



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:	Jean Abreu (C), Carol Lukens, Christine Daniels, Jesse Kearns, Britnie Remer, Daniel Zinsmeister, and Lauren Leitner
Location:	Maple Room of Wausau City Hall, 407 Grant Street
Date/Time:	Thursday, September 4, 2025, at 5:00 p.m.

1. Call to Order/Roll Call
 - Introduction of new members
 - Communication and process
2. Public Comment
3. Approval of the August 7, 2025, meeting minutes
4. Discussion and Possible Action: Work Plan reports
 - Sustainability Manager – Carrie
 - Update from Solar Task Force Chair Henke
 - SolSmart status update
 - Wausau Sustainability Awards – application form and marketing strategy
 - Work plan update
 - Media and Public Education – Christine/Jean/Carol
 - Future radio spots – September, October
 - Newsletter – SEEC will have one full page in the newsletter, ½ page infographic and 1-2 paragraphs.
2025 Deadline:
 - Friday, November 14 winter
 - Elected Official Education – Jesse
 - Topics for Council – support letter for City solar project (to accompany signed petition)
 - Tuesday, September 2 – Wausau Water Works 11:00 a.m.
 - Tuesday, September 23 – Common Council 6:30 p.m.
 - Working w/Departments – Carrie
 - Possibility of transitioning to business engagement
 - Policy and framework to guide decisions, etc –
 - OEI Energy Innovation Grant Program (EIGP) energy planning grant - fall
 - Sustainable Food Systems
5. Next meeting date: Thursday, October 2, 2025, 5:00 p.m.
6. 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 Community Development Department at (715) 261-6680.

This Notice was posted at City Hall and emailed to the Media on 08/28/2025

Any person wishing to offer public comment may email City Clerk Kaitlyn Bernarde at clerk@wausauwi.gov 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
August 7, 2025

Members Present: Jean Abreu (C), Carol Lukens, Christine Daniels, and Britnie Remer

Others Present: Jay Coldwell and Carrie Edmondson

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

Chair Abreu called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

2. Public Comment

No public comment was received.

3. Approval of the Minutes of the June 5, 2025, Meeting

Christine/Carol motion/second to approve the minutes – approved 4-0.

4. Focus on Energy Presentation – Brady Steigauf

Rescheduled to a future date.

5. Discussion and Possible Action: Work Plan reports

- e. Policy and framework to guide decisions, etc –

Jean and Jay drafted a letter of support for the City solar project. Consensus about rewording the third bullet item under Energy Resiliency to note that our area will have a relatively stable climate, and in-migration is expected and to simplify the water bill dollar amount.

Carol/Britnie motion/second to approve with modifications – approved 4-0.

There was group consensus to bring the support letter and petition to Wausau Water Works Commission, Infrastructure and Facilities Committee, and City Council in September. Christine and Carol agreed to attend Infrastructure and Facilities Committee on September 11, and Jean and Christine agreed to attend City Council on September 23.

- a. Sustainability Manager – Carrie –
- Chair Abreu forwarded two recommendations to the Mayor
 - We will be beginning the SolSmart certification pathway soon. The first step is a Solar Statement and SolSmart provides a template for that. The Solar Statement will be brought to the September meeting.
 - Wausau Sustainability Awards – Christine and Britnie were established as a Sustainability Awards Subcommittee. They will review the application, process, and procedure for the awards process.

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- b. Media and Public Education – Christine/Jean –
- The (re)Purposeful art event was announced and will take place August 16, from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
 - Future radio spots (third Tuesday) –
 - August 19 – Jordan - solar
 - September 16 – pollinators/leave your leaves
 - October 21 – Wausau Sustainability Awards
 - Newsletter – one full page in one of the newsletters (1/2 page infographic and 1-2 paragraphs).
 - Carrie agreed to follow-up with Mary on a Leave Your Leaves infographic for the fall newsletter. The SEEC will continue to think of ideas for the winter newsletter.
- d. Working w/Departments – Carrie, Mary – Carrie noted that a summary of department director meetings was included in the packet. Now that this initiative has been completed, ideas such as connecting with area businesses or creation of a new work plan were discussed.
- e. Policy and framework to guide decisions, etc. –
- Carrie is continuing to monitor the OEI Energy Innovation Grant Program (EIGP) energy planning grant this fall for fund availability
- f. Farmers Market and Food Stop – Jay – Carrie reviewed notes from meetings she had with UW Extension about the farmer’s market, food stops, community gardens, and backyard gardening. There was consensus that the SEEC would like to move forward with backyard gardening education. Carrie agreed to reach out to her to coordinate with the SEEC in January.

6. Next meeting date: September 4, 2025, 5:00 p.m.

7. Adjourn

Britnie/Carol motion/second - approved 4-0. Adjourned at 6:04 p.m.



