



# OFFICIAL NOTICE AND AGENDA

of a meeting of a City Board, Commission, Department Committee, Agency, Corporation, Quasi-Municipal Corporation, or Sub-unit thereof.

**Meeting:** SUSTAINABILITY, ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

**Members:** John Kroll (C), Carol Lukens, Scott Charette, Jay Coldwell, Mary Kluz, Jesse Kearns, Jean Abreu

**Location:** Board Room of Wausau City Hall, 407 Grant Street.

**Date/Time:** Thursday, December 7, 2023 at 5:00 p.m.

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1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Public comment
3. Approve minutes of November 9, 2023 meeting
4. Discussion: City Forester John Kahon and Horticulturist Jackie Beran – plant selection and use of pesticides/herbicides
5. Updates: GHG Baseline, WLGCC, GTLC, website
6. Discussion: Midwest Climate Resiliency Conference – Jay Coldwell
7. Discussion and Possible Action: Inflation Reduction Act resources for residents
8. Next meeting date: January 4, 2024
9. Adjourn

It is likely that members of, and a quorum of the Council and/or members of other committees of the Common Council of the City of Wausau will be in attendance at the abovementioned meeting to gather information. **No action will be taken by any such groups.**

In accordance with the requirements of Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), the City of Wausau will not discriminate against qualified individuals with disabilities on the basis of disability in its services, programs or activities. If you need assistance or reasonable accommodations in participating in this meeting or event due to a disability as defined under the ADA, please call the ADA Coordinator at (715) 261- 6622 or ADAServices@ci.wausau.wi.us to discuss your accessibility needs. We ask your request be provided a minimum of 72 hours before the scheduled event or meeting. If a request is made less than 72 hours before the event the City of Wausau will make a good faith effort to accommodate your request.

Questions regarding this agenda may be directed to the City Planning Office @ (715) 261-6760.

**This Notice was posted at City Hall and emailed to the Media on 12/01/2023**

Any person wishing to offer public comment may email City Clerk Kaitlyn Bernarde at clerk@ci.wausau.wi.us with “SEEC comment” in the subject line prior to the meeting start. All public comment, either by email or in person, will be limited to items on the agenda at this time. The messages related to agenda items received prior to the start of the meeting will be provided to the Chair.

Other Distribution: Media, Alderpersons, Mayor, City Departments

MINUTES

November 9, 2023

Members Present: John Kroll, Mary Kluz, Jesse Kearns, Carol Lukens, Jay Coldwell, Jean Abreu

Others Present: Dan Barth, Cathy Barth, Andrew Lynch

In compliance with Chapter 19, Wisconsin Statutes, notice of this meeting was posted and transmitted to the Wausau Daily Herald in the proper manner.

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**1. Welcome and Introductions**

Meeting started at 5:00pm

**2. Public Comment**

Dan Barth: Encouraged and grateful for the work of this committee. Offer help on the GHG from Citizens Action, Citizen Climate Lobby, and NAOMI. Recommended Kathy Kuntz from Dane Co for information on IRA.

Kathy Barth: Noted the importance of the new Federal Farm Bill that is awaiting authorization and the impact it can have on conservation efforts.

**3. Approve minutes of October 5, 2023 meeting**

Motion/second by Abreu/Kearns to approve minutes as amended. Passed unanimously.

**4. Updates: GHG Baseline, WLGCC, GTLC, Midwest Climate Resiliency Conference**

Lynch noted that several of the items in the GTLC and GHG metrics were the same so data gathering would benefit both. Included in the packet is a report by Jay Coldwell on the Conference. Kroll noted an interesting item was the use of ARPA by Stoughton to fund a sustainability manager. Lukens noted that City ARPA funds were almost all allocated and that creating a new staff position was not likely to be approved. Abreu noted the mobilization of the community was a common theme.

