



Sustainability Commission

Special Meeting

335 South Broadway
De Pere, WI 54115
<https://www.deperewi.gov/>

Agenda

Tuesday, August 10, 2021

5:30 PM

GoToMeeting

Pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes 19.84, Notice is hereby given to the public that a meeting of the **Sustainability Commission** of the City of De Pere will be held on **August 10, 2021** at **5:30 PM**.

This meeting will be held electronically and the public may attend this meeting electronically or telephonically by accessing either:

Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.

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United States (Toll Free): [1 866 899 4679](tel:18668994679)

United States: [+1 \(312\) 757-3117](tel:+13127573117)

Access Code: 154-883-285

*****THIS MEETING WILL NOT BE HELD IN PERSON.*****

This meeting may also be rebroadcast on Spectrum Cable Channel 4 and AT&T U-verse Channel 99 throughout the week and available on demand at <http://deperecitywi.igmp2.com/>.

- I. Call to Order
 - 1. Roll Call
- II. Action Items
 - 1. Approval of the Sustainability Commission June 8, 2021 Meeting Minutes
 - 2. Consider and Possible Action Regarding Clean Energy Resolution*
 - 3. Consider and Possible Action Regarding Renewable Energy Work Plan*
- III. Future Agenda Items
- IV. Adjournment

Any person wishing to attend this meeting who, because of disability, requires special accommodations should contact the Clerk's office at 339-4050 by Noon, the previous day so that arrangements can be made.

***Items with an asterisk require City Council approval.**

Agenda Sent To:

Alderspersons

City Administrator

Mayor

Department Heads
TV, Newspapers & Radio Stations
Kress Family Library
De Pere Chamber of Commerce



City of De Pere, Wisconsin

Request For Sustainability Commission Action

MEETING DATE: August 10, 2021

DEPARTMENT: Sustainability Commission

FROM: Betty Sellenheim

SUBJECT: Approval of the Sustainability Commission June 8, 2021 Meeting Minutes

ATTACHMENTS:

- 2021 0608 Sustainability DRAFT Minutes (PDF)



Sustainability Commission

Regular Meeting

335 South Broadway
De Pere, WI 54115
<https://www.deperewi.gov/>

Draft Minutes

Tuesday, June 8, 2021

5:30 PM

GoToMeeting

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:32 PM by Alderperson Shana Defnet Ledvina

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Larry Garrison	Commissioner	Excused	
Renee Gasch	Commissioner	Remote	
Randall Lawton	Commissioner	Absent	
Shana Defnet Ledvina	Alderperson	Remote	
Rebecca McKean	Commissioner	Remote	
Bill Niedzwiedz	Commissioner	Excused	
Eric Rakers	City Engineer	Remote	

Others present:

Scott Thoresen, Public Works Director

Betty Sellenheim, Recording Secretary

Alderperson Jonathan Hansen

II. Public Comment

None

III. Items

1. Approval of the March 9, 2021 Sustainability Commission Meeting Minutes

Alderperson Ledvina moved to approve the March 9, 2021 Sustainability Commission Meeting Minutes, seconded by Commissioner Gasch.

Commissioner Rakers asked for a status update regarding the solar panel tutorial discussion from March. Commissioner Gasch provided an update.

Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Shana Defnet Ledvina, Alderperson
SECONDER:	Renee Gasch, Commissioner
AYES:	Renee Gasch, Shana Defnet Ledvina, Rebecca McKean, Eric Rakers
ABSENT:	Randall Lawton
EXCUSED:	Larry Garrison, Bill Niedzwiedz

2. Consider Election of Chairperson

Alderperson Ledvina nominated Commissioner Gasch as chairperson. Commissioner Rakers nominated Alderperson Ledvina as chairperson. Commissioner Gasch declined her nomination. Upon vote, the motion to elect Alderperson Ledvina as Chairperson passed unanimously.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [3 TO 0]
MOVER:	Eric Rakers, City Engineer
AYES:	Renee Gasch, Rebecca McKean, Eric Rakers
ABSTAIN:	Shana Defnet Ledvina
ABSENT:	Randall Lawton
EXCUSED:	Larry Garrison, Bill Niedzwiedz

