

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 Kingsley 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.