



GREEN TIER LEGACY COMMUNITY COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA

Wednesday, March 26, 2025 at 10:30 A.M.

This Meeting Will Be conducted Via Zoom Video Conferencing

To access the meeting electronically, click:

<https://zoom.us/j/4439901723?pwd=yAVpi40M1OlqgNufcVUE8XWCUSkKaH.1&omn=97063638580>

Meeting ID: 443 990 1723 Passcode: 304078

To connect by phone: 1-301-715-8592 - Meeting ID 443 990 1723#

For additional information check: www.sisterbaywi.gov

1	Chair – Kurt Harff	2	Paula Anschutz
3	Mary Smythe	4	Lisa O'Hearn
5	Sarah White	6	Lilly Orozco
			<i>Village Administrator – Julie Schmelzer</i>
	<i>Public Works Supervisor – Erik Linczmaier</i>		<i>Village Clerk – Heidi Teich</i>

1. Roll Call
2. Approval of the Agenda
3. Approval of the Minutes – February 19, 2025
4. Comments, correspondence, and concerns from the public
5. Discussion/Action Items:
 - (a) Update on Reusable Bag Project
 - (b) Update on Trees for Big Plant 2025
 - (c) Review 2024 Annual Report
6. Matters to be Placed on Future Agenda, Referred to a Committee, Official or Employee
7. Adjournment

Public Notice

Questions regarding the nature of the agenda items above or more detail on the agenda items scheduled to be considered by the governmental body can be directed to Julie Schmelzer, Village Administrator at julie.schmelzer@sisterbaywi.gov. It is possible that members of and possibly a quorum of members of other governmental bodies may attend the meeting to gather information; no action will be taken by any governmental body other than the body specifically referred to above in this notice. Upon reasonable notice, a good faith effort will be made to accommodate the needs of disabled individuals through sign language interpreters or other auxiliary aid at no cost to the individual. Due to the difficulty in finding interpreters, requests should be made as far in advance as possible, preferably a minimum of 48 hours. For additional information or to request this service, contact the Sister Bay Village Administration Office at 854-4118, (FAX) 854-9637, or by writing to the Village Administration Building, 2383 Maple Drive, PO Box 769, Sister Bay, WI 54234. Copies of reports and other supporting documentation are available for review at the Village Administration Building during operating hours. (8 a.m. – 4 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays, 8 a.m. to noon on Fridays).

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AD HOC GREEN TIER LEGACY COMMUNITY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, February 19 2025
(Approval Pending)

Agenda Item No. 1. The February 19, 2025 meeting of the Green Tier Legacy Community Committee was called to order by Chairperson Kurt Harff at 10:30 A.M.

Present: Kurt Harff, Lisa O'Hearn, Paula Anschutz and Lilly Orozco. Sarah White was absent. Mary Smythe was excused.

Staff: Village Clerk Heidi Teich

Others: Laurel Harff

Agenda Item No. 2. Approval of the Agenda

A motion was made by Orozco, seconded by O'Hearn that the Agenda for the February 19, 2025 meeting of the Ad Hoc Green Tier Legacy Community Committee be approved as presented. Motion carried – All ayes.

Agenda Item No. 3. Approval of the Minutes

A motion was made by O'Hearn, seconded by Orozco that the minutes of the January 16, 2025 meeting of the Ad Hoc Green Tier Legacy Community Committee be approved as presented. Motion carried – All ayes.

Agenda Item No. 4. Comments, correspondence, and concerns from the public

At the start of the meeting, Teich forwarded an email from the state GTLC which contained a sample scoresheet report submitted by the Village of Ephraim. In the email, the state GTLC representative noted that this sample is complete and correct according to what they are looking for when applying for grants. No other correspondence was received. Harff asked if anyone would like to share a comment, and none were offered.

Agenda Item No. 5. Discussion/Action Items:

a) Discussion on Annual GTLC Report due March 31, 2025

Green Tier requires that communities report annually on their progress towards sustainability issues identified as areas of interest and concern within the municipality. Included in the meeting packet was the report submitted by the Sister Bay GTLC in 2023 for reference. Also included were descriptions of the various metrics to be used when evaluating actions and reporting progress.

Teich noted that the first few pages of the report will be unchanged, except for changing the date, and asked the committee to identify those activities they would like to see included in the report of 2024 achievements. In addition, she asked that the committee identify areas of success, areas they found challenging, and a target goal for the future.

O'Hearn asked if Schmelzer would be available to review the report before submission this year as there are many areas that the committee has little knowledge or experience with, such as zoning and development. In her review of the prior year's report, O'Hearn noted that there were several items that needed updating and offered to email Teich a copy of her notes to use in the report preparation.

The committee identified a challenge in trying to maintain awareness of all the metrics included on the sustainability strategies scoresheet, as they are not using the scoresheet to guide their committee discussions. Instead, they are working independently of the scoresheet and pursuing other interest areas. Teich stated that in the limited time they have to create a report by the March 31st deadline, that she will focus on those three areas – challenges, successes, and future goals – to report on the DNR website and see what transpires from there.

Orozco identified a challenge in trying to pass a ban on plastic bags in the community and learning that there is a state prohibition on such an ordinance. Sister Bay will instead need to focus their efforts on plastic reduction if they cannot have an all-out ban.

Orozco asked if the accomplishments they have seen the past year needed to be unique to the Green Tier Committee or the village as a whole, specifically the work being done in the community on trails connecting to neighboring communities. It was agreed that the committee should report on all community activities as well.

The committee identified some areas of achievement in purchasing a new shuttle bus (more energy-efficient) and installing bike racks, and bike repair stations near the beach. The village will also have its street lights converted to LED's in the coming year, which should also be mentioned in the annual report. A question arose on whether wheelchair accessible picnic tables were installed, and Teich said she would inquire. She will also follow up on the use of recycled rubber at the playground versus mulch, which can smell bad and be toxic.

Orozco felt that it would be worth noting the on-going conservation efforts the village has undertaken with the acquisition of the Pebble Beach property and recent improvements clear walking trails and improve a small parking lot on the site. The addition of restrooms had been discussed but no action has taken place yet.

Harff shared the work of the Utilities Department to explore a sludge-drying facility in the village that would result in the creation of milorganite which can then be used for fertilizer.

The committee agreed that one of their primary goals for 2025 and beyond is plastic reduction, and ways in which to educate the community to reduce their plastic usage in all areas.

b) Discussion on Budget Allocations

At the previous meeting, the committee discussed ways in which to expend the money budgeted for this committee to further their sustainability initiatives. Having already determined that a portion of the budget will go towards the purchase of reusable shopping bags for distribution, the only other expenditure noted at this time will be for trees to distribute

1 during the Big Plant 2025. An estimate of that cost has not yet been provided.

2
3 **c) Scheduling of Joint Meeting with Parks, Property & Streets Committee**

4
5 The Sister Bay Parks, Property & Streets Committee is interested in hosting a Volunteer Day in
6 Sister Bay. As this could be related to the work of the Green Tier Legacy Community
7 Committee, it was suggested that the two groups meet jointly to discuss options after GTLC
8 develops a list of potential projects for which to volunteer. The committee members suggested
9 that they appear at the meeting of the Parks Committee on April 7, 2025.

10
11 Orozco also suggested that the GTLC Committee meet with the Sister Bay Advancement
12 Association (SBAA) to see if there are ways the SBAA can support their efforts to spread the
13 word in Sister Bay about their sustainability efforts. Anschutz added that she has asked to be
14 added to the SBAA meeting agendas on a regular basis to provide GTLC updates.

15
16 **d) Earth Day Events Update**

17
18 Earth Day is April 22, 2025. O'Hearn began the design of a poster to encourage earth-friendly
19 events, which was distributed to the members prior to this meeting. What remains is to
20 determine the locations of the bag distribution site and tree pick-up. Firm dates on when those
21 activities will take place have yet to be determined. The bags will not be ready for distribution
22 by Earth Day but can instead be scheduled for later in the summer, possibly September.

23
24 Anschutz reported that she has received a commitment from a local artist for the design of the
25 bag the committee would like to have printed and available for distribution. The bags will be
26 offered for sale at a small fee, or sponsors will be sought to help offset the production costs. The
27 approximate cost of each bag, including set-up fees, is \$1.30. The material is recycled water
28 bottles, not paper, which will be durable and easy to wipe clean. The shape closely resembles
29 that of a paper bag with a flat bottom.

30
31 The committee discussed sizes and agreed that a size roughly 13" x 15" x 7" is preferred. The
32 bag will be printed with the GTLC logo and other sponsor logos as space permits. O'Hearn
33 offered to share a letter that she had created for another organization that can be revised and
34 used to seek sponsorships for the bag project. The Piggly Wiggly will be given free sponsorship
35 in exchange for use of their store lobby when the bags are ready to be distributed.

36
37 The committee will continue to work on creating educational materials to distribute to the
38 public.

39
40 Anschutz will check in with Jeff Lutsey about picking up trees so that they can be distributed,
41 with a desired distribution date of April 26, 2025.

42
43 *A motion was made by Anschutz, seconded by O'Hearn to purchase 3000 reusable shopping bags as*
44 *discussed, at a cost not to exceed \$3.00/bag, including all costs of materials, production, and*
45 *shipping/handling charges. Motion carried – all ayes.*

Agenda Item No. 6. Matters to be placed on a future agenda or referred to a committee, official, or employee

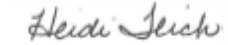
It was the consensus of the committee that the following topics be discussed at a future meeting:

- Review of the 2024 annual report
- Update on reusable bag project
- Update on tree availability

The next meeting of the Sister Bay GTLC Committee will take place Wednesday, March 26, 2025 at 10:30 A.M. via ZOOM.

