



Sustainability Commission

Regular Meeting

335 South Broadway
De Pere, WI 54115
www.deperewi.gov

Agenda

Tuesday, March 10, 2026

5:30 PM

Council Chambers and Virtual

Pursuant to Wisconsin Statute 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 **March 10, 2026** at **5:30 PM** in the **COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 2ND FLOOR CITY HALL, 335 S. BROADWAY STREET, DE PERE.**

Computer/smart phone accessing <https://www.gotomeet.me/DePere>

OR

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 may also be rebroadcast on TV throughout the week and available on demand at <https://deperewi.portal.civicclerk.com/>.

- I. Call to Order
 1. Roll Call
- II. Public Comment on Matters not on the Agenda. Comments made during the public comment period shall pertain only to matters under the jurisdiction of the Sustainability Commission. §6-3(f) DPMC
- III. Items
 1. Approval of the February 10, 2026 Sustainability Commission Meeting Minutes
 2. Introduction Presentation by ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability USA (ICLEI USA)
 3. Consideration and possible action on election of Vice Chairperson
 4. Discussion on Sustainability Commission Work Plan
 5. Discussion on Initiative Prioritization - Adopt-a-Drain
 6. Discussion on Initiative Prioritization - Pollinator Gardens / Planned Natural Landscapes
 7. Discussion on Initiative Prioritization - Green Energy
 8. Discussion on Initiative Prioritization - Composting

9. Discussion on Data Centers

IV. Future Agenda Items

V. Adjournment

Any person wishing to attend this meeting who, because of disability, requires special accommodations should contact the Public Works Department at 920-339-4060 by noon on the previous day so that arrangements can be made.

Agenda Sent To:

Alderspersons

City Manager

Mayor

Department Heads

TV, Newspapers & Radio Stations

Kress Family Library

De Pere Chamber of Commerce

Definitely De Pere

Angelica Greco

Matthew Katz



City of De Pere, Wisconsin

III.1

**Request for Sustainability Commission
Action**

Meeting Date: March 10, 2026
Department: Public Works
From: Natalie Markelz, Administrative Assistant
Subject: Approval of the February 10, 2026 Sustainability Commission Meeting Minutes
Recommendation: Approve the February 10, 2026 Sustainability Commission Meeting Minutes

Attachments:
2026 0210 Sustainability Commission Minutes



Sustainability Commission

Regular Meeting

Minutes

335 South Broadway
De Pere, WI 54115
www.deperewi.gov

Tuesday, February 10, 2026

5:30 PM

Council Chambers/Virtual

I. Call to Order

1. Roll Call

Present: Emily Castellanos, Randall Lawton, Rachel Leonard, Casey Nelson, Nicole Slavin

Remote: Jonie Panick

Absent:

Excused: Carmen Van Schyndel, Anna Metzler

Others present:

Chase Kuffel, Assistant City Engineer

Natalie Markelz, Recording Secretary/Administrative Assistant

Allyson Brunette, Allyson Brunette Consulting, LLC (remote)

II. Public Comment on Matters not on the Agenda. Comments made during the public comment period shall pertain only to matters under the jurisdiction of the Sustainability Commission. §6-3(f) DPMC

III. Items

1. Approval of the January 13, 2026 Sustainability Commission Meeting Minutes

Alderperson Nelson moved to approve the January 13, 2026 Sustainability Commission Meeting Minutes, seconded by Commissioner Slavin. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

RESULT: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Casey Nelson
SECONDER: Nicole Slavin
AYES: Emily Castellanos, Randall Lawton, Rachel Leonard, Casey Nelson, Jonie Panick, Nicole Slavin
EXCUSED: Carmen Van Schyndel, Anna Metzler

2. Consideration and possible action on Proposal for 2026 Green Tier Legacy Community Scoresheet Completion*

Chase Kuffel, Assistant City Engineer, advised staff met with Allyson Brunette of Allyson Brunette Consulting, LLC to complete the Green Tier score sheet for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and have it submitted by the end of year. The cost to complete would not exceed the cost of \$4,500. The intent is to retain her again next year to upkeep and maintain the score sheet, then staff can take over in 2028.

Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

RESULT: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Casey Nelson
SECONDER: Randall Lawton
AYES: Emily Castellanos, Randall Lawton, Rachel Leonard, Casey Nelson, Jonie Panick, Nicole Slavin
EXCUSED: Carmen Van Schyndel, Anna Metzler

3. Consideration and possible action on 2026 Composting Services Reimbursement Rates

Chase Kuffel, Assistant City Engineer, advised the City took over the compost reimbursement program and establishes the reimbursement rate on an annual basis. Last year's rate was set to cover 50% of fees to Greener Bay Compost. Staff reviewed costs, which have not changed, so the recommendation is the same reimbursements of \$9 for those on the every 4-week plan and \$15 for those on the every other week plan.

Aldersperson Nelson questioned how many residents utilize the program. Mr. Kuffel advised either 26 or 27 residents. Aldersperson Nelson then asked how the participants are on the 2 vs. 4 weeks plan. Mr. Kuffel advised it's about half-and-half.

Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

RESULT: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Nicole Slavin
SECONDER: Casey Nelson
AYES: Emily Castellanos, Randall Lawton, Rachel Leonard, Casey Nelson, Jonie Panick, Nicole Slavin
EXCUSED: Carmen Van Schyndel, Anna Metzler

4. Discussion on 2026 Sustainability Commission Budget

Chase Kuffel, Assistant City Engineer, advised the Commission is still in its infancy stage of having a budget. There were funds were carried over from 2025, and going into 2026 there's already funds allocated of \$4,500 to Allyson Brunette Consulting LLC., renting a space for the proposed Sustainable Series, composting reimbursements, plant hand out with the Green Bay Botanical Gardens/Conservation Corps, and advertisements at the De Pere Cinema.

Aldersperson Nelson wondered if we should have more plans to spend the funds this year to put it towards good initiatives such as the advertisements at De Pere Cinema and billboards so we don't lose any the following year. Mr. Kuffel advised we are at a better position than last year with the above-mentioned planned expenditures and ongoing initiatives, but does agree the Commission should utilize more of the funding available.

Commissioner Leonard asked if the Commission plans on attempting the Pollinator Gardens again this year. Mr. Kuffel advised we can look at it again, but needs direction on how to proceed going forward.

Discussion only. No action necessary.

5. Consideration and possible action on Initiative Advertising

Chase Kuffel, Assistant City Engineer, advised Commissioner Panick met with Lamar for billboard pricing. Mr. Kuffel stated that included in the packet are attachments of quotes on various advertising opportunities near the De Pere area. Commissioner Panick explained the differences of options. The digital advertisement is a quick turnaround as all they need is a design, but more expensive, whereas the posters are smaller and have a longer turnaround time since they need to physically make the vinyl and would be about a \$1,000 savings, even with the \$100 premium price to be in De Pere only. She added that they have the same length of run time of four weeks.

Commissioner Castellanos questioned how long the digital advertisements run on screen. Commissioner Panick advised the clips are 8 slots for 8 seconds long, She also advised she's against the digital billboards as it's capturing many people who aren't City of De Pere residents, whereas the local posters is being viewed by residents specifically. Commissioner Castellanos informs that she's also in favor of the posters as it's De Pere focused.

Commissioner Leonard questioned what "eco poster" means and where does it go after it's been used. Commissioner Panick said she believes they are torn down & repurposed but will ask to verify.

Commissioner Slavin asked how much lead time do we need if we go forward/how far out are they scheduled. Commissioner Panick advised each billboard is different, depending on their location, but we do need the lead time to get the posters produced. Commissioner Nelson questioned if we can re-use the posters internally after they've been used. Commissioner Panick advised they do not allow it for liability reasons, however she will ask Lamar to be sure.

Commissioner Slavin advised she agrees with posters, especially because they're on local streets. Mr. Kuffel advised we will need to get branding together and work with City Hall.

Commissioner Lawton wondered if there are any billboards on the east side of the city. Commissioner Panick answered not by Lamar. Alderperson Nelson wanted to confirm that we have ability to swap out every 4 weeks. Commissioner Panick confirmed. Commissioner Leonard questioned if we can run 2 cycles/8 weeks at a time. Commissioner Panick believes that is correct.

