Sustainability Committee Meeting

Thursday, January 25, 2024

City Hall Council Chambers – 601 Main St W. Ashland, WI 54806

6:00 PM

Take notice that a meeting of the Sustainability Committee will be held in- person in the City Hall Council Chambers, with the availability to attend virtually.

To join the meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone: https://meet.goto.com/740241965. Or dial in using your phone. United States (Toll Free): 1 866 899 4679 Access Code: 740-241-965

The following items will be considered:

1. **Approval of Agenda**

2. **Approval of Minutes**

   a. Approval of minutes from the October 26th, 2023 meeting

3. **Citizen Participation Period**

4. **Projects/Discussions**

   a. Climate Change
      i. **25x25 Plan** – Update
      ii. EPA Community Change and PSC Rural Startup Grants – Statement of Support – Action
   b. Water
      i. Develop Sourcewater Protection Plan Initial Recommendations
   c. Green Tier Legacy Communities – Update
   d. Seed Mix - Discussion

5. **Items of Interest for Future Meetings**

6. **Adjournment**

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NOTE: Upon reasonable notice, the City of Ashland will accommodate the needs of disabled individuals or individuals with limited English proficiency through auxiliary aids or services. For additional information or to request this service, contact the Planning & Zoning Department at 715-682-7041 (not a TDD telephone number)

THE CITY OF
ASHLAND
WISCONSIN

City of Ashland – Sustainability Committee Meeting

Thursday, October 26th, 2023

6:00 pm – 7:00 pm HYBRID MEETING:

Meeting Link: https://meet.goto.com/740241965 | Access Code: 740-241-965 - CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS (601 Main Street W)

Energy Action Plan, 25x25 Plan, Sourcewater Protection Plan linked here: https://sites.google.com/view/ashland-sustainability/themes

Present: Dale Kupczyk, Adam Zais, Lissa Radke, Axel Peterman, John Butler, Steven Wiley

Absent:

Agenda

1) Approval of Agenda
   Peterman called the meeting to order at 6:11 pm. Kupczyk moved to approve the agenda and Zais seconded. Motion carried.
2) Approval of minutes from the September 28th, 2023 meeting
   Peterman moved to approve the minutes from the September 28th, 2023 meeting as written and Zais seconded. Motion carried.
3) Citizen Comments
   None
4) Projects/Discussions
   a) Lawn Care Product Use and Toxicity (Discussion)
      Wiley recapped discussions from the last meeting. Mr. Butler stated that he was not familiar with the exact product we use but the crew uses a herbicide around the chain link fencing and ball diamonds where it is hard to weed whip. He stated that he will look into it with the maintenance staff and get Wiley a report. Radke mentioned seeing flags at Bay View Park and Kreher Park. Butler was not aware of what product was used so will have to look and follow up. Radke wanted to hear from the City regarding what we are doing and then determine whether we wanted to reduce toxicity. Then do we look at banning some things in the City like with coal tar products? Radke mentioned that Westlund brought up the point of whether or not municipalities can ban things at the last meeting. She was trying to tease out whether City can actually ban herbicides. Radke wanted to develop some sort of outreach campaign to address this. She stated that it would be hard to enact a ban but having an outreach campaign regarding the dangers would be something that could be adopted by us. The City was already promoting No Mow May so this is something we can tie in. Butler said that staff can operate off of some discussion. The City does not have to ban it but the Committee can trust staff. Kupczyk said that we want to know what the City is using so the Committee does not recommend against using something that the City is continuing to use.
   b) Waste and Recycling
      Peterman stated that getting recycling bins in parks is a desire of the committee. Wiley provided an explanation of what is going on and discussions with Sara Hudson

about putting bins in. Butler explained that the Bay View Park bins fill up like you would not believe. Crews empty them Monday and Friday and sometimes it is hard to make it to Friday. Kupcyzk stated that if homeowners have to do this then the City should. Butler asked for location suggestions and where to start. Peterman suggested Pamida Beach. Butler replied that this makes sense to him. Zais asked what it would cost. The sheer quantity of garbage/recycling at that park is a problem. He asked what it would be to get another day of pickup like Wednesday. Butler answered that it just would take away from other things the staff would be doing.

Butler explained that we also have a caretaker in the summer months for the garbage cans so staff has a means to address it for when it gets bad.

c) Climate Change

i. 25x25 Plan further discussion

Wiley explained the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) proposal and early discussions. Butler explained that staff was coming up with a plan to do critical upgrades at the WWTP. This would include replacement of the drinking water intake and will be a huge energy draw. The removing and replacing process will create many energy savings. Leaks exist in some of the lines where you can hear the air escaping. We are definitely interested in looking at solar there as part of this. Zais explained that Bill Bailey mentioned grants for the work. Butler asked if you just use transformers to step up to 240/480. Zais answered that it would be designed to operate at that level. He just finished Bayfield County's jail micro grid. It was just finished and turned on today. It was a pretty huge project that Bill Bailey was involved with. It has a micro-grid which can physically sever from the grid on days when there is huge demand. Xcel can say use your battery power. Butler explained that the City has been using the WI Clean Water Loan program. Butler brought up with our consultant to inform them that we are interested in looking at solar integration and they were going to look at this. Zais explained that the first step was to get a data logger. This would capture data (peak demand), etc. The City would have to pony up $1,000 to $2,000 for it. Zais asked how we would get the ball rolling and whether it was appropriate to pass a resolution. Butler suggested that the Committee talk with Wiley and he can get the ball rolling. Butler asked how you spec the data logger. Zais answered that the Committee could talk with Bill Bailey to do so. Mr. Bailey can help with this. Butler explained that one thing staff is looking at is expanding administrative space because utility staff does not have enough office space. Zais explained that Bailey is very bullish on this. Butler explained that Washburn has a solar array on their plant. Zais stated that the WWTP uses so much energy and Xcel has a special rate. Butler explained that Aeration and UV disinfection take a lot of juice.

ii. City Vehicle Fleet discussion

Wiley mentioned Mr. Kucera having someone look at the City's fleet vehicles. Butler supports EVs but currently the City can get a new vehicle, use it, sell it, and turn around and make a profit. Currently the focus has been large trucks which is counterintuitive to what the Sustainability Committee is

doing. It's hard to buy one so it is easy to make money when selling them. The City has two in town vehicles limping along so maybe look at those. Radke stated that on December 5th she is bringing in a Department of Administration Executive Director who is looking at this issue. If anyone was interested she can send the invite. Butler said this would be interesting.

d) Water
   i. Develop Sourcewater Protection Plan Initial Recommendations
   Radke was on workgroup when it started until she became sick. The Committee had talked about wanting to have a list of recommendations compiled all together so it would be easy to implement by staff and have this public facing as well so the public is aware of it. She has prepared a composite list of all recommendations with an executive summary so it is easier to implement and put out to the public. She sent it to Wiley and it can also go to Mr. Butler. Butler stated he was happy to look at it. He mentioned that this was an example of making the plan, putting it on the shelf thing with it so he was happy to look at it again. He went to a conference on road salt usage so optimizing this would be a low hanging fruit way to get salt use down, etc. Radke mentioned interdepartmental awareness-getting other City Departments aware of the plan so they can see how they can make contributions. Butler mentioned water intake project. This project will essentially double the length of the intake into the Bay. The City has essentially eliminated our overflow problem. We had issues this spring but due to a massive snowmelt. Radke stated that this was all huge. The fact that Butler has done so much in so few years is huge and might be nice for the Daily Press to do another article. Zais asked if the reason we haven't had sewer overflows is primarily because we had the recoating of the pipes. Butler answered yes. There were some cases where the pipe was in rough shape so they do open cut excavations each year. Also have to keep up on cleaning out pipes. The DNR pointed us in this direction because the City of Superior had observed the same thing. If people do not do their inflow & infiltration the water infiltrates into the system and we are all paying to treat it. We can do some stuff there. Radke sees some streets that have had infrastructure replaced and trees replanted. She asked how this works. Butler explained that Sara Hudson manages this program and has been working on grants to restore the trees which generally follows the street project by a year or two. Butler supported doing this but we already don't have enough money to restore the roads and stormwater pipes so we have to look at funding options.

e) Complete Streets – Update
   Wiley mentioned that Ellis Avenue will be reconstructed in 2025. Butler explained that the City does not really have a Complete Streets policy but has gotten a lot of grants and our City Engineer is applying for grants for this tomorrow.

f) Green Tier Legacy Communities – Update
   Wiley mentioned the annual meeting coming up and that there was a virtual meeting on October 30th and new Green Tier scoresheet. Wiley explained how the scoresheet works and that it was intended for communities to be able to establish a baseline of

where they were at on various sustainability initiatives. From there the communities could determine what goals to establish and work towards for the coming year.

g) Great Lakes Friendly Restaurant Certification - Discussion
Peterman tabled this item since Amman was unable to attend.

h) Seed Mix - Discussion
Wiley brought up that this started with Laura Graf. Radke had looked at sample ordinances from other communities which had examples of permitted plants. Butler mentioned that Alex, the City's intern this summer had also done some research and so would be interesting to compare what he came up with what Radke found and see how the plants compare. Butler mentioned that usually we have worked with our consultant and gone with whatever they have chosen. Radke mentioned that there were a lot of weed seeds in the mix she dealt with. Butler explained that the issue with Radke's product was likely workmanship. Butler stated that we tend to leave our window open for contractors throughout the year to get affordable pricing. He has had issues with some contractors. He asked if it got better at Radke's place when Public Works staff reseeded it last year. Radke stated that she was going to look at doing some things on her own. She would address some of the weeds without toxic chemicals and put some seed in on her own. She was not fretting too much but wanted to have us look at how to address things for other properties because we will have to dig up others. Butler was interested in seeing what Radke came up with. Radke stated that she could send to Wiley and he can send out to others.

i) Community Garden Update
Peterman spent the last few weeks preparing for winter. His group instructed gardeners to clean out their plots by the end of this month. Gardeners were asked to remove anything unsightly by the end of this month. The work event postponed due to bad weather. Peterman will try to get everything done by the end of the month. The trash bin placed next to the garden for their use has been removed. Peterman would like it back because for clean-up they will have a lot of stuff to toss. Peterman is planning for next year. He is planning to up the plot fee a bit. Now it is $20.00 for the season for 200 sq. ft. for access to water and compost. This was unreasonably inexpensive. No one knows how long it has been that. In doing research a number of gardens are charging 3 or 4 times as much for a similar area. Peterman is looking to up the fee for next year to 35 or 40 bucks. He is also looking at things to add for next year. For example, some gardens do not allow people to place wood chips in their plots. They don't want people tilling up wood chips which rob the soil of nitrogen. This is a change to make for next year. Peterman stated that he has been in touch with Northlakes Clinic about creating an off-site manager position. He reached out but has not heard back. He will follow up. Kupczyk thanked the City for having the disposal area by the Public Works building for grass, leaves, etc. Peterman had put out a flyer a few weeks back asking people to donate leaves that have fallen. He has not heard much back. He may reach out to Dan at Public Works. Butler stated that he can probably send leaves Peterman's way. Peterman stated that he needed a source of carbon and brown material for composting. Butler asked when Peterman wanted the leaves by. Peterman wanted the leaves within the next week or week and a half ideally.

5) Future agenda items

Peterman asked if there was anything to add to the agenda. Kupczyk mentioned the walking trail. It is a wonderful thing but there are some areas when you go down to Bay View for example where you cannot see the lake. On the far east side too where there are so many trees you can't see the water. Butler has been working with Sara Hudson and suggested that Kupczyk reach out to her. She makes a determination and sends work orders to the crew. Peterman asked about talking to her about the beaver issue also. Butler we can talk to Dan Homola in PW. He explained that we have had beaver activity damming up culverts and Dan has been involved. He recommended talking to Dan. Radke stated that it was a great thing to look at all kinds of options. Butler asked if garden fees should be covering the water use for the community garden. Peterman answered yes. Butler asked if Peterman knows what the water use is. Peterman stated that he would have to look at it with building changing hands. CESA 12 used to track this. With the change in hands he was not sure how this was going to work. This is something he needs to talk to Ms. Hudson about and have her reach out to the new owner. Peterman stated that raising the plot fee will not be enough to pay a new manager but could help buy tools, hold gardening classes, potlucks, etc. Butler can follow up on water use. Peterman mentioned that water for the garden was turned off earlier this summer. He talked to Ms. Hudson and she and Mr. Kucera got water back on but the flow was and is still low. He believes that figuring out what is going on with that and maybe digging up the hose and replacing it is something we can do next year.