**5. Discussion and Possible Action: EJ Screen metrics selection**

Kroll noted the committee homework was to find several metrics that would be presented to the City Council every 2 years and maybe more frequently. The information could be compared to national or state levels and city staff could split the data out by aldermanic district. Kearns found a report that listed all the data points for a specific area. This report is from the EJ screen and is formatted nicely with clear information. He suggested that report is used and the committee agreed. Kluz wondered what the alders would react more strongly too and if future reports could be tailored to their feedback. Lynch said he would take with the GIS staff to create a report by district and city-wide that mirrors the EJ generated report and fulfills the EJ resolution. He noted that with this approach, some time will have to be devoted to making sure everyone understood the rankings and percentiles of the various categories.

**6. Discussion and Possible Action: City website Sustainability page**

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The committee discussed how to shape the categories for information on the website and Kluz posed the question of what is the purpose of the information. Members felt it was important to list Sustainability Awards, local food options, GHG resolution, committee schedule, public comment, Composting, educational opportunities. Kroll suggested three main categories: City information, Resources for Residents, Get Involved. Lynch felt this was useful direction and noted that categories and items could always change in the future. Lynch will work with other city staff to build out the page. It would likely be done in early 2024.

**7. Discussion: Chair Kroll presentation to Stevens Point Council**

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Kroll explained that he had been approached by a group in Stevens Point that wants to petition their City Council to create a similar Sustainability committee. Anyone may offer their suggestions or stories to the group or at a future public comment period in Stevens Point. Kroll has also talked in the past with similar groups in Wisconsin Rapids and surrounding areas.

**8. Next meeting date: December 7**

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**9. Adjourn**

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Motion/Second by Kluz/Abreu. Approved unanimously. Adjourned at 6:02 pm

## **Jay Coldwell's Notes from**

### **Climate Resilience Conference Oct 25-27**

I plan to take a deeper dive through this – reviewing slides and transcripts and delving into the various web tools. What follows is a summary of some notes taken at the various sessions, along with some web tool links.

### **Emily Schoerning – Communicating Socially Sensitive Messages to the Public Connect rather than escalate**

- Search for meaning, emotional connection. Not reasoning behaviors
- People want to do a thing, not give up a thing. EX planting milkweed seeds rather than giving up beef.
- Building community energy.
- Stay with local experience, local facts.

Kalamazoo as a model for local food resilience

<https://zoocityfood.org/>

### **Panel discussion**

- MN has 100% renewable energy by 2040 as a goal
- Lots of very organized activity, lots of use of IRA funds.

(Need to update with transcript)

### **Applying the 5th National Climate Assessment (NCA) in your community & work**

- Unfortunately the 5th NCA has not yet been released. It is scheduled for release in October or November – so in November, apparently. It is based on data through 2019.
- The NCA is revised every 5 years. It provides data and forecasting tools for state-by-state analysis. Emily Schoerning has done this for many states, including Wisconsin on her American Resiliency YouTube channel, based on the old forecast.
  - It provides a credible / official source of data and analysis – a common starting point for planning.
  - Here is an example of a county-level presentation, done by Emily Schoerning: <https://youtu.be/li0zn4Ls0zc?si=OUaoJM6cam-x2bQi>
- Climate-ready Communities is a good resource:
  - <https://climatereadycommunities.org/>
- Here is the website for the 4th NCA
  - <https://nca2014.globalchange.gov/>

