



OFFICIAL NOTICE & AGENDA REGULAR MEETING

MEETING: Sustainability, Energy & Environment Committee
DATE/TIME: Thursday, September 3, 2026, at 5:00 PM
LOCATION: Wausau City Hall — Maple Room
407 Grant Street, Wausau WI, 54403

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

- 1 Call to order by the presiding officer.**
- 2 Public comment on agenda items and reading of the City of Wausau Public Comment Statement.**
- 3 Consideration of the minutes of the preceding meeting(s).**
Approving August 13, 2026, meeting minutes.
- 4 Discussion.**
 - a. Discussion of Citywide Transportation and Waste Section of the Five-Year Climate Action Work Plan
 - b. Discussion of Municipal Greenhouse Gas Data - Buildings Section of the Five-Year Climate Action Work Plan
 - c. Survey dissemination update
 - d. Earth Day projects discussion.
- 5 Adjournment.**

Jean Abreu, Chair

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

DATE: August 27, 2026

TIME: 9:00 a.m.

POSTED BY: Carrie Edmondson, AICP, Assistant City Planner

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.



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wausauwi.gov



City of Wausau Sustainability, Energy, and Environment Committee

MINUTES August 13, 2026

Members Present: Jean Abreu (C), Jesse Kearns, Alder Carol Lukens, and Lauren Leitner

Others Present: Carrie Edmondson (staff), Myla Wells, and Cane Forbes

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 5:06 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 July 9, 2026, minutes as presented.

Motion/second to approve minutes with modifications, Leitner/Kearns passed 4-0.

4. Discussion and possible action.

- a. Approve Existing Conditions, Demographics, Energy Use Citywide Sections of the City of Wausau Climate Action Work Plan

Carrie reviewed Existing Conditions, Demographics, Energy Use City Sections of the City of Wausau Climate Action Work Plan.

Jesse noted that it would be good to add an implementation step at the end of the process.

Motion/second to approve, Kearns/Lukens passed 4-0.

- b. Approve Community Sustainability Survey and dissemination plan and timeline

Carrie noted that she had gotten good feedback from members on survey edits, she agreed to do a press release to announce the survey. Alder Lukens suggested Alders help distribute the survey information to the public. SEEC members will be making a request to attend a Farmer's Market in September or October to help to get the word out.

Motion/second to approve Community Sustainability Survey, Leitner/Kearns passed 4-0.

- c. Approve Business Sustainability Survey and dissemination plan and timeline
Motion/second to approve the Business Sustainability Survey, Kearns/Leitner passed 4-0.

Carrie left the meeting.

- d. Approving fall Wausau Works for You newsletter content.
A blurb about the Five-Year Climate Action Plan and QR code and URL for both surveys will appear in the fall Wausau Works for You newsletter.
Motion/second to approve the above content in the fall newsletter, Leitner/Lukens passed 4-0.

Additionally, it would be beneficial to attend the Farmer's Market with the QR code. Lauren thought there may be value to incorporating an art project. Jean could make the request to the Farmer's Market Board.

Motion/second to contact the Farmer's Market board to set up a table with survey information and an art project, Lukens/Kearns passed 4-0.

5. Discussion

- a. Discussion of Transportation and Waste Citywide Sections of the City of Wausau Climate Action Work Plan

Carrie returned to the meeting.

Carrie will contact Paul about adding composting data. She also noted that looking at biking and transit and how this could be incorporated. The committee thought it would be beneficial to get transit data and Carrie noted that she would reach out to Ron to obtain more data.

Alder Lukens noted that it would be good to add a section on resiliency.

- b. Discussion on August Common Council Presentation
The Common Council meeting was rescheduled to Tuesday, August 18.
- c. Discussion on Earth Week Initiatives
Christine contacted the Arts Festival and confirmed that SEEC would have an opportunity to have a table there. Myla Wells provided an overview of bee/butterfly watering stations and the benefits associated with them. The group discussed options for filling them. The art may be done prior to Earth Week and installed during Earth Week. Funding is the largest barrier at this time.

6. Update on City projects

- a. Update on City of Wausau Comprehensive Plan Update and Community Engagement Strategies

Carrie provided an overview and will email the group more details.

7. Adjournment.

Motion/second to adjourn, Lukens/Kearns, passed 4-0. The meeting adjourned at 6:32 p.m.

DRAFT

City of Wausau Climate Action Work Plan 2027-2032
Plan Development Timeline

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



**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
Paul Kage
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 (CAWP) was developed over the course of **nine months** with the oversight of the Sustainability, Energy, and Environment Committee (SEEC) and included a Community Sustainability Survey and Business Sustainability 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, Energy, and Environment Committee (SEEC).

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.

Existing Conditions

Existing conditions include demographic information as well as information about buildings, transportation, waste, renewable energy resources, and existing planning and policy context. This section includes existing conditions in the community to set a baseline that can be used to compare progress over time and to inform community decisions for how the city chooses to prioritize climate actions. The data for existing conditions comes from Metropolitan Council, the Department of Energy State and Local Energy Data (SLED) and Low-Income Energy Affordability Data (LEAD) tool, and the United States Census Bureau.

DEMOGRAPHIC SNAPSHOT

The demographic information included in this section comes from the American Community Survey five-year estimates from 2023 unless otherwise noted. The median age is 38.4 with the population by age, gender, and race and ethnicity below.

Figure 1 – Population Data



The City of Wausau per capita income is \$35,290 per year and the median household income is \$61,877 per year. 14.4 percent of Wausau residents live below the poverty line. However, the ALICE report, prepared by the United Way (using ALICE as an acronym for Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed, includes households that earn more than the Federal Poverty Level, but less than the basic cost of living for the county) reports that 40% of City of Wausau households were below the ALICE threshold in 2025.