6) Adjournment

Zais moved to adjourn and Kupczyk seconded. Meeting adjourned at 7:16 pm.

Recorded by:

Steven Wiley

THE CITY OF ASHLAND WISCONSIN

Sustainability Committee
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Address | 601 Main St W. Ashland, WI 54806

Brant Kucera
City Administrator
601 Main St W
Ashland, WI 54806

January 25, 2024

Dear Mr. Kucera,

The Sustainability Committee discussed the EPA Community Change and PSC Rural Startup Grants at the Committee's January 25th, 2024 meeting. After reviewing and discussing the grants, the Sustainability Committee enthusiastically supports the City's partnership with Ashland County on the EPA grant application. The Committee also supports the City applying for the PSC grant. The EPA Community Change and PSC Rural Startup Grants provide great funding opportunities for climate and pollution reduction-related projects within the city. The Committee has worked over the past several years on ideas for renewable energy and EV charging-related projects and would like to continue supporting the City's adoption and implementation of these projects wherever possible. We appreciate the willingness of you, the Mayor, and the Council to pursue funding opportunities for such projects and continue implementation of the 25x25 plan.

Please reach out to Steven Wiley with any questions and he can follow up or put you in touch with me as needed.

Sincerely,

Axel Peterman
Chair, Ashland Sustainability Committee

Executive Summary: City of Ashland Source Water Protection Plan July 2021

(ADD Cover page)

(ADD photos, relevant charts/graphs)

Source water is untreated water from streams, rivers, lakes, and groundwater aquifers. Source water protection is a watershed-based approach to protecting drinking water sources and reducing treatment costs.

A watershed is not limited to political boundaries such as township, county or state. Instead, it is simply an area of land that drains to a common point. Although we often manage land according to political boundaries, it makes more sense to plan and manage areas by the lay of the land, and all people living within a watershed play an important role in protecting their water.

Affordable, safe drinking water is essential to the health, development and stability of all communities. Treatment is used to maintain safe drinking water for surface water systems; however, the cost and quality of treated drinking water is a function of the pretreatment water quality.

One of the best ways to ensure safe drinking water and reduce treatment costs is to develop a local source water protection program designed to protect the source of drinking water against potential contamination.

Source Water Protection (SWP) is the first line of defense in a multi-barrier approach to assure the availability and reduce the cost of clean safe drinking water. It focuses on protecting and improving water quality at the origin before reaching the drinking water intake and undergoing treatment.

SWP is accomplished using four main steps: assessment, planning, implementation, and long-term management.

For the City of Ashland, the first step, *"assessment,"* was completed in March 2003 by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) and documented in the report *Source Water Assessment For Ashland Water Utility, Ashland, Wisconsin March 27, 2003* (A copy of Ashland's source water assessment is available by contacting the WDNR or the City of Ashland). The source water assessment for Ashland suggests that the next steps in protecting their drinking water is for the city to develop a SWP program by forming a SWP

committee to plan and implement best management practices in the source water area. This source water protection program is intended to put in place the remaining steps of planning, implementation, and long-term management of the city's source water.

In February 2016, due to an increase in public awareness about water quality concerns, city employees compiled a list of potential source water protection committee members who could collaboratively develop a SWP plan for the City of Ashland. In March 2016, the City Council voted to approve the formation of a SWP committee and development of the SWP plan.

The city contacted the Wisconsin Rural Water Association (WRWA) for assistance with facilitating the SWP plan writing process. WRWA is a non-profit association of utilities that provides technical assistance to utilities. Ashland is a long-time member of WRWA. SWP planning efforts began with an initial meeting of the SWP committee in August 2016.

The committee started to develop the SWP plan and conducted several additional meetings throughout 2016 and 2017. Due to staff turnover at the city, the plan stalled before being completed. In early 2020, with new city staff in place and a refreshed SWP committee, the SWP planning efforts were renewed and the SWP plan was completed.

Integration with City of Ashland Planning (Comprehensive Plan and Strategic Plan) Integration of the Ashland Source Water Protection Plan with the City of Ashland is done two ways: through city operations and through ordinances. Two city council members and several city staff members sit on the SWP committee. These individuals are tasked with implementing the plan by revising and updating the city's operating procedures and developing ordinances that improve and protect water quality in the Chequamegon Bay and the tributaries leading to it.

(ADD: What else?)

City of Ashland Source Water Protection Plan Recommendations (Actions): August 2023

1.2 Integration with Ashland And Bayfield Counties (Including Resource Management Plan); P. 2

"Ashland and Bayfield Counties have Land & Water Resource Management (LWRM) Plans. The Ashland Source Water Protection Plan takes a more focused look at surface water quality in Chequamegon Bay. In Chapter VIII of the Ashland County plan, coordination with the City of Ashland is specifically listed. This includes the goal "Increase collaboration on Lake Superior waterfront issues, stormwater management, invasive species, and beach health." The Bayfield County plan lists the City of Washburn and the City of Bayfield as implementation partners."

Recommendation: The City of Ashland should look for commonalities in the Ashland and Bayfield Counties' Land and Water Resource Management Plans and look for opportunities to participate in the regular planning cycle.

1.3 Integration with Other Planning Efforts (Tribal Governments and Entities and Non-Governmental Organizations); P. 2

"Tribal government entities in the area include the Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, and the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission. Prominent non-governmental organizations in the area include the Superior Rivers Watershed Association, Chequamegon Bay Area Partnership, Mary Griggs Burke Center for Freshwater Innovation at Northland College, and others."

Recommendation: The Ashland city staff and SWP committee members should seek opportunities to coordinate these tribal and non-governmental organizations to improve and protect water quality in the Chequamegon Bay and coordinate source water protection in planning efforts.

4.2 Susceptibility To Harmful Algal Blooms (P.11)

"As of January 2020, about 20,283 microcystin samples were taken through this program, and only 6 samples exceeded the advisory standards for small children, and 0 samples exceeded the advisory levels for adults. Cylindrospermopsin had 11

instances of advisory exceedance. This shows the risk of cyanotoxins being found in finished water is low, but the cyanobacteria situation is constantly evolving, so it is important to continue to monitor the situation."

Recommendation: City Public Works staff will work with local and regional partners to monitor the situation.

5.2.4 Rural Sanitary Waste (Septic Systems, Holding Tanks; P. 21

"Septic systems must be properly used, operated, and maintained by the owner to assure the long-term performance of the system and protection of public health and the environment."

Recommendation: The City should conduct regular and ongoing education activities to inform private property owners how to care for their septic systems.

5.2.5 Incidental Spills of Hazardous Materials; P. 23

"Minor releases can be addressed through landowner education, provision of convenient hazardous waste disposal options, and disconnecting paved area drainage from streams."

Recommendation: The City should conduct regular and ongoing education activities to inform private property owners how to reduce the use of and safe disposal of hazardous materials.

5.4 Urban Nonpoint Sources of Pollution; P. 25

"Convincing people to change their behaviors and properly dispose of materials can minimize such pollution. It is important that the public be aware of the significance of their behavior and that their actions can either pollute or protect our waterways. The benefits of public education efforts cannot be understated, especially for urban stormwater pollution."

Recommendation: The City should work with local and regional partners to conduct ongoing outreach about how to minimize nonpoint solution at residences, businesses, and local governmental properties.

5.4 Urban Nonpoint Sources Of Pollution; P. 26

"Encouraging community participation, forming partnerships, and combining efforts of other groups in the community will encourage everyone to work towards the same stormwater goals. Public involvement builds on community capital—the wealth of interested citizens and groups—to help spread the message to: prevent stormwater pollution; undertake group activities that highlight storm drain pollution; contribute volunteer community actions to restore and protect local water resources."

Recommendation: The City should take the lead to encourage community participation, form partnerships, and combine efforts of other community groups to focus on stormwater goals collaboratively.

5.4 Urban Nonpoint Sources of Pollution; P. 26

"Phase II MS4s are required to follow all state, tribal, and local public notice requirements when implementing their stormwater program. Public involvement also includes creating opportunities for direct action, educational, and volunteer programs such as tree planting days, volunteer monitoring programs, storm drain marking, or stream clean-up programs.

"Preventing pollutants from entering a waterway is less expensive than restoring a waterway after it has been polluted. Therefore, programs should first focus on preventing pollution before it happens. BMPs under each of the minimum measures, but especially under this pollution prevention category, focus on preventing pollutants from contacting stormwater.

"Municipal activities such as winter road maintenance, minor road repairs and other infrastructure work, automobile fleet maintenance, landscaping and park maintenance, and building maintenance can release pollutants into MS4s that ultimately discharge to nearby water bodies.

"Municipal facilities can also be sources of stormwater pollutants if BMPs are not in place to contain spills, manage trash, and handle non-stormwater discharges. Sweeping parking lots and streets and cleaning storm drains can prevent pollutants from entering nearby waterways.

Recommendations: The City should work with local and regional partners (including property owners, city and county staff, and other groups and businesses)

to conduct ongoing outreach about: **(ADD—Names of local groups that can help with each?)**

- The importance of planting trees
- Volunteer monitoring programs
- Storm drain markings
- Stream clean-up programs
- Pollution prevention BMPs
- Smart salting strategies and practices
- Solid waste management
- Storm drain maintenance and cleaning (voluntary adoption of neighborhood storm drains) **(ADD link to city's page on educational activities such as this)**

5.4.1 Urban Runoff Entering the City's Storm Sewer System; P. 26

"An effective approach to reduce nonpoint source pollution in the city's storm sewer system should include efforts to reduce the volume and speed of runoff entering the system, a concept known as "slow the flow." Implementing stormwater Best Management Practices (BMPs) will help reduce both the volume and the speed of stormwater.

"As new development or redevelopment occurs, conservation considerations should be made to reduce stormwater runoff. The city should create runoff-reduction requirements or incentives, such as minimizing the number of impervious surfaces and/or adding filter strips, swales, or bioretention areas to filter runoff from paved surfaces and rooftops before it enters storm sewers, ditches, and/or waterways.

"Consideration should also be given to practices, in the residential, commercial and industrial sectors, that result in the reduction of chemicals associated with yard fertilizer, herbicides, and pesticides within City Of Ashland Source Water Protection Plan - July 2021 the city. Fertilizer, herbicide, and pesticides are used on lawns and gardens for the purpose of growing green grass and weed control. These lawn chemicals can runoff lawns and gardens into waterways though the urban stormwater system. The extent to which fertilizer and lawn chemicals are applied is not known; however, it is important to recognize the excess use could be an important threat to water quality in the bay. Controlling excess fertilizer and lawn chemicals from commercial and industrial development focuses on BMPs for

reducing over application and minimizing the amount that reaches surface water through good stormwater management practices, as described above. The City is in a good position to promote these practices through the Sustainability Committee."

Recommendation:

The City should work with local and regional partners (including property owners, city and county staff, and other groups and businesses) to conduct ongoing outreach about:

- Slow the flow BMPs
- Reduce stormwater runoff (rain barrels, native plantings, etc.)
- Reduce lawn chemicals

5.4.2 Streambank Erosion Along Open Channels Within the City (Bay City Creek, Other Streams and Ravines Leading to the Bay); P. 27

"Another component of the effective reduction of sediment and pollution loading to Chequamegon Bay is prevention of streambank erosion…. McClure identified five major sites (3 sites on Bay City Creek, 1 site on Industrial Park Creek, and 1 on Mack Road Creek) that combined contribute approximately 40% of the total sediment load from urban streams. The study recommended that the city prioritize and implement repairs to those five sites."

Recommendation: The City will prioritize and implement repairs to 5 identified sites in partnership with local and regional partners.

7.1.1 Sanitary Surveys; P. 43

"A sanitary survey is an inspection of a water system's facilities, operations, and records to ensure the delivery of safe and reliable drinking water. As required by the WI DNR under section NR809.35, the DNR must complete a sanitary survey every 3 years. Several deficiencies were identified during the most recent sanitary survey conducted in 2018 that have yet to be corrected. The city must prioritize fixing these deficiencies as well as any additional deficiencies identified during the next sanitary survey conducted during summer of 2021."

Recommendation: The City's Public Works Department will prioritize fixes of the deficiencies found by WI DNR of its sanitary surveys.