Mr. Kuffel will work with Commissioner Panick to get these moving along.

Discussion only at this time, no action taken.

6. Discussion on Sustainability Commission Work Plan

Chase Kuffel, Assistant City Engineer, advised the updates on the work plan are the proposal with Allyson Brunette Consulting, LLC to get the baseline for Green Tier for the Wisconsin DNR, and updated composting reimbursement rates.

Alderperson Nelson questioned about getting the energy baseline for the Green Tier submittal and wondered if the state has built in suggestions/ideas based off what we submit. Mr. Kuffel confirmed as it looks at the overall City-wide energy use, then it's broken down into the City of De Pere itself on buildings, energy usage, natural gas, transportation, land uses, etc. and they can generate ideas on how we can improve and keep track going forward. This is an annual submission, due in March, so Allyson will be working on our 2027 submission.

Commissioner Lawton thought if the Commission does booths again at Farmer's Market, they can feature the planned natural landscape by having plants present, which can be an engaging experience.

Mr. Kuffel wondered if we could do another plant hand out at Farmer's Market. Alderperson Nelson added that the Stormwater model would be interactive too.

Discussion only. No action necessary.

7. Discussion on Initiative Prioritization - Clean Air Initiative

Chase Kuffel, Assistant City Engineer, advised there are no updates. Commissioner Castellanos asked if this is something we still need to discuss going further. Commissioner Panick added that she's also fine with tabling the idea as she doesn't have any more information to add to the initiative.

Clean Air Initiative will be removed from further Work Plans. No further discussion.

8. Consideration and possible action on Initiative Prioritization - Pollinator Gardens / Planned Natural Landscapes

Chase Kuffel, Assistant City Engineer, noted the "Five for Fliers" handout has been updated in the packet. Mr. Kuffel has reached out via email to the Mulva Cultural Center to find out if they would be able to host the plant hand out, however they have not yet responded. Mr. Kuffel stated we might have to look at other venues if Mulva doesn't work out. Staffs recommendation is to update the fliers on our website. Commissioner Slavin also wanted to confirm we can post the information on social media as well. Mr. Kuffel confirmed.

Action amended to post on social media. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

After vote, additional discussion took place. Commissioner Slavin questioned if there could be an incentive for people removing these invasive species plants. Alderperson Nelson questioned if we could create a video on how to do so. Mr. Kuffel advised Natalie Markelz, Administrative Assistant, will get in touch with the production team at City Hall to discuss the process.

Commissioner Castellanos advised the Conservation Corps has roving team to hire as invasive species removal, plantings, etc. which might be something to investigate for the pollinator gardens at the urban orchards.

Mr. Kuffel questioned if we need a proposal, how much would it cost, and how would watering and maintenance be handled. Commissioner Castellanos advised she will reach out to get the information.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Nicole Slavin
SECONDER:	Randall Lawton
AYES:	Emily Castellanos, Randall Lawton, Rachel Leonard, Casey Nelson, Jonie Panick, Nicole Slavin
EXCUSED:	Carmen Van Schyndel, Anna Metzler

9. Discussion on Initiative Prioritization - Green Energy

Chase Kuffel, Assistant City Engineer, advised the two items in relation: proposal for Green Tier and data center information within the packet provided by Commissioner Leonard.

Commissioner Leonard discussed the speaker from the Greenleaf Meeting of the proposed data center site.

Commissioner Leonard asked about having conditional permitting in place to be strict, so they won't be allowed to build. Alderperson Nelson questioned if Council could issue a proclamation.

Mr. Kuffel advised the commission if they see examples of language regarding data centers from other communities to bring forth so we can pass along. He notes the current known protections for the City of De Pere such as a robust zoning code, regulations with the DNR, the soil itself being clay, and most of the area being on/near wetlands which protect large building construction.

Discussion only. No action necessary.

10. Consideration and possible action on Initiative Prioritization - Adopt-a-Drain

Chase Kuffel, Assistant City Engineer, discussed that we are evaluating how to further promote the initiative and that the newly approved billboards would be good. Alderperson Nelson asked if we can repost the video for cleaning storm drains as we are getting close to when the snow will be melting and ice is built up. Mr. Kuffel confirmed. Commissioner Leonard suggested getting a reminder email from those who have signed up. Mr. Kuffel said we can send out an email blast and social media post.

Discussion only. No action necessary.

11. Discussion on Stormwater Watershed Pollutant Model

Chase Kuffel, Assistant City Engineer, and Commissioner Castellanos led the presentation of the Stormwater Watershed Pollutant Model.

Commissioner Panick was excused from the meeting at 6:26pm.

Presentation only. No action necessary.

IV. Future Agenda Items

None.

V. Adjournment

Alderperson Nelson moved, seconded by Commissioner Lawton to adjourn the meeting at 6:31 PM. Upon vote, motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Natalie Markelz



City of De Pere, Wisconsin

III.2

**Request for Sustainability Commission
Action**

Meeting Date: March 10, 2026
Department: Public Works
From: Chase Kuffel, Assistant City Engineer
Subject: Introduction Presentation by ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability USA (ICLEI USA)
Recommendation: Presentation only. No recommended action.

Attachments:
2026 0310 CE_SC_ICLEI_Presentation, 15 Min Membership and CP Overview

CITY OF DE PERE MEMO



To: Members of the Sustainability Commission
From: Chase Kuffel, Assistant City Engineer
Date: March 10, 2026

RE: **Introduction Presentation by ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability USA (ICLEI USA)**

Angelica Greco, Senior Program Officer for ICLEI USA has accepted the invitation from the Sustainability Commission to introduce ICLEI USA and the benefits of membership.

Biography from ICLEI USA:

Angelica leads ICLEI USA’s climate adaptation and community resilience work. In her role as pathway lead, she manages ICLEI USA’s tools, training materials, technical assistance, and contract projects on climate adaptation, resilience planning, vulnerability assessment, stormwater resilience, and climate-related migration. She provides support across ICLEI’s five sustainability pathways in her role as a membership advisor for local governments in Michigan, Wisconsin, and Minnesota.