Adjournment: *A motion was made by Orozco, seconded by O'Hearn to adjourn the February 19, 2025 meeting of the Green Tier Legacy Community Committee at 11:53 A.M. Motion carried – all ayes.*

Respectfully submitted,

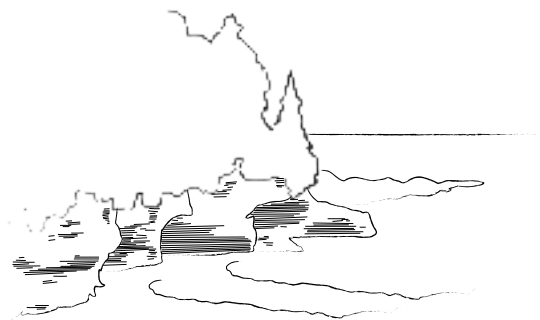


Heidi Teich,
Village Clerk

The Door County Environmental Council News



March 2025



“Fostering the preservation of Door County’s rich heritage of natural resources for the health, welfare, and spiritual uplift not only of its inhabitants, but of generations to come, through advocacy, education, and action.”

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The Dead Zone

Lurking beneath the waters of Green Bay lies a menacing “monster”! Undetected by most, it has been feeding upon the unsuspecting bodies of millions of creatures and has been doing so for decades. It resides in a region of the bay known as... The Dead Zone. Unlike the fictional Stephen King novel of the same name, this DEAD ZONE IS REAL!

Since the early 70s, the Door County Environmental Council (DCEC) has been educating and advocating for a sustainable environment in and around Door County. Recently, the DCEC has been focusing on the water. Certainly people have been drawn to the Door Peninsula because of its beauty and surrounding waters. However, most tourists and many locals have no idea that there is a toxic and hypoxic region in Green Bay that is growing ever closer to the Door County waters each summer: the Dead Zone.

Dead zones have become more and more numerous over the years and some have become infamous tragedies. There is a large

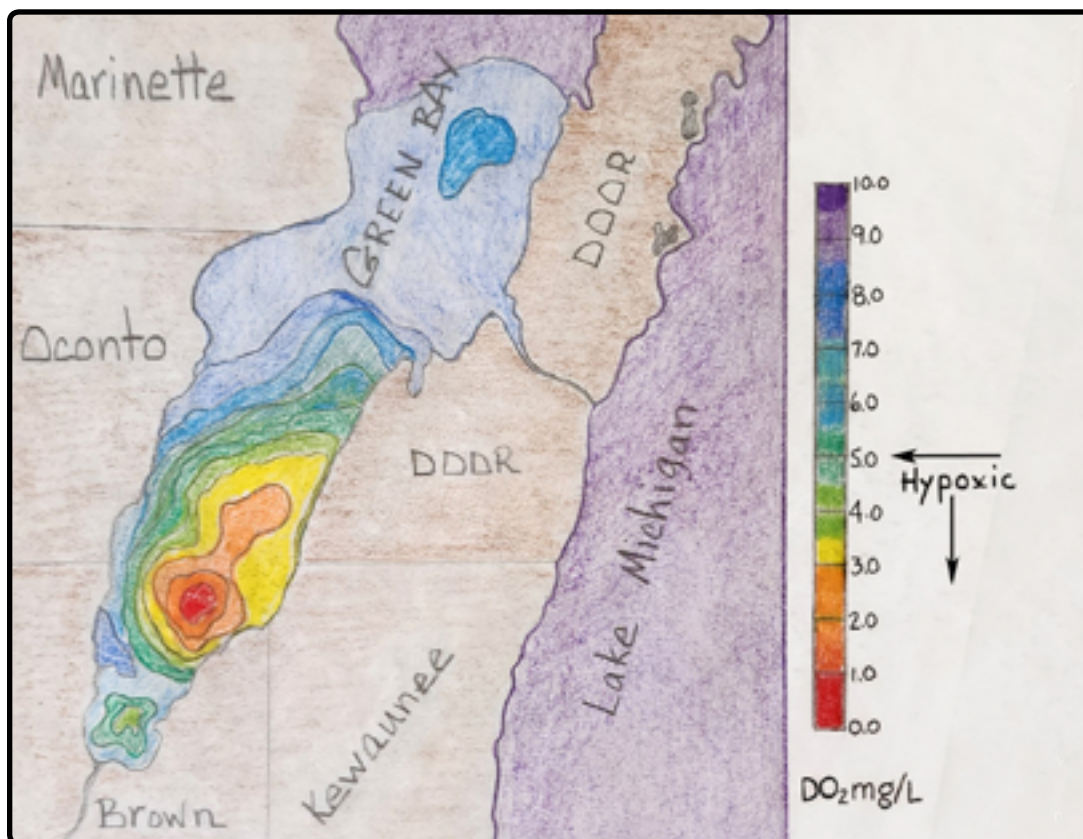
dead zone in the Gulf of Mexico at the end of the Mississippi River, also one in Lake Erie, the Chesapeake Bay, and the Baltic Sea. Most concerning to us in Northeast Wisconsin are the dead zones found in Lake Winnebago and the bay of Green Bay.

Exactly what is a dead zone?

It refers to an area in a body of water where the oxygen levels are so low (hypoxic), most aquatic creatures cannot survive.

How does a dead zone form?

It all begins with excessive nutrients flowing from the land and washing into the local waters usually during large rain events. These nutrients can be in the form of agricultural fertilizers, animal manure, lawn fertilizers, sewage treatment plant discharge, and storm waters. The main culprits in these nutrients are *phosphorus* and *nitrogen*. These two elements are the fuel that feeds the exponential growth of algae in the water forming *algal blooms*.



The Dead Zone in the bay of Green Bay

Submitted by Paul Leline

These algal blooms can become so thick that they create floating, pea green mats of algae. There can be many varieties of algae comprising the bloom, but one of the more dangerous ones is blue-green algae or more correctly called *cyanobacteria*. As the living algae cells eventually die, they sink to the bottom of the bay and are decomposed by a variety of bacteria and other organisms that feed upon the dead cells. In order to digest this organic matter, oxygen is needed in large amounts. As the decomposition process continues, more oxygen is removed from the water until it becomes hypoxic with low levels of oxygen or *anoxic* with zero oxygen present.

Dead zone waters are found trapped in the very cold lake bottoms. Because northerly lakes have cold and warm areas, unlike the

always warm southern lakes, they form stratified layers in the water due to varying temperatures. This temperature stratification is called the *thermocline*. The uppermost thermocline layer (the epilimnion) is usually the warmest. The middle layer (the metalimnion) is cold and often referred to as the thermocline. The lowest bottom layer (the hypolimnion) is the densest form of water at 39°F or 4°C.

As the seasons change, particularly in spring and fall, the rapidly changing temperatures of water create a rise and fall of the water's layers according to their temperature. Since the top warmer layer is in contact with the atmosphere, it has become richer in oxygen through surface agitation. Then in the fall as the top layer gets colder, it begins to sink towards the bottom carrying

with it the oxygen from the top. This “lake turn-over” phenomenon makes northern lakes more oxygenated than warm lakes. But, in the warm and often hot summers, the colder bottom layers are trapped with a finite amount of oxygen. This finite amount of oxygen is what the decomposers of algae must use on the bottom of the lake. When the oxygen is nearly all depleted, most life forms cannot survive, and we have a *dead zone*. Fish, including walleye, perch, and bass, along with many invertebrates, are particularly vulnerable. As oxygen levels drop, these organisms either migrate away from the area or perish if they cannot escape.

In Green Bay, the reduction in biodiversity due to the dead zone, has significant ecological and economic consequences. The bottom dwelling goby fish in the southern portion of Green Bay, have been seen by the thousands climbing up onto rocks and shore, mouth’s gaping open and gasping for air, trying to escape the dead zone in the late hot summer, when algae growth is the greatest and dead zones are at their peak. Due to climate change, the warming waters are exacerbating the algal blooming process and causing the dead zone to grow in size along the bottom of Green Bay.

Aside from the loss of oxygen resulting from the blue-green algae cells decomposing, these cells also rupture and release toxic substances, *endotoxins*, into the surrounding waters. When exposed to humans or animals by eating, drinking, touching, or breathing, these endotoxins can cause serious health conditions affecting one’s liver, kidneys, nervous system, and/or skin.

Preventing dead zones from forming requires a multifaceted approach, with a focus on reducing nutrient pollution.

Prevention includes:

- Implementing better practices in agriculture, such as controlling fertilizer/manure applications.
- Significantly reducing nutrient runoff.
- Planting cover crops and reducing the amount of nutrients applied to the land
- Creating larger buffer zones or “prairie strips” near drainage ditches, creeks, streams and rivers that lead into Green Bay. These buffers can act as natural filters, trapping nutrients before they reach the water.

What can we do?