7.1.3 Harmful Algal Blooms; P. 43

"If it is determined that Chequamegon Bay is at high risk for cyanobacteria blooms, the City of Ashland water utility will develop a monitoring and response plan after assessing their capabilities and priorities. When creating a plan, the water utility must decide when to test for cyanobacteria, which testing method to use, which step in the drinking water treatment process to collect samples from, and which method of decontamination to use."

Recommendation: The city's water utility will develop a monitoring and response plan to cyanobacteria blooms after assessing its capabilities and priorities. Included will be information about when to test for cyanobacteria, which testing method to use, which step in the drinking water treatment process to collect samples from, and which method of decontamination to use.

7.1.4 Chemical Compounds; P. 44

"The City's water utility tests for all regulated compounds on an annual basis. Reducing the water system's susceptibility to chemical compounds can be accomplished by working directly with businesses that use or store chemical compounds and educating the general public about the hazard chemicals pose to the city's water supply."

Recommendation: The public works department will coordinate with the fire department to help prevent spills of chemical compounds through the fire inspection program.

7.1.5 Redundant Water Intake

"The City of Ashland has received grant funds from the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers for the construction of a new drinking water intake to serve the city water system…. Preliminary design concepts include the incorporation of the new intake piping into the existing pumping facility in a manner that will allow the continued use of the existing intake piping as backup source of water supply.

"Although the existing intake piping has exceeded its useful life and will eventually begin to fail, rehabilitation of some portion of the piping will likely allow the city to continue use of the existing intake as a redundant source of water supply, as recommended by the WI DNR."

Recommendation: The city will continue using the existing intake pipe as a

redundant source of water supply, as recommended by the WI DNR, when a new pipe is constructed.

7.2.1 Municipal Wastewater Treatment Plant Effluent Load Reductions: P. 45

"The Wastewater Utility anticipates that regulatory changes in the next 10-20 years will further work to reduce loading to Chequamegon Bay through the regulation of phosphorus and nitrogen."

Recommendation: The City should monitor the regulatory process and prepare for the impact of these requirements from a technical and managerial perspective.

7.2.2 City of Ashland Sanitary System Load Reductions; P. 46

"During testing of the sanitary sewer collection system in 2019, city staff noticed an usually high amount of clear water flowing into a manhole near the water treatment plant. Field investigation revealed that backwash water, used to clean filtration units used in the drinking water treatment process, was being disposed of in the sanitary sewer system. Upon consultation with the WI DNR, it was determined that this water could instead be directly discharged to the storm sewer system and Chequamegon Bay, as it was free of any of the chemicals used at the water treatment plant.

"City staff are currently pursuing an aggressive program to evaluate the collection system and anticipates the identification and elimination of similar discharges to the sanitary sewer as these efforts are further implemented."

Recommendation: City staff will pursue an aggressive program to evaluate the collection system and identify and eliminate similar discharges to the sanitary sewer as these efforts are further implemented.

7.2.3 Sanitary Sewer Overflow/Inflow and Infiltration Reduction; P. 47

"Smoke testing to identify leaking sewer lines was completed in 2019 but results were inconclusive, an indication that I&I is seen from multiple diffuse sources. A pilot study completed with a specialized firm from Finland resulted in the identification of a few large sources of inflow, including one from a private property. The city is working to partner with the property owner on necessary repairs, but future changes to applicable city ordinances and regulations will be

necessary for the efficient organization and enforcement of similar repairs throughout the city."

Recommendation: The City will partner with property owners on necessary repairs on private properties.

Recommendation: The City will determine future changes to applicable city ordinances and regulations in order to efficiently organize and enforce similar repairs throughout the city.

Recommendation: Future capital projects for the sewer collection system will be scheduled annually and supported by a funding allocation directed by the city council.

7.2.3 Sanitary Sewer Overflow/Inflow and Infiltration Reduction; P. 48

"The first step to managing the I&I issue is to measure the extent of the problem… The wastewater utility is in a good position to address the impact of I&I on the sewer collection system as a result of council direction to prioritize this work and the annual allocation of funds to support it. However, it is critical that the city continue to prioritize and support these efforts on a long term and ongoing basis in order to ensure control of I&I and ensure source water protection through the regular collection, treatment, and disposal of wastewater in accordance with WI DNR requirements."

Recommendation: The city should continue to prioritize and support these efforts on a long term and ongoing basis in order to ensure control of I&I and ensure source water protection through the regular collection, treatment, and disposal of wastewater in accordance with WI DNR requirements.

7.3.1 Urban Runoff Load Reductions: Stormwater Utility; P. 50

"Managing stormwater quality is a requirement, particularly for communities located adjacent to pristine water resources. As such, municipal stormwater management programs are becoming an important part of a community's infrastructure and overall operational costs. As comprehensive stormwater management programs grow in complexity they begin to resemble electric, water, and wastewater utility systems. It is becoming increasingly common to consider stormwater management as a public utility."

Recommendation: The creation of a stormwater utility ultimately should be the future long-term end goal of the City of Ashland.

P. 51: "Although the creation of a stormwater utility is not feasible at this time, a long-term priority with a funding strategy will need to be developed in order to provide a means for implementation that does not further diminish available resources for other city priority programs."

7.3.1 Urban Runoff Load Reductions: Ongoing City Efforts; P. 50

"The City continues to seek opportunities to best reduce nonpoint source pollution and source pollution within the storm sewer system. Road reconstruction and paving projects frequently result in reduced roadway widths and associated runoff. A 2019 project at Maslowski Beach saw the installation of a bioswale for the collection, treatment, and disposal of runoff. Another example is the construction of the new police station, which incorporated onsite facilities for stormwater treatment. Reducing nonpoint source pollution should be a top priority in any development or redevelopment projects."

Recommendation: Reducing nonpoint source pollution should be a top priority in any development or redevelopment projects.

7.3.1 Urban Runoff Load Reductions: Green Infrastructure; P. 50

"Green infrastructure efforts must be balanced with general stormwater infrastructure maintenance…Well maintained stormwater infrastructure is a key component to stormwater runoff management and should be the city's first priority with installation of green infrastructure being a secondary goal."

Recommendation: City staff should continue to investigate the use of green infrastructure initiatives in applicable projects.

7.3.4 Road Salt Usage Load Reduction; P. 53

"The city recognizes the safety concerns associated with icy roads and winter driving conditions and tries to maintain, to the extent practicable, reasonably clear roads during the winter months. Additionally, the city recognizes the potential water quality concerns that come from road salt-laden runoff from roadways. It is important to find a balance between maintaining safe roads and reducing the amount of road salt used. Essentially, the goal is to use the least amount of salt possible to get the job done."

Recommendation: The City will conduct ongoing outreach programs about salt usage, with a primary goal of educating residents, leaders, and winter maintenance professionals on salt pollution and solutions, providing training, and promoting best practices to reduce salt pollution and recognize contractors committed to using the right amount of salt for conditions.

Recommendation: The City will provide this to new employees and will evaluate new technology and alternatives with the potential to reduce road salt application, such as new plow blades for existing equipment that can more effectively remove ice from roadways.

7.4.1 Sediment Load Reductions; P. 55

"The Mary Griggs Burke Center for Freshwater Innovation, along with other partners, have completed one bluff restoration project on North Fish Creek, and another is scheduled to begin construction in the summer of 2021. Prioritizing restoration in this area of the watershed is vital to reducing sediment loads in Chequamegon Bay since eroding bluffs in North Fish Creek are the primary contributors of sediment into the watershed."

Recommendation: The City should continue to work with local and regional partners when possible to stabilize erosion along stream banks, which continue sediments to Chequamegon Bay.

7.4.2 Hydrodynamics; P. 55

"Bathymetry mapping efforts are planned for 2021. The city does not need to be directly involved with this project at this time, but it is important to keep up to date with research findings, which will help anticipate potential threats to the drinking water system based on patterns of pollutant movement."

Recommendation: The City will keep up to date with research findings about research results related to currents in the Bay.

7.4.3 Nutrient Load Reductions; P. 57

"Nutrient load reductions are achieved by reducing the amount of nutrient laden surface water runoff that reaches lakes and rivers and when the amount of nutrients contained in the surface water runoff is reduced.

"Ashland County has adopted NR151 rules and is able to enforce NR 151 regulations at the county level….Bayfield County has adopted NR151 rules and is

able to enforce NR 151 regulations at the county level. In addition, they have adopted a number of county ordinances to manage large scale livestock operations."

Recommendation: Ashland County will consider also adopting ordinances similar to Bayfield County's regarding CAFO operations (see ordinance titles and links and p. 57 of this plan.)

7.4.4 Land Spreading Load Reductions; P. 57

"The City of Ashland has the most direct control over land spreading of municipal sludge from Ashland's wastewater treatment plant. The city has a WPDES permit (#0030767) that regulates the city's land spreading. The wastewater utility is responsible for complying with the terms of the WPDES permit and completing all required testing. The wastewater treatment plan is under the supervision of the City of Ashland Public Works Department. The wastewater department should consider SWP during long range planning and look for opportunities to upgrade facilities and improve processes to reduce pollutant runoff and improve source water quality."

Recommendation: The wastewater department should consider source water protection during long range planning and look for opportunities to upgrade facilities and improve processes to reduce pollutant runoff and improve source water quality.

7.5.1 City of Ashland Private Well Ordinance; P. 58

"Cities have the authority to regulate private wells within the municipal boundary. Private wells in the City of Ashland are regulated under Chapter 705 *Water Utility Rates and Regulations*, Section 705.19(b). Generally speaking, the city can better ensure the quality and reliability of drinking water through the public water system, rather than private wells, due to the technical staff and regulation associated with the system. The city should more strongly enforce the provisions of the above ordinance and also consider modifications to require connection to the public water system for all residences, commercial, industrial, and institutional entities within the municipal boundary in a designated time period."

Recommendation: The City should more strongly enforce the provisions of the above ordinance and also consider modifications to require connection to the

public water system for all residences, commercial, industrial, and institutional entities within the municipal boundary in a designated time period.

7.5.3 Capture Zone Delineation; P. 59

"Having a better understanding of where groundwater pumped from a well comes from allows for better decision making on how to protect the well. While it is not practical to delineate the capture zones for the many private wells in the SWP area, delineating capture zones for the 28 non-municipal public supply wells within the SWP area could be completed with a reasonable amount of effort."

Recommendation: The City of Ashland should support efforts to work with Ashland and Bayfield counties to better understand and delineate groundwater capture zones for non-municipal public wells within the SWP area.

7.5.4 County Well Head Protection Ordinance; P. 59

"A common regulatory approach to protecting public wells is adopting a wellhead protection ordinance. A wellhead protection ordinance works to protect groundwater quality near a well by regulating land use within a specified distance of the well and maintaining minimum setbacks from potential groundwater contaminant sources. Municipalities often use this approach, but it can easily be expanded to non-municipal public wells at a county wide scale... The City of Ashland should support efforts to work with Bayfield and Ashland counties to develop and adopt county wellhead protection ordinances."

Recommendation: The City of Ashland will support efforts to work with Bayfield and Ashland counties to develop and adopt county wellhead protection ordinances.

7.6.1 Community Education and Outreach; P. 59

"The wastewater utility has recently developed educational materials regarding the proper disposal of waste products in order to allow for reliable operation of the sewage collection system and wastewater treatment plant."

Recommendation: The city should seek opportunities to staff future outreach campaigns with AmeriCorp or similar staffing programs, either in a short term or permanent capacity, as well as look to broaden the approach to incorporate sanitary sewer and drinking water management.

7.6.2 Coordination with Local Organizations; P. 60

"The City of Ashland coordinates with local groups and organizations on a variety of efforts to protect water quality in the Chequamegon Bay."

Recommendation: The City should seek additional opportunities to work with organizations to promote source water protection or activities that protect and improve water quality. Such groups include League of Women Voters, Superior Rivers Watershed Association, UW Extension Ashland County, Ashland County Human Health Services Department, Lake Superior Collaborative, Ashland County Land and Water Conservation Department, City of Ashland's Sustainability Committee, City of Ashland's Public Works Advisory Committee, and local schools.

Recommendation: The City of Ashland should look for opportunities to work with local elementary, middle and high schools to educate students on the importance of protecting water resources.

7.1.2 Coordination with Other Departments; P. 61
"The plan has been provided to other city departments for awareness and discussion regarding the implementation. Source water protection impacts all departments in a variety of ways but key stakeholders within the city include the Public Works, Finance, Planning, Parks and Recreation, and Fire/EMS Departments."