Attachment

15 Min Membership and CP Overview (PDF)

ICLEI USA

GETTING TO KNOW THE NETWORK



icleiusa.org

~30%

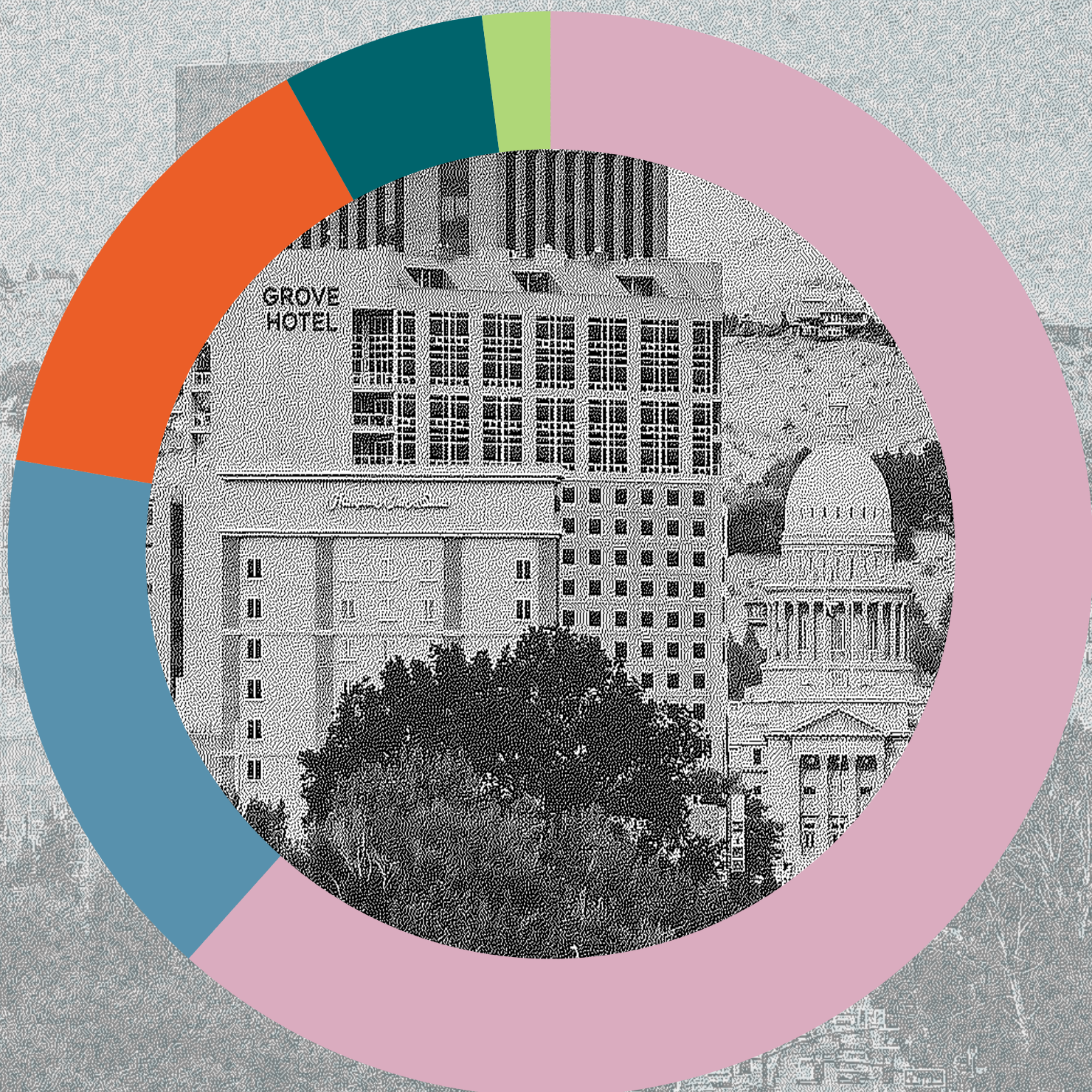
Total U.S.
population covered

500+

Work with ICLEI USA
in any given year

1,200+

Worked with ICLEI
USA over the past 30
years



- Cities 61%
- Towns & Villages 15%
- Counties 15%
- Regional Affiliates 7%
- Tribal Nations 2%

365

Local Government,
Regional, and Tribal
Nation Members

THE WHOLE-OF-GOVERNMENT NETWORK



- Mayors
- Councilmembers
- County Commissioners

- Sustainability Directors
- Fleet Managers
- Energy & Facilities Managers

- Parks Departments
- CFOs
- Procurement
- Communications

Member Benefits Summary

- 10 hours 1:1 assistance + technical office hours
- Member capacity-building cohorts
- Exclusive access to ClearPath 2.0
- Advocacy and diplomacy work at the regional, state, federal and global levels
- Support and guidance on funding opportunities, climate finance, & public-private partnership development
- Peer-networking and exchange

We create a custom support plan to meet your community's needs!

PEER EXCHANGES



- **Regional Government Solutions Exchange**
- **County Climate and Sustainability Solutions Exchange**
- **Sustainability Commons - open to ALL members**

County Climate and Sustainability Solutions Exchange

Meets every other month.

Our next session will take place on **March 19 at 2 PM Eastern** and will focus on solid waste and the circular economy.

EMAIL YOUR MEMBERSHIP ADVISOR TO BE ADDED TO THE CALENDAR INVITATIONS!



TECHNICAL PROGRAMS

SUSTAINABILITY

- Understand your greenhouse gas emissions
 - Develop climate action plans
 - Explore **circular** economy solutions
 - Implement finance and policy solutions
- Protect and restore **nature** to sequester carbon pollution

RESILIENCE

- Understand your risk and vulnerability
 - Identify adaptation strategies
 - Set goals and develop resilience plans
 - Act to reduce climate risk
- Deploy **nature**-based solutions for reducing risk

CENTER EQUITY ACROSS EVERYTHING

CLEARPATH 2.0



Why Traditional Climate Action Plans Often Fall Short?

Most plans struggle not because of ambition, but because of how planning is structured.

Climate Action Plans often become long lists of disconnected actions

Strategies mix together:

- What needs to change (outcomes)
- How change happens (policies, programs, projects)

Progress is tracked through activities, not real-world change

More reasons

Why Traditional Climate Action Plans Often Fall Short?

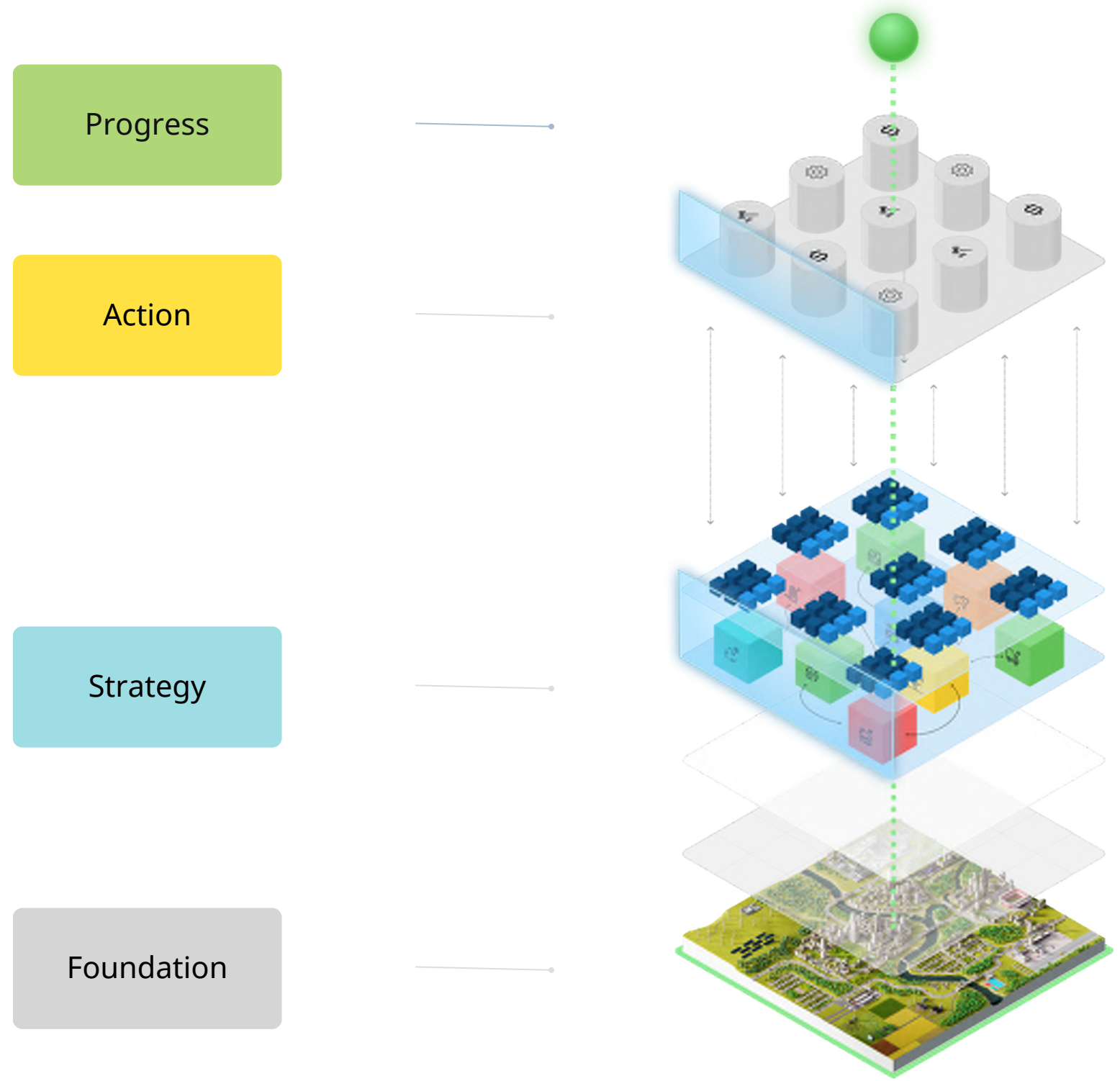


**Complexity and siloed
departments and
stakeholders**

Static plans that age quickly

**Limited accountability for
outcomes**

The Architecture of ClearPath 2.0



Check if it's working

Track results and see if the community is moving closer to its goals. Adjust as needed.