SolSmart Designation Requirements

Bronze Designation	Silver Designation	Gold Designation	Platinum Designation
<input type="checkbox"/> Complete 3 prerequisites <input type="checkbox"/> 20 points in Permitting & Inspection <input type="checkbox"/> 20 points in Planning and Zoning <input type="checkbox"/> 60 total points	<input type="checkbox"/> SolSmart Bronze Requirements <input type="checkbox"/> Complete 4 prerequisites <input type="checkbox"/> 100 total points	<input type="checkbox"/> SolSmart Silver Requirements <input type="checkbox"/> Complete 3 prerequisites <input type="checkbox"/> 200 total points	<input type="checkbox"/> SolSmart Gold Requirements <input type="checkbox"/> Complete 4 prerequisites <input type="checkbox"/> 350 total points

TA Status

TA Plan - Credit Recommended to Achieve Designation
TA In Progress - Technical Assistance Delivery/Verification Gathering
TA Complete - Ready for Designation Review
Verified by Designation Review

Solar Statement (PR-1)	Complete - Signed Solar Statement Received
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Bronze	TA Plan	In Progress	Ready	Verified
Permitting Checklist (PI-1)				
Zoning Review (PZ-1)				

Silver	TA Plan	In Progress	Ready	Verified
Permitting Training (PI-2)				
Inspection Training (PI-3)				
Zoning Memo (PZ-4)				
Solar Landing Page (CE-1)				

Gold	TA Plan	In Progress	Ready	Verified
Permitting Turnaround (PI-4)				
Zoning Codified (PZ-5)				
Barrier Removal (PZ-6)				

Platinum	TA Plan	In Progress	Ready	Verified
Automatic Permitting (PI-5)				
Post Metrics (PI-6)				
Lead by Example (GO-1)				
Serve Disadvantaged (CE-2)				

Points Status Tracking

Total Complete Points	55
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TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE DELIVERY - Estimated points

Foundational Category Points	TA Plan	TA In Progress	TA Complete	Legacy Criteria	Verified	Total
Permitting & Inspection	20	0	0		0	20
Planning & Zoning	0	0	35		0	35
Special Category Points	TA Plan	TA In Progress	TA Complete		Verified	Total
Government Operations	0	0	10		0	10
Community Engagement	0	10	10		0	20
Market Development	0	0	0		0	0