Figure 2 – Income and Transportation Data

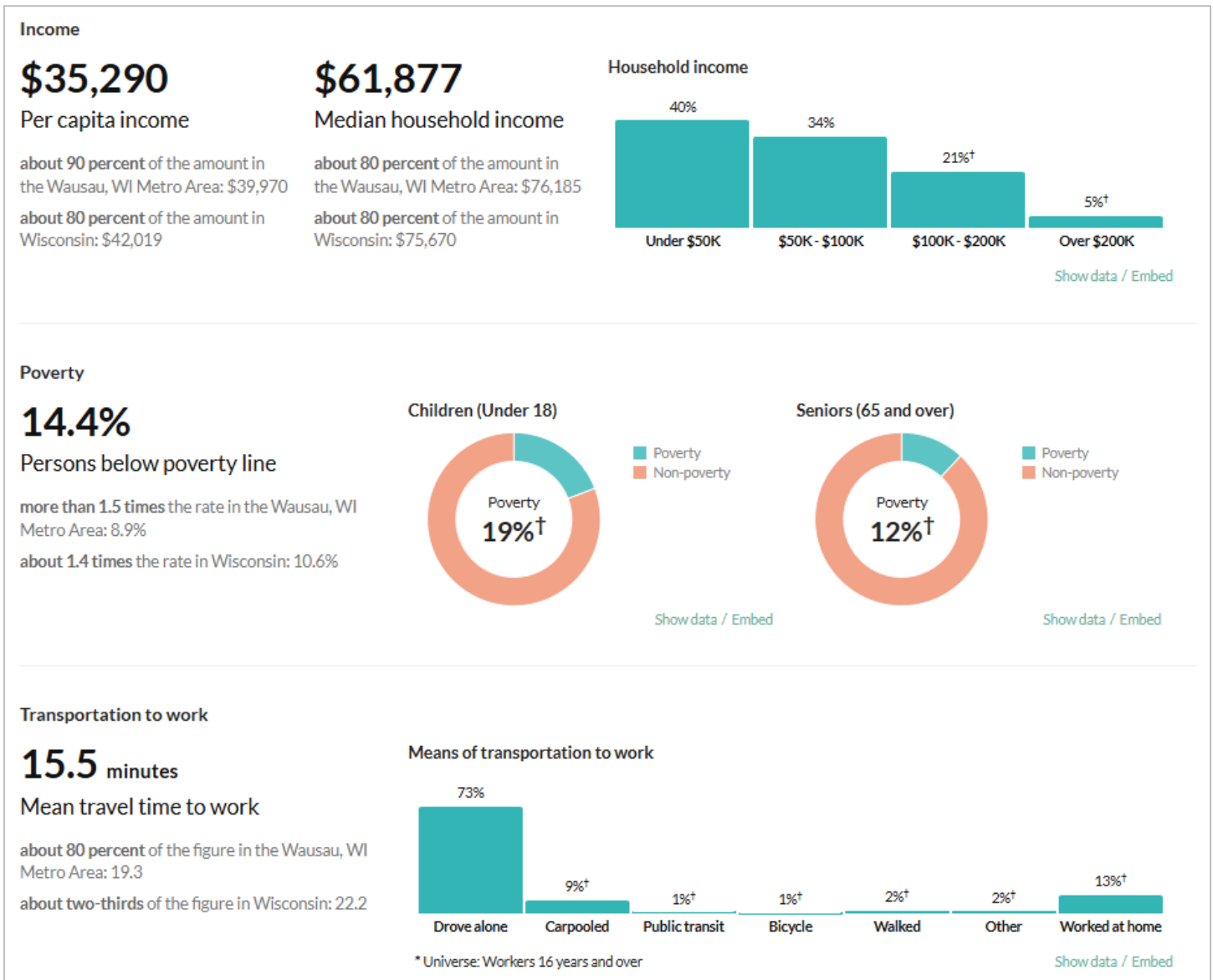


Figure 3 – Housing Data – City of Wausau

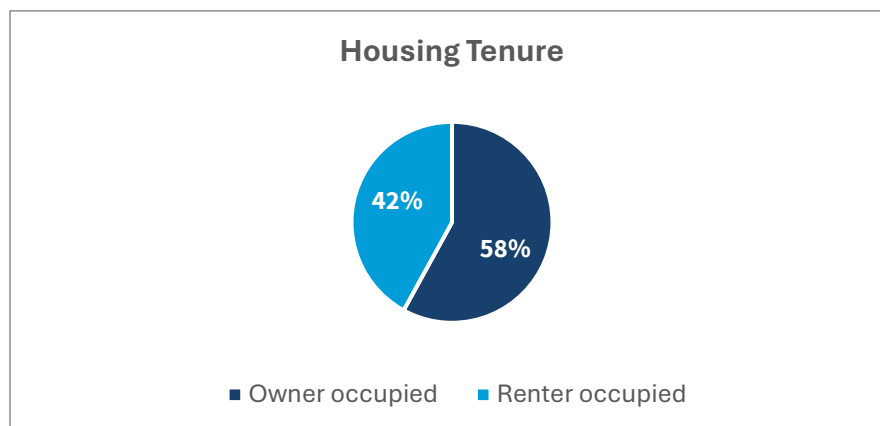
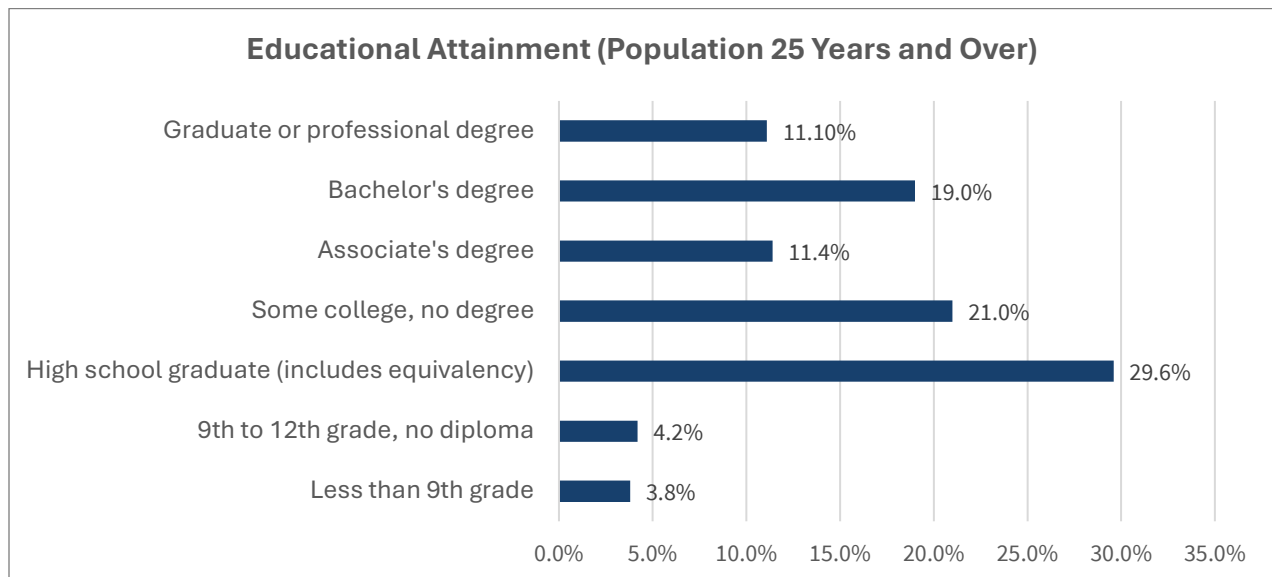
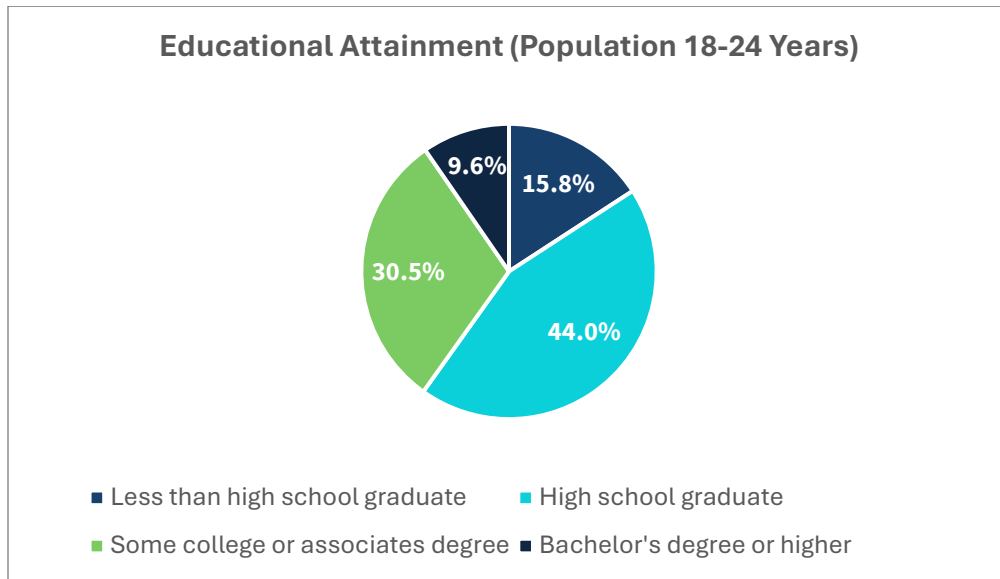