3. Consider Election of Vice Chairperson

Alderpersn Ledvina nominated Commissioner McKean as vice chairperson, seconded by Commissioner Gasch. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [3 TO 0]
MOVER:	Shana Defnet Ledvina, Alderpersn
SECONDER:	Renee Gasch, Commissioner
AYES:	Renee Gasch, Shana Defnet Ledvina, Eric Rakers
ABSTAIN:	Rebecca McKean
ABSENT:	Randall Lawton
EXCUSED:	Larry Garrison, Bill Niedzwiedz

4. Consider and Possible Action on Commissioner Gasch's Request Regarding Farmer's Market Booth Proposal*

Scott Thoresen, Public Works Director, introduced the proposal from Commissioner Gasch to staff a booth at the Farmers Market once a month. Commissioner Gasch elaborated on her proposal. Commissioner Gasch asked about staff providing printed materials at the booth. Mr. Thoresen offered a few suggestions for display options at the booth and asked Commissioner Gasch to take the lead on determining what information could be displayed. Mr. Thoresen also provided options for possible funding for small initiatives, staff availability, and the need to find people to staff the booth. Commissioner Ledvina asked if staff could provide a table. Mr. Thoresen explained staff would work with Commissioner Gasch, who is leading the charge, to determine what would be needed and Commissioner Gasch added that she assumed Definitely De Pere could provide that. Commissioner Gasch asked how volunteers will sign up to staff the booth. Mr. Thoresen explained staff would set up an online signup. Alderpersn Ledvina asked to have the time slots clarified. Commissioner Gasch explained what was listed in her proposal but offered other options. Mr. Thoresen explained next steps for setting this item in motion. Commissioner Rakers stated he would prepare information regarding stormwater for the booth. Commissioner Gasch asked that information be presented on boards that residents can be prompted to take pictures of for reference, rather than having flyers or handouts.

Alderpersn Ledvina moved to approve Commissioner Gasch's request regarding Definitely De Pere Farmer's Market Booth proposal, seconded by Commissioner Gasch.

Commissioner Gasch asked that City Alderpersns be offered the opportunity to volunteer at the Sustainability Commission booth.

Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Shana Defnet Ledvina, Alderperson
SECONDER:	Renee Gasch, Commissioner
AYES:	Renee Gasch, Shana Defnet Ledvina, Rebecca McKean, Eric Rakers
ABSENT:	Randall Lawton
EXCUSED:	Larry Garrison, Bill Niedzwiedz

5. Discuss Commissioner McKean's Request Regarding GIS Project on Paved Surfaces
- Scott Thoresen, Public Works Director, introduced Commissioner McKean's request to provide an update on the paved surfaces project as part of the Sustainability Scoresheet. Commissioner McKean updated the commission on the project. Commissioner Gasch asked what actionable items might come from compiling the data. Commissioner McKean stated her belief that it lies within the use of the information to reduce the amount of paved surfaces (unused parking lots, street narrowing during reconstruction, etc.). Commissioner Rakers agreed with Commissioner McKean with regards to using this information during street reconstruction to narrow the street width and offered information on a few upcoming projects that would benefit the city in reducing the paved surfaces. Mr. Thoresen offered additional information regarding construction in the city. Alderperson Ledvina asked Commissioner Rakers how often streets are reconstructed in the City. Mr. Rakers stated the City completes one major street reconstruction each year. Alderperson Ledvina asked if there was a cost savings by narrowing the streets and Commissioner Rakers stated there is. Mr. Thoresen also offered that staff always considers the uses of the street when narrowing streets and designating parking (i.e. garbage collection, snow plowing, traffic calming). Commissioner McKean asked for input regarding creation of a story map of the information. Commissioners and staff provided positive input. Commissioner McKean asked if staff had received follow up from the DNR regarding the inclusion of private surfaces; she did not believe they would be included. Mr. Thoresen stated he did not believe he had received follow up and would check into it, but believed Commissioner McKean was correct and these surfaces would not be included.
- Discussion only. No action required.

