



Sustainability Commission

Regular Meeting

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

Agenda

Tuesday, June 8, 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 **June 8, 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.

<https://www.gotomeet.me/DePere>

You can also dial in using your phone.

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://deperewi.com/>.

I. Call to Order

1. Roll Call

II. Public Comment

III. Items

1. Approval of the March 9, 2021 Sustainability Commission Meeting Minutes
2. Consider Election of Chairperson
3. Consider Election of Vice Chairperson
4. Consider and Possible Action on Commissioner Gasch's Request Regarding Farmer's Market Booth Proposal*
5. Discuss Commissioner McKean's Request Regarding GIS Project on Paved Surfaces
6. Discuss Commissioner Gasch Request Regarding Brown County Clean Energy Subcommittee
7. Discuss Commissioner Gasch's Request Regarding No Mow May
8. Discuss Commissioner Raker's Request Regarding Promote Bike/Walk to Work Event
9. Consider and Possible Action on Renewable Energy Work Plan*
10. Consider and Possible Action On Commissioner Gasch's Request Regarding Clean Energy Resolution*

IV. Future Agenda Items

V. 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: June 8, 2021

DEPARTMENT: Sustainability Commission

FROM: Betty Sellenheim

SUBJECT: Approval of the March 9, 2021 Sustainability Commission Meeting Minutes

ATTACHMENTS:

- 2021 0309 Sustainability Draft Minutes (PDF)



Sustainability Commission

Regular Meeting

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

Draft Minutes

Tuesday, March 9, 2021

5:30 PM

GoToMeeting

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:33 PM by Alderperson Shana Defnet Ledvina

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Larry Garrison	Commissioner	Excused	
Renee Gasch	Commissioner	Remote	5:31 PM
Randall Lawton	Commissioner	Absent	
Shana Defnet Ledvina	Alderperson	Remote	
Rebecca McKean	Commissioner	Remote	
Bill Niedzwiedz	Commissioner	Excused	
Eric Rakers	City Engineer	Remote	5:31 PM

Others present:

Scott Thoresen, Director of Public Works

Betty Sellenheim, Recording Secretary

II. Action Items

1. Approval of the December 8, 2020 Sustainability Commission Meeting Minutes

Alderperson Ledvina moved to approve the December 8, 2020 Sustainability Commission Meeting Minutes, seconded by Commissioner Gasch. 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. Discuss Video Tutorial About Solar Energy & Possible Group Buy Program

Scott Thoresen, Director of Public Works, introduced the request from Commissioner Gasch regarding a video tutorial about solar energy and possible group buy program for solar panels.

Commissioner Gasch outlined her plans for a presentation by Eland Electric regarding solar panels and group buy programs and an introductory educational video tutorial (mirrored off a video created by Eland for Door County). Commissioner Gasch mentioned the Door County solar group buy program was linked in the email included in the packet.

Commissioner McKean asked for clarification on the content of the video tutorial. Commissioner Gasch explained the video tutorial would be focused on individual homeowners and the questions they may have about solar energy and getting started. Commissioner McKean asked if there was a certain number of households needed in order to start the group buy program. Commissioner Gasch stated there was not a

particular number but the savings would increase if there were more households signed up and it would not have to be limited to De Pere residents. Commissioner Gasch mentioned the permitting is usually time consuming and the City could help by setting up a streamlined permitting process. Alderperson Ledvina asked if the next meeting could be advertised on Facebook to raise interest and awareness in the presentation. Mr. Thoresen stated he would check into it with the City Administrator and connect with Commissioner Gasch if additional information is needed. Commissioner Rakers asked about selling back power that is unused/over-generated. Commissioner Gasch stated she believed Wisconsin had net metering. Commissioner Rakers requested staff research the permitting process before the next meeting and know how time consuming it is and/or how to streamline it. Commissioner Rakers also requested staff discuss with the City Attorney any implications regarding the use of Eland's product and adding the City logo and/or using Eland without consulting other companies.

Discussion only. No action required.