Recommendation: The Public Works Director will coordinate inter-departmental management of the plan as needed to keep all department heads and staff invested and engaged in the implementation.

Recommendation: The source water protection plan will be used as a guidance and reference to these departments as they conduct planning activities and implementation related to their department's mission and associated goals.

Recommendation: City Departments should periodically review the plan to ensure members are familiar with its recommendations and goals.

8.1.2 Regulatory Requirements; P. 62
"The city's primary tool for communications plan related to the drinking water system is as a stakeholder in the Ashland County Emergency Operations plan (EOP). Discussions with the WI DNR have brought up that this plan needs to be updated."

Recommendation: The city should participate in and support efforts to update the Ashland County EOP.

8.3.2 Communication Methods; P. 63

"Communications with the public regarding source water quality issues may be provided by several different methods depending on the situation."

Recommendation: The City of Ashland will notify customers potentially affected by an incident/event using one or more of the following options:

- Direct contact (phone, text and email)
- Local media (press release, press conference, updates)
- County emergency alert system
- Website and social media (Facebook, Twitter)
- Door-to-door/door hangers
- Posted notices (city hall, public library)

By Lissa Radke
Ashland County UW Extension
August 2023

GREEN TIER LEGACY COMMUNITIES SCORESHEET
METRICS DESCRIPTIONS AND METHODOLOGIES

OVERVIEW

The scoresheet is organized around six sustainability issue areas:

1. **Energy & Emissions**
2. **Transportation Systems**
3. **Land Use**
4. **Water Quality & Conservation**
5. **Solid Waste**
6. **Health & Equity**

Metrics marked with an * are intended for everyone to fill out. Metrics not marked with an * are optional, but if you do track them, please share your data.

Questions? Contact Jennifer Feyerherm at jennifer.feyerherm@wisconsin.gov or Mandaline Bergstrom at mandaline.bergstrom@wisconsin.gov.

ENERGY & EMISSIONS

*ER-1 - MUNICIPAL USE OF RENEWABLE ELECTRICITY – (%)

Description: Percentage of the local government's (GTLC member's) overall electricity consumption that comes from renewable energy sources.

Methodology A:

1. Use billing statements for all of the local government's electric utility accounts to calculate total annual electricity consumption in kilowatt hours (kWh).
2. Review billing statements to calculate total renewable electricity purchased during the year. Consult monitoring software for on-site renewable energy sources to calculate total on-site renewable energy generated (kWh)
3. Review billing statements to calculate total on-site renewable electricity that was exported.
4. Calculate [On-site electricity produced + renewable energy purchased]/[Total purchased electricity + total generated electricity consumed on-site]

Methodology B:

1. Download electricity consumption data from ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager for all municipal buildings, including the column labeled "Green Power."
2. Sum the total kWh of "Green Power" used during the year
3. Consult monitoring software for on-site renewable energy and sum the total kWh generated that were consumed on-site.
4. Calculate [Green Power used + Renewable electricity generated and consumed on-site]/[Total purchased electricity + Total renewable electricity generated that was consumed on-site.]

ER-2A - COMMUNITY ELECTRICITY USE - (ANNUAL KWH PER CAPITA)

Description: Electricity use in the member community

Methodology:

1. Coordinate with electric utilities that serve the community to obtain aggregate electricity sold in the jurisdiction during the year (kWh)
2. Calculate: [Aggregate electricity sold in the community by Utility A + Utility B + Utility N]/Population

ER-2B – COMMUNITY NATURAL GAS USE - (ANNUAL THERMS PER CAPITA)

Description: Natural gas use in the member community

Methodology:

1. Coordinate with natural gas utilities that serve the community to obtain aggregate natural gas sold in the jurisdiction during the year (Therms)
2. Calculate: [Aggregate Therms sold in the community by Utility A + Utility B + Utility N]/Population

*ER-3A - GOVERNMENT ELECTRICITY USE - (ANNUAL KWH PER CAPITA)

Description: Gross electricity consumption (kWh) by the local unit of government (GTLC member)

Methodology:

1. Use billing statements for all of the local government's electric utility accounts to calculate total annual electricity consumption (kWh). [Alternatively, use ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager to determine total electricity purchased for the year.]
2. Consult monitoring software for on-site renewable energy sources to calculate total on-site renewable energy consumed on-site (kWh)
3. Sum purchased electricity and on-site generated electricity consumed (kWh)
4. Divide total kWh by the population

*ER-3B – GOVERNMENT NATURAL GAS USE – (ANNUAL THERMS PER CAPITA)

Description: Total natural gas consumption (Therms) by the local unit of government (GTLC member)

Methodology:

1. Use billing statements for all of the local government's natural gas utility accounts to calculate total annual natural gas consumption. [Alternatively, use ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager to determine total natural gas purchased for the year.]
2. Divide total Therms by the population

*ER-3C - GOVERNMENT FUEL OIL CONSUMPTION - (GALLONS PER CAPITA)

Description: Total building fuel oil consumption (gallons) by the local unit of government (GTLC member)

Methodology:

1. Use invoices from all delivered fuel oil used as energy for facilities to sum total gallons purchased during the year. [Alternatively, use ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager to determine total fuel oil (all types) purchased for the year.]
2. Divide total gallons by the population

*ER-3D - GOVERNMENT PROPANE CONSUMPTION - (LBS PER CAPITA)

Description: Total building propane consumption (pounds) by the local unit of government (GTLC member)

Methodology:

1. Use invoices from all delivered propane used as energy for facilities to sum total pounds purchased during the year. [Alternatively, use ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager to determine total propane purchased for the year.]
2. Divide total pounds by the population

*ER-4 - Government building Energy Use Intensity (EUI) - (kBtu/sq ft)

Description: Overall energy use intensity of all consistently occupied buildings owned by the local unit of government (GTLC member).

Methodology A:

1. Identify all energy uses in ER-3A – ER-3D that supply buildings Do not include non-building uses (eg. streetlights) in the calculation
2. For each energy use, convert to kilo British Thermal Unit (kBTU) equivalents: (1 kWh = 3.412 kBtu, 1 therm = 100 kBtu, 1 gallon fuel oil = 138.5 kBtu, 1 lb propane = 21.5 kBtu)
3. Sum the indoor square feet of all government buildings
4. Divide total kBtu calculated in step 2 by total square feet calculated in step 3.

Methodology B:

1. Input the portfolio average Site EUI value from ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager

*ER-5A - Number of sustainable government buildings - (count)

Description: Number of sustainability-certified buildings owned by the local unit of government (GTLC member).

Methodology:

1. Count of all buildings owned by the local unit of government that are certified by LEED, WELL, ENERGY STAR, Passive House, New Buildings Institute Zero Energy, Green Globes, Living Building
2. Communities may contact DNR staff regarding consideration of additional building certification types

ER-5B - Number of sustainable buildings in the community - (count)

Description: Number of sustainability-certified privately owned buildings in the member community

Methodology:

1. Count of all privately-owned buildings in the jurisdiction that are certified by LEED, WELL, ENERGY STAR, Passive House, New Buildings Institute Zero Energy, Green Globes, Living Building
2. Communities may contact DNR staff regarding consideration of additional building

ER-6 - GHG EMISSIONS INTENSITY - GOVERNMENT FACILITIES - (METRIC TONS PER CAPITA)

Description: Metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalents (CO2e) emitted from energy consumed by government buildings

Methodology:

Follow the instructions in the GTLC Emissions Calculator to determine the per capita GHG emissions for the municipality/county for the reporting year.

ER-7 - TRANSPORTATION FUEL USE - (GALLONS PER CAPITA)

Description: Gallons of gasoline and diesel transportation fuel used by vehicles owned by the local government.

Methodology:

1. Sum all gasoline and diesel fuel purchased for vehicles owned by the unit of government during the reporting period. Gallons of fuel purchased may be determined based on any of the following (listed from most to least preferred)

    A. Reports from fleet management software

    B. Compilation of individual fuel purchase receipts

    C. If data regarding gallons purchased is not available, calculate total spent on transportation fuel and divide cost by average daily cost of gasoline during the reporting period.

2. Divide total gallons purchased by the population in the county or municipality (as applicable)

ER-8A & 8B - HYBRID AND ELECTRIC VEHICLES - (NUMBER AND %)

Description: Number and percentage of EVs and hybrids in the local government's (GTLC member's) fleet.

Methodology:

Call fleet services department or relevant public works employee to find out the total number of vehicles in the fleet and the number of hybrid and electric vehicles (combined) in the municipal fleet. Report the actual number (8A) AND the total percentage (8B) of hybrid and electric vehicles.

*ER-9A & 9B - Alternative fuel vehicles - (Number AND %)

Description: Number and percentage of alternative fuel vehicles in the local government's (GTLC Member's).

Methodology:

Call fleet services department or relevant public works employee to find out the total number of vehicles in the fleet and the number of alternative fuel vehicles. Report the actual number (9A) AND the total percentage (9B) of alternative fuel vehicles.

TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS

*TS-1A - Miles of bike infrastructure - (miles of bikeways / centerline miles of motor vehicle roads)

Description: Miles of designated bike ways and biking infrastructure like painted bike lanes, designated bike boulevards, bike paths/shared paths, etc.

Methodology:

Using GIS or other mapping tools, measure in miles for biking infrastructure as described above. This may require collaboration with Planning/GIS/Public Works. This public project to map all bicycle facilities may help.

*TS-1B - Miles of pedestrian infrastructure – (miles)

Description: Miles of designated pedestrian infrastructure like sidewalks, trails, pathways, etc.

Methodology:

Using GIS or other mapping tools, measure in miles for pedestrian infrastructure as described above.

TS-2 - Walking infrastructure – (walk score average) – Municipality only

Description: Average Walk Score for the community.

Methodology:

Look up your community's Walk Score. If your community does not have a Walk Score, pick 3 prominent walking destinations and average their scores.

TS-3 - Increase in complete streets (count)

Description: Cumulative miles or feet of complete streets projects constructed.

Methodology:

Record the miles of street corridors that are designed to "Complete Street" standards.

TS-4 - Publicly accessible EV charging stations - (count)

Description: Number of publicly accessible EV charging stations.

Methodology:

Go to US DOE's Alternative Fueling Station Locator, select "Electric" under fuel choice, enter your location, and count the stations within your borders.

TS-5 - Traffic fatalities & serious injuries (number per capita)

Description: Number of traffic fatalities and serious injuries on streets within local government borders OR on County Highways (bike, ped, or vehicle)

Methodology:

Find your community in the WisTransPortal System and set the dates to the reporting year. Count the number of traffic fatalities and suspected serious injuries. Report that number divided by the population of your community for a per capita count.

LAND USE

*LU-1 - Number of known polluted sites - (% of known sites)

Description: Percent of known brownfield sites that have been remediated in the municipality or county. If none, then state NA.

Methodology:

*The BRRTS system at DNR has all sites listed that are KNOWN - BRRTS on the Web. Can search by municipality and/or county.

Use the download button at the top of the table to download a spreadsheet. Filter in the status column to select only records that are OPEN or CLOSED. Count the total number of sites listed within the jurisdictional boundary and divide by those that are labeled as CLOSED. If no sites exist, state NA.

*LU-2 - Total green space acreage (acres)

Description: Total healthy green space acreage that is publicly accessible, including parks, natural areas, wildlife corridors, etc.

Methodology:

Using GIS, select parcels or portions of designated green spaces within a parcel. Using the attribute table, sum the number of acres.

*LU-3 - Accessibility and connectivity of trails and paths – (miles per capita)

Description: Miles of recreational trails or shared use pathways per capita

Methodology:

GIS data recorded for trails and shared use pathways should be available from the county or municipality. Measure the distance using a measurement tool or by aggregating all recorded distances for trails known for the county or municipality and then divide distance by population.

*LU-4 - Accessibility to open green space and parks - (% of res. properties within .5 mile) – Municipality only

Description: Percent of all residential properties within .5-mile radius of dedicated open green spaces or parks.

Methodology:

Using GIS, draw buffers of .5 miles around all park spaces, select any residential (Single, Two, Multi Family) properties that intersect the buffered zones. Divide number of residential properties selected intersecting the buffered zones by total number of residential properties. Convert to %.