RESULT:	DISCUSSED
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6. Discuss Commissioner Gasch Request Regarding Brown County Clean Energy Subcommittee
- Scott Thoresen, Public Works Director, asked Commissioner Gasch to explain her request regarding the Brown County Clean Energy Subcommittee. Commissioner Gasch explained that Brown County had approved the formation of a Clean Energy Subcommittee and they are accepting applications for members.

Discussion only. No action necessary.

RESULT:	DISCUSSED
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7. Discuss Commissioner Gasch's Request Regarding No Mow May
- Scott Thoresen, Public Works Director, explained the irony of this request (having been requested as a future agenda item to be implemented in 2022 by Sustainability, but then passed by Common Council for 2021) and future changes that may need to be made to the program going forward. Alderperson Hansen provided feedback he received from

constituents in his district. Alderperson Ledvina shared her personal experience having participated and stated that more research should be done to determine where the full benefits lie for pollinators. Mr. Thoresen added that the City experienced an atypical spring. Commissioner Rakers stated his opinion on no mow May and offered an alternative of promoting permanent natural areas in lawns. Alderperson Ledvina and Commissioner Gasch provided positive interest in promoting permanent natural lawn sections. Mr. Thoresen stated this item would be brought back in September to work out issues surrounding rules/guidelines for future implementation in 2022.

Discussion only. No action necessary.

RESULT:	DISCUSSED
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8. Discuss Commissioner Raker's Request Regarding Promote Bike/Walk to Work Event

Scott Thoresen, Public Works Director, introduced the request from Commissioner Rakers to promote walk/bike to work options. Commissioner Rakers outlined his request and follow-up plans for bringing additional information to the September meeting and requested input from Commissioners. Alderperson Ledvina supported the request and asked to clarify about working with other municipalities on a regional event. Commissioner Rakers stated that he would work with Wello, which is a regional organization that promotes well-being and community connectivity, and determine if a regional event existed and if not, attempt to promote one beginning in 2022. Commissioner McKean stated her support and particularly liked the idea of working with private companies to promote within their organizations and wellness programs. Alderperson Ledvina mentioned a program the City offers its employees that rewards them with a free lunch when they go for a 1-mile walk over their lunch period and thought this could be a program private businesses could offer to incentivize activity within their staff. Mr. Thoresen suggested coordinating with walk/bike to school events. Commissioner Rakers stated based on the support provided by commissioners, he would do additional research and present it at the September meeting.

RESULT:	DISCUSSED
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9. Consider and Possible Action on Renewable Energy Work Plan*

Scott Thoresen, Public Works Director, provided background history regarding the City of Green Bay renewable energy work plan and the modifications by Commissioner McKean to retrofit their plan to the needs of the City of De Pere. Mr. Thoresen explained intentions for setting a baseline, using WPS data, for City operations and facilities. Alderperson Ledvina asked for clarification from past meetings, if the work plan needed to be approved by the internal staff sustainability team before being presented to Common Council. Mr. Thoresen stated it would be presented at the next internal team. Alderperson Ledvina asked if the work plan would be re-presented to the Commission with feedback. Mr. Thoresen stated that is preferred but some commission members have expressed concerns regarding an urgency for approval and action. Commissioner Gasch explained the urgency she placed on this item was in regards to COVID relief funding and making a request to fund sustainable projects. Mr. Thoresen explained that the City did not currently know what was eligible to be funded with COVID relief monies. Commissioner Gasch urged staff to consider making a request and have a case built for their worthiness for funding with COVID relief monies. Commissioner Rakers suggested making a motion allowing the work plan to be presented to Common Council, provided the internal sustainability team did not have comments, and if there were comments, to

set up a special commission meeting to discuss possible changes prior to forwarding to Common Council. Mr. Thoresen agreed with the option laid out by Commissioner Rakers. Commissioners McKean and Gasch supported that plan. Alderperson Ledvina asked if staff foresaw Common Council being cancelled in early July due to Independence Day. Mr. Thoresen stated Common Council meetings are very rarely cancelled and he didn't foresee it being an issue.

