



OFFICIAL NOTICE & AGENDA
REGULAR MEETING

MEETING: Sustainability, Energy & Environment Committee
DATE/TIME: Thursday, June 4, 2026, at 5:00 PM
LOCATION: Wausau City Hall — Maple Room
407 Grant Street, Wausau WI, 54403

MEMBERS:
Jean Abreu (C) Paul Kage
Carol Lukens Britnie Remer
Jesse Kearns Lauren Leitner
Christine Daniels

- 1 Call to order by the presiding officer.**
- 2 Public comment.**
- 3 Consideration of the minutes of the preceding meeting(s).**
 - a. Approval of the May 7, 2026, meeting minutes.
- 4 Discussion and possible action.**
 - a. Approve Plan Development Timeline
 - b. Change July meeting date from Thursday, July 2, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. to Thursday July 9, 2026, at 5:00 p.m.
 - c. Change August meeting date from Thursday, August 6, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. to Thursday, August 13, 2026, at 5:00 p.m.
- 5 Discussion.**
 - a. Overview of 350 Wisconsin grant to facilitate stakeholder engagement between the PSC and municipalities.
 - b. Assignment of Work Plan objectives
 - c. Climate Action Work Plan Background and Introduction Section
 - d. City solar array update
 - e. Council presentation update
- 6 Adjournment.**

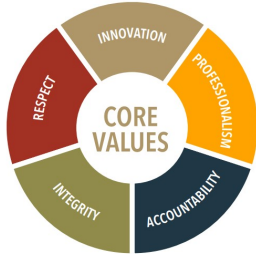
Jean Abreu, Chair

**NOTICE POSTED AT CITY HALL (407 GRANT STREET) AND
TRANSMITTED TO THE OFFICIALLY DESIGNATED NEWSPAPER**

DATE: May 28, 2026
TIME: 3:30pm
POSTED BY: Michelle Van Krey

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@wausauwi.gov 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.



City of Wausau
(715) 261-6500 | clerk@wausauwi.gov
wausauwi.gov



MINUTES
May 7, 2026

Members Present: Jean Abreu (C), Alder Carol Lukens, Britnie Remer, Dan Zinsmeister, and Lauren Leitner

Others Present: 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. Call to order.

The meeting was called to order at 5:02 p.m.

2. Public comment.

No public comment was received.

3. Presentations.

Jon Schroeder provided an overview on the EPA Wasted Food Scale, food rescue, and composting.

4. Consideration of the minutes of the preceding meeting(s).

Motion/second Christine/Britnie to approve the March 5, 2026, minutes as presented, *Leitner/Remer motion to approve minutes, passed 6-0.*

5. Discussion and possible action.

a. Approval of a sustainability plan template.

Dan Zinsmeister provided an overview of sustainability plans. The committee discussed the merits of incorporating a survey and/or stakeholder group. Jesse noted that the plan will help to create consensus, buy-in, and investment of time.

Motion/second to approve the Great Plains Institute template Leitner/Kearns passed 5-1.

Jesse will provide an update to Council.

b. Approval of “Wausau Works for You” newsletter content, May 15, 2026, deadline.

Motion to include information about the MREA group buy solar program, Carrie will provide the content.

Kearns/Leitner, passed 6-0.

6. Discussion

- a. UW-Extension – Update on Grow Solar and Power Hour Session, May 20, Marathon County Public Library
- b. Britnie provided a quick update of the 350 Wisconsin grant with the PSC and will provide more information at the next meeting.

7. Adjournment.

Motion/second to adjourn Remer/Kearns to adjourn, passed 6-0. The meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

DRAFT

**City of Wausau Climate Action Work Plan 2026-2031
Plan Development Timeline**

Planning Activity	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Introduction/Background							
Existing Conditions/Demographics/Energy Use - Citywide							
Transportation/Waste - Citywide							
Municipal GHG Data – Buildings							
Municipal GHG Data – Fleet/Waste							
Five-Year Work Plan/Strategies							
Community/Business Survey Development							
Survey Publicized							
Survey Results Presented							
Plan Adoption							



Planning, Community and Economic Development

Date: June 4, 2026

To: Sustainability, Energy, and Environment Committee

From: Carrie Edmondson, AICP, Assistant City Planner

RE: 2026 Work Plan – Next Steps

Over the past couple of months, the Sustainability, Energy, and Environment Committee has been continuing to iterate its overarching work plan to guide work over the next twelve months. At the March meeting, the committee identified the following two goal statements:

- The SEEC Committee will oversee the creation of a five-year climate action/sustainability plan, present it to the City Council, and attain adoption by the Council by April 1, 2027.
- The SEEC will educate the community by engaging our neighbors, youth, residents & businesses through sustainability-focused programming and providing opportunities for involvement culminating in Earth Week, April 2027.