Public awareness and political policy are the most important part of promoting better land use practices. Better regulation of nutrient discharges is essential. Presently, there is very little oversight of the nutrient spreading in Northeast Wisconsin. Also, there has been no control on the size of an industrial farm. Concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs) house thousands of dairy cows and are being allowed to expand their herds by the thousands, continually threatening the waters of Wisconsin. The Door Peninsula, with its karst bedrock and shallow soils is probably the worst place to spread the vast volumes of liquified nutrient waste—waste that continues to increase annually by the millions of gallons. And with that scenario, the Green Bay dead zone will continue to increase in size. There are solutions, and a balance can be reached. Wisconsin people need to speak up to our community members and lawmakers, to prevent the waters of Green Bay, along our Door County shoreline, from becoming a Dead Zone.

By Paul Leline, Secretary

Coming Out of the Shadows

The burgeoning problems that the industrial model of farming present warrant the necessity to bring these issues out into the spotlight for discussion. These problems have been brought to our communities, not problems citizenry has gone looking for. These issues, super-sized, along with the mega farms, have reached a tipping point in communities that can no longer shoulder the burden of this industry. Mega farms, evolving from the mom and pop farms of 20, 50 or 100 cows, are growing in numbers in the thousands—to 3000, 5000, 10,000 animals per farm in the last decade.

The social implications for placing huge animal factories amid the rural populous with huge cesspools of untreated waste also spread in those communities, is devastating. The touting of progress and innovation, often voiced by this industry and its promoters, seems to be lost in the dark abyss of manure pits now containing as much as 82 million gallons of untreated lagoon slurry at a single site, displacing families from their homes and leaving those remaining with plunging property values, quality of life issues, and contaminated air and water.

While there are many issues to discuss on this model of food production, there are a few that others will warn you not to broach. The first time I heard the term “third rail politics” was while speaking to one of the agencies designed to protect citizenry and the environment in the state. It was the first, of what would become many times, that I would be warned to stay away! The third rail “used to power trains, carries hundreds of volts of electricity, likely resulting in death by electrocution for anyone who comes into direct contact with

it.” While a political term, the hazards of the rail are not limited to the political arena. The controversial “shock” of the third rail is warning enough. Don’t Touch! Safe to bet, most stay away from the hazards of the third rail.

Two of the issues that ride the rails include immigrant workers and animal welfare. There are vast land mines that exist while dancing amongst these two topics, including the political forces that reign, and the potential social stigma of taking a stand on these two controversial topics.

As human beings, the one huge difference separating us from the animals we are caretakers for, lies in our ability to think and reason, and, if lucky enough, the endowment of commonsense. With that ability to think, also comes the moral and social responsibility, not only to each other, but to all living things and the shared community of the earth that we all inhabit.

When we choose not to discuss the problems that we face in our communities, we ultimately consent to its continuation. The welfare of both human beings and animals in the industrial food model must be addressed by the very individuals that seek nourishment from food products produced in this commodity style of food production. This broken model has become embraced as the future of farming, and echoed as the “feeding of the world” by the industry.

The only thing wrong with this idea is, well, that it is just that—an idea. The truth about food production is that 70% of food grown globally is done through subsistence farming, mostly by women.

The practice of feeding the world, at all costs, must be stopped. The soil, air,

and water where we live are precious resources that cannot continue the burden of monoculture farming that depletes and destroys. The real challenges in feeding people tomorrow will result from depleted soils, depleted aquifers, and the changes in our weather—pick your choice: global warming, climate change, weird weather.

The second misconception often stated by the food industry is that “we all want cheap food,” and that this commodity style production delivers. Remember the cheap food many supposedly desire, has been paid for once already through the taxpayer—in the enormous subsidies and crop insurance payments given to this broken model of food production. It is also good advice to heed, that what is not spent on nutrient-dense foods, will be spent in the doctor’s office.

Choosing foods that have been grown in soils that are not dead, and by practices that are fair and just for humans and animals, must become paramount in the consumer’s mind, above and beyond “price.”

Many foods found in aisles 1-22 at the conventional grocery store contain highly processed foods that are quite expensive. Many do not hesitate to buy the new slimmed down bag of chips for 4.29, while nutrient dense foods are considered too pricey to obtain. That same slimmed down bag of chips will buy you a whole bag of organic yellow or red potatoes.

What our bodies crave are nutrient-dense foods full of minerals and nourishment that satisfies. The empty calories of much of the processed foods now on the grocer’s shelf do not satisfy the inner needs of our bodies, resulting in continued grazing, trying to fill a hunger that seeks true nourishment for the demands of the body and mind.

Along with respecting the land, we must respect the hard workers in food production, embracing them as worthy of fair treatment and human rights that are currently devoid in the commodity food production model, held in the hands of a few agri-giants. The treatment of farm workers has a long history of exploitation of a large segment of the population willing to do whatever manual laborers do to survive, despite the unfair labor conditions and exposures to life-threatening and health-altering conditions.

Fair wages, benefits and overtime are necessary for these workers. The future of farming must be one where people can realize its ownership, not just be mere cogs in the wheel of an industrial machine—workers on a grim landscape.

Animal husbandry and humane animal treatment must also come to the forefront of these discussions. “Cow comforts” that are exempt of the natural pastoral lifestyles of these ruminant animals, do not make up for the lack of movement, pastures, and fresh air and sunshine that every living thing needs for health. Animals kept in confinement, referred to as units and given artificial enhancements to increase production (BGH), have been reduced to a commodity easily manipulated for greatest profits and productivity. Redefining a living animal, a cow, into a “unit,” is wrong. “Units producing” (cows) and “units consuming” (people) become a mere commodity circulating much like the “cow carousel” in the milking parlor. The distancing of the reality of where our food comes from, unaware of the working hands and working animals producing these products, leaves one with the robotic feeling of units cranking out production—consuming units buying in a detached land called the grocery store.

True nutrition can never be derived from sources where human and animal abuses have occurred. Nutrient-dense foods must come from living soils and clean water, and must include the humane treatment of men, women, children, and animals. Choosing foods that are nutrient-dense and have been grown with kindness to humans, animals, and our Earth is a better choice. Support your local farmer or CSA, farmers market, or better yet, grow your own, and become part of the hands-on connectedness in acquiring foods that do not merely fill a hunger, but foods that nourish one's body, both physically and spiritually. Come back home to foods that actually have flavor again, and a taste that begets one to say, "I remember when food used to taste like this!"

By Nancy L. Utesch

Nancy lives in Kewaunee, Wisconsin, on 150 acres, where she and her husband raise grass-fed beef with a small herd of Shorthorn cattle, using rotational grazing methods.

DCEC/DPO Scholarship Opportunity

The DCEC is announcing its annual scholarship campaign to find qualified high school students to apply for a \$1000 scholarship grant towards their college tuition. Application forms can be found on the DCEC website, www.dcec-wi.org by scanning the code below. The deadline to apply is April 15.



Adopt-a-Highway

Your Door County Environmental Council has been assigned a new section of highway as part of the Wisconsin Adopt-a-Highway Program. Our newly adopted section is State Highway 42 from Willow Road to County Highway T. Signs recognizing the DCEC will be erected by the Door County Highway Department after being received from the supplier.

We usually have two clean-ups per year, one in the spring (April/May) and the other in the fall (October/November). If you would like to volunteer to help, please contact us at 920-743-6003 or contact@dcec-wi.org. More information regarding the Adopt-a-Highway Program can be found at the Wisconsin Department of Transportation Adopt-A-Highway program website.



Mouthful

Photo by Mike Bahrke

Tier 1: A Joint Partnership Between Fincantieri & Wisconsin DNR

It's official! The Green Bay shipbuilding company, Fincantieri ACE Marine (FAM), made the official announcement of the acceptance into Tier 1 of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Green Tier program. FAM is a subsidiary of the Fincantieri Marine Group, a United States division of Fincantieri, one of the world's largest shipbuilders.

As explained by the DNR's website, the Green Tier program is an opt-in program for businesses, local governments, and organizations who desire to go above and beyond compliance to improve their ecological footprint and influence. Tier 1 supports, acknowledges, and incentivizes businesses that are committed to exceptional environmental performance.

According to D'Onne Murray, Quality Systems Coordinator at Fincantieri ACE Marine, "FAM is committed to improving our environmental performance. We are excited to partner with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and join Green Tier. Our goal is to improve efficiency, increase visibility to our efforts, and obtain ISO 14001 certification" (Machado, 2025)

This new partnership between Fincantieri and the Wisconsin DNR would yield positive and impactful results, including a reduction in their ecological footprint, and sustainable practices when it comes to shipbuilding.

By Nathaniel Boutross, Director

Emilio Machado. (2025, January 23). *Fincantieri ACE Marine joins DNR's Green Tier Program*. Wisconsin DNR. <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/newsroom/release/103146>



*Fincantieri Bay Shipbuilding, Sturgeon Bay and gantry crane, Big Blue.
Photo by Kaethe Gutierrez*

Fincantieri Bay Shipbuilding, located in Sturgeon Bay, is one of the Fincantieri Marine Group of Great Lakes shipyards in Wisconsin, along with ACE Marine and Marinette Marine.



Merchant vessels wintering at Fincantieri Bay shipbuilding. Photo by Nathaniel Boutross

Why the DCEC Invests in Water Testing: Safeguarding Our Most Precious Resource

Door County, with its pristine shorelines, freshwater lakes, and delicate ecosystems, is one of Wisconsin's most beautiful natural treasures. Its abundant water resources—spanning Lake Michigan, Green Bay, and countless inland streams—form the backbone of the region's environment, economy, and community health. To ensure that these waters remain clean and safe, the Door County Environmental Council (DCEC) dedicates significant time, energy, and funding to water testing initiatives. But why is water testing such a priority for the DCEC, and what makes it so critical for Door County?