Commissioner Rakers moved to have the work plan presented to the internal sustainability team and if there were no comments or changes, move this item directly to Common Council, seconded by Commissioner Gasch. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Eric Rakers, City Engineer
SECONDER:	Renee Gasch, Commissioner
AYES:	Renee Gasch, Shana Defnet Ledvina, Rebecca McKean, Eric Rakers
ABSENT:	Randall Lawton
EXCUSED:	Larry Garrison, Bill Niedzwiedz

10. Consider and Possible Action On Commissioner Gasch's Request Regarding Clean Energy Resolution*

Scott Thoresen, Public Works Director, explained the history of the resolution through past Sustainability Commission meetings and explained the resolution being presented in the packet was not the same resolution the Commission had previously modified. Commissioner Gasch expressed her intentions to move this and the work plan forward for approval by the internal sustainability team and outlined the changes she made, including: language regarding the American Rescue Funds (COVID relief) and years for achieving milestone levels. Commissioner Gasch explained the years are non-binding, but believes they are necessary to meet the requirements for Green Tier. Mr. Thoresen reiterated the purpose of the Sustainability Commission, to promote and create sustainable opportunities for the City of De Pere community and residents, whereas the City's internal team is tasked with City operations and facilities. Mr. Thoresen stated his concerns with the resolution with regards to staff and budgeting decisions and stated in other communities where similar resolutions had been passed, consulting firms were hired to assess a city-wide baseline. Commissioner Gasch rebutted Mr. Thoresen's concerns, stating it was not right for the Commission to ask residents to invest in sustainable practices if the City was not equally investing in their operations. Mr. Thoresen outlined sustainable practices the city has implemented and the increased costs associated with them. Mr. Thoresen explained there will be a time for implementation when the cost of sustainable practices align with the market. Alderperson Ledvina provided a personal example of choosing a less sustainable option based on price and stated she didn't think it would tie the hands of council but would provide a policy to work towards. Mr. Thoresen explained the changes originally proposed when the years were removed, that allowed for Council to make the decisions to implement sustainable operations when it was economically appropriate and viable for the City to pursue. Mr. Thoresen also shared a personal experience and how City operations are looking toward the future of electric vehicles and equipment with clean energy power sources. Commissioner Rakers provided input regarding the goal years and the impact they could have on economic decisions for the City and requested documentation be provided to back up statistics. Mr. Thoresen read from the July 2020 draft resolution the changes

implemented when the goal years were removed. Commissioner Gasch stated she felt staff was resisting her requests, as a community member, for change. Commissioner Rakers stated that although he is staff, he is also a commissioner, and as a whole, there is agreeance on a desire to meet sustainable levels but economic impacts for the entire city must be considered. Alderperson Ledvina asked Mr. Thoresen if it was an option to send the resolution with the work plan to the internal sustainability team. Mr. Thoresen stated if that was the direction of the commission, he would suggest both versions of the resolution, from the packet and July 2020 draft, be provided for review. Commissioner McKean stated that she could provide documentation for some of the statistics listed in the resolution. Mr. Thoresen suggested the Commission move the draft resolutions to the internal sustainability commission for review and set a special meeting if the commission desires. Alderperson Ledvina agreed with that plan of action. Commissioner Gasch stated her support and requested the comments be brought back to the Commission for review prior to Council. Mr. Thoresen stated he would work with the Chairperson to set a special meeting in July.

Alderperson Ledvina moved to have both drafts of the Clean Energy Resolution presented to the internal sustainability team for review, seconded by Commissioner Gasch. Upon vote, the motion passed 3-1 with Commissioner Rakers voting no.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [3 TO 1]
MOVER:	Shana Defnet Ledvina, Alderperson
SECONDER:	Renee Gasch, Commissioner
AYES:	Renee Gasch, Shana Defnet Ledvina, Rebecca McKean
NAYS:	Eric Rakers
ABSENT:	Randall Lawton
EXCUSED:	Larry Garrison, Bill Niedzwiedz

IV. Future Agenda Items

None

V. Adjournment

Alderperson Ledvina moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:22 PM, seconded by Commissioner Gasch. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Any person wishing to attend this meeting who, because of disability, requires special accommodations should contact the Clerk's office at 339-4050 by Noon, the previous day so that arrangements can be made.