RESULT:	NO ACTION
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3. Discuss Renewable Energy Work Plan

Scott Thoresen, Director of Public Works, updated the Commission on the Renewable Energy Plan, including: obtaining electric and gas baseline information from Wisconsin Public Service for City usage.

Commissioner McKean shared information she had learned from discussions with Green Bay Sustainability Commissioners.

Mr. Thoresen outlined the process of having the renewable energy work plan approved. Alderperson Ledvina asked if internal staff sustainability group approval was required as part of the process. Mr. Thoresen stated it would still be part of the process.

Mr. Thoresen reminded the commission of the renewable energy work plan edits and asked for feedback prior to the June meeting on the changes provided by Commissioner McKean. Alderperson Ledvina asked Mr. Thoresen to resend the documents to be reviewed.

RESULT:	NO ACTION
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III. Future Agenda Items

Commissioner McKean asked to provide an update on Paved Surfaces Project.
Commissioner Rakers asked the City to research and promote bike/walk to work options or event.
Commissioner Gasch asked to provide information on Appleton's No-Mow May.

IV. Adjournment

Commissioner Rakers moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:15 PM, seconded by Alderperson Ledvina. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Betty Sellenheim



City of De Pere, Wisconsin

Request For Sustainability Commission Action

MEETING DATE: June 8, 2021

DEPARTMENT: Sustainability Commission

FROM: Scott Thoresen

SUBJECT: Consider Election of Chairperson



City of De Pere, Wisconsin

Request For Sustainability Commission Action

MEETING DATE: June 8, 2021

DEPARTMENT: Sustainability Commission

FROM: Scott Thoresen

SUBJECT: Consider Election of Vice Chairperson



City of De Pere, Wisconsin

Request For Sustainability Commission Action

MEETING DATE: June 8, 2021

DEPARTMENT: Public Works

FROM: Scott Thoresen

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

ATTACHMENTS:

- Farmer's Market Request (PDF)

From: Renee Gasch <renee.gasch@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 3, 2021 7:56 AM
To: Betty Sellenheim; Scott Thoresen; Shana Defnet Ledvina
Subject: Farmer's Market Booth for the agenda

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Scott and Betty,

I have one more thing to add to the agenda! I checked in with Definitely De Pere and they are still ok with us doing a booth at the De Pere Farmer's Market.

De Pere Farmer's Market Booth Proposal

Proposal: Staff a booth at the De Pere Farmer's Market every first Thursday of the month to meet with community members and discuss sustainability projects.

Needs: Recruit six volunteers for three shifts. Create signage to promote Plastic Bag Recycling, No Mow May, and the Coal Tar Ban. Collect plastic bags at the booth and distribute reusable plastic bags and native plants to guests.

July 1, 4-8pm

August 5, 4-8pm

September 2, 3-7pm

Renee Gasch
920-366-3780

--

Renee Gasch (she)
920-366-3780



City of De Pere, Wisconsin

Request For Sustainability Commission Action

MEETING DATE: June 8, 2021

DEPARTMENT: Public Works

FROM: Scott Thoresen

SUBJECT: Discuss Commissioner McKean's Request Regarding GIS Project on Paved Surfaces



City of De Pere, Wisconsin

Request For Sustainability Commission Action

MEETING DATE: June 8, 2021

DEPARTMENT: Public Works

FROM: Scott Thoresen

SUBJECT: Discuss Commissioner Gasch Request Regarding Brown County Clean Energy Subcommittee

ATTACHMENTS:

- Brown County Resolution Establishing Clean Energy SubCommittee (DOCX)
- Brown County Clean Energy Subcommittee Application 6-3-2021 (DOC)

RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING THE BROWN COUNTY ENERGY SUB- COMMITTEE.