Figure 4a and 4b – Education Data – City of Wausau



Energy Consumption and Buildings

Energy is used for space and water heating and cooling, ventilation, and the operation of lighting and appliances in buildings. Heating a building's space and water comes most often from natural gas, while electricity is typically used for operating appliances, lighting, and cooling. Wisconsin Public Service is the main electric and natural gas energy provider for City residents, businesses, and institutions. Wisconsin Public Service reported the following for 2025:

2025 City of Wausau Community Level Data - Wisconsin Public Service

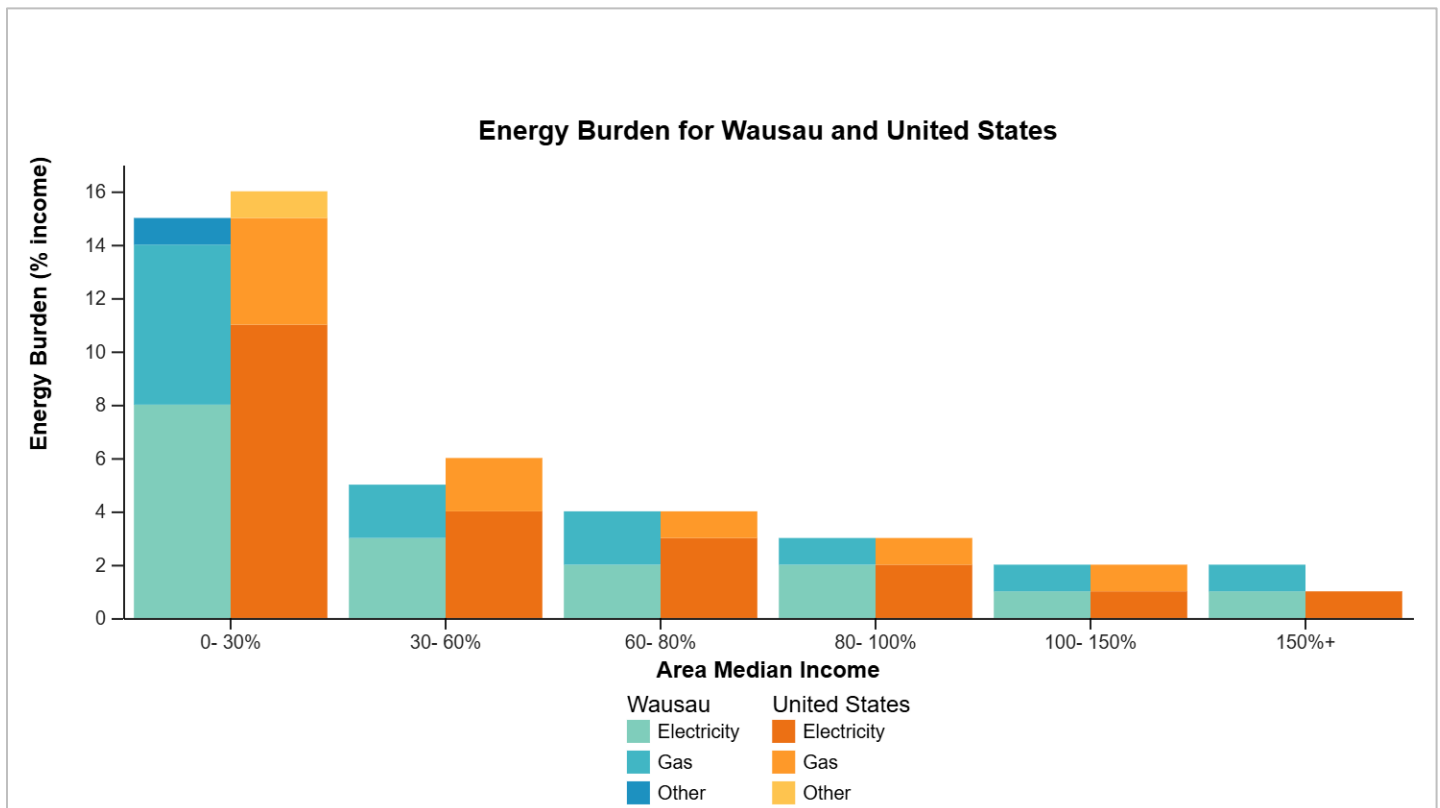
Electric – Residential	128,105,652 kWh	
Electric – Non-Residential	324,569,100 kWh	
Gas – Residential		12,077,645 therms
Gas-Non-Residential		26,171,725 therms
Total:	452,674,752 kWh	38,249,370 therms