The Role of Water in Door County

Water isn't just a scenic feature of Door County; it's an integral part of life. The region's unique geography, defined by its karst bedrock (a porous limestone that allows water and contaminants to flow quickly through the ground), makes its water supply particularly vulnerable to pollution. This geology creates a direct connection between the surface and groundwater, leaving the county's drinking water and waterways at higher risk for contamination.

Additionally, Door County's economy thrives on clean water. Tourism draws thousands of visitors to its beaches, parks, and resorts each year. Local agriculture depends on water for irrigation and livestock, while fishing and recreation contribute significantly to the community's culture and economy. Without access to safe, clean water, the region's way of life would

face unprecedented challenges.

The Threats to Door County's Water Quality

Despite its importance, Door County's water faces growing threats from human activity and environmental pressures. Some of the major risks include:

- *Agricultural Runoff:*
As farming is a key part of the local economy, fertilizers, pesticides, and manure can wash into waterways, carrying harmful nutrients and pathogens. This runoff can lead to contamination of drinking water and spur harmful algal blooms in lakes and streams.
- *Failing Septic Systems:*
Many homes in rural areas of Door County rely on septic systems for wastewater management. Over time, outdated or malfunctioning systems can leak harmful bacteria and chemicals into the groundwater, creating health hazards for residents.
- *Development and Tourism:*
Door County's popularity as a vacation destination has led to increased development. This expansion can strain water resources, disrupt natural filtration systems, and increase pollution from stormwater runoff.
- *Algal Blooms and E. coli Risks:*
Polluted water can trigger algal blooms, which reduce oxygen levels and harm aquatic ecosystems. Similarly, E. coli outbreaks have closed beaches in the past, threatening public health and tourism revenue.

Why DCEC Focuses on Water Testing

In response to these threats, the DCEC

has made water testing a cornerstone of its environmental advocacy. Here's why:

- *Early Detection of Contamination:*
Regular water testing helps identify pollutants like nitrates, phosphates, bacteria, and heavy metals before they reach dangerous levels. By catching these issues early, the DCEC can work with the community to prevent widespread damage.
- *Protecting Public Health:*
Testing ensures that drinking water remains safe for residents, while beaches and recreational waters are free from harmful bacteria. This vigilance reduces the risk of waterborne illnesses.
- *Driving Accountability and Policy Change:*
Water testing results empower DCEC to hold polluters accountable and advocate for stricter environmental protections. These efforts are essential for long-term water quality.
- *Education and Community Awareness:*
DCEC shares water testing data with the public, raising awareness about water quality issues. This transparency inspires residents and businesses to adopt practices that protect the county's water.

How Water Testing Works

The DCEC conducts water testing in partnership with local organizations, government agencies, and volunteers. The process includes collecting samples from wells, streams, lakes, and beaches across Door County. These samples are then analyzed for a range of contaminants, including bacteria (such as *E. coli*), nitrates, phosphates, and other pollutants that threaten public health or aquatic ecosystems.

In addition to direct testing, the DCEC also



Water testing monitor- Baileys Harbor Ridges County Park Photo by Mike Bahrke

works to educate residents about protecting water quality. This includes initiatives like distributing information on proper septic system maintenance and encouraging sustainable farming practices. By combining science, advocacy, and education, the Council creates a comprehensive approach to water stewardship.

The Impact of Water Testing

The DCEC's water testing initiatives have had tangible benefits for Door County. For example, testing efforts have identified sources of contamination, hopefully leading to projects that prevent further pollution. Results from these tests will be used for informed local policy decisions, helping to establish regulations that protect water quality. Furthermore, sharing water quality data with the community has strengthened public trust and inspired grassroots support for clean water initiatives.

Challenges and the Path Forward

While water testing is essential, it's not without challenges. Funding is a constant concern; as expanding testing programs

and addressing emerging threats (like PFAS contamination) require significant resources. Additionally, staying ahead of new pollutants and adapting to changing environmental conditions is an ongoing task.

Despite these hurdles, the DCEC remains committed to its mission. By investing in water testing, the council ensures that the county's water remains safe, clean, and sustainable. Their efforts underscore a simple yet powerful truth: protecting water is protecting life.

Conclusion: A Call to Action

Door County's water is its lifeblood—critical not just for the environment, but for the health, economy, and future of the community. The DCEC's commitment to water testing reflects their dedication to safeguarding this precious resource. But they can't do it alone.

Residents, visitors, and stakeholders all have a role to play. You can support DCEC's water testing initiatives by donating, volunteering, or advocating for stronger environmental protections. Together, we can ensure that Door County's waters remain a source of pride, joy, and sustenance for generations to come.

By Emeil Marks, President



Food for winter

Photo by Mike Bahrke

Door County Environmental Council 2024 Accomplishments

Your Door County Environmental Council accomplished much during 2024. The following is a partial listing.

- Sponsored and funded phosphorus testing by the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh at seven Door County beaches
- Launched a new, informative website
- Successfully opposed an HL-10 amendment that would have allowed commercial development on 5000 acres of residentially owned property in Liberty Grove
- Defended Newport Beach State Park's original development restrictions in opposition to a proposed 100-seat amphitheater to be constructed on the beach
- Wrote and published four high-quality newsletters
- Sponsored four free, open to the public, educational programs featuring expert speakers
- Lobbied for the environment at many government meetings
- Wrote and received funding from two grant requests

DCEC Activities Planned for 2025

- Provide a full season of guest speaker programs free to the public
- Continue to publish quarterly newsletters
- Continue water testing at Door County beaches
- Advocate and collaborate on the development of prairie strips to protect soil and water and provide wildlife habitat.

DCEC Leadership

PRESIDENT: Emeil Marks, Sister Bay
 VICE-PRESIDENT: Elizabeth Warner, Ellison Bay
 SECRETARY: Paul Leline, Baileys Harbor
 TREASURER: Steve Eatough, Sister Bay

DIRECTORS:

Nathaniel Boutross, Sturgeon Bay
 Patricia Pratapas, Brussels
 Robert Sijgers, Forestville
 Mark Villers, Nasewaupsee

HONORARY DIRECTORS:

Tony Haswell
 James Ingwersen
 Flora Langlois
 Bob Merline
 Karen Wilson
 Libby Zimmerman

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: Mike Bahrke, Ellison Bay
 BOOKKEEPER: Karen McCarthy, Ellison Bay
 COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR:
 Kaethe Gutierrez, Sturgeon Bay

The Door County Environmental Council
 10579 Country Walk Drive, Unit #24
 Sister Bay, WI 54234
 (920) 743-6003 and 920-633-4084
 On the web: www.dcec-wi.org
 Email: contact@dcec-wi.org



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The Door County Environmental Council at
[https://www.facebook.com/](https://www.facebook.com/DCwiEnvironmentalCouncil/)
[DCwiEnvironmentalCouncil/](https://www.facebook.com/DCwiEnvironmentalCouncil/)

Your Government Representatives

Governor Tony Evers

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 Email: Eversinfo@wisconsin.gov
www.evers.wi.gov

State Senator Andre Jacques

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www.legis.wisconsin.gov/senate/01/jacque

State Representative Joel C. Kitchens

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U.S. Representative Tony Wied

1211 Longworth House Office Bldg.
 Washington DC 20515
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 De Pere office: (920)301-4500

DCEC MEMBERSHIP FORM -- JOIN TODAY!!

- ☐ \$25 Friend (Student/ Limited Income) ☐ \$40 Supporter (Individual) ☐ \$60 Stewards (Family)
☐ \$100 Guardian ☐ \$250 Champion ☐ \$_____ Other

Name (s) _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Email _____
 Phone (____) _____

*Please mail with payment to: DCEC, 10579 Country Walk Dr., Unit #24, Sister Bay, WI 54234
 or scan the QR code above to join at the website. The DCEC is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.*



10579 Country Walk Drive, Unit #24
Sister Bay, WI 54234

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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Visit us on the web at www.dcec-wi.org, email at contact@dcec-wi.org,
and on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/DCwiEnvironmentalcouncil/>

Fact Sheet: Composting Food Waste and Other Source-Separated Compostable Materials at Yard Residuals Facilities

PUB-WA-2046



This document provides an explanation of requirements in ch. NR 502, Wis. Adm. Code, for operators of a licensed yard residuals composting facility that would like to add a separate small-scale food waste or other source-separated compostable material (SSCM) compost facility on the same property.

If your plan is to mix all the yard residuals with the food waste or other SSCM, you will need to convert your licensed yard residuals compost facility to a licensed SSCM compost facility and follow applicable requirements.

If you have questions about which requirements apply to a specific situation or activity, contact the Department of Natural Resources waste management specialist for the county your facility is located in by searching “compost” as the subject area in the [DNR’s staff directory](#).

Terms and Background

Food waste: In this document, food waste means compostable food that is not being eaten, such as fruit, vegetable and bread scraps; coffee grounds and tea leaves; eggshells; and food-soiled paper. This can also include meat scraps and certified compostable bags, plates and utensils, but these items may take more time and management to effectively compost.

Source-separated compostable material: SSCM is a regulatory term used in solid waste code regulations that refers to all the wastes that can be composted under a solid waste compost facility license. It includes food waste, plant waste (including crops and aquatic plants), fruit and vegetable food processing waste, fish processing waste, yard waste, manure and animal bedding from herbivorous (non-meat-eating) animals that are not deer or elk, clean chipped wood and sawdust, non-recyclable compostable paper and certified compostable plastics. For the definition, see [s. NR 500.03\(219m\), Wis. Adm. Code](#).