Plan what you will do

Design interventions - policies, projects, investments - that will move the community in those directions.

Decide what needs to change

Set direction and identify the big shifts your community needs, i.e. using more public transport, phasing in renewables, improving building efficiency etc.

Start with what you have

Understand your community's current situation (emissions, resources, infrastructure) and set clear goals for where you want to go.

Transition Elements

Activity Shift

At its core, each Transition Element represents **a shift**: From Less sustainable, high-emitting activity to a more sustainable, lower or no emitting alternative.

Each element is:

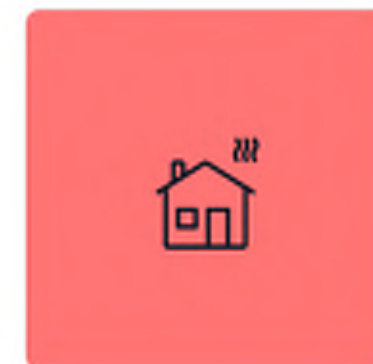
- Grounded in emissions and mitigation science (IPCC)
 - Clearly scoped, measurable, and has a model
 - Directly tied to outcomes
- In ClearPath 2.0, Transition Elements are interconnected, revealing:
- Synergies
 - Tradeoffs
 - Knock-on effects across sectors



Shift to Electric Vehicles



Solar Rooftops

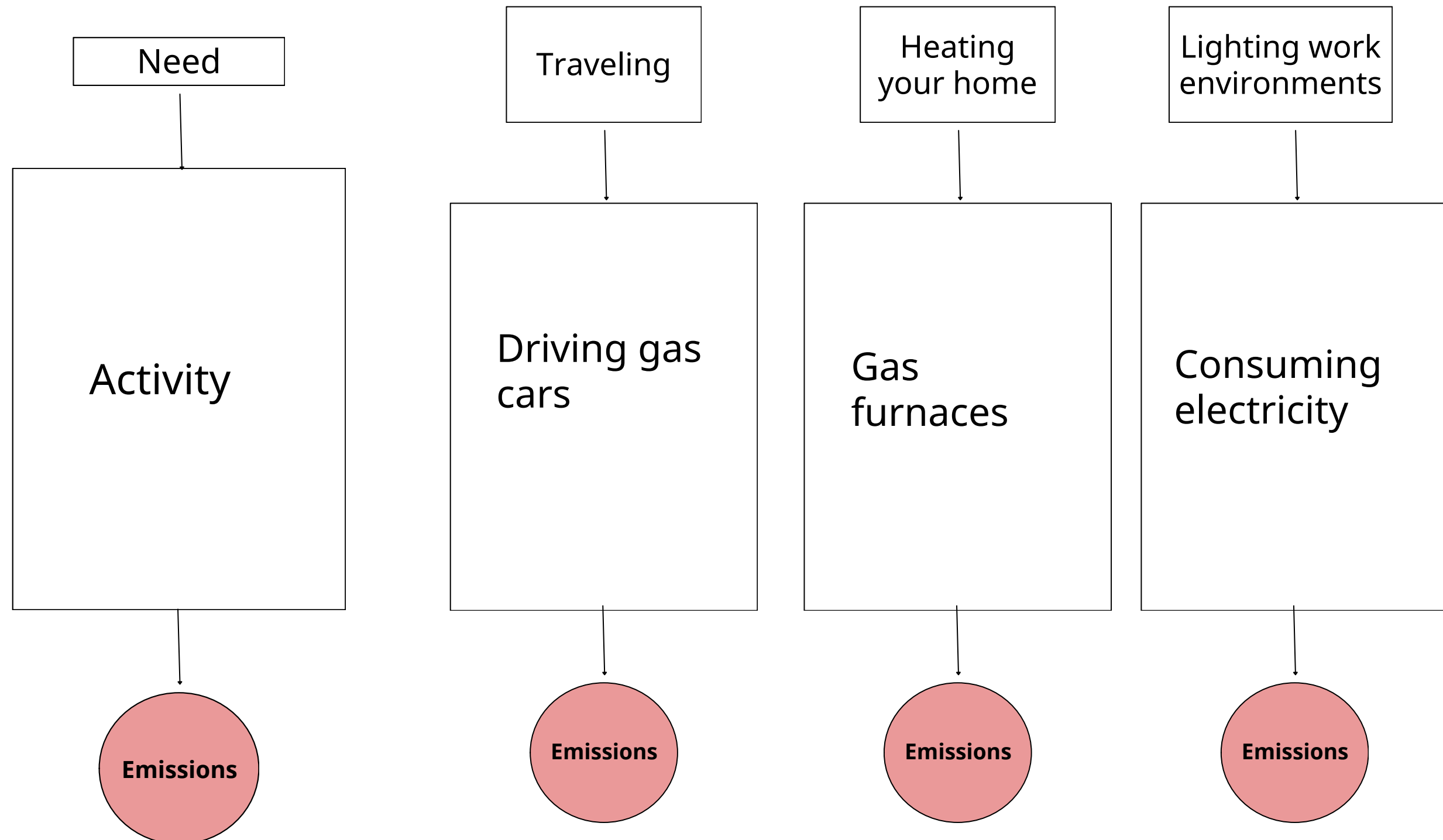


**Shift to heat pumps
in single-family houses**

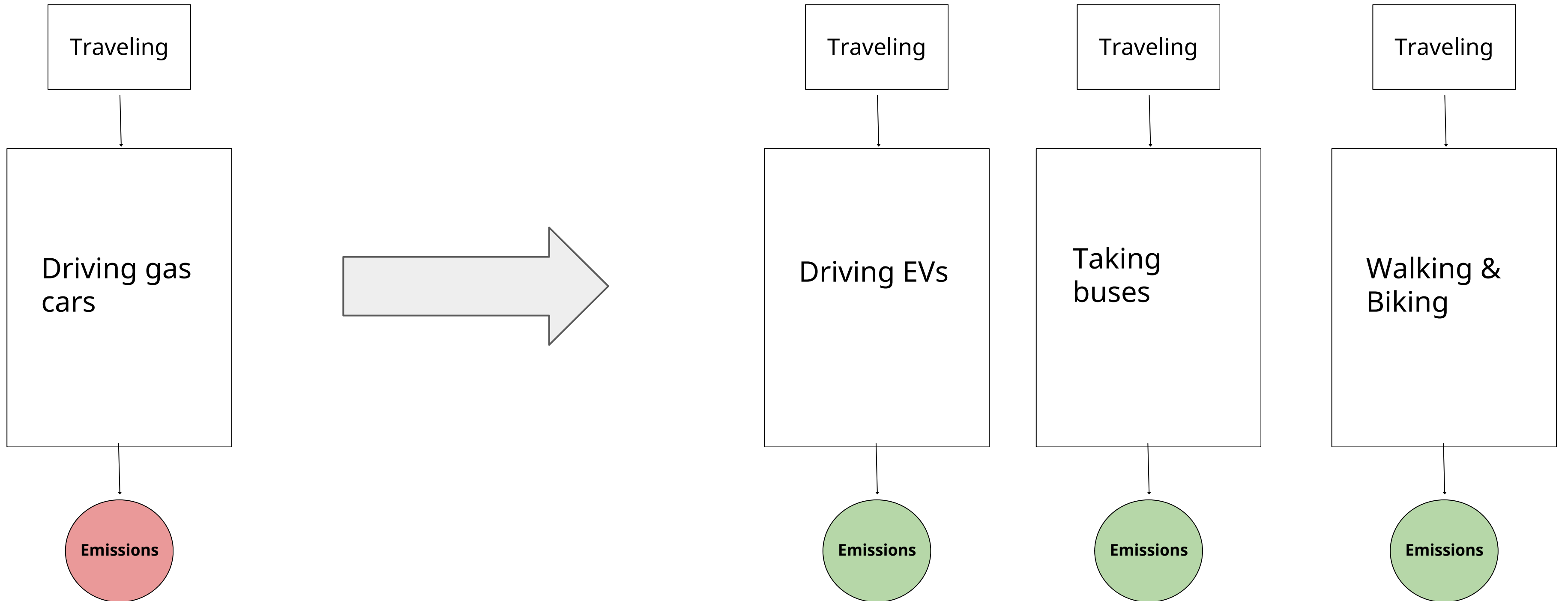
ClearPath 2.0: A Shift to Data-Driven Shifts

ClearPath 2.0 reframes climate planning around shifting to more sustainable activities, that full the same need.

