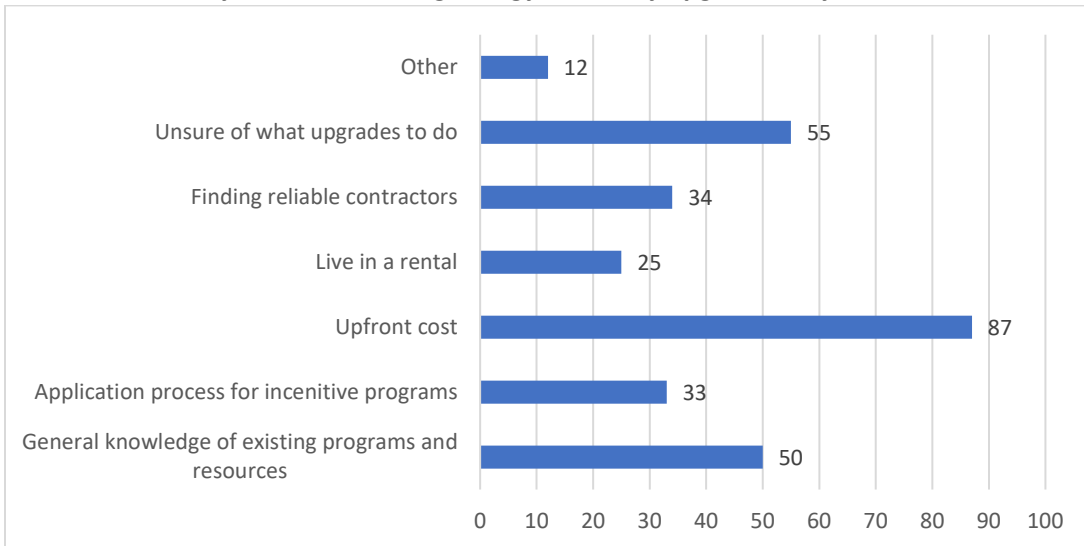
33. How would you rate the reliability and availability of information about residential energy efficiency programs and incentives?



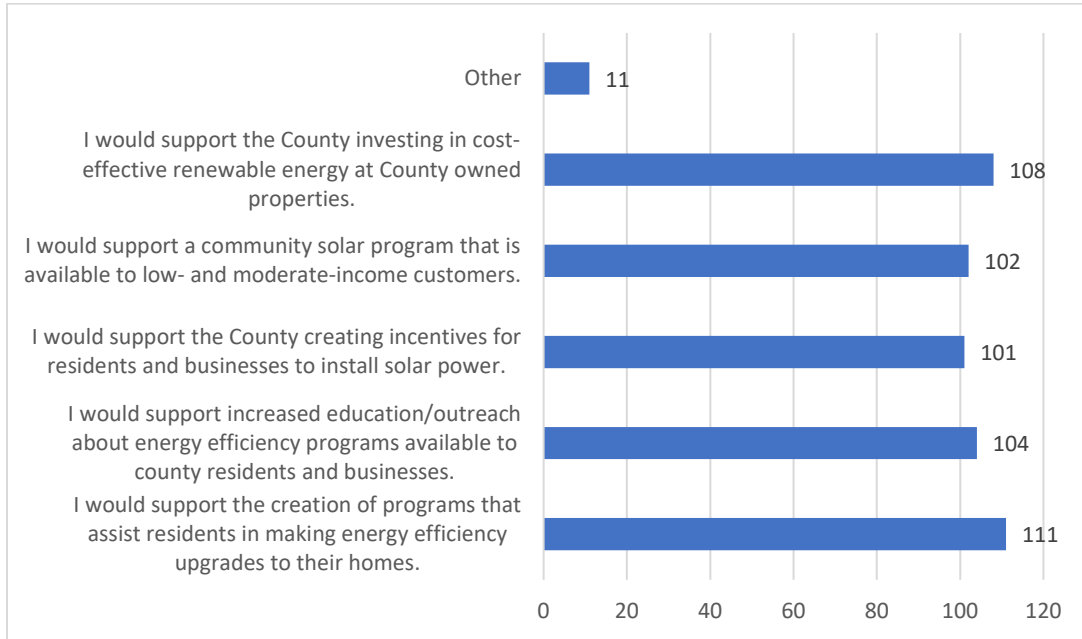
34. How informed do you feel on actions you can take in your home to reduce your energy consumption and energy bill?