Adding less than 50 cubic yards of food waste or other SSCM

A compost facility with the capacity of 50 cubic yards or less and that contains only food waste or other SSCM does not need a state solid waste approval or a compost facility license. Any local regulations still apply. The facility’s capacity includes the volume of raw food waste or other SSCM (feedstock) plus the volume of compost being processed but does not include the volume of finished compost.

To operate a less than 50 cubic yard compost facility that only contains food waste or other SSCM:

- Keep the food waste or SSCM pile separate and distinct from yard-residuals-only compost piles on the property to maintain their reduced regulatory requirements.

- De-bag or break open raw materials in non-compostable bags, other than leaves and brush, within 24 hours of receipt at the facility. [s. NR 502.12(10)(b)]
- Incorporate food residuals from canned, frozen or preserved fruit or vegetable processing operations into the composting process within 72 hours of receipt. [NR 502.12(10)(b)1.]
- Incorporate all other food waste into the composting process on the same day it is accepted. Cover pile with a minimum of 6 inches of compost, high-carbon material such as wood chips or other suitable cover to control odor and vectors. [s. NR 502.12(10)(b)2.]
- Prevent access to the pile by dogs and wild animals. [s. NR 502.12(10)(b)3.]
- Follow the remaining operational requirements that apply for yard-residuals-only compost piles. [s. NR 502.12(7)]

Adding between 50 and 5,000 cubic yards of food waste or other SSCM

A food waste compost operation that is between 50 and 5,000 cubic yards and only contains food waste and other SSCM can operate with reduced requirements but must obtain a plan of operation approval and a compost facility license from the DNR in addition to any local regulations. The facility's capacity includes the volume of raw food waste or other SSCM (feedstock) plus the volume of compost being processed but does not include the volume of finished compost.

Required paperwork and fee to add a 50 to 5,000 cubic yard compost facility that only contains food waste or other SSCM:

1. If you are expanding your approved operational area **or** your yard-residuals-only compost site is less than 1,000 cubic yards and was previously exempt from meeting initial site inspection requirements under s. NR 502.12(6)(b), Wis. Adm. Code:
 - Complete the ISI application (Form 4400-209) and submit to the DNR with the \$550 fee.
 - Schedule an inspection with the DNR and get a feasibility response recommending the location for composting.
2. Complete a new compost facility application (Form 4400-282) for a 50 – 5,000 cubic yard SSCM compost site, including Sections 1 – 9 and Section 11. Compared to a yard-residuals-only compost facility application, you will now need to also include:
 - **Section 7:** a written plan for operating the facility including: information on methods and equipment; facility layout; the proposed feedstock mix and carbon-to-nitrogen ratio; compost monitoring methods; compost markets; and compost pad design.
 - **Section 8:** drawings of the site and the Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) worksheet.

Closure cost estimates are not required for this facility type.

3. Obtain a written plan of operation approval and license from the DNR. Plan review and license fees are waived for composting operations.

Facility operational requirements for a less than 5,000 cubic yard compost facility that accepts food waste:

- Keep the food waste or SSCM compost facility separate and distinct from the yard-residuals-only compost piles or other compost facilities on the property to maintain their reduced regulatory requirements.
- De-bag or break open raw materials in non-compostable bags, other than leaves and brush, within 24 hours of receipt at the facility. [s. NR 502.12(10)(b)]

- Incorporate food residuals from canned, frozen or preserved fruit or vegetable processing operations into the composting process within 72 hours of receipt. [s. NR 502.12(10)(b)1.]
- Incorporate all other food waste into the composting process on the same day it is accepted. Cover pile with a minimum of 6 inches of compost, high carbon material such as wood chips or other suitable cover to control odor and vectors. [s. NR 502.12(10)(b)2.]
- Prevent access to the pile by dogs and wild animals. [s. NR 502.12(10)(b)3.]
- Follow the remaining operational requirements that apply for yard-residuals-only compost facilities.

Carbon to Nitrogen Ratios and Food Waste

A mix of “browns” (material high in carbon) and “greens” (material high in nitrogen) is important for effective composting. The most effective mix for composting is 20-40 pounds of available carbon to every 1 pound of nitrogen. This is called a carbon to nitrogen ratio or “C:N”. Every feedstock will contain both carbon and nitrogen, but each has its own internal ratio of carbon to nitrogen. “Browns” are feedstocks with a C:N that is above 30:1 while “greens” have a C:N below 30:1.

Food waste is a green that has a C:N ratio of around 15:1 and wood chips are a brown that have an available C:N ratio of around 250:1. Because the C:N for food waste is much closer to ideal composting conditions than the C:N for wood chips, by weight you would only need to mix a small amount of wood waste with food waste to obtain the proper C:N ratio. Mixing 1 pound of wood chips for every 15 pounds of food waste would give you a C:N ratio right around 30:1. Because food waste is denser than wood chips, the amount of each added by volume would be about 2 cubic yards of food waste to 1 cubic yard of woodchips.

Carbon to Nitrogen Ratio Take Aways

- Food waste on its own is higher in nitrogen than what is ideal for composting. It needs to be mixed with high carbon materials such as wood to properly compost.
- By volume, you can estimate 2 cubic yards of mixed food waste for every 1 cubic yard of wood chips.
- There are links to tools to help determine the right mix of feedstocks on the DNR’s compost webpage.
- When composting, an ammonia smell likely means more carbon is needed.
- When composting, struggling to reach 131 degrees Fahrenheit likely means more nitrogen is needed.

DNR Contact information

For more information on this subject, including publications, staff contacts, and administrative codes and statutes, go to dnr.wi.gov and search “compost.” Staff contact information can also be found by searching “compost” in the [staff directory](#).

Mailing address: DNR Waste & Materials Management Program, PO Box 7921 Madison, WI 53707

Email: DNRWasteMaterials@Wisconsin.gov

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From: Jeff Lutsey <jeff@lnrp.org>

Sent: Monday, March 17, 2025 1:57 PM

To: Lilly Orozco <lilly.orozco@sisterbaywi.gov>; Paula Anschutz <Preservingfoundations@gmail.com>; Sarah White <peachbarnbrewing@gmail.com>; Julie Schmelzer <julie.schmelzer@sisterbaywi.gov>

Subject: Big Plant Trees!

Hello Sister Bay Friends!

We are gearing up for another great BIG PLANT tree-planting season, working to plant another 12,000+ trees in the county!

Are you looking for trees for Sister Bay? If interested, let me know how many trays (of 18 little 2-year-old trees each) you are seeking. More info and pictures of the trees can be found here:

<https://www.climatechangedoorcounty.com/door-county-big-plant>

Last year you ordered 9 trays for Sister Bay, and if my memory serves me right, I think that was a couple too many. Even with the cool volunteer team giving the trees away at Piggly Wiggly, that was toooo many trees!

(We also have good low-cost deciduous trees for sale!)

I'll get the trees to my house and provide a couple pick-up dates, April 22 or 27.

Please let me know. And if you have any improvement suggestions for how we do this tree-planting and tree-education work, of course please let me know!

Related, we are still working on our free public tree-planting events. When we work out the times and locations for these, we'll let you know!

Much appreciated,

Jeff Lutsey

Executive Director

Climate Change Coalition of Door County

Lakeshore Natural Resource Partnership

920-217-4304 | www.climatechangedoorcounty.com



Supporting Action Id	Action	Year Implemented, enter UNK if unknown	Completed, Ongoing or In Progress, In Planning	Narrative Report (Optional - describe the project or action)
HESA-1	Implement zoning ordinances and programs to enable home-based or community gardens and food plots to improve accessibility to local food production and implement locations for resale of made goods and produce	2021	In Planning	No new activity
HESA-2	Enact a Health in All Policies resolution or ordinance	2024	Completed	
HESA-3	Incorporate Health in All Policies (HIAP) and Diversity Equity Income (DEI) objectives in Comprehensive Plan updates	2023	In Planning	Comprehensive Plan to be adopted in 2025.
HESA-4	Identify healthy food deserts in the community and use economic development tools to eliminate those deserts.	2024	In Planning	No new activity
HESA-5	Adopt an ordinance that bans use of tobacco and e-cigarettes on municipal lands and that limits exposure to secondhand smoke in apartment buildings	2024	In Planning	No new activity
HESA-6	Implement a plan for crime reduction through environmental design	2023	Ongoing	No new activity
HESA-7	Establish a Health Impact Assessments policy and procedures to assess existing and proposed programs or projects, including when an assessment is required and its scope https://www.cdc.gov/healthyplaces/hia.htm			N/A

HESA-8	Create a Food Systems Plan that addresses the production, distribution, value-added, marketing, end-market, and disposal of food, and charge a new or existing governmental body to oversee the plan's implementation.			N/A
HESA-9	Create a Food Policy Council to advise governing officials and staff on ways to provide cheap, accessible, healthy food options to the community, especially sensitive populations.			N/A
HESA-10	Establish and implement Harm Reduction strategies for establishments such as alcohol outlets, gun stores, and sexual oriented establishments (e.g. zoning limitations and ordinances). https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/scaoda/alcohol-prevention-report.pdf	2022	Ongoing	No new activity
HESA-11	Implement a wellness program for employees and engage employers to establish employee wellness programs.	2023	Ongoing	Voluntarily participation in the Well Wisconsin program available to all staff with employer-sponsored insurance.
HESA-12	Provide a farmers market for at least 6 months out of the year and ensure participation in the EBT/Foodshare program to enable Foodshare participants to benefit	2022	Ongoing	No new activity
HESA-13	Provide, support, or encourage health and equity professional development opportunities for staff	2022	Ongoing	No new activity
HESA-14	Complete a community vulnerability assessment https://coast.noaa.gov/digitalcoast/topics/vulnerability https://em.countyofdane.com/hazards/mitigation-plan			N/A