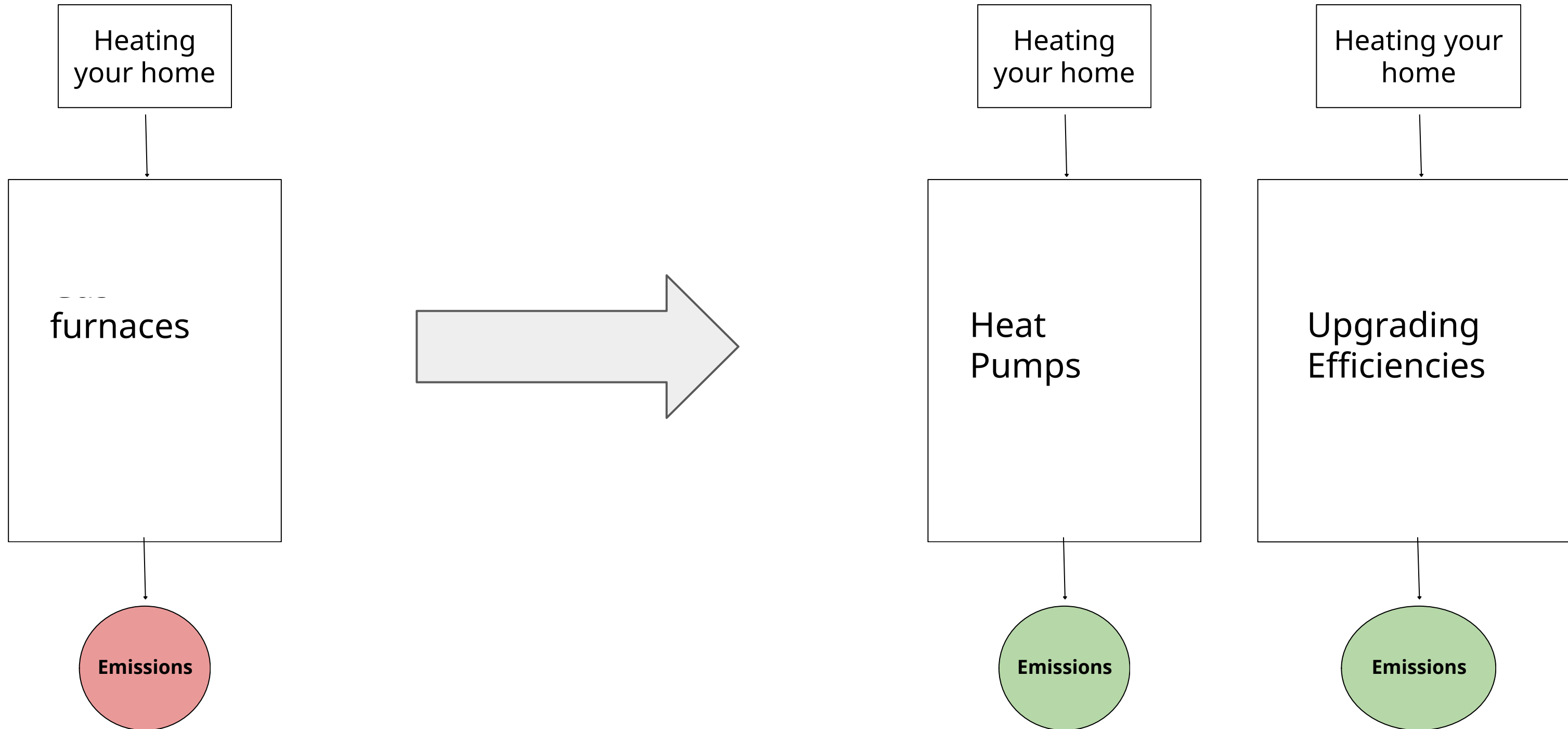
Inhabitants of a community must fulfill their needs, which create emissions



ClearPath 2.0 reframes climate planning around shifting to more sustainable activities, that full the same need.



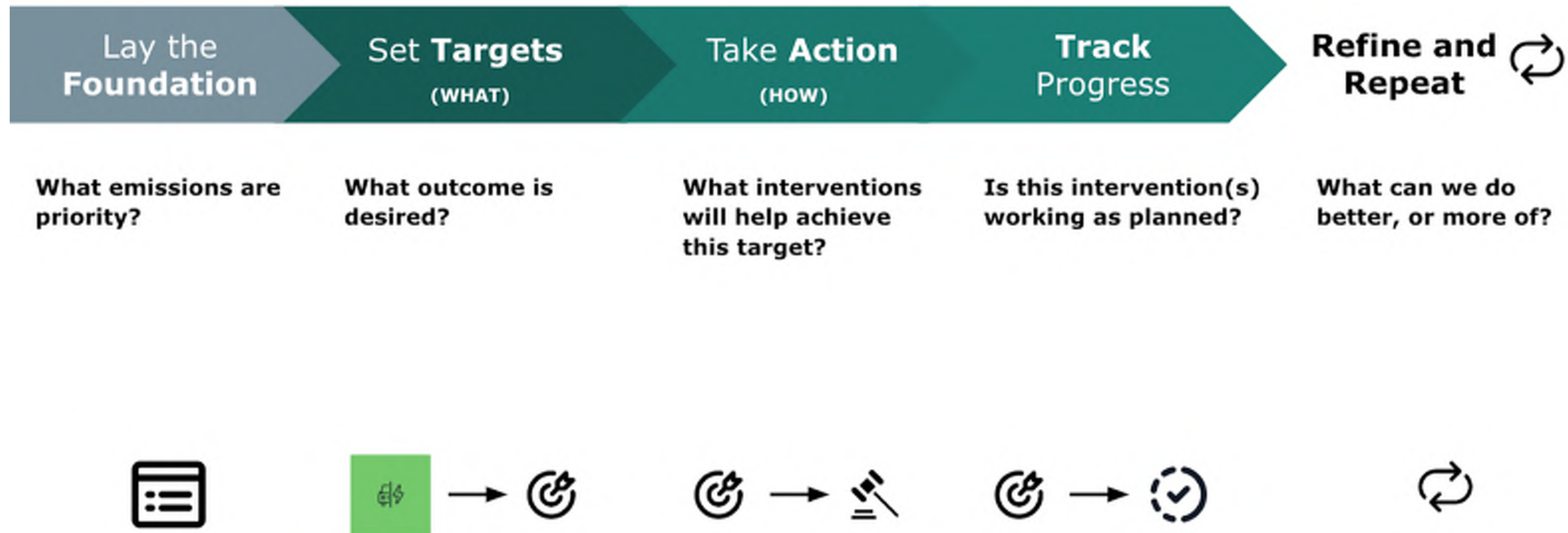
ClearPath 2.0 reframes climate planning around shifting to more sustainable activities, that full the same need.



What's Different in Practice

ClearPath 2.0 turns climate planning into a continuous, adaptive process.