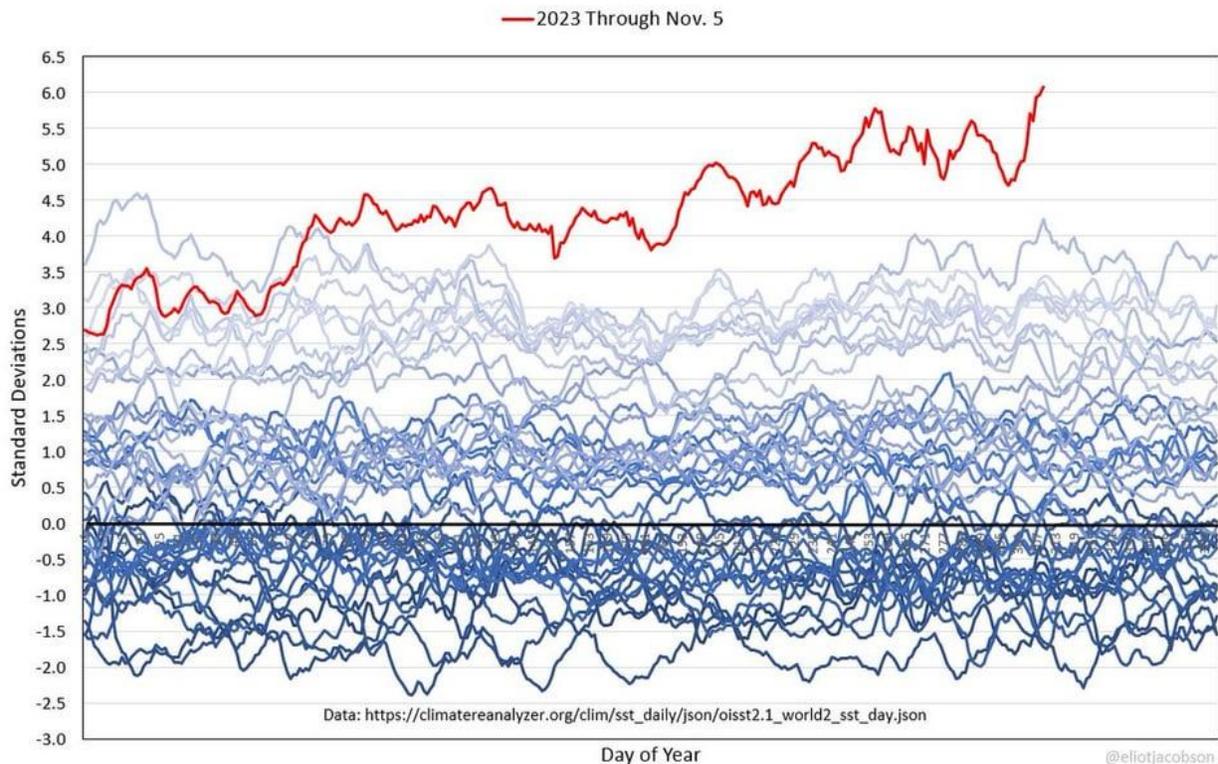
- Here is a link to the National Climate Resilience Framework, which is a new publication, just released in September of this year.
  - <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/National-Climate-Resilience-Framework-FINAL.pdf>

The tone of the NCA presentation, which was given by the authors of the midwest section, was somber. A sense of grieving. In fact, there is a companion book of poetry that has been released as a companion to the 5th NCA called Dear Human: At the Edge of Time. It's already on Amazon.

There is also a sense that what has happened since 2019 is compressing timelines by maybe a decade or two.

Another piece of gossip: FEMA is planning to ask all communities to prepare to survive three weeks without assistance in the event of a major emergency. I guess some areas have already been given similar notice for a two week period, such as in fire-prone areas.

Global Sea Surface Temperatures: 1982-2023  
Standard Deviations from 1982-2011 Mean  
(each horizontal line represents the daily SDs for one year of SSTs)



## Tracking for Impact: Developing Climate Resilience Metrics 10/26/23

Metrics: tracking progress toward the indicator

Indicators: what we want to achieve

Minnesota has their own state-level climate resilience framework. Minnesota is a leader in US.

<https://climate.state.mn.us/>

Wisconsin apparently does not have this.

Many tribes have had climate adaptation plans since 2016.

Resilience metrics are still developing / not mature.

Identified 6 Americas regarding climate:

- Alarmed, concerned, cautious, disengaged, doubtful, dismissive
- Focus efforts / communication on the middle 4.

### National Flood Insurance Program

David Maurstad – Asst Dir of National Flood Insurance program

FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grants – application period closes 2/29/24 (for communities)

There has never been so much funding for hazard mitigation before.

Flood insurance rates now are much more sensitive to the specific risk, so there will be disruption in that space.