***Items with an asterisk require City Council approval.**

Agenda Sent To:

Alderpersons
City Administrator
Mayor
Department Heads
TV, Newspapers & Radio Stations
Kress Family Library

De Pere Chamber of Commerce

Respectfully submitted,
Betty Sellenheim



City of De Pere, Wisconsin

Request For Sustainability Commission Action

MEETING DATE: August 10, 2021

DEPARTMENT: Public Works

FROM: Scott Thoresen

SUBJECT: Consider and Possible Acton Regarding Clean Energy Resolution*

At the last Sustainability Commission meeting, the commissioners discussed Commissioner Gasch's clean energy commitment (See attached) as well as the latest July 14, 2020 resolution update (See attached). The Commission agreed to send the resolutions to the City's internal sustainability team for review. The City's internal sustainability team met and felt if the resolution is looked at as a "mission statement" or "vision" then the resolution should go forward first to Council for consideration prior to the work plan. If the Council supports the resolution then the Commission could bring forward the work plan at a later date on how we would accomplish items spelled out in the resolution. In addition, the City's internal sustainability team felt the updated July 14, 2020 resolution should be what the Commission brings forward to Council for consideration.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Clean Energy Commitment - Update 6-3-2021 (DOCX)
- Clean Energy Resolution Update 7-14-2020 (PDF)

RESOLUTION to establish clean energy and carbon neutrality goals for the City of De Pere (UPDATED JUNE 2021)

WHEREAS, the protection, stewardship, improvement, and promotion of the environment is a public necessity and is required in the interest of health, prosperity, safety, and welfare of the De Pere community for present and future generations;

WHEREAS, on July 17, 2018, the City Council established a Sustainability Commission to explore sustainability initiatives that can be implemented in De Pere, with the ultimate goal of providing a more sustainable, livable, and healthy community;

WHEREAS, the City of De Pere has already demonstrated progress in reducing carbon emissions in its municipal operations, for example through its green roof on city hall, its transition to natural gas engines in public works vehicles, and other building efficiency upgrades;

WHEREAS, the State of Wisconsin, City of Green Bay, the Oneida Nation, Green Bay Area Public School District, University of Wisconsin – Green Bay, and St. Norbert Student Government Association have all committed to achieving 100 percent clean energy, energy conservation, and other sustainability goals by 2050 or earlier;

WHEREAS, the entire community stands to benefit when collaborative approaches are taken to invest in clean energy, such as job creation, increased property values, long-term resilience, cleaner air and water, improved public health, and economic benefits for taxpayers;

WHEREAS, continual advancements in clean energy technology as well as opportunities for federal and state grant money have made investment in many types of renewable energy more cost-effective than further investment in fossil fuels (which are a major contributor to global climate change), posing a financial benefit for the long-term budget of the City of De Pere;

WHEREAS, Brown County, including the City of De Pere, is already experiencing long-term climatic changes, such as increased annual temperatures of 3 to 5 degrees Fahrenheit and a 15% increase in annual precipitation, as well as an increase in the severity of individual weather events, such as increased intensity of individual precipitation events, which have contributed to increased flooding along the Fox and East Rivers;

WHEREAS, climate scientists from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (the IPCC) have found that if rapid action is not taken to reach net-zero carbon emissions by 2030, the planet will reach 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels. Reaching this level of warming will lead to long-term changes in the climate system that will have negative impacts on human health, food and water security, and economic growth;

WHEREAS, the City of De Pere is committed to ensuring all residents, no matter race, ethnicity, age, income, geographic location or ability level are involved in the decision making and planning process so that the city's transition to clean energy benefits all;

WHEREAS, the process to achieve these ambitious goals represents a journey that needs to be realistic and sensitive to unintended impacts. Careful and ongoing planning is necessary to understand what is practical in the short term while emphasizing efforts in the mid and long-term ranges, where technological advancements occur and costs decline;

WHEREAS, the goal of carbon neutrality fits within a cornerstone element of the City of De Pere's comprehensive plan related to sustainability and becoming an eco-municipality, such that the City Council and the Mayor of De Pere already adopted a resolution "endorsing the principles of sustainability and applying them in city decision making, planning, policy making, and municipal practices" and a second resolution committing the City of De Pere "...to working towards greater sustainability as an eco-municipality";