** Green spaces must be accessible to the public for recreational purposes. Swamps, wet prairies, brushlands, private parks, etc. that are not easily accessible for recreational purposes like hiking, hunting, fishing, sports, play, etc. should not be considered for this metric. To be considered, these spaces should not be in a state of environmental degradation or misuse.

LU-5 - Tree canopy - (% of tree canopy maintained by Muni/County)

Description: Estimate the percent of City or County managed tree canopy that received inspections or maintenance from municipal or county staff or a hired consultant in the reporting year.

Methodology:

** Via DNR's Wisconsin Community Tree Map or County Tree Canopy data using imagery classification software). OR Municipal/County tree inventory database updates

Using GIS software or records from hired consultants and/or forestry/public works departments, calculate the percentage of urban street and park trees or county forests that received some type of inspection or maintenance in a given year (watering, pruning, root growth applications, pest treatments, etc.)

LU-6 - Impervious area - (% Imperviousness City Wide)

Description: Decrease or maintain amount of impervious surfaces within the municipality

Methodology:

Using GIS and LIDAR or heads up digitization, calculate the percent of impervious to pervious surfacing in the city. Track changes annually.

LU-7 - Flood vulnerability - (% of Total Properties)

Description: Percent of all properties within the county or municipality that are impacted by the 100-year floodplain, flood storage district, floodway, or flood fringe.

Methodology:

Consult your local floodplain manager or FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map Overlay local properties with the FEMA flood layers to extract the number of structures or properties that would be impacted locally by a 100 year flood. This data should be managed by local zoning authorities or request GIS data from the county.

LU-8 - Land conservation practices - (Acres held for conservation)

Description: Number of acres held primarily for conservation (this can include acres that are accessible for recreational purpose) in deeds or by conservationist groups, including those held by public institutions. Must be publicly accessible.

Methodology:

Aggregate acres of lands dedicated for conservationist practices within the county or municipality. These acres must be held for conservation purposes only, not to be used for any purposes other than biological/ecological survey, conservation, hunting, trapping, or fishing. These lands are typically preserved as native habitat receiving some management practices to maintain health.

Source: https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/timbersales/dnrlands and/or local county data for more information on dedicated lands.

LU-9 - Sustainable agricultural practices - (Acres dedicated for sustainable practices) – County Only

Description: Number of acres of agricultural land that has been voluntarily dedicated for sustainable conservationist agricultural practices.

Methodology:

Typically these acres of farmland are participating in a regional effort, sometimes led by the County's Land and Water Conservation Departments or by a regional non-profit dedicated to land conservation and water quality. Many times, these practices are supported by grant funding (state, regional, or local) to incentivize and teach farmers different sustainable methods for conservation agriculture, including crop diversification, minimal soil movement, permanent soil cover and the eco-friendly application of herbicides, pesticides, and fertilizers.

Source: https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/resources/guides-and-instructions/conservation-practice-standards#AC

WATER QUALITY AND CONSERVATION

*WQC-1 - SURFACE WATER POLLUTANTS – PHOSPHORUS - (%) – MUNICIPALITY ONLY

Description: Phosphorus runoff aggregated for the entire municipality

Methodology:

Using WinSLAMM or equivalent software, calculate stormwater quality of water runoff across all city watersheds and enter percent reduction across all watersheds. Required by DNR for permitted MS4's within a TMDL watershed. Enter NA if not permitted by DNR.

**For Separated Storm Sewer Systems - MS4 Permitted or regional effort to reduce

*WQC-2 - SURFACE WATER POLLUTANTS - SUSPENDED SOLIDS - (%) – MUNICIPALITY ONLY

Description: Suspended solids in stormwater runoff aggregated for the entire municipality

Methodology:

Using WinSLAMM or equivalent software, calculate stormwater quality of water runoff across city watersheds and enter percent reduction across all watersheds. Required by WDNR for permitted MS4's within a TMDL watershed. Enter NA if not permitted by DNR.

**For Separated Storm Sewer Systems - MS4 Permitted or regional effort to reduce stormwater runoff.

*WQC-3 - SURFACE WATER POLLUTANTS - ILLICIT DISCHARGES - (%) – MUNICIPALITY ONLY

Description: Percent of municipally managed stormwater outfalls inspected for illicit discharges of pollutants

Methodology:

Aggregate the number of all publicly maintained stormwater outfalls in the City and count the number that have been inspected in the reporting year. Enter the percent that have been inspected.

**For Separated Storm Sewer Systems - MS4 Permitted or regional effort to reduce stormwater runoff.

*WQC-4 - WATER USE – GOVERNMENT - (GALLONS PER CAPITA)

Description: Total volume of water used in municipal operations

Methodology:

Utilities are required to meter water use unless it is gray water. Any source of water provided through a utility should have a billing cycle. Check utility billing for municipal or township properties currently using utility provided water. Add up all water use. Divide by the community's population.

*WQC-5 - WATER USE – COMMUNITY - (GALLONS PER CAPITA) – MUNICIPALITY ONLY

Description: Total volume of water used in the community

Methodology:

Request information from the local water utility. This information should be stored and recorded for WDNR reporting purposes. Add up all water use and divide by the community's population.

*WQC-6 - WATER USE – ALL - (%)

Description: Percent water loss in water utility system

Methodology:

Calculate or aggregate total gallons pumped (not billed) by utility vs. gallons paid for by customer base (Gallons pumped vs. gallons used). The difference between the two should be the amount of gallons being lost in the utility infrastructure. Divide by the total water pumped to get the percent water loss.

WQC-7 - MAINTAIN CLEAN POTABLE WATER RESOURCES - (%) – MUNICIPALITY ONLY

Description: Percent of the known number of existing lead water service lines replaced during reporting year, if completed, please state 100%

Methodology:

Request information from the local water utility. If no known lead service lines exist, fill in NA.

*WQC-8 - SURFACE WATER POLLUTANTS – SALT - (POUNDS PER MILE)

Description: Pounds of salt applied during snow and ice management per miles of streets receiving snow and ice maintenance

Methodology:

Consult the public works department or engineering department or GIS department to aggregate miles of streets maintained by the entity (County/Town/City) for snow and ice maintenance. Then create a ratio of the number of lbs. of salt and or gallons of brine (can calculate lbs. of salt in the brine based on the mixing ratios used by the streets crews) used to maintain those streets annually to the miles of maintained streets.

WQC-9 - SURFACE WATER POLLUTANTS – SEWER INSPECTIONS - (%)

Description: Percent of sanitary sewer annually inspected by televising sewer lines or by some other method

Methodology:

Contact your utilities or public works department to determine extent of sanitary sewer inspections and divide by total length of sanitary sewer.

WQC-10 - SURFACE WATER POLLUTANTS – MANHOLES AND GREASE TRAPS - (%)

Description: Percent of sanitary manholes and grease traps inspected each year.

Methodology:

Contact your utilities or public works department to determine how many sanitary manholes and grease traps have been inspected and divide by the total number of sanitary manholes and grease traps.

SOLID WASTE

*SW-1 - LANDFILL WASTE - (TONS/YR OR CU. YDS/YR, PER CAPITA)

Description: Annual tonnage of waste received at landfill locations (both municipal and residential).

Methodology:

1. Collect data from waste management company, or from municipal staff tasked with waste collection (waste may not be reported on currently, but likely tracked by waste management company and can be requested).
2. Divide total pounds by the population to get per-capita figure.

*SW-2 – RECYCLING - (TONS/YR OR CU. YDS/YR, PER CAPITA)

Description: Annual tonnage of recyclable waste received at recycling locations (both municipal and residential).

Methodology:

1. Collect data from waste management company, or from municipal staff tasked with waste collection (recycling tonnage is generally reported to the DNR annually, but if not available the waste management company likely tracks this info and can provide it).
2. Divide total pounds by the population to get per-capita figure.

SW-3 – COMPOSTING - (TONS/YR OR CU. YDS/YR, PER CAPITA)

Description: Annual tonnage of compostable organic waste received at municipal composting locations or annual tonnage of waste sent to private composting locations.

Methodology:

1. Collect data from waste management company if available, or from municipal staff tasked with waste collection.
2. Divide total pounds by the population to get per-capita figure.

SW-4 - CONTAMINATION RATE - (% OF TOTAL WASTE TONNAGE)

Description: Rate of cross-waste stream contamination

Methodology:

1. Contact waste management company to request figures for tonnage sent to landfill from recyclables collections.
2. Divide this landfilled extraction from amount of recycling collected to calculate recycling "cross-contamination" as a percent.

SW-5 - CONSTRUCTION AND DEMOLITION WASTE RECYCLING - (% OF TOTAL WASTE TONNAGE)

Description: Annual tonnage of Construction and Demolition (C&D) waste collected for recycling and diverted from landfills.

Methodology:

1. If this data is reported to the responsible unit or waste management company, collect C&D waste diverted from landfills for recycling.
2. Divide this diverted tonnage from total amount of waste sent to landfill to calculate C&D diversion as a percent.

HEALTH AND EQUITY (MUNICIPALITIES AND COUNTIES)

HEALL-1 - DEI OR HIAP EDUCATION

Description: Number of community-wide DEI events (in person or virtual) hosted.

Methodology:

Count the number of community-wide DEI events and enter it. Please use the narrative section to briefly describe the events.

HEALL-2 - DEI OR HIAP OUTREACH

Description: Annual increase in followers on a dedicated health and equity or DEI on social media account.

Methodology:

Subtract the number of followers on a dedicated health and equity or DEI social media account from the number for the current year and enter the result (IF you have more to share please elaborate in the narrative section.

HEALL-3 - DEI OR HIAP RESOURCES

Description: Total budget allocated to DEI initiatives in the community or county.

Methodology:

Determine the total dollar amount of the community's budget allocated to DEI initiatives. IF you have more to share please elaborate in the narrative section.

*HEALL-4 - CIVIC ENGAGEMENT - VOTER TURNOUT FOR LOCAL ELECTIONS BY PERCENT OF VOTING AGED POPULATION

Description: Voter turnout for local elections by percent of voting aged population

Methodology:

Consult WI Elections Commission or City/County Clerk's office. Calculate the average voter turnout over the course of the reporting year for any election where a local government office was in play.

HEALL-5 - VOLUNTEERISM IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT (EVENTS, COMMITTEES, WORK GROUPS, ETC.)

Description: Number of community volunteers

Methodology:

Tally the number of community volunteers on committees and for events hosted by local government (self-reported).

*HEALL-6 - HOUSING AND TRANSPORTATION BURDEN

Description: Percentage of income spent on housing and transportation

Methodology:

Go to the H+T Affordability Index and enter town/village/city/county name into search window. Use the Average under Housing + Transportation Costs % Income.

HEALTH AND EQUITY (COUNTIES ONLY)

*HECO-1 - OUTDOOR AIR QUALITY- (INDEX VALUE - EPA)

Description: EPA Outdoor Air Quality index

Methodology:

Sum the days for the reporting year for the county that are in the orange category (Unhealthy for sensitive individuals) or above.

*HECO-2 - LIFE EXPECTANCY - (AVERAGE AGE)

Description: Average life expectancy in the County

Methodology:

Report the County Value for life expectancy.

*HECO-3 - ADULT OBESITY RATE - (% OBESE)

Description: Obesity rate in the community

Methodology:

Report the County Value for the % of adults with obesity.

*HECO-4 - ASTHMA RATE - (# EMERGENCIES PER 10K)

Description: Age-adjusted asthma emergency room visit rates by county

Methodology:

Use the rate per 10,000.

*HECO-5 - Access to Healthy Food - (% of Pop. Limited Access)

Description: Percentage with Limited Access to Healthy Foods

Methodology:

Report the % limited access to healthy foods.

**For municipalities tracking this information please comment on the metric item in the narrative section.

HECO-6 - Violent crime rate - (Crimes per 100,000 pop.)

Description: Violent crimes per 1000 population

Methodology:

Report the County Value because it is already normalized for 100,000 population

*HECO-7 - Residential segregation - (County Value)

Description: Residential segregation - Non-white/white. Index of dissimilarity where higher values indicate greater residential segregation between Black and White county residents.

Methodology:

Report the County Value of residential segregation.

HECO-8 - Senior education and participation programming - (# per capita)

Description: A count of publicly provided senior programming providing education on health and wellness

Methodology:

Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRC) are required to submit monthly activity reports with encounter data to DHS, gather data from monthly reports.