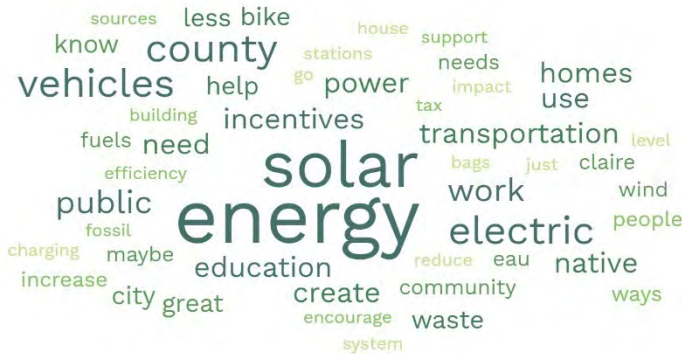
35. What barriers do you face in making energy efficiency upgrades to your home?



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



37. What other ideas do you have on how the county can reduce greenhouse gas emissions from energy in the community?



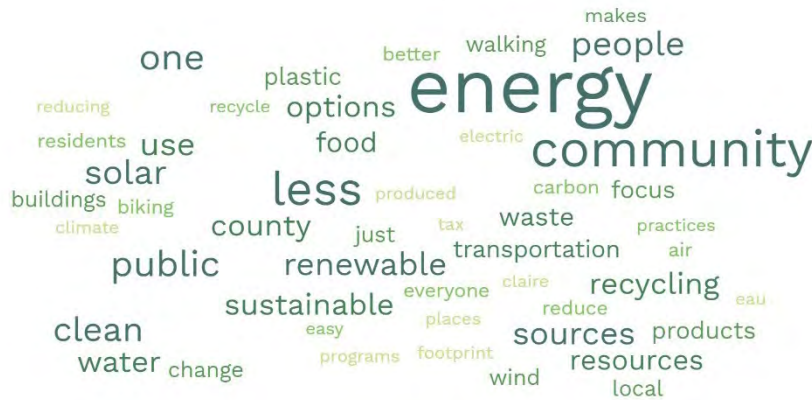
alternative energy sources
Improve bikeways, add bikeways. Incentives and build infrastructure for electric cars.
Biomass use. We have plenty of wood that can be utilized within a 50 mile radius that also would help sustainably manage our woodlands.
Support building wind farms
Energy efficiency needs incentives not higher rates for example higher registration thru the state for hybrid/ev vehicles. Maybe give hybrids/evs a wheel tax break. Larger vehicles damage roads more than small vehicles.
More solar vs fossil fuels, more electric cars vs gasoline/deisel. More safe and beautiful bike and pedestrian pathways to encourage daily commuters.
I am not worried about county involvement in this topic
Work on getting Amtrak to come through Eau Claire.

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

38. What does a sustainable and resilient Eau Claire County community look like to you?



Streamlined recycling for all that makes it as easy as possible to recycle, without having to know all the rules - which seem to change regularly - about which plastics are/are not recyclable, etc. More free or low-cost assistance for renters to weather-proof their units, or incentives for landlords to weather-proof their residential properties
All municipal government buildings, including schools, model (that is DO) sustainable practices
alternative methods throughout the city that are accessible for the community to utilize and see to practice and become informed on the importance of fighting climate change.
Waste reduction and better recycling habits of residents
A mix of energy sources with increasing renewables and a mix of transportation options. Encouraging smaller homes.
More public transportation
Build up, not out. Affordable housing so folks can put money towards renewable energy.
Strong recycling engagement Affordable options to appropriately get rid of items solar - wind - hydroelectric, and locally grown and produced foods and other products.
A community that makes reducing the community's carbon footprint the easy choice.
Residents gardening & providing their own food sources.
Stable productive economy with high paying jobs
Maybe a little more like Ashland, WI...or Portland, OR. Diverse plant communities, localized food sources, less trash, more composting, clean, quiet and safe public transportation.
I live in city of Eau Claire but Chippewa County. So I am having trouble answering this question.
Clean water, clean air, and diverse native ecosystems.
We take greater care of the earth, of each other, of our resources. We all feel like it's on us and not just one person or group.
People are in tune with what is going on and trying to make small changes, and make industry and commercial places accountable.
A project