WHEREAS, the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 provided local governments with federal funding, which if invested in sustainability projects can result in long term savings for De Pere taxpayers;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of De Pere establishes goals to meet 50% of all city operations energy needs with carbon neutral energy and offsets by 2030, 75% by 2035 and 100% by 2040 as measured by its carbon footprint;

BE IT RESOLVED, that to meet these goals, the City will invest a portion of its funding from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 into energy efficiency and conservation projects, programs, and outreach as a means of rapidly reducing the need for centralized fossil energy generation;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of De Pere will account for these goals in its future budget cycles and collaborates with the De Pere Sustainability Commission to develop a work plan which identifies cost-effective measures to transition to clean energy and net-zero carbon emissions;

IN WITNESS THEREOF, the undersigned, being all members of the De Pere Common Council, have executed this resolution on this DD day of MM month, YY Year.

Signatures

RESOLUTION to establish clean energy and carbon neutrality goals
for the City of De Pere (REVISED 2020 0714)

WHEREAS, the protection, stewardship, improvement, and promotion of the environment is a public necessity and is required in the interest of health, prosperity, safety, and welfare of the De Pere community for present and future generations;

WHEREAS, on July 17, 2018, the City Council established a Sustainability Commission to explore sustainability initiatives that can be implemented in De Pere, with the ultimate goal of providing a more sustainable, livable, and healthy community;

WHEREAS, the City of De Pere has already demonstrated progress in reducing carbon emissions in its municipal operations, for example through its green roof on city hall, its transition to natural gas engines in public works vehicles, and other building efficiency upgrades;

WHEREAS, the State of Wisconsin, City of Green Bay, the Oneida Nation, Green Bay Area Public School District, University of Wisconsin – Green Bay, and St. Norbert Student Government Association have all committed to achieving 100 percent clean energy, energy conservation, and other sustainability goals by 2050 or earlier;

WHEREAS, the entire community stands to benefit when collaborative approaches are taken to invest in clean energy, such as job creation, increased property values, long-term resilience, cleaner air and water, improved public health, and economic benefits for taxpayers;

WHEREAS, continual advancements in clean energy technology as well as opportunities for federal and state grant money have made investment in many types of renewable energy more cost-effective than further investment in fossil fuels (which are a major contributor to global climate change), posing a financial benefit for the long-term budget of the City of De Pere;

WHEREAS, Brown County, including the City of De Pere, is already experiencing long-term climatic changes, such as increased annual temperatures of 3 to 5 degrees Fahrenheit and a 15% increase in annual precipitation, as well as an increase in the severity of individual weather events, such as increased intensity of individual precipitation events, which have contributed to increased flooding along the Fox and East Rivers;

WHEREAS, climate scientists from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (the IPCC) have found that if rapid action is not taken to reach net-zero carbon emissions by 2030, the planet will reach 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels. Reaching this level of warming will lead to long-term changes in the climate system that will have negative impacts on human health, food and water security, and economic growth;

WHEREAS, the City of De Pere is committed to ensuring all residents, no matter race, ethnicity, age, income, geographic location or ability level are involved in the decision making and planning process so that the city's transition to clean energy benefits all;

WHEREAS, the process to achieve these ambitious goals represents a journey that needs to be realistic and sensitive to unintended impacts. Careful and ongoing planning is necessary to understand what is practical in the short term while emphasizing efforts in the mid and long-term ranges, where technological advancements occur and costs decline;

WHEREAS, the goal of carbon neutrality fits within a cornerstone element of the City of De Pere's comprehensive plan related to sustainability and becoming an eco-municipality, such that the City Council and the Mayor of De Pere already adopted a resolution "endorsing the principles of sustainability and applying them in city decision making, planning, policy making, and municipal practices" and a second resolution committing the City of De Pere "...to working towards greater sustainability as an eco-municipality";

BE IT RESOLVED, that given energy efficiency is a key and economical choice for meeting energy needs, reducing operating costs, and reducing our carbon footprint, the City will advance energy efficiency and conservation projects, programs, and outreach as a means of rapidly reducing the need for centralized fossil energy generation;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of De Pere will account for these goals in its future budget cycles and collaborates with the De Pere Sustainability Commission to develop a work plan which identifies cost-effective measures to transition to clean energy and net-zero carbon emissions;

IN WITNESS THEREOF, the undersigned, being all members of the De Pere Common Council, have executed this resolution on this DD day of MM month, YY Year.