*HECO-9 - Affordable housing units - (% of Housing)

Description: Housing units designated as affordable housing

Methodology:
Select your county, aggregate the # of units, normalize per capita.

*HECO-10 - DRUG OVERDOSE DEATHS - (%)

Description: Drug overdose mortality rate

Methodology:
Report the County Value for drug overdose mortality rate.

*HECO-11 - ALCOHOL-IMPAIRED DRIVING DEATHS - (%)

Description: % Alcohol-Impaired driving deaths by county

Methodology:
Report the County Value for alcohol-impaired driving deaths.

GREEN TIER LEGACY COMMUNITIES SCORESHEET
SUPPORTING ACTIONS DESCRIPTIONS AND SUPPORTED METRICS

OVERVIEW

The scoresheet is organized around six sustainability issue areas:

1. **Energy & Emissions**
2. **Transportation Systems**
3. **Land Use**
4. **Water Quality & Conservation**
5. **Solid Waste**
6. **Health & Equity**

The Metrics portion of the scoresheet has the same six categories. There are Supporting Actions for each of these categories that will help you make progress toward the metrics in the other section of the scoresheet. Each of these Supporting Actions are outlined below.

Note: The metrics listed under each Supporting Action are meant to serve as a means of inspiration/guidance if your community is trying to move the needle on a particular metric. They are not meant to be an exhaustive list.

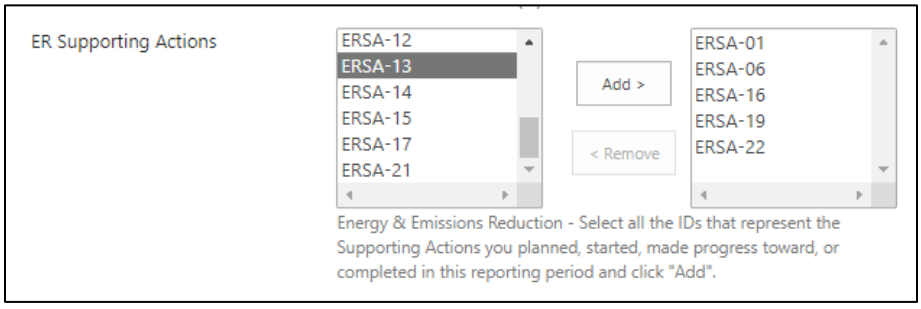
The format of this document is as follows:

> **SUPPORTING ACTION ID:** Identifier for each supporting action
>
> **Description**: Description of an action your community could take to help improve performance on one or more of the metrics
>
> **Supported Metrics:** A list of metrics this supporting action may be able to help improve

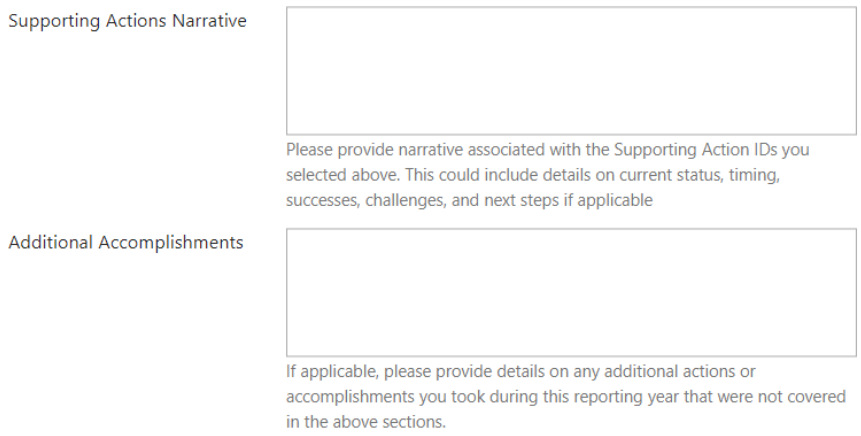
It is not expected that your community is working on all of these actions. This section is intended to serve as a menu of action ideas your community can take and to get an idea of which ones you have already completed or started.

FILLING OUT YOUR SUPPORTING ACTION DETAILS IN THE SCORESHEET

When you're entering your community's data for your Supporting Actions in the GTLC Scoresheet, you will have the ability to select which Supporting Actions (organized by their ID) you have made progress toward. See screenshot below for what these fields look like in the Scoresheet.



Once you have entered all your supporting actions, please make sure to offer any additional detail in the narrative section, including whether the action is planned, under way, completed, or on-going; any details of your action that are not included in the description, and how it has affected your community or your sustainability efforts.



Questions? Contact Jennifer Feyerherm at jennifer.feyerherm@wisconsin.gov or Mandaline Bergstrom at mandaline.bergstrom@wisconsin.gov.

ENERGY & EMISSIONS

ERSA-1

Description: Complete a municipal GHG inventory for Scope 1 emissions (emissions from sources controlled or owned by the organization) and Scope 2 emissions (indirect emissions associated with the purchase of electricity, steam, heat, or cooling) and establish baseline emissions

Suggested resource: EPA Local Greenhouse Gas Inventory Tool – has one module for community-wide inventories and another for local government operations only.

Supported Metrics: ER-6

ERSA-2

Description: Complete a municipal GHG inventory for Scope 3 emissions (emissions from assets not owned or controlled by the organization but that the organization indirectly affects in its value chain) and establish baseline emissions.

Supported Metrics: ER-6

ERSA-3

Description: Complete the ICLEI US Community Protocol and establish baseline emissions

Supported Metrics: ER-6

ERSA-4

Description: Establish municipal and community-wide emissions reduction, energy reduction, onsite renewable energy and/or energy efficiency goals in a supporting plan or resolution.

Suggested Resource: EPA Energy Resources for State, Local, and Tribal Governments

Supported Metrics: ER-1, ER-2 (all), ER-3 (all), ER-4, ER-6

ERSA-5

Description: Use Focus on Energy, utility Commitment to Community programs, and/or other resources to conduct energy assessments on municipal facilities that are identified as high energy users

Supported Metrics: ER-3A, ER-3B, ER-4, ER-6

ERSA-6

Description: Use ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager, or other software tools, to track energy use in all municipal facilities

Supported Metrics: ER-3 (all), ER-4

ERSA-7

Description: Require new municipal buildings, and significant remodels of existing buildings, to be designed to achieve a sustainable building certification, such as an ENERGY STAR score of 75, or certification through LEED, WELL, Passive House, Net Zero Energy, Green Globes, or Living Building. The local government may specify the sustainability standard(s) that it will recognize and include an Energy Use Intensity (EUI) target in the construction contract

Supported Metrics: ER-1, ER-3 (all), ER-4 ER-6

ERSA-8

Description: Increase visibility of renewable energy in the community by installing PV systems at government facilities and enable public access to electricity production data monitoring.

Supported Metrics: ER-1, ER-2A, ER-3A, ER-4, ER-6

ERSA-9

Description: Offer renewable energy purchasing or participation programs or promote existing programs from outside sources to residents and businesses.

Supported Metrics: ER-2A

ERSA-10

Description: Take steps to simplify the solar permitting process and remove other barriers to residential solar implementation.

Supported Metrics: ER-2A

ERSA-11

Description: Leverage Focus on Energy and University of Wisconsin System resources to offer public educational programs, or otherwise provide resources for interested parties, on energy efficiency upgrades for homes and businesses

Supported Metrics: ER-2A

ERSA-12

Description: Implement a plan to upgrade all municipally owned or controlled streetlights and stop lights to LED lamps.

Supported Metrics: ER-3A, ER-6

ERSA-13

Description: Incorporate energy efficiency upgrades for lighting, HVAC and building shells for all municipal buildings into the community's capital improvement plan.

Supported Metrics: ER-3, ER-6

ERSA-14

Description: Make watt meters available to the public

Supported Metrics: ER-2A

ERSA-15

Description: Adopt an energy use disclosure ordinance for residential and/or commercial buildings (Requires the seller of a property to inform prospective buyers of the building's energy use for one, or more previous years).

Supported Metrics: ER-2

ERSA-16

Description: Pass a resolution to commit to a community renewable energy usage goal, such as 100% renewable energy by 2050.

Supported Metrics: ER-1, ER-6

ERSA-17

Description: Purchase renewable electricity for municipal buildings

Supported Metrics: ER-1, ER-6

ERSA-19

Description: Capture biogas from wastewater treatment facility, landfill, or community compost facility and use biogas to power operations.

Supported Metrics: ER-1, ER-6

ERSA-21

Description: Include energy efficiency, renewable energy, and/or sustainable building certification requirements or incentives in TIF policies and other programs assisting commercial development projects.

Supported Metrics: ER-2, ER-5B

ERSA-22

Description: Improve all aspects of the energy reduction program by increasing the amount of grant funding awarded to the city/county and track the amount of funding annually by making it part of staff responsibilities to do so. Please elaborate on this action in the narrative portion of the report.

Supported Metrics: ER-ALL

TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS

TSSA-1

Description: Require bike parking for all new non-residential and multifamily uses.

Supported Metrics: TS-1, TS-4, TS-6, TS-8

TSSA-2

Description: Set standard for placement and number (as function of intensity of use) of bike parking spaces.

Suggested resources from the Association of Pedestrian & Bicycle Professionals:

- Bicycle Parking Solutions
- Essentials of Bike Parking: Selecting and installing bicycle parking that works

Supported Metrics: TS-1, TS-4, TS-6, TS-8

TSSA-3

Description: Create a public-facing resource showing all bike routes and pedestrian paths.

Supported Metrics: TS-1, TS-4, TS-6, TS-7

TSSA-4

Description: Identify, sign, maintain, and clear bike routes in the community year-round

Supported Metrics: TS-1, TS-4, TS-5, TS-6, TS-7, TS-8

TSSA-5

Description: Receive certification by the League of American Bicyclists as a Bicycle Friendly Community. Work with businesses to promote bike commuting and active transportation.

Supported Metrics: TS-1, TS-4, TS-6, TS-7

TSSA-6

Description: Promote bike safety and other active living education and awareness sessions, through in-school education programming, bike rodeos, and other public-facing efforts; or work with a community organization to do the same

Supported Metrics: TS-1, TS-4, TS-5, TS-6, TS-7, TS-8

TSSA-7

Description: Implement a bike-share program for residents and visitors

Supported Metrics: TS-1, TS-4, TS-6, TS-7, TS-8

TSSA-8

Description: Require large employers (50+ employees) seeking rezoning to create a transportation demand management plan

Supported Metrics: TS-8

TSSA-9

Description: Increase safe pedestrian and bike routes to parks and public greenspace and other key destinations (grocery stores, schools, other public facilities, etc.)

Supported Metrics: TS-1, TS-4, TS-5, TS-6, TS-7, TS-8

TSSA-10

Description: Eliminate or reduce parking minimums from non-residential districts when applicable

Supported Metrics: TS-8

TSSA-11

Description: Charge impact fees to developers for new roads and utilities

Supported Metrics: TS-8

TSSA-12

Description: Create and implement a plan to incorporate EVs, hybrids, and alternative fuel vehicles to municipal fleet vehicle replacement plan.

Supported Metrics: TS-2, TS-3, TS-8

TSSA-13

Description: Install public EV charging stations

Supported Metrics: TS-2, TS-3, TS-8

TSSA-14

Description: Create a policy and train staff that prohibits idling of municipal fleet vehicles for more than 5 minutes

Supported Metrics: TS-3, TS-8

TSSA-15

Description: Ban idling of unoccupied vehicles community-wide

Supported Metrics: TS-8

TSSA-16

Description: Prepare a plan that identifies disconnections in bike and pedestrian networks, prioritizing fixes and identifying potential funding sources for the most important projects. Consider solving the last mile challenge where present.

Supported Metrics: TS-1, TS-4, TS-5, TS-6, TS-7, TS-8

TSSA-17

Description: Identify four-lane roadways with fewer than 20,000 vehicles per day (AADT) and evaluate them for "road diets" with bike lanes or on-street parking

Supported Metrics: TS-1, TS-4, TS-5, TS-6, TS-7, TS-8

TSSA-18

Description: Calculate Walk Scores and Bike Scores for the community on the whole and develop a plan to improve those scores

Supported Metrics: TS-3, TS-8

TSSA-19

Description: Establish an expanded public transit that serves commuters from all neighborhoods and major parks and recreation facilities and has racks on vehicles for carrying bicycles.