Wausau, WI, SolSmart Intake Call

Kelly Dharani, 8/20/25

Agenda

Program Overview

Program Pathways

Baseline Assessment

Zoning Review

Solar Metrics

Next Steps

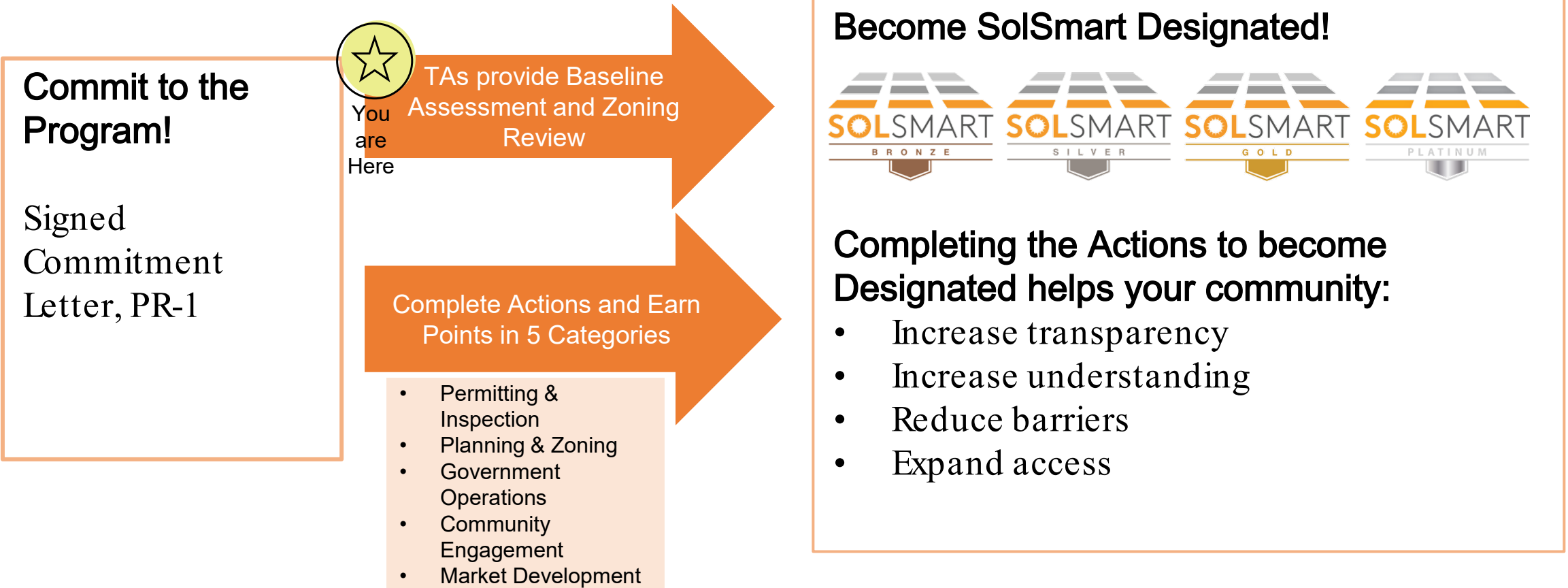


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How the Program Works



Designation Overview

To receive designation, communities must complete the following:



Complete 3 prerequisites	Attain SolSmart Bronze and complete 4 silver prerequisites	Attain SolSmart Silver and complete 3 silver prerequisites	Attain SolSmart Gold and complete 4 platinum prerequisites
20 pts in Permitting & Inspection 20 pts in Planning & Zoning 60 pts total	100 total points	200 total points	350 total points

Baseline Assessment

- Solar progress to date
- Existing actions, goals or initiatives
- Data related to solar permits and installation
- Does not impact designation



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Zoning Review PZ-1

Aligns with SolSmart
Recommendations

Needs Improvement

Barriers

Solar Metrics

- Tracking solar development
- Permitting data

Last Step before Submitting Application → [Solar Metrics Survey](#)

Required Criteria (Standard Pathway)

Below are prerequisites. While they are a good place to start, by no means must they be done first.

- Bronze
 - [Solar Statement](#)- PR-1 **DONE**
 - [Zoning Review](#) – PZ-1 **IN-PROGRESS**
 - [Permitting Checklist](#)- PI-1
- Silver
 - [Permitting Training](#) – PI-2
 - [Inspection Training](#) – PI-3
 - [Accessory Use Solar Codified](#) – PZ-5 or Zoning Determination Letter PZ-4 **DONE**
 - [Solar Landing Page](#) – CE-1



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Next Steps

- **Zoning Review(PZ-1) and Baseline Assessment**
- **Kick-Off Call**
 - Review PZ-1 and Baseline Assessment
 - Identify priority criteria
 - Create designation strategy



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SolSmart Resources

SolSmart Resources

- Resource Page - <https://solsmart.org/resources/>
- SolSmart Program Resource Guide - <https://solsmart.org/resource/solsmart-program-guide>
- SolSmart FAQ - <https://solsmart.org/faqs/>

Sustainability Award Proposal

Previous award winners are: Aspirus (2021) and Good News Project (2023). In an effort to not let 2 full years lapse until next award. We propose the following items:

- 1) One award per year and a hard deadline.
- 2) 2025 award timeline could be:
 - 10-1-25 Send Press Release announcement
 - Month of October...all SEEC members invite favorite initiatives to apply!
 - 10-21-25 SEEC members talk on radio show about award
 - 11-1-25 Published nomination deadline
 - 11-6-25 Committee review of applicants and selection based on a measurable point system (to be determined)
 - December: Public Recognition at city council meeting; certificate awarded; value added opportunities may include business/individual highlighted in quarterly newsletter; info shared on social media; mentioned on city website for one year; this is to be brainstormed by SEEC members.
- 3) 2026 award timeline could be:
 - 9-1-25 Press Release announcement and nominations open
 - 10-1-25 Published nomination deadline
 - October/November-first week-SEEC committee reviews applicants and selection based on established point system. Gives committee a little flexibility in the event there is not a quorum.
 - December: Public Recognition at city council meeting; certificate awarded; value added opportunities determined in 2025 will roll forward.
- 4) Wausau Sustainability Awards Application proposed additions:
 - #3. How would you best describe the nominee (**check all that apply**)
 - #7. Honors will be presented at a regular meeting of the city council. Award winner should be present **at the city council meeting** and are encouraged to make a short acceptance speech.
- 5) Sample press release attached (general verbiage taken off City of Wausau website)

Respectfully submitted by SEEC citizen members Christine Daniels & Britnie Remer
8/27/25

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

City of Wausau Announces Call for Applications: 2025 Sustainability Awards

Deadline: November 1, 2025

Wausau, WI – The City of Wausau is pleased to announce that applications and nominations are now being accepted for the **2025 Wausau Sustainability Awards**. These awards recognize individuals, businesses, and organizations that have demonstrated leadership and commitment to advancing sustainability and energy efficiency within the community.