Signatures



City of De Pere, Wisconsin

Request For Sustainability Commission Action

MEETING DATE: August 10, 2021

DEPARTMENT: Public Works

FROM: Scott Thoresen

SUBJECT: Consider and Possible Action Regarding Renewable Energy Work Plan*

At the last Sustainability Commission meeting, the commissioners reviewed the and approved moving the work plan (See attached work plan) forward to Council if the City's internal sustainability team had no comments. The City's internal sustainability team met and felt the Commission needs to look at the City as a whole but it would be OK to make recommendations for City operations. In addition, the team felt maybe the work plan needs to come after the resolution if the Council approves it.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Work Plan Final Draft 8-2-2021 (DOCX)

Work Plan Final Draft

- Conduct a baseline assessment of the City of De Pere's greenhouse gas emissions utilizing resources such as the Greenhouse Gas Protocol (Global Protocol for Community-Scale Greenhouse Gas Emission Inventories), City of De Pere staff, WPS staff, and local expertise from faculty and students at St. Norbert College.
- Use baseline assessment as a guideline for the City of De Pere to work towards eventually achieving carbon neutrality and for tracking changes in the City's greenhouse gas emissions annually.
- Conduct research and compile a white paper report that outlines various considerations towards transitioning to carbon neutrality that includes, but is not limited to:
 - Specific information on the baseline assessment of greenhouse gas emissions for the City of De Pere;
 - Scientific evidence for community benefits of reducing greenhouse emissions;
 - Definition of carbon neutrality and possible goals for reaching carbon neutrality;
 - Overview of types of renewable energy possible in the City of De Pere;
 - Discuss energy conservation;
 - Economic and tax rate considerations: the cost of the initial transition vs. the cost of doing nothing, the long-term economic benefits to renewable energy;
 - Policy recommendations to meet the scientific needs with consideration to the economic realities.
- Following the report's presentation and discussion at the City Council, the Sustainability Commission may submit a resolution with stated recommendations with consideration to feedback from the Council that outlines our target dates and goals for a transition to carbon neutrality.
- Solicit feedback from the community on specific possible actions towards transitioning to carbon neutrality before passing a final resolution. This can include, but is not limited to:
 - Commission members reaching out to community organizations, individuals, and other key stakeholders;
 - Receiving feedback from partner organizations' sustainability listening sessions by providing them a list of possible recommendations for them to include in any programming;

- Enlisting the help and advice of expert organizations (ex. RENEW Wisconsin);
 - Developing and sending out a survey to a random sample of city residents and also making the survey available online for residents of the City about possible solutions;
 - Advertise report to the City Council and subsequent resolution and encourage public dialogue and civic engagement prior to any policy votes.
- Following the potential passage of a resolution outlining goals towards the transition to carbon neutrality, the Sustainability Commission may work with city staff and any key stakeholders to develop a Renewable Energy Action Plan that will outline exactly how the municipality and community will make that transition toward any stated goals. This plan may be developed in consultation with third-party consultants, and the commission may identify grant opportunities to fund such a plan (including but not limited to the annual grants from the Wisconsin Public Service Commission). The Sustainability Commission will facilitate community input in this plan.
 - Prior to and following any resolution that states specific goals, the Sustainability Commission may work to identify and recommend any other policy suggestions or programmatic opportunities to encourage the use of renewable energy in the city.
 - The Sustainability Commission may engage and collaborate with other local and tribal governments in the region, the State of Wisconsin (DNR Green Tier Legacy Community Program), and the federal government (Environmental Protection Agency), higher education (e.g., St. Norbert College), business and industry to encourage progress towards these goals.
 - The Sustainability Commission may constantly be identifying funding opportunities from grants, public-private partnerships, possible city budget requests, or any other opportunities that become available.
 - Work with City staff to determine current levels of renewable energy versus other energy sources and identify any existing efforts to transition, cost estimates, and barriers to transition.