HESA-15	Improve all aspects of the Health In All Policies program by increasing the amount of grant funding awarded to the City/County and track the amount of funding annually by making it part of staff responsibilities to do so. Please elaborate on this action in the NAR portion of the report.			N/A
HESA-16	Create a racial equity Action Plan			N/A
HESA-17	Use a tool, such as TOCA, to help assess your local government's culture and readiness to engage in racial equity work.			N/A
HESA-18	Conduct a survey of citizens' perception of diversity and inclusion within the municipality.	2021	Completed	
HESA-19	Create municipal board/committee(s) specifically focused on sustainability, resource conservation, environmental and equity concerns, etc.	2021	Ongoing	New members are encouraged to join.
HESA-20	Host regular educational events related to equity, inclusivity, and diversity	2021	Ongoing	No new activity
HESA-21	Create a process for community members to directly offer input in decision making (eg. participatory budgeting, deliberative engagement, etc.)	2023	Ongoing	All comments and correspondence by the public is welcome.
HESA-22	Create a language access plan to ensure equal access to local government processes and information regardless of primary language	2023	Completed	
HESA-23	Conduct an analysis of your local boards/commissions/committees to better understand power and representation.	2022	Ongoing	No new activity
HESA-24	Create a plan or process by which you can increase diversity and representation on local boards/commissions/committees, especially active recruitment of members from underrepresented, vulnerable and impacted communities.	2022	Ongoing	No new activity

HESA-25	Create a local committee, task force, or team that is interdepartmental and can coordinate complex issues of health, safety, and sustainability across departments	2024	In Planning	No new activity
HESA-26	Demonstrate communication and/or coordination between city departments and public health (whether city or county). Examples include inviting public health to the table during a Comprehensive Planning process, or Plans related to housing, transportation, etc. Conversely, Public Health can collaborate with city departments for things like the Community Health Improvement Process and Community Health Assessment process.	2024	In Planning	No new activity
HESA-27	Improve all aspects of the DEI and HIAP programs by increasing the amount of grant funding awarded to the City/County and track the amount of funding annually by making it part of staff responsibilities to do so. Please elaborate on this action in the NAR portion of the report.	2021	Ongoing	No new activity

Supportin g Action Id	Action	Year Impleme nted, enter	Completed, Ongoing or In Progress, In Planning	Narrative Report (Optional - describe the project or action)
ERSA-1	Complete a municipal GHG inventory for Scope 1 and 2 and establish baseline emissions	2021	Ongoing	No activity
ERSA-2	Complete a municipal GHG inventory for Scope 3 and establish baseline emissions	2021	Ongoing	No activity
ERSA-3	Complete the ICLEI US Community Protocol and establish baseline emissions			No activity
ERSA-4	Establish municipal and community-wide emissions reduction, energy reduction, onsite renewable energy and/or energy efficiency goals in a supporting plan or resolution.	2023	In Progress	Purchased a new shuttle bus in 2024 for public transportation that is more energy efficient than the previous bus
ERSA-5	Use Focus on Energy, utility Commitment to Community programs, and/or other resources to conduct energy assessments on municipal facilities that are identified as high energy users	2023	Ongoing	No activity
ERSA-6	Use ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager, or other software tools, to track energy use in all municipal facilities	2023	In Progress	No activity
ERSA-7	Require new municipal buildings, and significant remodels of existing buildings, to be designed to achieve a sustainable building certification, such as an ENERGY STAR score of 75, or certification through LEED, WELL, Passive House, Net Zero Energy, Green Globes, or Living Building. The local government may specify the sustainability standard(s) that it will recognize and include an EUI target in the construction contract	2023	In Progress	Began construction on a new Public Works building in late 2024. Anticipated completion was spring 2025, but delays occurred over the winter and new completion date is Fall 2025. A new administration building was planned to break ground in Spring 2025, but delayed for possible relocation to an alternate site or renovation of an existing building.

ERSA-8	Increase visibility of renewable energy in the community by installing PV systems at government facilities and enable public access to electricity production data monitoring.	2023	In Planning	No activity
ERSA-9	Offer renewable energy purchasing or participation programs or promote existing programs from outside sources to residents and businesses.	2023	Ongoing	No activity
ERSA-10	Take steps to simplify the solar permitting process and remove other barriers to residential solar implementation.	Unknown	Completed	
ERSA-11	Leverage Focus on Energy and University of Wisconsin System resources to offer public educational programs, or otherwise provide resources for interested parties, on energy efficiency upgrades for homes and businesses	2023	In Progress	No activity
ERSA-12	Implement a plan to upgrade all municipally owned or controlled streetlights and stop lights to LED lamps.	2022	Completed	
ERSA-13	Incorporate energy efficiency upgrades for lighting, HVAC and building shells for all municipal buildings into the community's capital improvement plan.	2023	In Progress	Will be installed with completion of the Public Works building.
ERSA-14	Make watt meters available to the public			N/A
ERSA-15	Adopt an energy use disclosure ordinance for residential and/or commercial buildings (Requires the seller of a property to inform prospective buyers of the building's energy use for one, or more previous years).	2024	In Planning	No activity
ERSA-16	Pass a resolution to become a State of Wisconsin Energy Independent Community with updated goals extending beyond 25% renewable energy by 2025			No activity

ERSA-17	Purchase renewable electricity for municipal buildings	2024	In Planning	No activity
ERSA-18	Establish policy requiring that all new and renovated municipal buildings must achieve a community-determined sustainable building certification	2023	In Planning	No activity
ERSA-19	Capture biogas from wastewater treatment facility, landfill, or community compost facility and use biogas to power operations.			N/A
ERSA-20	Implement a plan to upgrade all municipally owned or controlled street lights to LED lamps.	2022	Completed	Installation will be completed in 2025.
ERSA-21	Include energy efficiency, renewable energy, and/or sustainable building certification requirements or incentives into TIF policies and other programs assisting commercial development projects.	2023	In Planning	No activity
ERSA-22	Improve all aspects of the energy reduction program by increasing the amount of grant funding awarded to the City/County and track the amount of funding annually by making it part of staff responsibilities to do so. Please elaborate on this action in the narrative portion of the report.	2023	Ongoing	No activity
Other	Describe a supporting action your community has taken that is not in the list	2023	Completed in 2025	Bike racks installed in Waterfront park to encourage bicycle use, thereby reducing emissions.

Supporting Action Id	Action	Year Implemented, enter UNK if unknown	Completed, Ongoing or In Progress, In Planning	Narrative Report (Optional - describe the project or action)
TSSA-1	Require bike parking for all new non-residential and multifamily uses.	2022	Ongoing	No activity
TSSA-2	Set standard for placement and number (as function of intensity of use) of bike parking spaces. See: https://www.apbp.org/bicycle-parking-solutions https://www.apbp.org/assets/docs/EssentialsofBikeParking_FINA.pdf	2023	In Planning	No activity
TSSA-3	Create public-facing resource showing all bike routes and pedestrian paths.	2023	Ongoing	Northern Door Trails Committee actively meeting to plan trail construction, with maps to follow.
TSSA-4	Identify, sign, maintain, and clear bike routes in the community year-round	2004	Ongoing	Northern Door Trails Committee actively meeting to plan trail construction, with maps to follow.
TSSA-5	Receive certification by the League of American Bicyclists as a Bicycle Friendly Community. Work with Businesses to promote bike commuting Source: https://www.activewisconsin.org/ and https://www.bikeleague.org/	2023-2025	In Planning	No activity
TSSA-6	Promote bike safety and other active living education and awareness sessions, through in-school education programming, bike rodeos, and other public-facing efforts; or work with a community organization to do the same	2025	In Planning	No
TSSA-7	Implement a bike-share program for residents and visitors	Unknown	Completed	

TSSA-8	Require large employers (50+ employees) seeking rezoning to create a transportation demand management plan			N/A
TSSA-9	Increased safe pedestrian and bike routes to parks and public greenspace and other key destinations (grocery stores, schools, other public facilities, etc.)	2023	In Planning	Currently underway by the Northern Door Trails Committee
TSSA-10	Eliminate or lower parking minimums from non-residential districts, when applicable	2023	Ongoing	No activity
TSSA-11	Charge impact fees to developers for new roads and utilities	2023	Ongoing	Still ongoing through the zoning process
TSSA-12	Create and implement a plan to incorporate EVs, hybrids, and alternative fuel vehicles to municipal fleet vehicle replacement plan.	2022	Ongoing	No activity
TSSA-13	Install public EV charging stations	2023	In Planning	Parks Committee has opted not to pursue this at this time.
TSSA-14	Create a policy and train staff that prohibits idling of municipal fleet vehicles for more than 5 minutes			No activity
TSSA-15	Ban idling of unoccupied vehicles community-wide			N/A
TSSA-16	Prepare a plan that identifies disconnections in bike and pedestrian networks, prioritizing fixes and identifying potential funding sources for the most important projects. Consider solving the last mile challenge where present.	2023	In Planning	Northern Door Trails Committee working on this.
TSSA-17	Identify four-lane roadways with fewer than 20,000 vehicles per day (AADT) and evaluate them for "road diets" with bike lanes or on-street parking			N/A
TSSA-18	Calculate Walkscores and Bikescores for the community on the whole and develop a plan to improve those scores Source: https://www.census.gov/topics/employment/commuting/guidance/commuting.html	2024	In Planning	No activity