Next, committee members will identify a short two-to-three-word summary of each goal statement to include on upcoming agendas. Additionally, opportunity will be given to determine how each member would best like to move these goals forward. In other words, the focus now is turning the work plan into action.





**GREAT PLAINS
INSTITUTE**

This template was developed by the Great Plains Institute with funding from the Metropolitan Council and the McKnight Foundation.

City of Wausau

Climate Action Work Plan

2026-2031



Acknowledgements

Thank you to the Great Plains Institute for free use of this template. The template was created with funding from the Metropolitan Council and the McKnight Foundation. The purpose of the template is to provide cities with a template to help guide short-term climate action planning in their community.

Sustainability, Energy, and Environment Committee Members

Jean Abreu, Chair
Christine Daniels
Jesse Kearns
Lauren Leitner
Alder Carol Lukens
Britnie Remer

City Council Alderpersons

Carol Lukens
Michael Martens
Terry Kilian
Tom Neal
Andrew Wiskowski
Kristin Slonski
Matt Hoenecke
Sarah Watson
Vicki Tierney
Lou Larson
Bruce Trueblood

City of Wausau Staff

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Introduction

The City of Wausau is committed to taking action to make our community more sustainable. The City of Wausau 2026-2031 Climate Action Work Plan was developed over the course of **nine months** with the oversight of the Sustainability, Energy, and Environment Committee (SEEC) and included a **community meeting and community survey**. The plan includes goals related to clean energy, transportation, land use, economic development, climate adaptation, waste management, health, and much more.

Our sustainability initiatives are intended to benefit our community, our economy, and our environment. This work wouldn't be possible without City of Wausau residents, businesses, and organizations. To learn how you can get involved with our community's sustainability initiatives, please visit the [City of Wausau Sustainability page](#).

The first section of the plan examines existing conditions, or where the City is today. It highlights key areas and data most relevant to sustainability, including population, income, transportation habits, waste, energy burden, and solar potential, all of which provide insight into current conditions and future opportunities. The second section presents a Citywide greenhouse gas emissions inventory. By analyzing building energy use, fleet operations, and waste data, the City can begin tracking progress toward clean energy goals. The final section outlines a five-year work plan with specific strategies to advance the City's sustainability objectives.

Paragraph with context (as necessary): The City Council adopted the CAWP on DATE. Finally, the CAWP is and should be treated as a living document, which will benefit from an annual review process overseen by the Sustainability Commission.

Background

PREVIOUS PLANNING DOCUMENTS

2022 City of Wausau Five-Year Strategic Plan. Highlights investments in solutions to ensure environmental sustainability and commitment to environmental justice.

2017 City of Wausau Comprehensive Plan. Includes sustainability goals including environmental initiatives and multimodal transportation.

CITY ENACTMENTS

2023 Resolution Reduction of Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Energy Security. In 2023, the City of Wausau passed a resolution supporting reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and energy security. With this, the City committed to:

- Determine the level of energy use and greenhouse gas emissions in City government operations.
- Develop a municipal energy plan with the goal of moving City government operations to a more secure, and 100% clean energy by 2050.
- Provide resources and information to residents and businesses to support them in the transition to a cleaner energy future.
- Create cost savings through efficiency upgrades and clean energy technologies that will reduce the burden of City government operations on the tax levy.

2021 Resolution for Environmental Justice. In 2021 the City of Wausau passed a resolution supporting environmental justice.

2018 Ordinance for Creating the Sustainability, Energy, and Environment Committee. Created as an advisory body to Common Council in the development of policies, programs, and decisions that affect the relationship between the City and the environment.

2009 Resolution Recognizing the City of Wausau and an Eco-Municipality that Promotes and Utilizes Sustainable Practices. The City of Wausau endorses the principles of sustainability and applies them in decision making, planning, policy making, and municipal practices.

2008 Resolution for Creating an Ad Hoc Committee for a Greener Tomorrow. In 2008 the Common Council established a committee directed toward creating a sustainable community.

ASSOCIATIONS

Wisconsin Local Government Climate Coalition (WLGCC). The Wisconsin Local Government Climate Coalition provides a platform for members to collaborate on overcoming barriers to decarbonization, accelerating local climate change solutions and ensuring the benefits of the clean energy economy are distributed to everyone throughout the state. Wausau has been a member since 2023.

WDNR Green Tier Legacy Community (GTLC). The Green Tier Legacy Community program includes local government leaders building sustainable and resilient communities. Membership includes education, collaboration, and special consideration for state grants. Wausau has been a member since 2020.