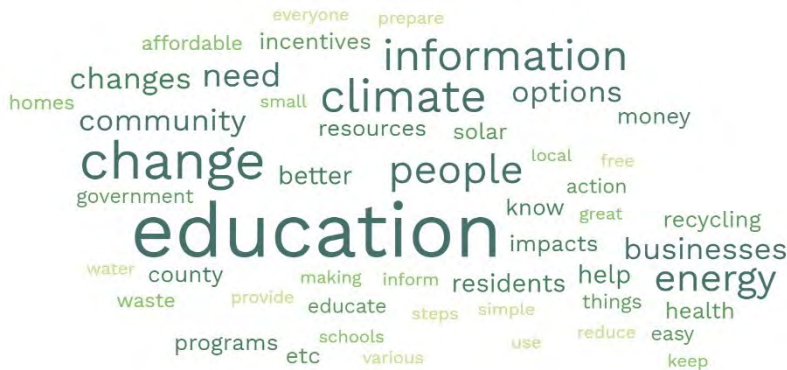
Looks like a lot of wasted tax payer money and government oversight that is not needed when you already have programs such as focus on energy that reaches out to any utility customer. With greenhouse gas reduction, what is the county's plan tell someone to buy an electric car and or lawnmower? People 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

39. What would you like to see done to help residents and businesses prepare for the impacts of climate change?



Have monthly town hall meetings located throughout county to inform and incentivize change
funding, doing tangible things to replace energy wasting or decrease material usage
More information available and funds to help residents live more sustainably
Education is key. Expand to where people are. Churches? Community centers? Schools?
Plant more trees. Buy more land to enroll in county forest.
Information and options
Wake up and acknowledge climate change is reality.
Get programs to help the poor, they need it the most!
Identify actions that will make the biggest difference and create an easy path to making change.
Offer fee for service classes in gardening, or if someone wants to volunteer to teach them, great.
keep up current regulation to regulate but not limit with unnecessary laws and regulations that limit small business.
Community meetings, clean consumption, no harsh chemicals on lawns, buy local to support local economy, have smaller families, encourage people to fly less, earth and community centered celebrations, a natural history course option in our public schools (high school) to educate on the subject of climate change and humanities impacts on the planet.
More information about it.
Stop spending excess money to "prepare" for climate Highway facility is a great example \$4-5 million additional spent on the building according to contractors involved in the project That could have been eliminated
Provide education and easy to access resources for how to easily establish positive change. Climate change seems to big for most people and they don't know where to start. Streamlining the process with simple action steps for them is helpful.
More education and at various levels - I've attended some educational sessions where the information is too overwhelming or does not make sense to me. I attended a recent one done by a college student, and it was really great for all audiences to understand the basics.

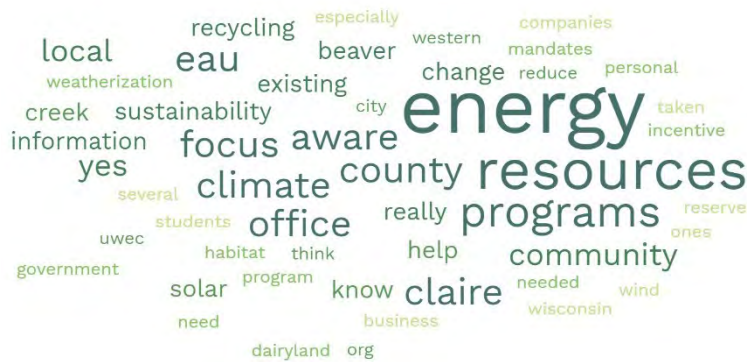
Plant natives, collect rainwater, remove lawn, and change materials to avoid water runoff.
Govt. lead by example.
Everything that is built today is designed to handle 100 yr rains and has wind/snow ratings for conditions that are greatly overkill. Our existing infrastructure when updated is also designed 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

resources comes first (homes, electricity, waste, etc.) People need the money to make many larger changes. Access to those who can check a home's energy waste.
Education
Move forward with encouraging more electronics recycling
improve watersheds to resist flooding; improve agricultural practices; reduce/eliminate herbicides/pesticides whenever possible; ban use of chemical on lawns - we can't afford cosmetic landscaping anymore, it is poisoning our soil and water and destroying the ecosystem
Education. Make sure communities can reasonably implement #38
Flooding precautions - unlike the flooding that happened by Jeffers Road a while back.?

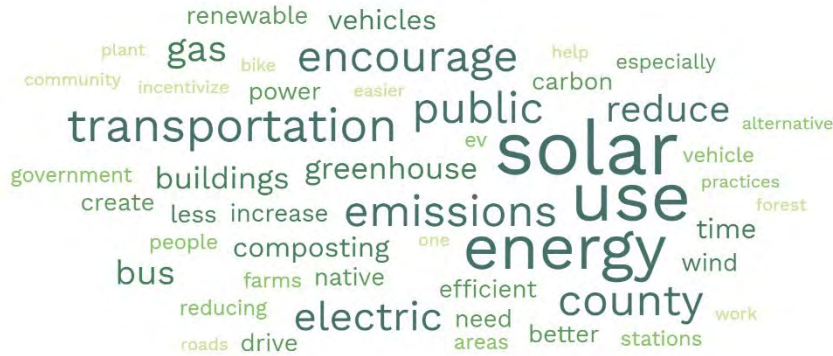
40. Are you aware of any existing resources to help residents or businesses prepare for the impacts of climate change? If so, what are they?