TSSA-19	Establish an expanded public transit that serves commuters from all neighborhoods and major parks and recreation facilities, and has racks on vehicles for carrying bicycles.	2023	In Planning	Village has one active shuttle for public transportation. Future plans are to grow the public transportation program for use by residents needing public services (doctor, grocery store, etc) and not just shuttling passengers at bar closing time.
TSSA-20	Adopt and implement a pedestrian and bicycle safety and improvements plan	2023	In Planning	Waiting on completion of trail system
TSSA-21	Create a standing committee to promote pedestrian and bicycle improvements	2024		Committee has been dissolved.
TSSA-22	Implement a complete streets plan			No activity
TSSA-23	Evaluate any proposal to add lanes to a two-lane roadway for a center turn lane, the preferred option over an expansion to four lanes.			N/A
TSSA-24	Improve all aspects of the transportation systems program by increasing the amount of grant funding awarded to the City/County and track the amount of funding annually by making it part of staff responsibilities to do so. Please elaborate on this action in the NAR portion of the report.	2023	In Progress	Grant funding was not awarded in 2024 for multi-jurisdictional trail. Village has been participating in a larger Northern Door Trails Committee to explore other options that would serve a larger community network.
TSSA-25	Incorporate access to bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure into decisions for siting of municipal county and school facilities, as well as into zoning decisions	2023	Ongoing	No activity
TSSA-26	Pass ordinances that support the reduction of GHG emissions from transportation, including more funding for walking, biking, transit, reduced idling, required impact fees, transportation demand management, etc.			N/A
Other	Describe a supporting action your community has taken that is not in the list	2025	Completed	Installation of bike repair stations to encourage more use of bicycles in the community

Supporting Action Id	Action	Year Implemented, enter UNK if unknown	Completed, Ongoing or In Progress, In Planning	Narrative Report (Optional - describe the project or action)
LUSA-1	Identify priority areas, like business centers or corridors, underutilized former industrial areas, or other previously developed but poor quality areas along rivers, lakes, or streams, for infill development and then facilitate development of those areas without removal or with the addition of valuable green spaces (IE. Parks, recreational spaces, natural/preserved habitat, conservation lands). When possible restore shoreline and flood prone areas to native habitat or with low impact infrastructure like pathways or boardwalks.	Unknown	Completed	
LUSA-2	Facilitate or incentivize brownfield site redevelopment or remediation in the community or county. When possible restore areas in flood prone locations to native habitat.	2024	Ongoing	No activity
LUSA-3	Zoning codes allowing beekeeping on single family, institutional, or agricultural properties	Unknown	Completed	

LUSA-4	Increase requirements for minimum tree plantings in redevelopments and new developments and require planting of diverse native tree species.	Unknown	Completed	
LUSA-5	Set standards for redevelopment projects to reduce overall intensity of development by requiring green infrastructure and minimum green space provisions per square foot of impervious footprint.	Unknown	Ongoing	Text amendments to Zoning Code are still ongoing in 2025.
LUSA-6	Create land bank to acquire and assemble priority infill sites or to preserve land for flood mitigation, reduction of density, parks/dedicated public green space, or trails/pathways to increase accessibility	2022	Ongoing	No activity
LUSA-7	Revise zoning requirements for office and retail districts to permit floor-area ratio >1 on average https://www.planning.org/pas/reports/report111.htm	2024	In Planning	No activity

LUSA-8	Promote, through local policy initiatives, life cycle or adaptable housing options, such as "aging in place", accessory dwelling units (ADUs), Universal or Inclusive Design, Dementia Friendly Communities, Age-Friendly Communities, workshops, presentations, etc. to minimize sprawl and improve infill development and density.	2022	Ongoing	Work is being pursued by an outside agency.
LUSA-9	Adopt a tree preservation ordinance https://www.isa-arbor.com/education/onlineresources/treeordinanceguidelines	Unknown	Ongoing	No activity
LUSA-10	Set a tree canopy goal, perform a tree canopy assessment, and develop a forestry management plan to achieve it.	2023	Ongoing	No activity
LUSA-11	Require a planting scoresheet to regulate the amount of trees, shrubs, bushes that will be planted in redevelopments or new developments	Unknown	Ongoing	No activity
LUSA-12	Certification as Tree City USA			
LUSA-13	Certification as Bird City Wisconsin Community			

LUSA-14	Revise zoning codes for commercial, industrial, multifamily, or institutional properties to protect existing native habitats like sensitive areas, wildlife habitats, and wetlands, or to require installation of green infrastructure.	Unknown	Ongoing	No activity
LUSA-15	Improve all aspects of the land use program by increasing the amount of grant funding awarded to the City/County and track the amount of funding annually by making it part of staff responsibilities to do so. Please elaborate on this action in the NAR portion of the report.	2023	In Progress	No activity
LUSA-16	Implement zoning code strategies to increase overall density located in areas that are highly accessible to population needs like public transit, healthy food options, daycare/childcare - schools, green space/recreational areas, and healthcare	2023	Completed	
LUSA-17	At the beginning of project planning identify potential opportunities and/or funding to better connect state, regional, or local greenspaces	2023	Ongoing	No activity

LUSA-18	Organize a volunteer work day on public or private lands to help promote sustainable land use impacts (pulling invasives, planting trees, improving trails, treating plants/trees, etc.).	2021	Ongoing	No volunteer day in 2024, but a day will be established in 2025. Participated in Big Plant 2024 by distributing trees at no cost to members of the community.
LUSA-19	Inform residents and businesses, including properties used for agriculture, that are located along waterways or within flood zones of ways to mitigate flood damage to their properties and businesses. (FEMA funding, flood mitigation techniques, process for filing a LOMR, etc.)	2024	Completed	Floodplain Ordinance was passed in early 2025 after input was received from residents through the public hearing process.
LUSA-20	Create agricultural incentives and educational material through a land and water conservation department and inform farmers on sustainable agricultural land use practices (cover crops, buffer crops, harvestable buffers, direct injection manure, composting, application practices, etc.)	2023	Ongoing	No activity
LUSA-21	Implement a conservation program to educate and incentivize the private ownership of deeded lands dedicated for conservationist practices, to be held on a permanent basis without the ability to develop or utilize for any economic or utilitarian purposes other than for ecological survey, hunting, fishing, or trapping. Many times these are done through conservation easements.	1992	Ongoing	No activity

	https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/aid/Easements.html Other Examples: https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Lands/VPA			
LUSA-22	Promote sustainable land use practices for private and institutional properties through education and outreach.	2022	Ongoing	Added additional trash barrels along state highway in the downtown area to reduce impacts of litter on the environment

Supporting Action Id	Action	Year Implemented, enter UNK if unknown	Completed, Ongoing or In Progress, In Planning	Narrative Report (Optional - describe the project or action)
WQCSA-1	Reduce use of synthetic chemical pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers in municipal, town, or county landscape management and try to promote use of more natural management processes.	2021	Ongoing	No new activity
WQCSA-2	Supervise chemical applicators during pesticide or other chemical application to storm water ponds to ensure best management practices are implemented	2022	Ongoing	No new activity
WQCSA-3	Create community policy and best management practices for minimizing chemical use during vegetation management	2024	In Planning	No new activity
WQCSA-4	Eliminate use of groundwater for irrigation in municipal landscape management	Unknown	Ongoing	No new activity
WQCSA-5	Establish 75-foot natural vegetation buffer around surface water	Unknown	Ongoing	No new activity
WQCSA-6	Apply block rates to residential and commercial water billing	Unknown	Ongoing	No new activity

WQCSA-7	Offer water and sewer billing credits for installation and use of stormwater management systems (ex. Rain barrels, rain gardens, swales, pervious pavement)			N/A
WQCSA-8	Develop a water efficiency and conservation plan for City, Town, or County buildings.	2021	Ongoing	No new activity
WQCSA-9	Install faucet aerators and low-flow plumbing fixtures in all municipal facilities	Unknown	Ongoing	Will continue with completion of Public Works building, and planned construction of a new Administration building and Marina office.
WQCSA-10	During televising inspections clean at least 10% of the entities sanitary sewer collection system per year	2022	Completed	
WQCSA-11	Televising or visually inspect greater than 10% of sanitary sewer collection system per year	2023	Completed	
WQCSA-12	Establish a program to inspect and control grease in sewer system	Unknown	Completed	
WQCSA-13	Create program and train staff to identify any unapproved illicit discharges from commercial and/or industrial users	Unknown	Ongoing	New operators trained annually
WQCSA-14	Establish legal authority to inspect private residences or businesses to prohibit sump pump connections to the sanitary sewer system	Unknown	Ongoing	New enforcement methods and monetary charges for violations introduced in 2024.
WQCSA-15	Establish a pretreatment or industrial control program that implements legal authority to administer fees/charges, to issue permit limitations for high flow and/or high strength waste discharges to the sanitary sewer system			N/A