ENERGY BURDEN AND ENERGY SECURITY

Energy burden is the proportion of household income that is used to pay for energy utility bills – both electric and natural gas. In 2022, the average energy burden for all Wausau residents in year was 3 percent. This proportion was consistent with the average energy burden in Wisconsin households, which was also 3 percent.

Figure 5 – 2022 Average Annual Energy Burden for the City of Wausau and US

Source: DOE LEAD (Low-Energy Assistance Data)



As expected, energy burden is a substantially higher proportion of overall income for those in the 30 percent or below area median income ranges. However, it is still lower than the national average. For those in the 60 percent or below area median income ranges, energy burden is a lower proportion of overall income and is slightly lower than the national average. Other income ranges are on par with the national average, with the exception of the over 150 percent area median income ranges where the energy burden is slightly higher than the national average.

Renewable Energy Resources

SOLAR RESOURCE

A community's solar resource is the amount of sunlight that can be captured and converted to electricity. Using Google Project Sunroof, the solar resource was calculated for rooftops in Wausau. The total capacity of the economic rooftop solar resource in Wausau includes 19.6 million square feet of roof space, for 446 MW DC capacity, 501K MWh AC per year. Additional solar could be captured through ground-mount systems or community solar systems.

In 2025, the City of Wausau became a SolSmart Silver community. This national designation recognizes local governments that have taken steps to address barriers to solar energy and helps to accelerate the development of local solar markets. This designation highlights the fact that Wausau has implemented best practices in permitting and inspection, planning and zoning, government operations, community engagement, and market development. With SolSmart designation, the City is advancing the following goals:

- Education and encouragement of residents and businesses to explore solar opportunities
- Education of staff on solar options, process, and streamlined permitting and inspections
- Advance the City of Wausau's sustainability and clean energy goals.

Additionally, the City partners annually with the Midwest Renewable Energy Association (MREA) on their Grow Solar Central Wisconsin group buy program. This program provides in person and virtual technical assistance on solar power and options. Additionally, it provides the opportunity for group purchase which includes an already vetted contractor and lower cost.

Figure – 8 Estimated Rooftop Solar Potential for Wausau, WI

Source: Google Project Sunroof



Overall

Total estimated size and solar electricity production of viable roofs for Wausau, WI

Roofs
77%

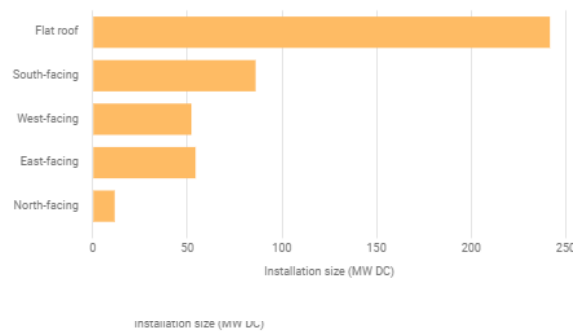
Roofs
15.5K

Roof space
19.6M
sq ft

Capacity
446
MW DC

Electricity
501K
MWh AC per yr

Total installation size (MW DC)



Per roof

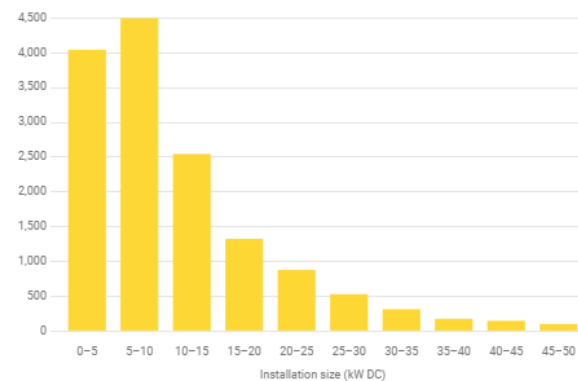
Median estimated system size and solar electricity production per viable roof for Wausau, WI

Roof space
388
sq ft

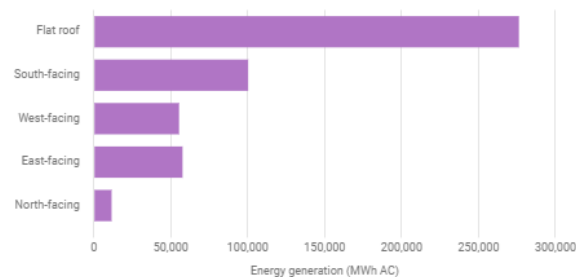
Capacity
9.1
kW DC

Electricity
9.5K
kWh AC per yr

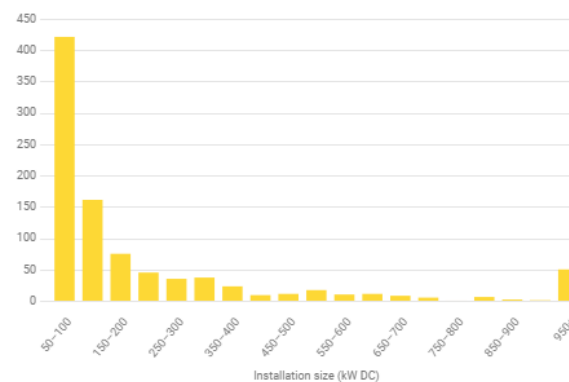
Rooftop solar capacity distribution (number of roofs, < 50kW)



Total yearly energy generation potential (MWh AC)