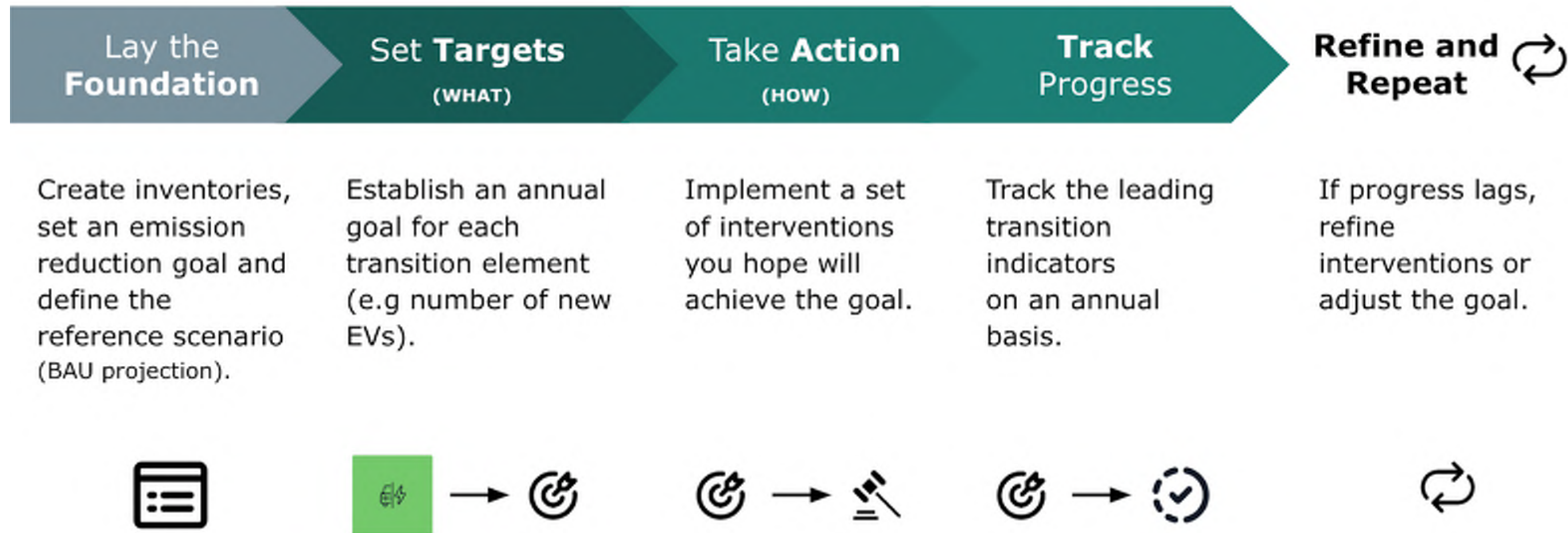
Adaptive Planning/Implementation Process



What's Different in Practice

ClearPath 2.0 turns climate planning into a continuous, adaptive process.

Adaptive Planning/Implementation Process



QUESTIONS?



Local Governments
for Sustainability
USA

THANK YOU!



City of De Pere, Wisconsin

III.3

Request for Sustainability Commission
Action

Meeting Date: March 10, 2026
Department: Public Works
From: Chase Kuffel, Assistant City Engineer
Subject: Consideration and possible action on election of Vice Chairperson
Recommendation: Staff recommends nominating and electing a vice chairperson

Attachments:
None



City of De Pere, Wisconsin

III.4

**Request for Sustainability Commission
Action**

Meeting Date: March 10, 2026
Department: Public Works
From: Chase Kuffel, Assistant City Engineer
Subject: Discussion on Sustainability Commission Work Plan
Recommendation: Discussion only. No action necessary.

Attachments:
2026 0310 CE_SC_Commission Work Plan

CITY OF DE PERE MEMO



To: Members of the Sustainability Commission
From: Chase Kuffel, Assistant City Engineer
Date: March 10, 2026

RE: **Discussion on Sustainability Commission Work Plan**

De Pere Sustainability Commission Work Plan

Objective of Work Plan: To address identified gaps, implement recommendations, and advance the De Pere Sustainability Commission's mission by ensuring success across all current initiatives. When new initiatives are proposed, the commission will evaluate using the established evaluation criteria and add to the Work Plan when applicable. Work plan will be updated as necessary when updates in each initiative is provided at commission meetings.

Initiative: **Adopt-A-Drain**

- Goals:
 - Increase community participation
 - Improve visibility and public awareness
 - Establish measurable success metrics
- Actions:
 - Develop outreach plan
 - Create marketing materials
 - Leverage farmer's market, social media, and passive engagement methods (passive methods TBD - example would be storm drain stencils)
 - Engage community
 - Idea: Partner with local organizations to promote the program
 - There is an opportunity to present the City stormwater pollutant model to a local Girl Scout troop that is currently adopting a drain.
 - Idea: Introduce friendly competition or campaign
 - Idea: Provide incentives such as bumper stickers, swag, etc.
 - Idea: Evaluate collaboration opportunities to scale program visibility (ex: other communities, other programs with same goal)
 - Define success metrics and tracking methods
 - Determine what program 'success' looks like - metric

- Determine how to measure program results (ex: water quality improvements, participation, etc.)
 - Gather feedback and track participation satisfaction
 - Analyze data to report outcomes and set next 12 month goals
 - Communicate program results to the initiative participants and the broader community
- Lead Commissioners: Emily Castellanos and Nicole Slavin

Initiative: Composting

- Goals:
 - Assess current program viability
 - Assess future program options
 - Increase community participation
- Actions:
 - Review current program and identify improvements for future program development
 - Analyze participation metrics
 - Identify improvements based on public and city feedback and metrics
 - Refocus outreach and engagement
 - Idea: Host Q&A sessions at Farmers Markets on home compost practices.
 - Idea: Pilot a smaller-scale composting initiative to test and learn
 - Identify alternative partners/models
 - Investigate collaborations with farms or other compost facilities
 - Research other city composting programs
 - Tour regional recycling and composting facilities for insights and best practices
 - Evaluate and make final decision on future program
 - Compile findings from previous actions to make recommendation
 - Recommend whether to continue, restructure, or sunset the initiative based on findings
 - Once recommendation approved, then:
 - Develop outreach plan to increase community awareness
 - TBD once final program determined
 - Develop engagement plan to increase participation in program
 - TBD once final program determined
 - Implement metrics and tracking
 - TBD once final program determined
- Lead Commissioner: TBD

Initiative: Planned Natural Landscapes

- Goals:
 - Support pollinators
 - Increase community adoption of native plant landscaping.
 - Commission is partnering with the City of Green Bay, the Conservation Corps, and the Botanical Garden for pollinator plant handout in Summer of 2026.

- Provide educational resources to overcome knowledge gaps.
- Promote sustainable land-use practices.
- Actions:
 - Refocus outreach and engagement
 - Increase social media marketing
 - Create marketing content
 - Create handouts
 - Idea: Replacement plants
 - Interview those that have changed their landscape and create marketing campaign around their case study/success story
 - Highlight process, reasons for changing, maintenance, and more
 - Engage community
 - Create success metrics and tracking
- Lead Commissioner: Emily Castellanos

Initiative: **Urban Orchards**

- Goals:
 - Support pollinators
 - Have fruit available for anyone and everyone to pick - make De Pere a greener/healthier place
- Actions:
 - Urban Orchards are already established
 - Increase pollinator habitats around urban orchards to support healthy growth
- Note - The orchards do need regular maintenance and this falls to Public Works or Parks Department
- Lead Commissioner: Maintenance = Public Works/Parks; Pollinator habitats = Emily Castellanos

Initiative: **Clean Energy**

- Goals:
 - Create an energy baseline for De Pere.
 - Align with state and federal energy policies.
 - Develop long-term action plans for energy sustainability and resilience.
 - City to complete Green Tier Legacy Community submittal to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources in 2026.
- Actions
 - Complete the Wisconsin DNR Green Tier scoresheet in 2026. The City is looking at awarding a proposal to have a consultant assist in the scoresheet preparation.
- Lead Commissioner: Rachel Leonard



City of De Pere, Wisconsin

III.5

**Request for Sustainability Commission
Action**

Meeting Date: March 10, 2026
Department: Public Works
From: Chase Kuffel, Assistant City Engineer
Subject: Discussion on Initiative Prioritization - Adopt-a-Drain
Recommendation: Discussion only. No action necessary.

Attachments:
2026 0310 CE_SC_Initiative Prioritization_Adopt a Drain

CITY OF DE PERE MEMO



To: Members of the Sustainability Commission
From: Chase Kuffel, Assistant City Engineer
Date: March 10, 2026

RE: **Discussion on Initiative Prioritization – Adopt-a-Drain**

The purpose of this item is to evaluate the Adopt-a-Drain program against the initiative prioritization evaluation criteria.