The purpose of the Sustainability Awards is to highlight innovative initiatives and successful projects that contribute to a more sustainable Wausau. Award recipients provide valuable examples that encourage residents, businesses, nonprofits, and community groups to adopt similar practices and strengthen Wausau’s collective commitment to environmental stewardship.

Applications and nominations must be submitted no later than **November 1, 2025**. The application form and additional information are available at [Sustainability | Wausau, WI](#)

“The Sustainability Awards represent the City’s ongoing commitment to recognize and promote actions that contribute to long-term environmental health and energy resilience,” said Jean Abreau, Sustainability, Energy, & Environment Committee Chair. “We encourage community members to participate by nominating individuals and organizations that exemplify these values.”

For additional details regarding the Sustainability Awards or the application process, please visit [City of Wausau’s Sustainability Awards webpage link] or contact:

Media Contact:

Carrie Edmondson, AICP

Assistant City Planner

City of Wausau

407 Grant Street

Wausau, WI 54401

715-261-6009



Planning, Community and Economic Development

Date: September 2, 2025

To: Wausau Water Works Commission

From: Carrie Edmondson, AICP, Assistant City Planner on behalf of the Sustainability, Energy, and Environment Committee (SEEC)

RE: Expression of Support for the Solar Array at the Wausau Water Treatment Facility and Recommendation of Approval of the Solar Array

The Sustainability, Energy, and Environment Committee (SEEC) wishes to express their support for the freestanding solar project on the new Wausau Water Treatment Facility property located at 1801 Burek Avenue and recommends approval of the solar structure. SEEC has been supportive of the project throughout the process and recommends approving the construction of the project.

A five-member Solar Array Task Force, previously formed by Common Council, has reviewed and provided an analysis that was covered in two presentations. More information can be found on the City's website. A conceptual design and analysis were presented on April 19, 2024. In 2024, SEEC organized a petition of those in support of the project and collected a total of 179 signatures. SEEC was under time limitations when collecting signatures and feels that more could have been collected quite readily. They have also drafted a letter of support, which they approved unanimously at their August 7 meeting. Both the letter of support and petition are included for the Wausau Water Works Commission's review.

In summary, SEEC is fully supportive of the installation of the solar array at the Wausau Water Treatment Facility and identifies it as a strong priority for the upcoming budget cycle.



August 7, 2025

To: Wausau Water Works Commission

From: City of Wausau Sustainability, Energy and Environment Committee (SEEC)

Re: Letter of support for the Solar Array at the Water Treatment Plant

SEEC fully supports the installation of a Solar Array at the Drinking Water Treatment Plant and identifies this as a strong priority for the upcoming budget cycle for the following reasons:

- On March 14, 2023, the City Council passed a Greenhouse Gas Reduction Resolution focused on moving towards cleaner energy.
<https://wausapilotandreview.com/2023/03/15/wausau-passes-clean-energy-resolution/>
- The Solar Array Task Force indicated the City would benefit financially from the Array.
- Federal dollars through the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) will be available for solar projects which begin construction before July 2026.
- This project will build infrastructure that is forward-facing and fiscally responsible, giving the city more options for meeting the needs of residents.

Other reasons include:

Community support:

- Not only will the Array help to stabilize water bills, but it creates a fiscally and environmentally responsible action step towards the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Resolution passed by the City Council.
- Attached is a petition signed by citizens in support of the array. This petition was submitted in August of 2024 in an effort to show community support for the Array following the Solar Array Task Force's report.

Stabilizing Water Bills:

Electricity to run the drinking water treatment plant is a large portion of operating expenses. While past inflation in electric utility rates has been around 3%, *more recent local percentage increases have been double digits per year*, and will likely continue to be high due to increasing demand, aging infrastructure, international trade instability, and focus on more expensive fossil fuel sources. ***A solar array would stabilize this cost, reducing the need for future water rate increases.***

Energy Resiliency:

- The Solar Array is a cornerstone to developing resiliency in provision of potable drinking water to the city population.
- The array will be constructed with the ability to add batteries at a future date, which would allow the plant to be run off grid in the event of an extended grid outage, albeit at reduced capacity. This would reduce dependence on the existing diesel generator system in place.
- It has been noted that as the global temperature continues to warm, a large portion of the US will experience dangerous temperatures and severe weather, while our area will continue to experience a relatively stable climate for some time. ***We should anticipate in-migration in the coming decades and position our community infrastructure for growth and resilience.***

In conclusion, SEEC fully supports the installation of a Solar Array at the Drinking Water Treatment Plant and identifies this as a strong priority for the upcoming budget cycle because it is a forward-facing and fiscally responsible 'next step' giving the city more option for meeting the needs of residents.

Thank you for your time,



Jean Abreu

Chair; Sustainability, Energy and Environment Committee