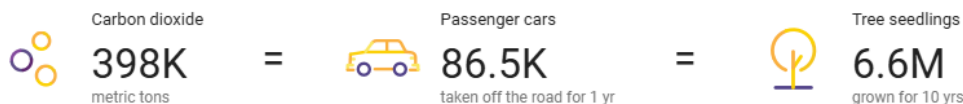


Rooftop solar capacity distribution (number of roofs, > 50kW)



POTENTIAL IMPACT

If all the viable solar installations were implemented, the amount of avoided CO₂ emissions from the electricity sector in Wausau would be:

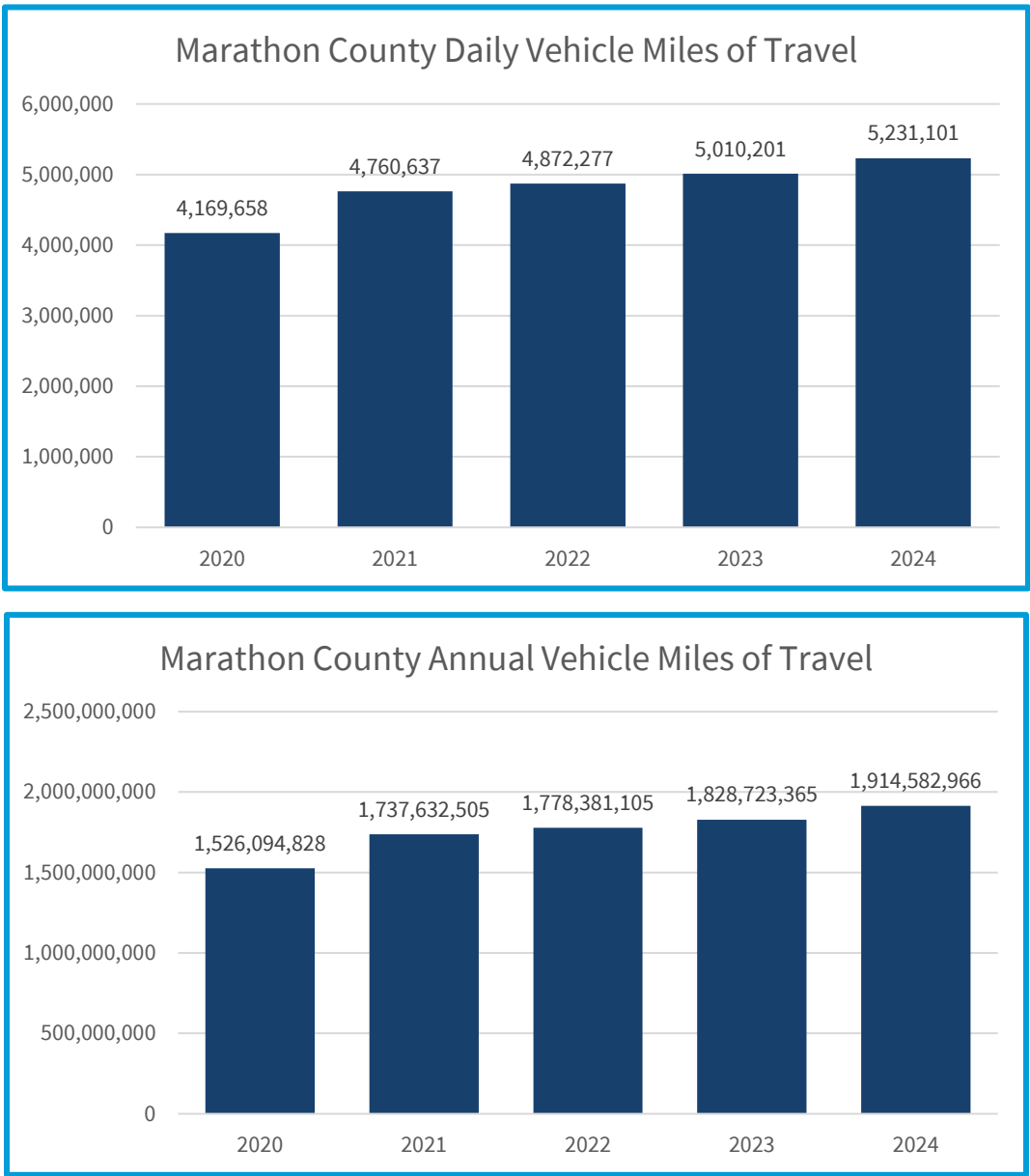


Transportation

Transportation energy is almost entirely attributed to surface travel from cars and trucks and is estimated by the vehicle miles traveled (VMT) within the city boundaries, regardless of through traffic. City level data is not available. However, WisDOT provides the data by county and data for Marathon County can be seen in Figure 6. Total vehicle miles traveled has increased steadily throughout Marathon County over the past five years. Energy for vehicle travel primarily comes from liquid fuels like gasoline and diesel, though electric vehicles are increasingly a part of the vehicle mix. Other forms of in-boundary transportation include public transit, biking, walking, and wheeling (e.g., scooters, wheelchairs, or other mobility devices).