Adopt-a-Drain

Origin

Starting in 2024, the Adopt-a-Drain program was created to formalize the cleaning of storm sewer inlets within the public right-of-way. Residents who sign up to adopt a drain are provided with a drain cleaning kit to help their cleaning efforts. Participants are encouraged to take photos and document the amount of debris cleaned up at the inlets as part of their adoption.

History

August 20, 2024, the Adopt-a-Drain program is adopted by Common Council as an educational and outreach tool.

On October 2, 2025, the Adopt-a-Drain program was included in the City Newsletter and is routinely promoted on City social media channels.

On October 6, 2025 an advertisement campaign started with the De Pere Cinema showcasing the promotional Adopt-a-Drain video the commission created.

In the third quarter of 2025, the Sustainability Commission awarded a rain barrel to all participating and newly joined residents for the Adopt-a-Drain program.

Currently, the Adopt-a-Drain program has 24 adopters who clean 33 inlets throughout the City.

Status

The program is slowly growing in participation. Additional education and outreach is recommended. There currently is a promotional period going on where all current and new drain adoptees that complete a cleaning log in the month of October get entered to win a rain barrel.

Discussion

The Sustainability Commission is evaluating how to further promote this initiative to promote growth. Staff is working towards possible billboard mockups regarding this initiative. Additional social media presence has also been recommended by the Commission.



City of De Pere, Wisconsin

III.6

**Request for Sustainability Commission
Action**

Meeting Date: March 10, 2026
Department: Public Works
From: Chase Kuffel, Assistant City Engineer
Subject: Discussion on Initiative Prioritization - Pollinator Gardens /
Planned Natural Landscapes
Recommendation: Discussion only. No action necessary.

Attachments:
2026 0310 CE_SC_Initiative Prioritization_Pollinator Gardens

CITY OF DE PERE MEMO



To: Members of the Sustainability Commission
From: Chase Kuffel, Assistant City Engineer
Date: March 10, 2026

RE: **Discussion on Initiative Prioritization – Pollinator Gardens / Planned Natural Landscapes**

The purpose of this item is to evaluate pollinator gardens and the planned natural landscapes initiatives against the initiative prioritization evaluation criteria.

Pollinator Gardens / Planned Natural Landscapes History

Origin

The pollinator garden initiative started in March 2024, when the Sustainability Commission voted to discontinue “No Mow May.” The Common Council urged the commission to continue to champion our pollinators and further promote the new Natural Landscaping Ordinance in lieu of “No Mow May.” This coupled with complaints regarding the City’s urban orchards led to the genesis of the Sustainability Commission looking to have pollinator gardens installed at our City parks.

History

Annually, the Sustainability Commission promotes pollinator week which results in a proclamation made by the Mayor at Common Council. Pollinator week typically falls on the third week in June (June 16-22, 2025).

- March 12, 2024
 - No Mow May is Discontinued
 - Selena Darrow of Rooted In, Inc. outlines her complaints to the Sustainability Commission regarding the City’s urban orchards.
- April 6, 2024 – Selena Darrow of Rooted In, Inc. requested that the Commission allocate money to establish pollinator gardens at our urban orchards.
- August 26, 2024 – Staff met with the The Plant Gal to discuss the feasibility of pollinator garden installation at Braisher Park, Samantha Park, VFW Park, and Voyageur Park. Estimate for materials only came to be approximately \$4,000.
- October 9, 2024 – Staff met with the City Urban Orchard Committee to determine the feasibility of constructing pollinator gardens. Approval was received to pursue approval with the Board of Park Commissioners.

- November 21, 2024 – Staff met with the Board of Park Commissioners and received unanimous approval for the construction and maintenance of Pollinator Gardens at City Parks.
- March 11, 2025 – Staff provided a draft request for proposals for the creation of Pollinator Gardens to the Sustainability Commission for comment. No Proposals ended up getting submitted.
- Summer of 2026 – De Pere Sustainability Commission is partnering with the Green Bay Botanical Gardens and Conservation Corps for a plant hand-out to better promote pollinators.

Discussion

The Sustainability Commission is currently working towards two separate events regarding pollinators, the Five for Fliers and the Summer Day Plant handout. Commissioner Castellanos has updated the Common Invasive Species handout for the Commission's review.

Commissioner Castellanos is getting information on the Conservation Corps group that takes on planting projects in the Green Bay area.



City of De Pere, Wisconsin

III.7

**Request for Sustainability Commission
Action**

Meeting Date: March 10, 2026
Department: Public Works
From: Chase Kuffel, Assistant City Engineer
Subject: Discussion on Initiative Prioritization - Green Energy
Recommendation: Discussion only. No action necessary.

Attachments:
2026 0310 CE_SC_Initiative Prioritization_Green Energy

CITY OF DE PERE MEMO



To: Members of the Sustainability Commission
From: Chase Kuffel, Assistant City Engineer
Date: March 10, 2026

RE: **Discussion on Initiative Prioritization – Green Energy**

The purpose of this item is to evaluate the Green Energy work plan against the initiative prioritization evaluation criteria.

Green Energy

The De Pere Common Council approved the City of De Pere Sustainability Commission’s Work Plan on December 6, 2021 following the Clean Energy Resolution #21-87 passed on August 17th, 2021. Pursuant to the directives of resolution #21-87 that “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” with intent that “the city of De Pere will account for these goals in its future budget cycles and will collaborate 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”.

The actions prioritized in the work plan include a city baseline assessment and inventory to analyze the City’s greenhouse gas emissions. Consistent with the allowable actions in the work plan, the Sustainability Commission is requesting funds to implement the initiation of a baseline study. This funding request is contingent upon the availability of grant opportunities that the Commission has identified in the sections below.

Further activities developed in the Work Plan are to be taken by the Sustainability Commission to be executed congruent to the baseline assessment preparation. We are initiating public involvement to identify stakeholders and community values to inform the objectives and community targets of subsequent surveys.

Updates

At the February 10, 2026 Sustainability Commission meeting, staff presented a proposal to retain a consultant to assist in completing the WisDNR Green Tier scoresheet by the end of 2026.



City of De Pere, Wisconsin

III.8

**Request for Sustainability Commission
Action**

Meeting Date: March 10, 2026
Department: Public Works
From: Chase Kuffel, Assistant City Engineer
Subject: Discussion on Initiative Prioritization - Composting
Recommendation: Discussion only. No action necessary.

Attachments:
2026 0310 CE_SC_Initiative Prioritization_Compost

CITY OF DE PERE MEMO



To: Members of the Sustainability Commission
From: Chase Kuffel, Assistant City Engineer
Date: March 10, 2026

RE: **Discussion on Initiative Prioritization - Composting**

The purpose of this item is to evaluate composting and the composting reimbursement program against the initiative prioritization evaluation criteria.

Composting Reimbursement Program History

Origin

The City of De Pere wanted to provide a program to incentivize residents for using local composting services. This program started out as a partnership with a local composting company and has since turned into a partnership directly with City residents to reimburse invoices from local composting services.

History

- December 13, 2022 – Greener Bay Compost presents to the De Pere Sustainability Commission regarding the benefits and ease of private composting and wishes to enter a public-private partnership with the City.
- In 2023, the City budgets \$10,000 to hire a composting consultant in 2024 with the intent to enter into a partnership with Greener Bay Compost.
- April 2024 – A formal partnership between the City of Green Bay and Greener Bay Compost is established where the City will reimburse 50% of the registration fees for those residents utilizing their composting services.
- August 2024 – Greener Bay Compost raises their subscription fees 20%.
- September 2024 – Greener Bay Compost indicates they will terminate their contract with the City of De Pere if we do not budget what they deem to be sufficient funding for composting services in 2025. The City indicates that enough budget is present to meet current demand with room for moderate growth.
- December 31, 2024 – The partnership with Greener Bay Compost is terminated due to their budgetary concerns.
- January 1, 2025 – The City launches the compost reimbursement program where residents are directly reimbursed by the City in lieu of reimbursing Greener Bay Compost for subscription

fees. The annual budget is increased to \$12,000 and the City carries over left over funds from 2024 to further bolster reimbursement funds.

