



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: Mary Kluz (C), Carol Lukens, Jean Abreu, Jay Coldwell, Christine Daniels, Jesse Kearns
Location: Maple Room of Wausau City Hall, 407 Grant Street.
Date/Time: **Thursday, November 7, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.**

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Public Comment
3. Approval of the Minutes of the October 03, 2024 Meeting
4. Update: WLGCC conference report
5. Discussion and Possible Action: Sustainability Manager position
6. Discussion and Possible Action: Work Plan development
7. Discussion and Possible Action: Seasonal initiatives promotion
8. Next meeting date: December 5
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 11/01/2024

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

October 10, 2024

Members Present: Jay Coldwell, Mary Kluz, Carol Lukens, Christine Daniels, Jean Abreu

Others Present: Andrew Lynch, Dustin Kraege

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

1. Welcome and Introductions

Meeting started at 5:03 pm

2. Public Comment

n/a

3. Approval of the Minutes of the August 8 Meeting

Coldwell/Kluz motion/second to approve. Unanimous vote to approve.

4. Updates: Solar Array, Dept Public Works Director and staff meeting, WLCC

Solar Array: Lynch noted that it was in a departmental budget for design in 2025 with expected build in 2026. The project will still need support in the budget process.

DPW meeting: Daniels, Kluz, and Lynch meet with Eric Lindman, Allen Wesolowski, Solomon King, and Dustin Kraege. Very good discussion. Limiting salt use was important. Adoption of EV vehicles would require additional training, equipment, and facilities for service. Power for charging to the facilities was also an issue. Also looking at propane for certain vehicles and hybrid for police vehicles. Staff has interest in developing policies on building standards for municipal buildings and also development agreements so private parties provide charging stations.

WLCCG: Newsletter included in the packet. Lynch will likely be attending the Oct 15 in person meeting.

5. Discussion and Possible Action: Sustainability Manager Position

Lynch discussed this position with James Henderson, Director of HR. He suggested the November HR committee meeting and advised that it was not likely to be approved for 2025 since it was not currently in a department's budget. The Nov meeting would be an opportunity to present the idea, solicit feedback, and keep working on the position.

6. Discussion and Possible Action: Work Plan Development

Kluz has engaged the services of Kris Tiles to facilitate the session. Staff will poll the group to find another date in November for the working session. Many members have been involved in strategic planning or work planning at various times. Kluz noted the better the group knows the final goal the more productive

the session will be. Lynch explained that the packet had the various documents, plans, and legislation that feed into the committee's purpose. Committee many have homework from the facilitator to consider before the working session.

9. Next meeting date: Nov 7 and TBD

10. Adjourn

Motion/Second by Daniels/Coldwell. Approved unanimously. Adjourned at 6:14 pm

WLGCC Member Summit 2024



<https://bubolzpreserve.org/#>

Small Group Discussions

- Table 1: Staffing Sustainability Efforts (BLUE POST-IT)
- Table 2: Community Outreach (PURPLE POST-IT)
- Table 3: Social Media and Online Engagement (ORANGE POST-IT)
- Table 4: Buildings and Roadblocks to Electrification (PINK POST-IT)
- Table 5: Decarbonizing Transportation (GREEN POST-IT)

When you get to your table:

- Read through the **topic description**
- Identify a **notetaker**
- We suggest using **the first 15-20 minutes to share-out experiences** on the topic, and **the last 15-20 minutes to discuss key themes and potential next steps** (could be for you individually, for making member-to-member connections to learn more, or potential actions for the Coalition as a whole)



WLGCC x ICLEI Community-Wide GHG Inventories & Support



Matthew Katz
Senior Program Officer
Zero Emissions Team
ICLEI- Local Governments for
Sustainability USA (ICLEI USA)
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HOW DOES THE BUBOLZ MICROGRID WORK?

MICROGRID CONTROLLER

The microgrid controller is the computer technology that monitors the electrical current created by all sources. It makes decisions on how to use or store electrical current created by Solar-PV, the microturbine, battery, generator or the fuel cell.

SOLAR – PV GENERATION: 200KW AC [240KW DC]

When the sun shines, the solar PV panels produce electrical current. The microgrid controller optimizes when to use this energy at the nature center. Extra energy can be used to charge the battery and create hydrogen for the fuel cell.

MICROTURBINE: [65KW]

The microturbine is similar to a small jet engine that burns natural gas or biogas to create both electrical current and heat. The microgrid controller will adjust the operation of the microturbine to meet the needs of the nature center. The heat is recovered from the microturbine to heat the building.

ELECTROLYZER

The electrolyzer uses electricity to create hydrogen from water for the fuel cell.