Figure 6 – Vehicle Miles Traveled Marathon County by Year

Source: WisDOT



TRANSPORTATION USE IN CITY

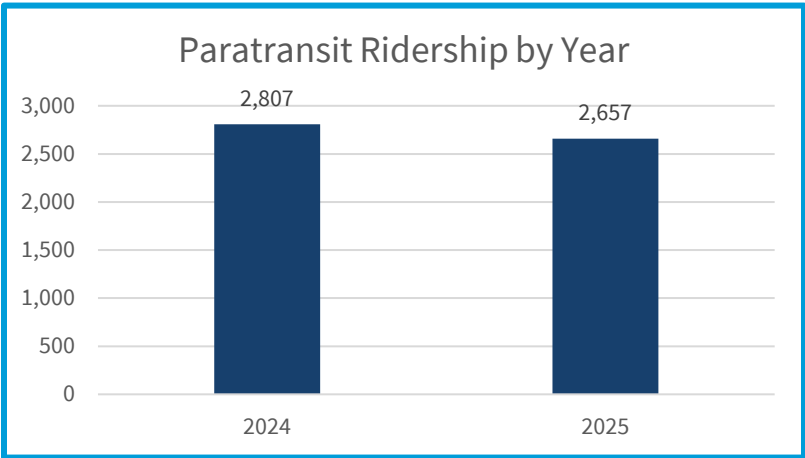
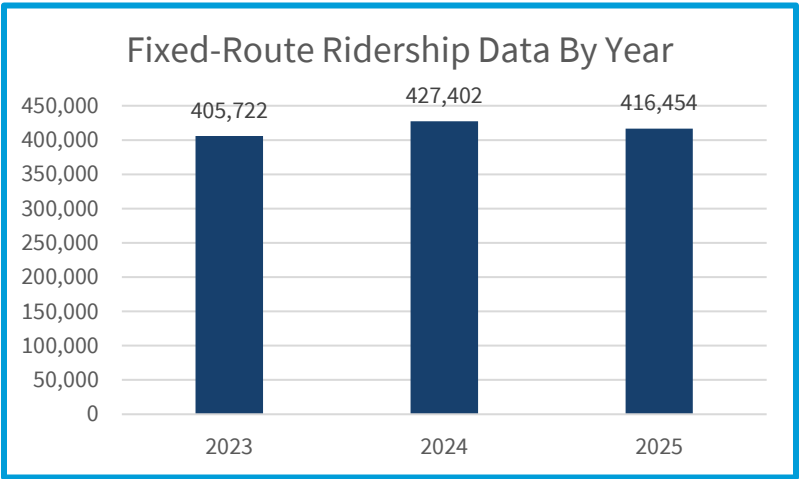
Figure 2 shows a mean commute time of 15.5 minutes. Driving alone is the predominant mode of transportation for work, used by 73 percent of commuters. Carpooling accounts for 9 percent, while smaller shares of residents walk, bike, or use public transit. Remote workers represent 13 percent of City of Wausau residents. Overall, personal vehicle use remains the primary mode of transportation in Wausau today.

Bicycling and Walking

The City’s Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) meets monthly and was created to improve bicycle and pedestrian accommodations throughout the City of Wausau. The BPAC works closely with the Wausau Metropolitan Planning Organization’s (MPO) Bike/Ped Subcommittee with planning guidance from the Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan for the Wausau Area MPO.

Transit

The City offers public transit through Metro Ride Bus Service. Metro Ride has a hub and spoke design with buses leaving from the Wausau Transit Center at 555 Jefferson Street to run their routes. There are seven fixed routes that include major corridors and destinations including Northcentral Technical College (NTC), Aspirus Hospital, and Wausau West High School. Routes run on weekdays in 30-minute intervals. Paratransit services are also available for individuals with disabilities. Fixed route and paratransit ridership data by year are included below:



Opportunities to increase ridership have been explored including continuing to:

- foster relationships with major employers (where employee passes pay for transit service and the employer pays for the services)
- explore microtransit (a service that falls between fixed transportation service and ride hailing) which could complement existing transit and alleviate gaps in infrastructure
- evaluate route efficiency
- elevating transit through promotion, digital opportunities, and free days

In summary, improving sustainability and reducing environmental impacts can be supported by strategies that decrease single-occupancy vehicle trips and expand the use of electric vehicles, transit, bicycling, walking, and other low-carbon transportation options. These considerations are also important when planning new development projects. By integrating residential, commercial, and recreational land uses, Wausau can create more opportunities for residents to walk, bike, or use transit when commuting, running errands, or accessing recreational opportunities.

Waste

Solid waste consists of post-consumer materials including food waste, plastics, paper, metals, construction debris, and other materials. The data collected do not consider the manufacturing and usage of the product being discarded, but rather the volume of waste generated and the breakdown of how waste and recycling are processed.