### State of the Upper-Midwestern Climate: trends, extremes, impacts, and future

#### Midwestern Climate

- Long term trend: warmer, especially winter, and wetter
- Increase in freeze-free season of 3-7 days per decade
- The Midwest is the warming hole – summer temps have cooled in midwest, at least thru 2016
- High heat index, however, is becoming more common, due to higher humidity
- But the last few years are still in drought during the warm season. Hotter and drier, but still the overall trend is wetter.
- Temperature whiplash seems to be increasing – but not much data reported. Yes, does need more research. Impact on tree migration plantings.
  - Last Dec in OH dropped from 42 to -8 in 12 hours. Banana trees died.
- Apiaries – temp swing impact is a problem
- Projection is that summers will eventually start to warm.
- Don't know if temp increase will supercede the expected increased moisture.
- So can plan for expected intra-annual variations. Plan for the extremes.
- So it's both drier and wetter in the same year.

- With rain coming in larger amounts interspersed with drought weeks, agricultural yields can drop even with more total rain.

Here's an example of a resilience website focused on agriculture:

<https://weather-ready.unl.edu/#:~:text=Field%20to%20Market-,Weather%20Ready%20Farms.extreme%20weather%20and%20climate%20events>.

## **Engaging communities in climate change planning**

### **Public Participation as a catalyst to Mobilize action on climate change**

Dane Co GHG climate action plan == 50% reduction by 2030

#### City of Stoughton Experience:

Community engagement – action and agency – not deflecting responsibility to government and industry

- Put the public in the Climate Action Plan planning process.
- Share information
- Build community culture of sustainability – its all of us, the norm
- Provide individual choices
- Inform, consult, involve collaborate, empower

Stoughton SEEC came to the UW extension to ask for help with engagement

- Community meeting with flip charts, etc.
- Put together a community survey based on that.
- Focus groups

Committee recommends to the city council

Over 200 actions writing the sustainability plan, and measurable metrics

**Hoping to hire a sustainability coordinator with ARP funds.**

Donnelle Scaffidi is the SEEC chair – she is open to contacts and would share their plan once it is done

## Websites

<https://zoocityfood.org/>

<https://climatereadycommunities.org/>

<https://nca2014.globalchange.gov/>

<https://climate.umn.edu/>

<https://adaptationprofessionals.org/ready-to-fund-resilience-toolkit/>

<https://statesummaries.ncics.org/>

<https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar5/wg1/summary-for-policymakers/>

<https://nca2018.globalchange.gov/>

<https://climategen.org/>

<https://glisa.umich.edu/engagement/scenario-planning/>

# IRA Resources for Residents

English Español

## YOUR SAVINGS CALCULATOR

### How much money can you get with the Inflation Reduction Act?

Enter your household information to find out.

[Reset calculator](#)

Rent or Own ?

Homeowner

Tax Filing ?

Married Filing Jointly

Household Size ?

4 people

Household Income ?

\$100,000

Zip Code ?

54403

Email address ?

you@example.com (optional)

Calculate! ⌵

Get updates on incentives, rebates, and more from Rewiring America.

<https://www.rewiringamerica.org/app/ira-calculator>

<https://daneclimateaction.org/what-you-can-do/federal-funding>



Dane County Office of Energy & Climate Change

### The Inflation Reduction Act

With an estimated \$369 billion in tax credits and financing for clean energy strategies, the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) is the single largest U.S. investment in climate action. This funding makes pursuing clean energy solutions easier and more affordable than ever, putting our country on a path to reduce its emissions 40% by 2030.

The Dane County Office of Energy & Climate Change is sharing resources about the IRA to encourage everyone in Dane County to take advantage of these unprecedented opportunities to go green.

### How You Can Take Advantage of the IRA



Learn more about how individuals can take advantage of the tax credits and grants available through the IRA.

Individuals



Learn more about how businesses, non-profits, local government, and schools can utilize tax credits, rebates, and grants available through the IRA.

Businesses/Other Entities