County and city sustainability departments UWEC programs
The Natural Step - https://thenaturalstep.org or writings by author Wendell Barry, or "Braiding Sweetgrass" written by Robin Wall Kimmerer. Nordic countries like Sweden and Finland have good models of how to reduce consumer waste, conserve energy, live sustainably, etc.
I think western dairyland has a program for home weatherization for low income folks.
Western dairyland weatherization
Besides resources for soils and habitat, I am not aware that are focused on energy.
I don't care about this. Climate change is a farce this is god's way
All I am aware of are the few places you can recycle plastic bags or batteries. I have not heard of other resources.
Yes. It is called common sense. We need to do what we can to keep pollution away but lets not put a stranglehold on freedom to accomplish that. Do not allow the cabal to impose restrictions on us like injection mandates to poison us. They use the ruse of climate change as an excuse to rule and control over our choices about personal autonomy. If you give them an inch they'll ram the kitchen sink down our throats until we're all diseased or dead from their mandates. Don't go along with it!
Not really. Except perhaps the recycling opportunities we have here.

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.

41. What would you like to see done to reduce county-wide greenhouse gas emissions?



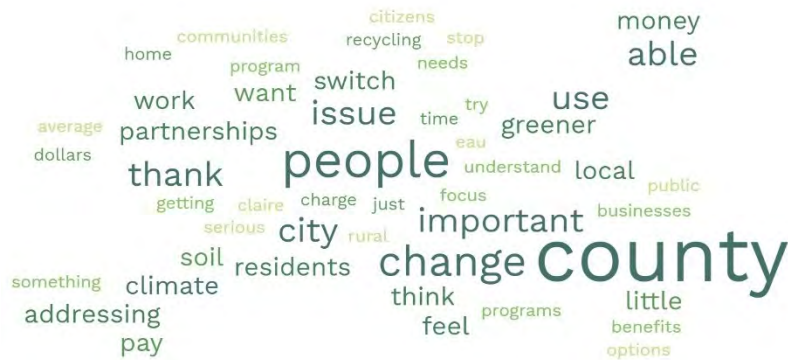
Regenerative agriculture practices - see documentary " Kiss the Ground"
alternative energy
Incentivize/support electric vehicles. Build community solar and incentivize rooftop solar, especially in new construction.
Reduce reliance on non green electric
Increase county forest acreage.
Wind farms
Help move to renewables.
More solar
Identify where the biggest impact is coming from and address that first. Is it developing infrastructure to make electric vehicles an easier choice?
More solar? Clean transportation? Less bovines? Knowing how to reducing greenhouse gas emissions in our county is not in my wheelhouse...I'm hoping other great minds are on top of this task.
Get some knowledge about it.
Implement county-wide policies that will reduce greenhouse gas emissions - it can't just fall on one person or group
Encourage use of bikes (improve in-town bike paths), encourage the use of bus/public transportation for leisure activities (to go to the park or to a bar on the weekends), encourage people to compost (provide workshops on how to do it and encourage waste collection companies to include composting), create carbon sinks (encourage farmers to plant hedgerows with diverse mixes of flowers, encourage landscaping in malls and commercial areas to plant native wildflowers, give away native seeds/plant)
Lets focus on getting composting and recycling down before we push for greenhouse gas and other emission related issues here locally.
Learn more
Remote work, minimize idle time, buy in bulk to save on trips, schedule deliveries so they are efficient to cut down on shipping costs. Reduce level of service on winter maintenance. Instead of having plow trucks out all night have that reduced, which would be exponential since if the roads are maintained less maybe people would not aimlessly drive to the mall for something to do.

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

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.
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.
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;
Find a balance between reducing emissions, rather than outsourcing emissions to other areas.
more solar/wind power and better use of energy
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
More EV stations. Solar and wind farms

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



Make recycling an affordable option for poor people who rent and who live in mobile home courts that are managed for profit
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.
Thank you for leading the charge on this important issue of our time.
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.
Partnerships with your local DNR, Audubon groups, land conservancys and NRCS representatives should be explored as they can provide valuable expertise.
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.
I would like to learn and share.

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?