Supported Metrics: TS-7, TS-8

TSSA-20

Description: Adopt and implement a pedestrian and bicycle safety and improvements plan

Supported Metrics: TS-7, TS-8

TSSA-21

Description: Create a standing committee to promote pedestrian and bicycle improvements

Supported Metrics: TS-1, TS-4, TS-6, TS-7, TS-8

TSSA-22

Description: Implement a complete streets plan

Supported Metrics: TS-7, TS-8

TSSA-23

Description: Evaluate any proposal to add lanes to a two-lane roadway for a center turn lane because it is the preferred option over an expansion to four lanes.

Supported Metrics: TS-8

TSSA-24

Description: Improve all aspects of the transportation systems program by increasing the amount of grant funding awarded to the city/county and track the amount of funding annually by making it part of staff responsibilities to do so. Please elaborate on this action in the narrative portion of the report.

Supported Metrics: TS-ALL

TSSA-25

Description: Incorporate access to bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure into decisions for siting of municipal county and school facilities, as well as into zoning decisions

Supported Metrics: TS-1, TS-4

TSSA-26

Description: Pass ordinances that support the reduction of GHG emissions from transportation, including more funding for walking, biking, transit, reduced idling, required impact fees, transportation demand management, etc.

Supported Metrics: TS-ALL

LAND USE

LUSA-1

Description: Identify priority areas, like business centers or corridors, underutilized former industrial areas, or other previously developed but poor-quality areas along rivers, lakes, or streams, for infill development and then facilitate development of those areas that maintains or increases the amount of valuable green spaces (i.e. parks, recreational spaces, natural/preserved habitat, conservation lands). When possible, restore shoreline and flood prone areas to native habitat or with low impact infrastructure like pathways or boardwalks.

Supported Metrics: LU-1, LU-3, LU-4, LU-5, LU-6, LU-9

LUSA-2

Description: Facilitate or incentivize brownfield site redevelopment or remediation in the community or county. When possible, restore areas in flood prone locations to native habitat.

Supported Metrics: LU-1, LU-3, LU-4, LU-6, LU-9

LUSA-3

Description: Implement zoning codes allowing beekeeping on single family, institutional, or agricultural properties.

LUSA-4

Description: Increase requirements for minimum tree plantings in redevelopments and new developments and require planting of diverse native tree species.

Supported Metrics: LU-3, LU-5, LU-7

LUSA-5

Description: Set standards for redevelopment projects to reduce overall intensity of development by requiring green infrastructure and minimum green space provisions per square foot of impervious footprint.

Supported Metrics: LU-3, LU-6

LUSA-6

Description: Create land bank to acquire and assemble priority infill sites or to preserve land for flood mitigation, reduction of density, parks/dedicated public green space, or trails/pathways to increase accessibility.

Supported Metrics: LU-3, LU-4, LU-5

LUSA-7

Description: Revise zoning requirements for office and retail districts to permit floor-area ratio >1 on average. See the American Planning Association's Floor Area Ratio resource

Supported Metrics: LU-8

LUSA-8

Description: Promote, through local policy initiatives, life cycle or adaptable housing options such as "aging in place", accessory dwelling units (ADUs), Universal or Inclusive Design, Dementia Friendly Communities, Age-Friendly Communities, workshops, presentations, etc. to minimize sprawl and improve infill development and density.

Supported Metrics: LU-2, LU-10

LUSA-9

Description: Adopt a tree preservation ordinance.

Supported Metrics: LU-7

LUSA-10

Description: Set a tree canopy goal, perform a tree canopy assessment, and develop a forestry management plan to achieve it.

Supported Metrics: LU-7

LUSA-11

Description: Require a planting scoresheet to regulate the number of trees, shrubs, and bushes that will be planted in redevelopments or new developments

Supported Metrics: LU-3, LU-7

LUSA-12

Description: Certification as Tree City USA

Supported Metrics: LU-7

LUSA-13

Description: Certification as Bird City Wisconsin Community

LUSA-14

Description: Revise zoning codes for commercial, industrial, multifamily, or institutional properties to protect existing native habitats like sensitive areas, wildlife habitats, and wetlands, or to require installation of green infrastructure.

Supported Metrics: LU-5, LU-6

LUSA-15

Description: Improve all aspects of the land use program by increasing the amount of grant funding awarded to the city/county and track the amount of funding annually by making it part of staff responsibilities to do so. Please elaborate on this action in the narrative portion of the report.

Supported Metrics: LU-ALL

LUSA-16

Description: Implement zoning code strategies to increase overall density located in areas that are highly accessible to population needs like public transit, healthy food options, daycare/childcare - schools, green space/recreational areas, and healthcare

Supported Metrics: LU-3, LU-4, LU-6

LUSA-17

Description: At the beginning of project planning, identify potential opportunities and/or funding to better connect state, regional, or local greenspaces

Supported Metrics: LU-3, LU-4, LU-5, LU-6

LUSA-18

Description: Organize a volunteer workday on public or private lands to help promote sustainable land use (pulling invasives, planting trees, improving trails, treating plants/trees, etc.).

Supported Metrics: LU-2, LU-3, LU-4, LU-5, LU-6, LU-7, LU-10, LU-11

LUSA-19

Description: Inform residents and businesses (including properties used for agriculture) that are located along waterways or within flood zones about ways to mitigate flood damage to their properties and businesses. (FEMA funding, flood mitigation techniques, process for filing a Level of Map Revision from FEMA, etc.)

Supported Metrics: LU-2, LU-9, LU-11

LUSA-20

Description: Create agricultural incentives and educational materials with a land and water conservation department and inform farmers on sustainable agricultural land use practices (cover crops, buffer crops, harvestable buffers, direct injection manure, composting, application practices, etc.)

Supported Metrics: LU-5, LU-10, LU-11

LUSA-21

Description: Implement a conservation program to educate and incentivize the private ownership of deeded lands dedicated for conservationist practices, to be held on a permanent basis without the ability to develop or utilize for any economic or utilitarian purposes other than for ecological survey, hunting, fishing, or trapping. Many times these are done through conservation easements.

See: https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/aid/Easements.html and https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Lands/VPA

Supported Metrics: LU-5, LU-7, LU-8, LU-9, LU-10

LUSA-22

Description: Promote sustainable land use practices for private and institutional properties through education and outreach.

Supported Metrics: LU-All

WATER QUALITY AND CONSERVATION

WQCSA-1

Description: Reduce use of synthetic chemical pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers in municipal, town, or county landscape management and try to promote use of more natural management processes.

Supported Metrics: WQC-1, WQC-2, WQC-3

WQCSA-2

Description: Supervise chemical applicators during pesticide or other chemical application to storm water ponds to ensure best management practices are implemented.

Supported Metrics: WQC-1, WQC-3

WQCSA-3

Description: Create community policy and best management practices for minimizing chemical use during vegetation management.

Supported Metrics: WQC-1, WQC-2, WQC-3, WQC-9

WQCSA-4

Description: Eliminate use of groundwater for irrigation in municipal landscape management.

Supported Metrics: WQC-1, WQC-2, WQC-3, WQC-6

WQCSA-5

Description: Establish 75-foot natural vegetation buffer around surface water.

Supported Metrics: WQC-1, WQC-2, WQC-3

WQCSA-6

Description: Apply block rates to residential and commercial water billing.

Supported Metrics: WQC-7

WQCSA-7

Description: Offer water and sewer billing credits for installation and use of stormwater management systems (ex. rain barrels, rain gardens, swales, pervious pavement).

Supported Metrics: WQC-1, WQC-2

WQCSA-8

Description: Develop a water efficiency and conservation plan for city, town, or county buildings.

Supported Metrics: WQC-6, WQC-8

WQCSA-9

Description: Install faucet aerators and low-flow plumbing fixtures in all municipal facilities.

Supported Metrics: WQC-6

WQCSA-10

Description: During televising inspections, clean at least 10% of the entity's sanitary sewer collection system per year.

Supported Metrics: WQC-14

WQCSA-11

Description: Televise or visually inspect more than 10% of the sanitary sewer collection system per year.

Supported Metrics: WQC-14

WQCSA-12

Description: Establish a program to inspect and control grease in the sewer system.

Supported Metrics: WQC-15

WQCSA-13

Description: Create program and train staff to identify any unapproved illicit discharges from commercial and/or industrial users.

Supported Metrics: WQC-3

WQCSA-14

Description: Establish legal authority to inspect private residences or businesses to prohibit sump pump connections to the sanitary sewer system.

Supported Metrics: WQC-14

WQCSA-15

Description: Establish a pretreatment or industrial control program that implements legal authority to administer fees/charges, to issue permit limitations for high flow and/or high strength waste discharges to the sanitary sewer system

Supported Metrics: WQC-1, WQC-3

WQCSA-16

Description: Provide financial assistance to residents to replace lead sewer laterals.

Supported Metrics: WQC-10 , HECO-2

WQCSA-17

Description: Reduce rates of inflow and infiltration in sanitary systems by at least 10%.

Supported Metrics: WQC-14. WQC-15

WQCSA-18

Description: Create an inventory of wetlands in the community and ensure no net loss of preserved wetlands.

Supported Metrics: WQC-1, WQC-2, LU-5

WQCSA-19

Description: Adopt a transferable development rights program to provide an incentive for landowners to preserve sensitive natural lands and wildlife habitat on the fringe of waterways.

Supported Metrics: WQC-1, WQC-2, LU-9, LU-10, LU-5

WQCSA-20

Description: Establish a dedicated source of funding for open space acquisition and management (e.g., bond proceeds, sales tax).

Supported Metrics: WQC-1, WQC-2, LU-3, LU-5, LU-6, LU-10

WQCSA-21

Description: Provide financial support to or collaborate with land trusts to acquire critical natural areas on or near waterways.

Supported Metrics: WQC-1, WQC-2, LU-5, LU-6, LU-10

WQCSA-22

Description: Develop a water loss control plan with targets below the 15% required by the state and include a system-wide water audit implementation and a timetable.

Supported Metrics: WQC-6, WQC-8

WQCSA-23

Description: Replace concrete channels with re-meandered and naturalized creeks, wetlands, or swales.

Supported Metrics: WQC-1, WQC-2

WQCSA-24

Description: Join EPA's WaterSense Program for water utilities or the Groundwater Guardian Green Sites program and promote them to local business.

Supported Metrics: WQC-1, WQC-2, WQC-3, WQC-9, WQC-12

WQCSA-25

Description: Develop partnerships with businesses to repurpose high strength water waste.

Supported Metrics: WQC-3, WQC-5, WQC-9, NAR

WQCSA-26

Description: Develop a storm sewer catch basin cleaning program to reduce trash, debris, suspended solids, and heavily laden organic material from entering water bodies.

Supported Metrics: WQC-4, WQC-5

WQCSA-27

Description: Develop leaf and yard waste collection program.

Supported Metrics: WQC-4

WQCSA-28

Description: Develop a regular street sweeping program to reduce total suspended solids.

Supported Metrics: WQC-1, WQC-2, WQC-3, WQC-4, WQC-5

WQCSA-29

Description: Require redevelopment of commercial and light industrial business areas to incorporate stormwater management plans that set infiltration and pollutant reduction standards.

Supported Metrics: WQC-1, WQC-2, WQC-3, WQC-4, WQC-5

WQCSA-30

Description: Develop and implement annual construction permitting and inspection program.

Supported Metrics: WQC-1, WQC-2, WQC-3, WQC-5

WQCSA-31

Description: Develop and implement asset management plans that set targets for the sustainable maintenance, operation and renewal of water and wastewater infrastructure.

Supported Metrics: WQC-6, WQC-8, WQC-11, WQC-14, WQC-15

WQCSA-32

Description: Facilitate public-private partnerships to offer rain barrels to residents annually.

Supported Metrics: WQC-1, WQC-2, WQC-6, WQC-7, WQC-9

WQCSA-33

Description: Implement Salt Wise workshops for salt applicators and require Public Works applicators to get certified

Supported Metrics: WQC-12, WQC-13

WQCSA-34

Description: Implement an incentive program for residents and multifamily complexes to encourage on demand water softener and low flow toilet installations.

Supported Metrics: WQC-7, WQC-9

WQCSA-35

Description: Develop financial incentive program to promote and increase the number of green roofs and other types of stormwater runoff and treatment control best management practices in new developments and redevelopments.