- January 1, 2026 – The annual budget is a portion of \$16,976.50. This money is also to be used for consulting for other sustainable initiatives.

Discussion

Currently, there are 24 households that are actively participating in the Composting Reimbursement program. Of these households, 11 utilize the “Every-4-Week” service level, where the other 13 utilize the “Every-Other-Week” service level.



City of De Pere, Wisconsin

III.9

**Request for Sustainability Commission
Action**

Meeting Date: March 10, 2026
Department: Public Works
From: Chase Kuffel, Assistant City Engineer
Subject: Discussion on Data Centers
Recommendation: Discussion only. No action necessary.

Attachments:
2026 0310 CE_SC_Data_Centers, H.B. 695, S.B. 969

CITY OF DE PERE MEMO



To: Members of the Sustainability Commission
From: Chase Kuffel, Assistant City Engineer
Date: March 10, 2026

RE: **Discussion on Data Centers**

Commissioner Leonard provided two documents, one from the State of Ohio and another from the Wisconsin Senate, regarding data centers and the potential for non-disclosure agreements.

“As a follow up from the discussion on the NDA ordinance/resolution I found a few examples to consider.

The state of Ohio passed a bill in HB 695. The language is simple in that it applies broadly and not just to data centers.

Currently there is a senate bill in Wisconsin working its way through committee with a public hearing that was last held on February 17th. SB 969 has similar language to the Ohio bill but specifically calls out data centers.

In lieu of the legislature passing anything yet, I have some suggestions for what could be put forth as a resolution.

1. Superior Wisconsin's Mayor banned all use of NDA's by city staff. They conducted an audit in the last few years to see the instances of their use and found they had been used very little and only in cases where there was some proprietary information at hand (by fiber companies) or with private data. Superior felt that even though their uses were very little, the absence of any policy on them left the door wide open for problematic uses.
2. If a policy or resolution were to be adopted, I would highly caution against allowing exclusions for proprietary information. From an implementation standpoint, data centers would likely exploit that loophole. They would likely cite their water usage systems as proprietary information as one example, prohibiting the public from weighing in on decisions regarding water use.
3. Another thought to consider is if a resolution were to target only data centers, this may find similar challenges like the exclusionary zoning challenges that they often bring forth.
4. If the city didn't feel strongly about a total NDA ban resolution, they could copy some of the concepts implemented by the mayor of Superior where they stated that any NDA would require

the Mayor, city attorney, and council to all sign off. Additionally, the purpose and language of the NDA would have to be disclosed at a public meeting.”

Attachments

H.B. 695 (PDF)

S.B. 969 (PDF)

As Introduced

**136th General Assembly
Regular Session
2025-2026**

H. B. No. 695

Representatives Bird, Stewart

To enact sections 305.44, 505.96, 731.142, and 1
733.241 of the Revised Code to prohibit certain 2
local elected officials from entering into 3
nondisclosure agreements. 4

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:

Section 1. That sections 305.44, 505.96, 731.142, and 5
733.241 of the Revised Code be enacted to read as follows: 6

Sec. 305.44. (A) As used in this section, "nondisclosure 7
agreement" means an agreement or contract that includes a 8
provision or clause that prohibits a member of the board of 9
county commissioners from disclosing, discussing, describing, or 10
commenting on county matters related to the member's official 11
duties. 12

(B) No member of a board of county commissioners shall 13
knowingly enter into a nondisclosure agreement. 14

(C) A member who violates this section is subject to a 15
civil fine of not more than one thousand dollars. The attorney 16
general may bring an action to collect the fine. 17

(D) An agreement or contract entered into in violation of 18
this section is void and unenforceable. 19

Sec. 505.96. (A) As used in this section, "nondisclosure agreement" means an agreement or contract that includes a provision or clause that prohibits a member of the board of township trustees from disclosing, discussing, describing, or commenting on township matters related to the member's official duties. 20
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(B) No member of a board of township trustees shall knowingly enter into a nondisclosure agreement. 26
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(C) A member who violates this section is subject to a civil fine of not more than one thousand dollars. The attorney general may bring an action to collect the fine. 28
29
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(D) An agreement or contract entered into in violation of this section is void and unenforceable. 31
32

Sec. 731.142. (A) As used in this section, "nondisclosure agreement" means an agreement or contract that includes a provision or clause that prohibits a member of the village legislative authority from disclosing, discussing, describing, or commenting on village matters related to the member's official duties. 33
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(B) No member of a village legislative authority shall knowingly enter into a nondisclosure agreement. 39
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(C) A member who violates this section is subject to a civil fine of not more than one thousand dollars. The attorney general may bring an action to collect the fine. 41
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43

(D) An agreement or contract entered into in violation of this section is void and unenforceable. 44
45

Sec. 733.241. (A) As used in this section, "nondisclosure agreement" means an agreement or contract that includes a 46
47

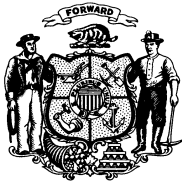
provision or clause that prohibits the village mayor from 48
disclosing, discussing, describing, or commenting on village 49
matters related to the mayor's official duties. 50

(B) No village mayor shall knowingly enter into a 51
nondisclosure agreement. 52

(C) A village mayor who violates this section is subject 53
to a civil fine of not more than one thousand dollars. The 54
attorney general may bring an action to collect the fine. 55

(D) An agreement or contract entered into in violation of 56
this section is void and unenforceable. 57

Section 2. Sections 305.44, 505.96, 731.142, and 733.241 58
of the Revised Code as enacted by this act apply to a 59
nondisclosure agreement that is entered into, amended, extended, 60
or renewed on or after the effective date of this section. 61



2025 SENATE BILL 969

February 6, 2026 - Introduced by Senators JACQUE and NASS, cosponsored by Representatives MOSES, DITTRICH, MAXEY, PIWOWARCZYK, BEHNKE and WICHGERS. Referred to Committee on Utilities, Technology and Tourism.

1 **AN ACT** *to create* 66.10015 (1) (ag), 66.10015 (7) and 134.89 of the statutes;
2 **relating to:** prohibiting nondisclosure agreements intended to conceal
3 information about a data center from the public.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

This bill prohibits a data center, including any agent of a data center, from entering into any agreement, including a nondisclosure agreement, that has the purpose or effect of concealing the details of the development of the data center from the public or preventing public review of the data center. The bill also prohibits a city, village, town, or county (political subdivision) from entering into any agreement, including a nondisclosure agreement, that has the purpose or effect of concealing the details of the development of a data center from the public or preventing public review of a data center. These prohibitions do not apply to an agreement that has the sole purpose of preventing public disclosure of a trade secret.

In addition, the bill prohibits a political subdivision from permitting or approving a project for the creation of a data center if the data center or an agent of the data center or the political subdivision violates a nondisclosure agreement prohibition created in the bill.

The bill defines “data center” to mean a facility in this state that satisfies all of the following:

SENATE BILL 969**SECTION 1**

1. The facility's primary services are storage, management, and processing of digital data.

2. The facility is used to house computer and network systems, including associated components such as servers and network equipment and appliances; telecommunications systems; data storage systems; systems for monitoring and managing infrastructure performance, Internet-related equipment and services, data connections, and environmental controls; fire protection systems; and security systems and services.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

1 **SECTION 1.** 66.10015 (1) (ag) of the statutes is created to read:

2 66.10015 (1) (ag) "Data center" means a facility in this state that satisfies all
3 of the following:

4 1. The facility's primary services are storage, management, and processing of
5 digital data.

6 2. The facility is used to house computer and network systems, including
7 associated components such as servers and network equipment and appliances;
8 telecommunications systems; data storage systems; systems for monitoring and
9 managing infrastructure performance, Internet-related equipment and services,
10 data connections, and environmental controls; fire protection systems; and security
11 systems and services.

12 **SECTION 2.** 66.10015 (7) of the statutes is created to read:

13 66.10015 (7) DATA CENTERS. (a) 1. No political subdivision may enter into an
14 agreement, including a nondisclosure agreement, that has the purpose or effect of
15 concealing the details of the development of a data center from the public or
16 preventing public review of a data center.