WHEREAS, Brown County Board of Supervisors are elected to represent their constituencies, and the County Board serves as an oversight and policy making body regarding the County's assets and operations; and

WHEREAS, the County Board has supported clean energy projects, and believes in proactively managing future challenges through thoughtful planning and enactment of policies; and

WHEREAS, the County Board recognizes the importance of incorporating the participation of its residents in their decision-making process; and

WHEREAS, it is in the County's best interest to develop a long-term, comprehensive energy plan to initiate costs savings measures by reducing energy consumption and reliance; and

WHEREAS, it is also in the County's best interest to investigate best practices to promote cost savings measures, and proactively manage natural resources; and

WHEREAS, creating a sub-committee which includes citizen experts to research and develop a long-term comprehensive plan for the Planning, Development and Transportation Committee's consideration, would greatly aid the Committee with policy making decisions that promote energy saving and resource sustainability; and

WHEREAS, such a plan will benefit the entire Brown County community; and

WHEREAS, Clean Energy is energy that emits negligible amounts of pollution in the form of carbon dioxide, radiation, and/or chemical contaminants; and

WHEREAS, Clean Energy forms includes renewable energy and other forms of energy; and

WHEREAS, Other forms of Clean Energy include nuclear, and potentially others; and

WHEREAS, Clean energy relates to the sources of purchased energy, which differs from energy efficiency and energy conservation, which relate to the reduction of energy used; and

WHEREAS, the County will work to ensure residents stand to benefit from and are not negatively impacted by future energy projects, including wind energy generation.

WHEREAS, Renewable Energy includes solar energy, hydro energy, wind energy, geothermal energy, tidal and wave energy, and biomass energy; and

WHEREAS, Brown County's metrics for clean energy shall be in dollars spent, and include Renewable Energy Certificates and offsets, which includes the reduction of Greenhouse Gases; and

WHEREAS, Brown County's Clean Energy policy shall not require the County to purchase Renewable Energy Certificates and/or to incur other cost increases; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that a seven (7) member Energy Sub-committee is hereby created, consisting of two (2) Brown County Supervisors, and five (5) Brown County residents who have relevant fields of expertise, which may include off-duty Brown County employees. Members shall be appointed by the Planning, Development and Transportation (PD&T) Chair and approved by the PD&T Committee. The terms of office for members shall be two years. The Sub-committee shall meet on an as-needed basis. At the initial meeting and at the first meeting on or after the third Tuesday in April in even numbered years, officers shall be nominated and selected by majority vote of the sub-committee. The officers shall be a Chair (to schedule and run the meetings, to prepare and set the Agenda, and to timely forward to the County Clerk's Office), a Vice Chair (to act as Chair's stead when needed), and a Secretary (to take minutes and to timely forward to the Chair and to the County Clerk's Office); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Energy Sub-committee shall: establish an energy use base line; develop a reliable long-term comprehensive energy plan, as a recommendation, and such plan is a living document that changes as County personnel make energy related decisions; identify and recommend to the PD&T Committee areas of potential cost savings and/or where energy related operational improvements may exists; annually prepare recommendations and projections for the next five-year period, which promotes and includes annual clean energy percentage increases, if applicable, for each year, which shall be based on actual prior achievements and specific anticipated future changes; and annually submit such five-year projections, as recommendations, to the PD&T Committee for their consideration, with the ultimate goal being to achieve 100% clean energy.

Fiscal Note: This resolution does not require an appropriation from the General Fund. This resolution does not appropriate any funds, and procedural task of publication notices can be adsorbed within the County Clerk's Office.



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P.O. BOX 23600
GREEN BAY, WI 54305-3600
PHONE (920) 448-4015, FAX (920) 448-6221

Email: BC_County_Board@browncountywi.gov

**BROWN COUNTY SUBCOMMITTEE
APPOINTEE INFORMATION SHEET**

Name: _____

Date: _____

Subcommittee: _____

Home Address: _____

Preferred Mailing Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ **Work Phone:** _____

E-Mail: _____

Current Employer: _____

Current Position: _____

Employment History:

Educational Background (include name of institution and degree conferred if applicable):

Community Service:

Relevant Experience Related to the Energy Industry:

Statement Explaining What You’d Like to See the Subcommittee Accomplish:

Affiliations with any Political Organizations

Affiliations with any Energy Related Companies:



City of De Pere, Wisconsin

Request For Sustainability Commission Action

MEETING DATE: June 8, 2021

DEPARTMENT: Public Works

FROM: Scott Thoresen

SUBJECT: Discuss Commissioner Gasch's Request Regarding No Mow May

At our March Commission meeting the topic of "No Mow May" was brought up for discussion under "Future Agenda Items" by Commissioner Gasch for the June Commission meeting. Ironically, the City Council approved a resolution (see attached) on April 7, 2021 for "No Mow May". This resolution was brought forward by the Commission's former Chairperson Alderperson Nelson.