Supported Metrics: WQC-1, WQC-2, WQC-3, WQC-9

WQCSA-36

Description: Implement a drug take-back program and host a secure drop off site to mitigate the amount of drugs placed in the landfills or that get flushed to sewage treatment plants and eventually end up polluting rivers, lakes, streams, oceans.

Supported Metrics: WQC-14, WQC-15

WQCSA-37

Description: Improve all aspects of the WQC program by increasing the amount of grant funding awarded to the city/county and track the amount of funding annually by making it part of staff responsibilities to do so. Please elaborate on this action in the narrative portion of the report.

Supported Metrics: WQC-ALL

WQCSA-38

Description: Implement a stormwater and/or sanitary effluent testing or monitoring program to annually test at least 10% of the system.

Supported Metrics: WQC-1, WQC-2, WQC-3, WQC-12, WQC-13, WQC-14, WQC-15

WQCSA-39

Description: Sponsor or hold education and outreach informational workshops, presentations, or other efforts designed to engage residents, business owners, or city/county staff on stormwater and water quality and conservation best management practices

Supported Metrics: WQC-ALL

WQCSA-40

Description: DNR requires the creation of a program to get private wells abandoned when served by a local water utility. Create a process and maintain it to track and get all private wells in the city abandoned.

SOLID WASTE

SWSA-1

Description: Conduct a waste audit for municipal facilities (including recycling, composting as able).

Supported Metrics: SW-4

SWSA-2

Description: Conduct a community-wide waste audit (including recycling, compost, as able), ideally breaking out data by different sectors (residential/commercial/institutional, renters/owners, etc.) to further elucidate performance and where to address future efforts.

Supported Metrics: SW-ALL

SWSA-3

Description: Implement an ordinance requiring or incentivizing the recycling and reuse of construction and demolition waste (at minimum, update information on requirements for C&D waste, including required asbestos notification to DNR).

See: https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/SmallBusiness/Resources/ConstructDemo.html and https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Demo

Supported Metrics: SW-1, SW-2, SW-5

SWSA-4

Description: Ensure community access to a composting collection program. If access exists, engage in education and promotion to increase use of existing programs/facilities. If access is limited, implement a curbside composting service (or another locally relevant service that provides similar access) in the community.

Supported Metrics: SW-3

SWSA-5

Description: Ensure community access to collection programs for wood waste from construction & demolition and yard waste. If access exists, engage in education and promotion to increase use of existing programs/facilities. If access is limited, implement pickup/dropoff service or other collection program accessible to community members.

Supported Metrics: SW-1, SW-5

SWSA-6

Description: Ensure community access to collection programs for electronic waste. If access exists, engage in education and promotion to increase use of existing programs/facilities. If access is limited, implement collection program accessible to community members.

For electronics collection sites, see https://wisconsindnr.shinyapps.io/EcycleCollectorSite/

Supported Metrics: SW-1, SW-2, SW-4

SWSA-7

Description: Ensure community access to collection programs for hazardous waste (paints, volatile compounds, oils, batteries, pharmaceuticals, sharps, etc.). If access exists, engage in education and promotion to increase use of existing programs/facilities. If access is limited, implement a collection program accessible to community members.

For sharps collection sites, see https://wisconsindnr.shinyapps.io/sharpscollectorsite/

Supported Metrics: SW-1, SW-2, SW-4

SWSA-8

Description: Host annual events to allow recycling of items that are typically difficult to recycle (E-waste, paints or volatile compounds, oils, batteries, etc.)

Supported Metrics: SW-1, SW-2, SW-4

SWSA-10

Description: Implement waste-reduction practices, such as encouraging electronic document use to decrease printing, and installing water bottle filling stations to reduce plastic bottle use.

Supported Metrics: SW-1

SWSA-11

Description: Spot-check businesses and rental properties to ensure adequate recycling facilities. Recycling facilities are required by law, but enforcement is complaint-based. Actively checking would go above and beyond existing regulations/compliance.

Supported Metrics: SW-1, SW-2

SWSA-12

Description: Work with your Municipal Recycling Facility (MRF) to expand the list of recyclables they accept and provide clear guidance to residents on what can be recycled locally, keeping said guidance updated on a regular basis as markets and facilities change.

Supported Metrics: SW-1, SW-2, SW-4

SWSA-13

Description: Implement programs to help reduce the use of single-use shopping bags and Styrofoam containers.

Supported Metrics: SW-1

SWSA-14

Description: Provide block polystyrene recycling pick-up or drop-off for residents.

Supported Metrics: SW-1, SW-2

SWSA-15

Description: Bill residents for municipal waste collection based on the amount of waste collected.

Supported Metrics: SW-1

SWSA-16

Description: Consider a Master Recycling program (akin to Master Gardener and Master Naturalists programs), such as the one being piloted by the City of Madison and Sustain Dane.

See: https://sustaindane.org/sustain-dane-programs/#masterrecycler

Supported Metrics: SW-1, SW-2, SW-4, SW-5

SWSA-17

Description: Implement outreach strategies that provide education to residents and businesses on recycling and composting opportunities and requirements, building on the "7 Rs of recycling," working to decrease "wish-cycling," promoting life-cycle thinking through awareness of items made from recycled materials (e.g. park benches made from recycled plastic bottles), and increasing proper recycling behavior to minimize contamination and decrease costs associated with recycling.

See: https://www.epa.gov/smm/sustainable-materials-management-smm-web-academy-webinar-effective-strategies-reducing

Supported Metrics: SW-2, SW-4, SW-5

SWSA-18

Description: Implement a sustainable purchasing policy encouraging municipal purchases to take into account factors such as made from recycled and recyclable/compostable materials, energy used to create the product, local sourcing, etc.

See: https://epeat.net/ and https://www.naspo.org/green-purchasing-guide/

Supported Metrics: SW-1, SW-2, SW-3, SW-4

SWSA-19

Description: Implement outreach campaigns encouraging residents to donate unwanted items for reuse (for example, clothing and household items in good condition to thrift stores; cardboard boxes to moving companies, churches, or other organizations; building materials to companies like Habitat for Humanity).

Supported Metrics: SW-1

SWSA-20

Description: Utilize rechargeable batteries whenever possible for municipal purposes and appropriately recycle used lithium-ion batteries

Supported Metrics: SW-1, SW-2, SW-4

SWSA-21

Description: Promote diversion of still-usable food from waste stream, through food banks, donation of deer meat from hunting season, partnerships between restaurants/grocers and food-donation programs, etc.

See: https://www.epa.gov/sustainable-management-food/tools-preventing-and-diverting-wasted-food

Supported Metrics: SW-1

SWSA-22

Description: Improve all aspects of the waste program by increasing the amount of grant funding awarded to the city/county and track the amount of funding annually by making it part of staff responsibilities to do so. Please elaborate on this action in the narrative portion of the report.

Supported Metrics: SW-ALL

HEALTH AND EQUITY (MUNICIPALITIES AND COUNTIES)

HESA-1

Description: Implement zoning ordinances and programs to enable home-based or community gardens and food plots to improve accessibility to local food production and implement locations for resale of made goods and produce.

Supported Metrics: HECO-2, HECO-3, HECO-5, HEALL-6

HESA-2

Description: Enact a Health in All Policies resolution or ordinance.

Supported Metrics: HECO-2, HECO-3, HECO-5, HEALL-6

HESA-3

Description: Incorporate Health in All Policies (HIAP) and Diversity Equity Inclusion (DEI) objectives in Comprehensive Plan updates.

Supported Metrics: All

HESA-4

Description: Identify healthy food deserts in the community and use economic development tools to eliminate those deserts.

Supported Metrics: HECO-2, HECO -3, HECO-5, HEALL-6

HESA-5

Description: Adopt an ordinance that bans use of tobacco and e-cigarettes on municipal lands and that limits exposure to secondhand smoke in apartment buildings.

Supported Metrics: HECO-2, HECO-4

HESA-6

Description: Implement a plan for crime reduction through environmental design.

Supported Metrics: HECO-6

HESA-7

Description: Establish a health impact assessment policy and procedures to assess existing and proposed programs or projects, including when an assessment is required and its scope.

See: https://www.cdc.gov/healthyplaces/hia.htm

Supported Metrics: All

HESA-8

Description: Create a Food Systems Plan that addresses the production, distribution, value-added, marketing, end-market, and disposal of food, and charge a new or existing governmental body to oversee the plan's implementation.

Supported Metrics: SW-1, SW-3, HECO-2, HECO-3, HECO-5

HESA-9

Description: Create a Food Policy Council to advise governing officials and staff on ways to provide cheap, accessible, healthy food options to the community, especially sensitive populations.

Supported Metrics: HECO-2, HECO-3, HECO-5, HEALL-3, HEALL-5

HESA-10

Description: Establish and implement harm reduction strategies for establishments such as alcohol outlets, gun stores, and sexual oriented establishments (e.g. zoning limitations and ordinances).

See: https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/scaoda/alcohol-prevention-report.pdf

Supported Metrics: HECO-2, HECO-6, HECO-10, HECO-11

HESA-11

Description: Implement a wellness program for employees and engage employers to establish employee wellness programs.

Supported Metrics: HECO-2, HECO-3, HECO-5

HESA-12

Description: Provide a farmers' market for at least 6 months out of the year and ensure participation in the EBT/Foodshare program to enable Foodshare participants to benefit.

Supported Metrics: HECO-2, HECO-3, HECO-5, HEALL-3

HESA-13

Description: Provide, support, or encourage health and equity professional development opportunities for staff.

Supported Metrics: HEALL-3

HESA-14

Description: Complete a community vulnerability assessment.

See: https://coast.noaa.gov/digitalcoast/topics/vulnerability-assessments.html and https://em.countyofdane.com/hazards/mitigation-plan , see Section 4.

Supported Metrics: HECO-2, LU-9, WQC-1

HESA-15

Description: Improve all aspects of the Health In All Policies program by increasing the amount of grant funding awarded to the city/county and track the amount of funding annually by making it part of staff responsibilities to do so. Please elaborate on this action in the narrative portion of the report.

Supported Metrics: All

HESA-16

Description: Create a Racial Equity Action Plan.

Supported Metrics: HECO-7, HEALL-1, HEALL-2, HEALL-3

HESA-17

Description: Use a tool, such as the Transforming Organizational Culture Assessment Tool (TOCA), to help assess your local government's culture and readiness to engage in racial equity work.

Supported Metrics: HECO-7, HEALL-1, HEALL-2, HEALL-3

HESA-18

Description: Conduct a survey of citizens' perception of diversity and inclusion within the municipality.

Supported Metrics: HEALL-1, HEALL-2, HEALL-3

HESA-19

Description: Create municipal board/committee(s) specifically focused on sustainability, resource conservation, environmental and equity concerns, etc.

Supported Metrics: All

HESA-20

Description: Host regular educational events related to equity, inclusivity, and diversity.

Supported Metrics: HEALL-1, HEALL-2, HEALL-3, HEALL-5

HESA-21

Description: Create a process for community members to directly offer input in decision making (eg. participatory budgeting, deliberative engagement, etc.).

Supported Metrics: HEALL-2, HEALL-3, HEALL-4, HEALL-5

HESA-22

Description: Create a language access plan to ensure equal access to local government processes and information regardless of primary language.

Supported Metrics: HEALL-2, HEALL-3, HEALL-4, HEALL-5

HESA-23

Description: Conduct an analysis of your local boards/commissions/committees to better understand power and representation.

Supported Metrics: HEALL-2, HEALL-3, HEALL-4, HEALL-5

HESA-24

Description: Create a plan or process by which you can increase diversity and representation on local boards/commissions/committees, especially active recruitment of members from underrepresented, vulnerable and impacted communities.

Supported Metrics: HEALL-2, HEALL-3, HEALL-4, HEALL-5

HESA-25

Description: Create a local committee, task force, or team that is interdepartmental and can coordinate complex issues of health, safety, and sustainability across departments.

Supported Metrics: All

HESA-26

Description: Demonstrate communication and/or coordination between city departments and public health (whether city or county). Examples include inviting public health to the table during a Comprehensive Planning process, or Plans related to housing, transportation, etc. Conversely, Public Health can collaborate with city departments for things like the Community Health Improvement Process and Community Health Assessment process.

Supported Metrics: All

HESA-27

Description: Improve all aspects of the DEI and HIAP programs by increasing the amount of grant funding awarded to the city/county and track the amount of funding annually by making it part of staff responsibilities to do so. Please elaborate on this action in the narrative portion of the report.

Supported Metrics: All