

2023 Wausau Sustainability Awards Application

*The Wausau Sustainability Awards recognize individuals, businesses, and organizations that are committed to creating a more sustainable and energy-smart Wausau. These awards are also meant to share examples of sustainability initiatives and projects with residents, businesses, community groups, and nonprofits and encourage similar projects.*

*Applications are due by* ***October 1s, 2023 at 5 pm.***

1. **Your contact information:**

Name(s): Susie Arnold, Development & Marketing Manager, Good News Project

Street/City/Zip: 1106 N. Fifth St Wausau, WI 54403

Phone #:715-843-5986 E-mail: susie@goodnewswi.com

Eligibility: Nominated by SEEC

1. **Nominee’s contact information:**

Name of individual, business or organization: Good News Project

Website of nominee (if available): goodnewswi.com

Name of contact person: Same as above

1. **How would you best describe the nominee:**

 **Energy: Renewables, Efficiency or Conservation –** Efforts to reduce energy consumption or increase the use of renewables, including transportation demand management. Consideration is given to the level of investment, documented reduction/generation of energy, reach of the effort and/or greenhouse gas emissions.

 **Environmental Education –** Programs and projects that effectively teach both children and adults how to learn about their environment and to make intelligent, informed decisions about how to take care of it.

 **Resource Conservation, Preservation or Stewardship** *–* Individuals, businesses, and organizations that demonstrate their commitment to the improvement of the Wausau community by conserving, preserving, replanting or restoring the natural environment, improving water quality or reclaiming the urban environment either directly through programs and actions or indirectly through innovative products or practices. This also could include innovations in waste management, recycling or composting.

 **Green Site and/or Building Design** – The design, development, construction, or renovation of buildings and sites in ways that set an example and/or exceed standard energy efficiency, incorporate low impact design, preserve natural site features and resources, use of green infrastructure stormwater management BMPs, create healthy indoor conditions, etc.

 **Health, Food and Agriculture** – Individuals, businesses, and organizations that demonstrate commitment to producing, using, or promoting local, sustainable, healthy food, or increasing access to healthy food for underserved populations.

 **Student Leadership** *–* An individual student, school group or community youth group that demonstrates excellence in a sustainability effort.

 **City Staff** - Staff that goes beyond job duties to improve sustainability for City policies, programs, or operations.

 **Other –** If you have a sustainable project that doesn’t fit one of the above categories, please suggest another category:

1. **Describe the nomination in 150 words or less. Be sure to include if the project/initiative served an underserved population and any partnerships formed as a result of the project/initiative.**

Our **e-CYCLING Program** facilitates the reuse of valuable limited resources and keeps toxins out of our landfills, air, and water supplies. We are the only comprehensive e-CYCLING center serving Marathon County that accepts nearly all electronics from households, businesses, schools, and other sources.

Electronics are sent to our end-recycler to harvest reclaimable precious metals, plastics, and other materials, at a 99.6% recovery rate. We partner with nonprofits and businesses to host mobile collection and educational events.

Our **Health Equipment Lending Program (HELP**), provides donated, used medical equipment to anyone with a need, regardless of their ability to pay, helping over 200 families monthly. Our volunteers safety check, sanitize, and facilitate equipment loans.

“Over the last 4 years, there were 1,612 contacts seeking the medical equipment services (GNP) provides. Approximately 85% of those inquiries came from older adults or adults with disabilities.” (ADRC)\*. GNP receives referrals from numerous local health providers.

*\*ADRC Aging and Disability Resource Center of Marathon County-2021*

1. **Describe in 150 words or less the outcomes or results of the effort using specific examples, data, and/or other evidence.**

Our e-CYCLING program has recycled over 3.26 million pounds of electronic equipment during 2005 – 2022, from 37,918 individuals, and 1,994 businesses. This is equivalent to 143 fully loaded semi-trucks.

Our e-CYCLING program allows us to create more collaborative partnerships with community businesses. In three events with Greenheck Group, we served 364 employees and recycled 50,313 pounds of electronics.

In 2022 2,616 donated items were loaned to people through our HELP program, diverting 143,760 lbs. from landfills. We do not turn away people without an ability to pay who need medical equipment.

In 2022, 219 volunteers gave 6,167 service hours at GNP. ($184,702 value)

Many consumers are still either storing or finding alternative disposal methods for electronic waste, including illegal dumping. We lead the way for the next generation through reducing contamination and alleviating resource shortages through education, consumer accessibility, and being an affordable and compassionate resource for all.

1. **Please include links or photocopies of any press reports that describe the project/initiative, such as news articles, photographs, web articles, newsletter articles, etc.**
2. **Please note that at minimum, one photo of the project/initiative will be needed for possible use in any announcements of honorees. If no photo is available, a volunteer is available to take one.**

*Honors will be presented at a regular meeting of the city council. Award winners should be present at the award ceremony and are encouraged to make a short acceptance speech.*

***Please submit application and materials electronically to:*** Andrew Lynch