FUEL CELL: [25KW]

The fuel cell consumes hydrogen to produce electrical current. The microgrid controller will use the fuel cell to produce electrical power when there is not sufficient power provided by the other sources.

EV CHARGING STATIONS

The car charging stations provide the connection between the microgrid and electric vehicles to allow their batteries to be recharged.

NATURAL GAS GENERATOR: [60KW]

The generator is similar to a truck engine that burns natural gas to create electrical current to power life safety systems in the event of a failure elsewhere in the system. The natural gas generator will be used to offset utility usages when other resources such as sun are not available.

BATTERY: 100KW [420KWH]

One of the main benefits of the battery is its ability to simultaneously provide or store electrical current. This can act as a bridge to optimize the efficiency of the entire system without waiting for the fuel cell, microturbine, or electrolysis cell to respond.



STAFF REPORT

To: Human Resources Committee
Prepared By: Andrew Lynch, AICP City Planner
Date: November 4, 2024

Request for Sustainability Manager position

In 2023, City Council passed the Greenhouse Gas Resolution with the goals of better understanding municipal energy needs, reducing those needs, moving to a clean energy profile by 2050, and creating tax levy savings. Since that time, staff has pursued a Department of Energy grant that will pay for the creation of an energy inventory and action plan. The Sustainability, Energy, and Environment Committee (SEEC) has worked to better understand the City's GHG profile and support initiatives like the Solar Array.

The SEEC has discussed the creation of a Sustainability Manger position and has worked on creating a job description. They are aware how challenging it may be to create a position and want to take this opportunity as the beginning of the dialogue with the HR committee to understand what additional information is needed.

Federal legislation in the form of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) and the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) has made available multiple programs and grants in a historic opportunity. These have a focus on electrification and reduction of GHG emissions which are in line with the Wausau GHG resolution. While there are likely grants and programs the City would benefit from, committee staff does not easily have time available for the research, application, and administration needed. This is a missed opportunity that could benefit municipal operations, residents, businesses, and taxpayers.

A staff member focused on sustainability efforts could support multiple departments with various initiatives or projects. This would increase the types of grants this position could apply for and the administration fees could help supplement their salary. While many of these positions state-wide are paid for with administration fees, there is no guarantee that can be the case....especially in year one. The SEEC is willing to build this position over time and has discussed the possibility of sharing the position with surrounding municipalities. There is also not yet a departmental home for this position.

Suggested outline for a work planning meeting

Committee members are encouraged to look over the question topics. This prework is intended to provide advance information about what will be covered, to have a robust discussion so we together can create a plan. Please bring your reflections and ideas so that we can build off of our shared knowledge; we'll use the ideas to make decisions together.

At our meeting on Thursday November 7, 2024, we will warm up our planning process with the following questions:

- What does sustainability mean to you in terms of city government?
- What do you see happening in the city, state and world that is emphasizing to you the importance of sustainability work? Why does our work matter?

As a part of the work plan process at a later date, we will together choose priorities for our attention. Our facilitator for the dedicated work plan meeting is Kris Tiles, Forestry and Wildlife Program Manager with UW-Madison Division of Extension. Kris has many years of experience designing and facilitating meetings to help nonprofits and work groups make change. Kris will guide the process to move us through the questions below.

- 1) What would Wausau look like in 10 years if the Sustainability Committee was successful? (Your Grand Vision)
- 2) What 2-3 projects could the committee take on in the next 3 years to start to achieve that vision?
 - A) What does the committee need to do to support that?
 - B) What can you personally bring to support that vision?
 - C) What resources, partnerships, and support does the Committee need to make progress on those projects?
 - D) What barriers would the committee need to address to be successful?



Smart Winter Salting

Best Practices for Snow and Ice at Home/School/Work

You can keep sidewalks and driveways safe this winter while protecting our waters by following these simple steps:



1. Shovel

Clear walkways and other areas before the snow turns to ice. The more snow you remove manually, the less salt you will have to use and the more effective it will be.



2. Scatter

If you use salt, scatter it so that there is space between the grains. Believe it or not, a coffee mug of salt is enough to treat an entire 20-foot driveway or 10 sidewalk squares.



3. Switch

When pavement temperatures drop below 15 degrees, salt won't work. Switch to sand for traction or a [different ice melter \(PDF\)](#) that works at lower temperatures.



4. Select a Trained Contractor

Ask your contractor if they have already sent staff to a Smart Salting workshop. If not, encourage them to attend a 2024 class and to follow appropriate [application rates](#).

Resources

- [Winter Salting Guide Video \(5 min.\)](#)
- [Homeowner Handout](#)