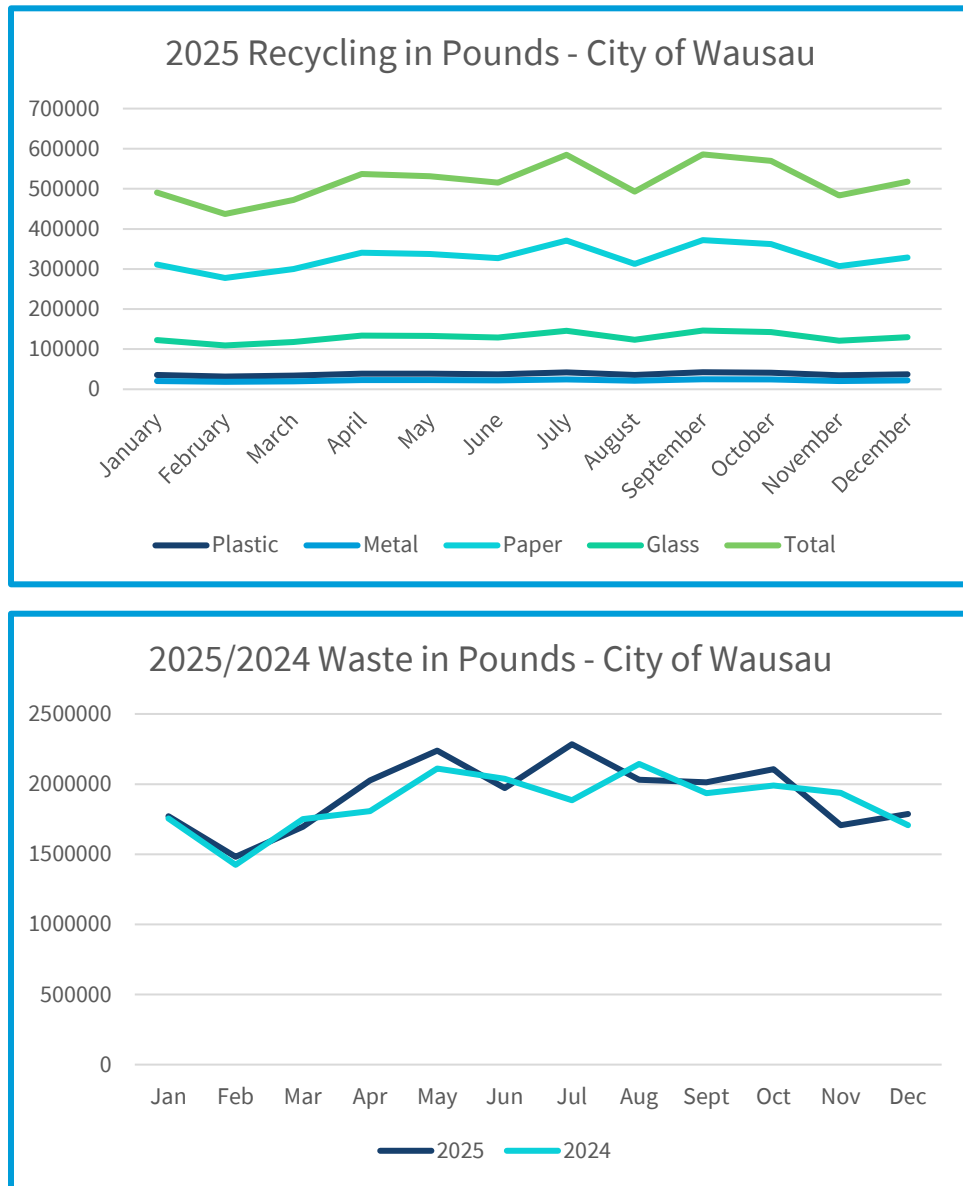
WASTE IN CITY

Waste and Recycling

The City of Wausau contracts with Harter's Fox Valley Disposal for residential and commercial waste and recycling. Collection is Monday through Friday on regularly scheduled routes. All residential households within City limits are served per the municipal contract and commercial accounts are contracted on an individual basis. In 2025, a total of 23,113,260 pounds or 11,556.63 tons of trash was collected in the City of Wausau. A total of 6,217,595 pounds or 3,108.8 tons of recycling was collected in the City of Wausau.

Both residential and commercial trash is delivered to the Marathon County Landfill. Single stream recycled material, for both residential and commercial routes, is transferred at the Harter's location in Ringle, Wisconsin, into tractor-trailers and transported to the Republic Services sorting facility in Eagle River, Wisconsin. Where possible, clean cardboard routes are established for applicable commercial customers. Clean cardboard is delivered to the IROW facility in Mosinee.

Figure 7a and 7b – Recycling and Waste Data – City of Wausau



Composting

Hsu's Growing Supply in Wausau provides food waste recycling curbside pickup. The goal of their Food Waste Recycling Program is to divert food waste from the landfill and turn it into compost that provides direct benefit to the community.

Hsu's has approximately 40 residential customers in the greater Wausau area. There are three different day routes and approximately 1,000 pounds of food waste is collected per day. Several Wausau School District schools participate in the program including Wausau West High School, Wausau East High School, Horace Mann Middle School, and Stettin Elementary School. Approximately 200 pounds of food waste per week is collected from the schools.

Food Rescue

Food rescue is the process collecting food that would otherwise go to waste by transferring fresh food surpluses from local businesses to social service agencies serving the food insecure. Feeding America Eastern Wisconsin rescues food from retailers in their 35-county footprint including Marathon County. There may be opportunity to engage restaurants and small businesses within the City to increase the amount of food rescue happening locally.

Municipal Greenhouse Gas Emissions Data

This section includes energy data providing information about emissions that result from City building energy use, City vehicle travel, and City generated waste. City of Wausau building energy use emissions means the greenhouse gases (GHGs) that result from electricity consumption and natural gas use in City-owned buildings. City travel emissions come from combustion vehicles, such as cars and trucks that run on liquid fuels. Waste emissions are generated through the disposal process and captured at the final destination — often landfills or incinerators.

BUILDINGS

The City is currently working with Focus on Energy to benchmark facilities using ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager through the Practical Energy Management program. Benchmarking enables building owners to evaluate performance against national medians, identify underperforming facilities, and determine where energy efficiency upgrades are needed. Properties are evaluated for Site EUI and Source EUI.

Site EUI – the amount of heat and energy consumed by a building as reflected in your energy bills.

Source EUI – the total amount of raw fuel that is required to operate a building.

The EPA has determined that source energy is the most equitable unit of evaluation when comparing buildings. It incorporates all transmission, delivery, and production losses, providing a complete assessment of energy efficiency. The following City buildings have been benchmarked:

Figure 9 – Year 2025 Building Energy Data – City of Wausau

Building	Site EUI	National Median Site EUI	Source EUI	National Median Source EUI	% Diff from National Median Source EUI
City Hall	105.2 kBtu/ft ²	56.7 kBtu/ft ²	165.6 kBtu/ft ²	89.3 kBtu/ft ²	86%
Metro Transit Station	278.3 kBtu/ft ²	92.4 kBtu/ft ²	337.2 kBtu/ft ²	112 kBtu/ft ²	201%
Fire Station 2	122.5 kBtu/ft ²	84.8 kBtu/ft ²	180.3 kBtu/ft ²	124.9 kBtu/ft ²	44%

Other buildings that should be prioritized for benchmarking include:

- Police Department
- Fire Stations 1 and 3
- Department of Public Works Facilities
- Community Development Authority Facilities
- Wastewater Treatment Facility
- Water Treatment Facility

The City has partnered with Focus on Energy for energy audits and assessments. Energy efficiency upgrades to municipal facilities have the potential to reduce emissions and cost. Recommendations would be to prioritize additional buildings for benchmarking and to continue with energy audits and recommended improvements as cost and staff time permit.

The City is currently undergoing a feasibility study for a new Metro Ride administrative building. It is recommended that the infrastructure to provide EV charging for buses be included so that when EV buses become more widely available the facility can accommodate these vehicles.

FLEET

The City of Wausau Fleet operates under the Department of Public Works and is located at 400 Myron Street. The Division is responsible for procurement, allocation, and maintenance of all City vehicles. The Police and Fire Departments rent vehicles from the Department of Public Works. City entities that handle vehicles separately include Wastewater, Water, (as utilities) and Metro Transit (due to federal funding requirements).

The City Fleet Department participates in the State of Wisconsin cooperative purchasing contract. This enables Wausau to capitalize on pre-bid volume pricing, the contract is held and managed by Ewald Automotive Group.

The City has taken several steps to save money and lower greenhouse gas emissions.

Aligning Vehicle Size with Operational Needs

Smaller vehicles are purchased or assigned whenever they can meet departmental needs, helping reduce fuel consumption.

EV Infrastructure Needs

Many staff currently operate hybrid vehicles, reducing fuel emissions and saving money. At this time, the City does not own electric vehicles. Significant electrical upgrades would be required at the aging 400 Myron Street facility to support EV charging, and these improvements do not cost out at a site nearing end-of-life. When a new Department of Public Works facility is built, installing electrical upgrades and integrating building attributes that support EV infrastructure from the outset should be considered.