The City had "No Mow May" signs made and 140 property owners requested the sign because they wanted to participate. There was a lot of positive feedback regarding the program as well as negative feedback. One concern brought up about this program was why the City didn't implement this on all of the City's owned property. One of the main reasons for this is the need to cut park areas where people play sports. If the Commission is interested in pursuing this program next year we need to evaluate how do we address the concerns and promote this program for next year.

ATTACHMENTS:

- No Mow May Resolution #21-39 (PDF)

RESOLUTION #21-39
ESTABLISHING NO MOW MAY

WHEREAS, the City of De Pere desires to develop and implement a program to create or expand pollinator-friendly habitat on public and private land, to galvanize communities to adopt sustainable pollinator-friendly land management practices; and

WHEREAS, the City of De Pere is in a unique position to significantly increase pollinator-friendly habitat by encouraging pollinator-friendly lawn-care practices and by encouraging its citizens to take direct and meaningful action on their own properties; and

WHEREAS, ideal pollinator-friendly habitat is comprised of mostly native wildflowers, grasses, vines, shrubs, and trees blooming in succession throughout the growing season; is free or nearly free of pesticides; is comprised of undisturbed spaces including leaf and brush piles, un-mown fields or field margins, fallen trees and other dead wood for nesting and overwintering; and provides connectivity between habitat areas to support pollinator movement and resilience; and

WHEREAS, the formative period for establishment of pollinator and other insect species, and the many songbirds and other urban wildlife species which depend upon them, occurs in late spring and early summer when they emerge from dormancy and require flowering plants as crucial foraging habitat; and these opportunities are dramatically reduced with early spring leaf-litter removal and grass-mowing; and

Resolution #21-39

Page 2 of 2

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED THAT:

The Common Council hereby recognizes “No Mow May” to actively promote and educate the community about the critical period of pollinator emergence, generation of crucial pollinator-supporting habitat and early spring foraging opportunities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that for the duration of the month of May, the City of De Pere shall suspend the enforcement of De Pere Municipal Code 74-10(b) as it relates to long grass in order to voluntarily delay homeowner lawn-care practices until June 1, 2021, allowing pollinator species to emerge and early flowering grasses and forbs to establish, which may result in ground-cover exceeding established ordinance height restrictions. Regulation and enforcement of ordinances related to harmful noxious weeds shall remain in effect.

Adopted by the Common Council of the City of De Pere, Wisconsin, this 7th day of April, 2021.

APPROVED:

James G. Boyd, Mayor

ATTEST:

Carey E. Danen, City Clerk

Ayes: _____

Nays: _____



City of De Pere, Wisconsin

Request For Sustainability Commission Action

MEETING DATE: June 8, 2021

DEPARTMENT: Public Works

FROM: Scott Thoresen

SUBJECT: Discuss Commissioner Raker's Request Regarding Promote
Bike/Walk to Work Event



City of De Pere, Wisconsin

Request For Sustainability Commission Action

MEETING DATE: June 8, 2021

DEPARTMENT: Public Works

FROM: Scott Thoresen

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

At the last Sustainability Commission meeting, the commissioners were supposed to review the City of Green Bay's work plan along with the changes drafted by Commissioner McKean so the Commission can continue to work on putting the renewable energy work plan together. Attached are the updated comments to this work plan.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Work Plan Summary 6-2-2021(DOCX)
- Commissioner McKean's Work Plan Notes (PDF)
- City of Green Bay Renewable-Energy-Work-Plan-PDF(PDF)

Work Plan Summary 6-2-2021

(GB Sustainability Work Plan sections are in black; modified sections in red, by Commissioner McKean; modified sections in blue, by Commissioner Rakers)

- 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 setting goals~~ 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.
- ~~Following completion of the baseline assessment,~~ 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 **renewable energy 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.
 - (from GB's plan) 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.

