

City of Wausau Sustainability, Energy, and Environment Committee

MINUTES July 9, 2026

Members Present: Jean Abreu (C), Jesse Kearns, Christine Daniels, Paul Kage, Britnie Remer, and Lauren Leitner

Others Present: Carrie Edmondson (staff) and Dani Taube

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 5:01 p.m.

2. Public comment.

No public comment was received.

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

Motion/second to approve the June 4, 2026, minutes as presented.

Motion/second to approve minutes with modifications, Daniels/Kearns passed 6-0.

4. Discussion and possible action.

- a. Approve Introduction/Background Section of City of Wausau Climate Action Work Plan

Carrie reviewed the Introduction/Background section.

Motion/second to approve with the understanding that it will be revisited at the end of the planning process, Leitner/Remer passed 6-0.

- b. Approve Common Council Update

This update will be provided at the Common Council regular meeting on August 11.

Motion/second to accept as presented with further changes made by Jesse as needed, Kearns/Daniels passed 6-0.

- c. Approve revised Wausau Sustainability Award Timeline

Christine presented and suggested that the timeline be adjusted two months and agreed to make modifications to the timeline template and bring forward next month.

Motion/second to approve revised Wausau Sustainability Award timeline, Daniels/Leitner passed 6-0.

5. Discussion

- a. Overview Discussion of Existing Conditions Demographics Section of City of Wausau Climate Action Work Plan
Carrie provided an overview of the Demographic Section. Jesse suggested adding owner/renter data and noted that owners of rentals could be provided with specific educational information about energy upgrades. The group discussed the cost burden on lower income individuals/families and other barriers that exist. Christine suggested that updated ALICE data be added and Lauren suggested adding education data.
- b. Action Plan Updates and Discussion (Earth Week Initiatives)
Lauren provided information about a potential art project. She thought the most impact would happen when art is done within a sustainability initiative (the initiative is activated by art). Her thought is to incorporate native plantings within a public space and incorporate art. Carrie will discuss potential locations with the Parks Department.
- c. Discussion on Community Sustainability Survey and communication strategy
The group reviewed the Community Sustainability Survey questions and provided comment. Dani Taube with Roaster assisted with survey suggestions. Carrie will revise the survey and email the group in two weeks.
- d. Discussion on Business Sustainability Survey and communications strategy
The group reviewed the Business Sustainability Survey questions and provided comment. Dani Taube assisted with questions and made recommendations for dissemination. Carrie will revise the survey and email the group in two weeks.
- e. Discussion on Public Service Commission (PSC) community engagement initiative
Britnie provided an overview of the PSC community engagement initiative that will be conducted by 350 Wisconsin. She will share information with Carrie who will share it with the group.

6. Update on City projects

- a. Carrie provided an update on the proposed Zoning Ordinance Amendment on Data Centers that will go before Common Council at their regular meeting on Tuesday, July 14.

7. Adjournment.

Motion/second to adjourn, Remer/Kearns, passed 6-0. The meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.