Sustainable Fleet Planning

While EV's typically save money over time, upfront funding is not always available when vehicle replacements are needed. Additional employee training would also be required. This could likely be integrated into regular workflow but is still a consideration.

Of the City's 91 light duty vehicles, 12 are hybrids. Continuing to consider hybrid models during future procurements remains a sound strategy. A fleet audit, particularly if supported by a grant, could help identify further opportunities and constraints within the City's fleet.

Metro Ride recently purchased ten new buses and four new paratransit vans. All new buses are Diesel Exhaust Fluid (DEF) compatible which reduces toxic nitrogen oxide NOx from diesel engines up to 90 percent, turning Nox emissions into safe nitrogen and water vapor. Fuel economy is also substantially improved. At this time, electric buses are not a feasible option due to current technological and operational limitations. However, as technology continues to improve, electric buses and other low-carbon transit solutions will be explored that could better meet community needs.



Planning, Community and Economic Development

Date: September 3, 2026

To: Sustainability, Energy, and Environment Committee

From: Carrie Edmondson, AICP, Assistant City Planner

RE: Survey Dissemination Update

Now that the Community Sustainability Survey and Business Sustainability Survey have been finalized, dissemination is under consideration by the committee.

The following steps were agreed upon at the August meeting and have been completed.

- The [Sustainability](#) page on the City website has been updated to summarize the plan and provide links to both surveys.
- A press release has been prepared describing the plan and both surveys and is scheduled to be released September 1.
- Information about the plan and both surveys has been submitted to be included in the fall newsletter

Additional steps that could be considered:

- Email to Alders requesting their help in survey distribution (Carrie)
- Targeting partners such as the Chamber of Commerce, Wausau River District, Visit Wausau, NTC, Marathon County, and a few large local employers (Carrie and/or SEEC members)
- Individual committee members sharing with their sustainability aligned networks/businesses (SEEC members)
- Others?

Project Goal: The SEEC will educate the community by engaging our neighbors, youth, residents, & businesses through sustainability-focused programming and provide opportunities for involvement culminating in Earth Week, April 2027

Project Team members: Carrie, Jean, Britnie, Lauren, Jesse, Christine, Carol

Target date of completion =
04/01/2027

What does success look like? A week full of activities &, opportunities that are highlighted by the City of Wausau, the local media with a target attendance of XXX

Target Conditions

SEEC Committee members will plan a week of fun, educational, and engaging initiatives that revolve around caring for our Earth

Obstacles:

City of Wausau has not formally presented or supported a week long city-wide initiative to keep our earth clean and cared for and engage citizens in participation.

Responsible individual / Resources need **Priority : High – Medium – Low**

Target Completion date: Status

Art Project

Recruit teens to design garden
Approve garden design and location
Find funding for garden and Spring 2027 goals
Define simple art project (painted rocks, plant markers, educational signage)
Plant Garden
Pollinator-serving art-waystations, bird houses, insect hotels
Earth Day event

Lauren - to bring ideas in July
WHO?
Committee and Jamie Polley
WHO?

8/13/2026 Finished
10/1/2026 Not started
12/15/2026 Not started
2/28/2027

WHO?
WHO?

4/1/2027 Not started

WHO?
WHO?

4/22/2026

Sustainability Award tied to Earth Week

include applications on a table at city council meetings
include application on a table at Art Fest
Sign up sheet for table at Art Fest
include applications on a table at Winter Farmers Markets

Committee agreement to move to Earth Week
WHO?
Christine: permission has been granted by Arts board
Christine
WHO?

6/4/2026 Finished
10/1/2026 Not Started
9/13/2026 In Progress
9/4/2026 In Progress
Not Started

Large Banner with Sustainability Logo and Art added September through April for display

Art Festival set up and sign up
Winter Farmers Markets

Christine
Jesse?

9/13/2026 In Progress

Promote local initiatives that are already happening

Tree planting
Ghidorzi Clean and Green
Good News Project e-CYCLE event
HSUs compost

WHO will reach out? Jean or Mary?
Carrie
Christine
Paul

10/1/2026 Not Started
10/1/2026 Not Started
10/1/2026 Not Started

Sustainability in Action Tours (Kolbe, native planting initiatives, library learn-ins)

Hsu
Solid Waste Facility

Paul
Christine

Create white page to promote all Earth Week Initiatives
"Sustainability on Tap" example

Carrie

LETS HAVE A DISCUSSION ABOUT THE REMAINING ITEMS. ARE WE BITING OFF MORE THAN WE CAN CHEW FOR YEAR ONE?

Reach out to Milwaukee	Lauren	
Trash fashion show	Jesse - Emerald is interested	
Staff the farmer's market through April	Jesse will gauge interest/availability	
trash/recycle at the art festival/hang tablecloth in April	Christine will gauge interest/availability	
Large Banner-Art in the Park	Christine to follow-up	
Event Planning	Britnie/Lauren to bring ideas next meeting	Not Started
Friday Entertainment?		
Waste Management will help with a clean-up (I have spoken with them in the past and they have expressed interest)		



Sustainability on Tap:

Earth Week Edition

Hosted by:



ecology economy equality | milwaukee.gov/eco



Tuesday, April 21 - Forward Together Wisconsin

11:00 AM

Geothermal for Schools and Municipalities Webinar



Wednesday, April 22 - Earth Day

4:00 - 5:30 PM

Kick-off Social at Lakefront Brewery



Thursday, April 23 - Sustainability in Action Tours

10:00 AM

Hotel Verdant - Racine (Dominion Properties)

11:30 AM

Milwaukee Area Technical College - Mequon Campus

2:00 PM

Milwaukee Public Library Martin Luther King Branch

3:30 PM

Galbraith Carnahan Architects Log Cabin & Idyll Coffee Roasters



Friday, April 24 - McCotter Energy Systems Tech Summit

1:45 - 3:30 PM

Track 1: Energy Efficiency Strategies for Existing and New Buildings

3:30 - 5:00 PM

Track 2: Sustainable Solutions to Decarbonize and Reduce Water Consumption

5:00 PM

Happy Hour at Eagle Park Brewing Company



Saturday, April 25 - Other Partner Events

12:00 - 3:00 PM

Rock the Green 15th Annual Earth Day Celebration