Addition:

~~Use the Green Tier Sustainability Strategies scoresheet (and the City's 2019 baseline) as a guideline for choosing projects that Commissioners agree would advance the sustainability goals of the City, while also improving the City's score each year.~~

McKean Notes on City of De Pere Sustainability Commission Work Plan

From GB Sustainability Work Plan (modified sections in red, order altered):

- 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 setting goals 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.
- Following completion of the baseline assessment, 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 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 renewable energy 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

McKean Notes on City of De Pere Sustainability Commission Work Plan

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.

Addition:

- **Use the Green Tier Sustainability Strategies scoresheet (and the City's 2019 baseline) as a guideline for choosing projects that Commissioners agree would advance the sustainability goals of the City, while also improving the City's score each year.**

**City of Green Bay Sustainability Commission
Renewable Energy Work Plan**

In order to meet our stated goal of transitioning to 100% renewable energy, the Sustainability Commission for the City of Green Bay may take the following steps:

- I. Conduct research and compile a white paper report that outlines various considerations towards transitioning to renewable energy that includes, but is not limited to:
 - a. Scientific evidence for reducing greenhouse gas emissions;
 - b. Overview of types of renewable energy;
 - c. Define different areas, both at the municipal and community level, that require various forms of energy;
 - d. Define carbon neutrality;
 - e. Discuss energy conservation;
 - f. Economic considerations: the cost of the initial transition vs. the cost of doing nothing, the long-term economic benefits to renewable energy;
 - g. Policy recommendations to meet the scientific needs with consideration to the economic realities.

This report may be presented to the full Sustainability Commission in April, and upon approval sent to Common Council for presentation.
- II. Following the report's presentation and discussion at Common Council, the Sustainability Commission may submit a resolution with stated recommendations with consideration to the feedback from council that outlines our target dates and goals for a transition to renewable energy at the municipal and/or community level.
- III. Enlist the help of UW-Green Bay faculty and students to conduct a study to determine a baseline for greenhouse gas emissions to be used as a reference for any possible carbon reduction goals. This should be started right away, but does not need to be finished prior to the passage of a resolution outlining goals.
- IV. 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.
- V. Work with WPS to determine current energy sources at the community level, and identify future plans towards transitioning to renewable energy that already exist.
- VI. Solicit feedback from the community on specific possible actions towards transitioning to renewable energy before passing a final resolution. This can include, but is not limited to:
 - a. Commission members reaching out to community organizations, individuals, and other key stakeholders;
 - b. Receiving feedback from partner organizations' sustainability listening sessions by providing them a list of possible recommendations for them to include in any programming;

**City of Green Bay Sustainability Commission
Renewable Energy Work Plan**

- c. Enlisting the help and advice of expert organizations (ex. RENEW Wisconsin);
 - d. 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;
 - e. Advertise the findings of the white paper and subsequent resolution and encourage public dialogue and civic engagement prior to any policy votes.
- VII. Following the potential passage of a resolution outlining goals towards the transition to renewable energy, 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 plan (including but not limited to the annual grants from the Wisconsin Public Service Commission). The Sustainability Commission will facilitate further community input in this plan.
- VIII. Ensure the inclusion of energy policy, among other sustainability issues, in the city's next comprehensive plan.
- IX. 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.
- X. 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., Northeast Wisconsin Technical College), business and industry to encourage progress towards these goal
- XI. 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.



City of De Pere, Wisconsin

Request For Sustainability Commission Action

MEETING DATE: June 8, 2021

DEPARTMENT: Public Works

FROM: Scott Thoresen

SUBJECT: Consider and Possible Action On Commisioner Gasch's Request
Regarding Clean Energy Resolution*

ATTACHMENTS:

- Clean Energy Commitment - Update 6-3-2021 (DOCX)

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