WQCSA-16	Provide financial assistance to residents to replace lead sewer laterals.			N/A
WQCSA-17	Reduce rates of inflow and infiltration in sanitary system by at least 10%	2022	Ongoing	Completed through the process of cleaning outfalls and laterals.
WQCSA-18	Create an inventory of wetlands in the community and ensure no net loss of preserved wetlands.	2024	In Planning	No new activity
WQCSA-19	Adopt a transferable development rights program to provide an incentive for landowners to preserve sensitive natural lands and wildlife habitat on the fringe of waterways			N/A
WQCSA-20	Establish a dedicated source of funding for open space acquisition and management (e.g., bond proceeds, sales tax).	2024	Complete	
WQCSA-21	Provide financial support to or collaborate with land trusts to acquire critical natural areas on or near waterways	2023	Complete	
WQCSA-22	Develop a water loss control plan with targets below the 15% required by the state and include a system-wide water audit implementation and time table			N/A
WQCSA-23	Replace concrete channels with re-meandered and naturalized creeks, wetlands, or swales			N/A
WQCSA-24	Join EPA's WaterSense Program for water utilities or the Groundwater Guardian Green Sites program and promote them to local business.			N/A

WQCSA-25	Develop partnerships with businesses to repurpose high strength water waste.			N/A
WQCSA-26	Develop a storm sewer catch basin cleaning program to reduce trash, debris, suspended solids, and heavily laden organic material from entering water bodies			N/A
WQCSA-27	Develop leaf and yard waste collection program	2023	In Planning	No new activity
WQCSA-28	Develop a regular street sweeping program to reduce total suspended solids	Unknown	Ongoing	At the discretion of the Streets Director
WQCSA-29	Require redevelopment of commercial and light industrial business areas to incorporate stormwater management plans that set infiltration and pollutant reduction standards	Unknown	Ongoing	Required through the zoning process
WQCSA-30	Develop and implement annual construction permitting and inspection program	2023	Completed	
WQCSA-31	Develop and implement asset management plans that set targets for the sustainable maintenance, operation and renewal of water and wastewater infrastructure.			N/A
WQCSA-32	Facilitate public-private partnerships to offer rain barrels to residents annually.			N/A
WQCSA-33	Implement salt wise workshops for salt applicators and require Public Works applicators to get certified			N/A

WQCSA-34	Implement an incentive program for residents and multifamily complexes to encourage on demand water softener and low flow toilet installations			N.A
WQCSA-35	Develop financial incentive program to promote and increase the amount of green roofs and other types of stormwater runoff and treatment control best management practices in new developments and redevelopments			N/A
WQCSA-36	Implement a drug take back program and host a secure drop off site to mitigate the amount of drugs placed in the landfills or that get flushed to sewage treatment plants and eventually end up polluting rivers, lakes, streams, oceans.	2021	Completed	Done annually through the Village's Spring recycling day and again at the Town's sponsored recycling event every Fall.
WQCSA-37	Improve all aspects of the WQC program by increasing the amount of grant funding awarded to the City/County and track the amount of funding annually by making it part of staff responsibilities to do so. Please elaborate on this action in the NAR portion of the report.			N/A
WQCSA-38	Implement a stormwater and/or sanitary effluent testing or monitoring program to annually test at least 10% of the system.	2023	Ongoing	No new activity

WQCSA-39	Sponsor or hold education and outreach informational workshops, presentations, or other efforts designed to engage residents, business owners, or City/County staff on stormwater and water quality and conservation best management practices	2024	In Planning	No new activity
WQCSA-40	DNR requires creation of a program to get private wells abandoned when served by a local water utility. Create a process and maintain it to track and get all private wells in the City abandoned.	Unknown	Ongoing	The Village of Sister Bay does not require well abandonment in areas where public water/sewer is not available. Those systems are tracked and are required to be tested every five years.

Supporting Action Id	Action	Year Implemented, enter UNK if unknown	Completed, Ongoing or In Progress, In Planning	Narrative Report (Optional - describe the project or action)
SWSA-1	Conduct a waste audit for municipal facilities (including recycling, composting as able).			N/A
SWSA-2	Conduct a community-wide waste audit (including recycling, compost, as able), ideally breaking out data by different sectors (residential/commercial/institutional, renters/owners, etc.) to further elucidate performance and where to address future efforts.			N/A
SWSA-3	Implement an ordinance requiring or incentivizing the recycling and reuse of construction and demolition waste (at minimum, update information on requirements for C&D waste, including required asbestos notification to DNR). <i>Resources:</i> https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/SmallBusiness/Resources/ConstructDemo.html https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Demo	2022	Completed	

SWSA-4	Ensure community access to composting collection program. If access exists, engage in education and promotion to increase use of existing programs/facilities. If access is limited, implement curbside composting service (or another locally-relevant service that provides similar access) in the community.	2023	Ongoing	
SWSA-5	Ensure community access to collection programs for wood waste from construction & demolition and yard waste. If access exists, engage in education and promotion to increase use of existing programs/facilities. If access is limited, implement pickup/dropoff service or other collection program accessible to community members.	Unknown	Completed	
SWSA-6	Ensure community access to collection programs for electronic waste. If access exists, engage in education and promotion to increase use of existing programs/facilities. If access is limited, implement collection program accessible to community members. <i>Resource:</i> For electronics collection sites, see https://wisconsindnr.shinyapps.io/EcycleCollectorSite/	Unknown	Completed	

SWSA-7	Ensure community access to collection programs for hazardous waste (paints, volatile compounds, oils, batteries, pharmaceuticals, sharps, etc.). If access exists, engage in education and promotion to increase use of existing programs/facilities. If access is limited, implement a collection program accessible to community members. <i>Resource:</i> For sharps collection sites, see https://wisconsindnr.shinyapps.io/sharpsccollectorsite/	Unknown	Ongoing	Offered by the County Highway Department, so we must rely on their schedule.
SWSA-8	Host annual events to allow recycling of items that are typically difficult to recycle (E-waste, paints or volatile compounds, oils, batteries, etc.)	Unknown	Ongoing	No new activity
SWSA-9	Create and implement a municipal waste-reduction plan and education program following the “7 Rs” (Rethink, Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Repair, Rot, Recycle)	2022	Completed	
SWSA-10	Implement waste-reduction practices, such as encouraging electronic document use to decrease printing, and installing water bottle filling stations to reduce plastic bottle use.	2022	Completed	
SWSA-11	Spot-check businesses and rental properties to ensure adequate recycling facilities. Recycling facilities are required by law, but enforcement is complaint-based. Actively checking would go above and beyond existing regulations/compliance.	2024	Ongoing	Reviewed with renewal of STR licenses and visually inspected by contractor providing garbage removal services.

SWSA-12	Work with your MRF to expand the list of recyclables they accept, and provide clear guidance to residents on what can be recycled locally, keeping said guidance updated on a regular basis as markets and facilities change.	2022	Completed	
SWSA-13	Implement programs to help reduce the use of single-use shopping bags and Styrofoam containers.	2024	In Progress	Learned that state law prohibits a local ban on plastic shopping bags. Actively began planning the design and construction of a reusable bag (made from recycled material) for distribution in the community in 2025.
SWSA-14	Provide block polystyrene recycling pick-up or drop-off for residents			N/A
SWSA-15	Bill residents for municipal waste collection based on the amount of waste collected	Unknown	Completed	
SWSA-16	Consider a Master Recycling program (akin to Master Gardener and Master Naturalists programs), such as the one being piloted by the City of Madison and Sustain Dane. <i>Resource:</i> https://sustaindane.org/sustain-dane-programs/#masterrecycler			N/A

SWSA-17	Implement outreach strategies that provide education to residents and businesses on recycling and composting opportunities and requirements, building on the “7 Rs of recycling,” working to decrease “wish-cycling,” promoting life-cycle thinking through awareness of items made from recycled materials (e.g. park benches made from recycled plastic bottles), and increasing proper recycling behavior to minimize contamination and decrease costs associated with recycling. <i>Resources:</i> https://www.epa.gov/smm/sustainable-materials-management-smm-web-academy-webinar-effective-strategies-reducing	2022	Ongoing	Information is currently available on the website, and the committee will distribute additional materials through public events such as Big Plant.
SWSA-18	Implement a sustainable purchasing policy encouraging municipal purchases take into account factors such as made from recycled and recyclable/compostable materials, energy used to create the product, local sourcing, etc. <i>Resources:</i> https://epeat.net/ https://www.naspo.org/green-purchasing-guide/	Unknown	Ongoing	No new activity

SWSA-19	Implement outreach campaigns encouraging residents to donate unwanted items for reuse (for example, clothing and household items in good condition to thrift stores; cardboard boxes to moving companies, churches, or other organizations; building materials to companies like Habitat for Humanity).	Unknown	Completed	
SWSA-20	Utilize rechargeable batteries whenever possible for municipal purposes and recycle used lithium ion batteries	2022	Completed	
SWSA-21	Promote diversion of still-usable food from waste stream, through food banks, donation of deer meat from hunting season, partnerships between restaurants/grocers and food-donation programs, etc. <i>Resource:</i> https://www.epa.gov/sustainable-management-food/tools-preventing-and-diverting-wasted-food	2022	Ongoing	No new activity
SWSA-22	Improve all aspects of the SW program by increasing the amount of grant funding awarded to the City/County and track the amount of funding annually by making it part of staff responsibilities to do so. Please elaborate on this action in the NAR portion of the report.			N/A