

Our intention is to have in-person meetings going forward. For the time being, we will hold the City Committee Meetings, Plan Commission, Council and most others at the Community Room at 933 Michigan Avenue. This in-person location will meet the legal requirement for our open meetings.

We will have a virtual option available, but the technology for the hybrid style meeting may not be reliable all of the time.

CITY OF STEVENS POINT SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

June 5, 2025 - 5:30 PM

**Community Room
933 Michigan Avenue, Stevens Point, WI**

OR

[Zoom Teleconferencing](#)

Meeting ID: 889 1333 0721 | Passcode: 922681

By Computer: [Join](#)

By Phone: +1-312-626-6799 (US Chicago)

(A quorum of the City Council may attend this meeting)

AGENDA

Opening Section:

1. Roll Call.
2. Persons who wish to address the Sustainability Commission on specific agenda items must register their request at this time.
3. Persons who wish to address the Sustainability Commission on Non-specific agenda items must register their request at this time.

Discussion and Possible Action on:

1. Minutes from the May 1, 2025 commission meeting
2. Presentation by Dan Kremer, Director of Parks, Recreation and Forestry: Department operations overview and efforts to reduce greenhouse gases and adaptations to climate change.
3. Review of the Sustainability Commission 2025 meeting calendar and presentations.
4. Next meeting July 10, 5:30 pm at 100 6th Avenue, City Public Works and Recycling Facility: Staff designee (Scott Beduhn, Director of Public Works and Chris Johnson, Superintendent of Fixed Operations). Increasing sustainability and resilient operations and greenhouse gas reductions through facilities planning and operations.

Closing Section:

1. Adjournment.

Any person who has special needs while attending this meeting or needing agenda materials for this meeting should contact the City Clerk as soon as possible to ensure a reasonable accommodation can be made. The City Clerk can be reached by telephone at (715) 346-1569, TDD # 346-1556 or by mail at 1515 Strongs Ave., Stevens Point, WI 54481.

Copies of ordinances, resolutions, reports and minutes of the committee meetings are on file at the office of the City Clerk for inspection during normal business hours from 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

CITY OF STEVENS POINT
SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION MINUTES

May 1 - 5:30 PM

Community Room

933 Michigan Avenue, Stevens Point, WI

Opening Section:

1. Roll Call.

PRESENT:

Sam Lang - District 9 Alderperson, Allison Birr - District 5

Alderperson, Heather Phelps and Doug Stingle.

PRESENT OTHERS:

Joel Lemke - Director of Public Utilitites

2. Selection of a temporary meeting chair. (3.57 Sustainability Commission, (5) Commission Rules: (a))

Alderperson Allison Birr asked for nominations for temporary meeting chair, Alderperson Birr was nominated with no other nominations. Motion by Alderperson Birr to nominate Alderperson Birr and close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot, second by Heather Phelps.

Call for the Vote: Ayes: All

Nays: None; Motion Carried

3. Persons who wish to address the Sustainability Commission on specific agenda items must register their request at this time.

There were no people who wished to address the Commission on specific agenda items.

4. Persons who wish to address the Sustainability Commission for up to 3 minutes regarding a non-agenda item.

There were no people who wished to address the Commission on non-agenda items.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON:

5. Minutes of Sustainability Commission on April 3, 2025

Phelps moved, Alderperson Lang seconded, to approve meeting minutes of April 3, 2025

Call for the Vote: Ayes: All

Nays: None; Motion Carried

6. Presentation by Joel Lemke – Director of Public Utilities on;

- **Department operations overview and efforts to increase efficiency and sustainability of operations that can reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adaptations to climate change**
 - Department defines sustainable operations as providing essential services while maximizing efficiency of financial resources, natural resources, and staff expertise.
 - All new projects are done through the lens of sustainability and best financial decisions.
 - All existing operations are maximized for longevity and sustainability.
 - Financial resource savings and staff expertise are the most important factors in efficiency of operations and future investments.
 - Example: Sewage treatment plant use of bio-gas for heat and other steps taken to reduce natural gas and electrical use (expense).
- **2002-2003 Focus on Energy Audit completed all the easy to do energy efficiency projects.**
 - On-going Focus on Energy grants received to date over \$500,000 to invest in energy saving projects.
- **2003-2011 Energy efficiency projects completed.**
 - Energy efficient dissolved oxygen probs, blowers, other equipment.
 - Turning off non-essential equipment when not in use.
 - Lighting efficiencies.
 - Low energy methods of mixing sludge.
 - Heat pumps for heating and cooling using effluent water.
 - Bio-gas sewage digester energy source for heating.

- **2012 Bio-gas utilization and energy production.**
 - Bio-gas digester runs 180KW generator for electric power. Generator was replaced with using Bio-gas methane for heating which was less cost than electric power generation.
- **2015 Stevens Point Brewery project.**
 - Stevens Point Brewery project to cost share with Brewery to direct line transport high strength waste directly to Bio-gas digester plant. City and Brewery saved significant costs by removing waste stream from the City sanitary sewer line system and going directly to the bio-digester.
- **Sanitary Sewer and Storm water management.**
 - Lining of sanitary sewer in high groundwater areas to reduce groundwater intrusion into the system. Storm water sewer systems are separated from the sanitary sewer system. No combined sewer systems.
 - There is a program for resident storm water lateral systems for basement sump pumping of ground water. Most storm water from streets and hard surfaces is infiltrated.
- **2018 Utility garage Solar energy and heat pump project.**
 - Heat pump for heating and cooling using effluent from waste water treatment plant.
 - Photo voltaic 131Kw solar panels on utility garage for offsetting energy demand and producing savings on power costs.
 - E-gauge and MuGrid tools for monitoring and data collection of electric power use of various operations and equipment to manage operation efficiencies and determine feasibility of solar power use.
- **2019 Bio-solids dewatering and drying project.**
 - Class A bio-solids produce organic products like Milorganite that can be used and sold as fertilizer or organic product. Class B bio-solids produce organic product that are disposed of by land spreading on agricultural fields. City wants to produce class A bio-solids for more efficient disposal and eliminate the costs of land spreading.
 - Class B bio-solids are more expensive to dispose because of hauling costs to land spreading areas, agricultural land available for spreading, fees for land spreading acres.
 - Class A bio-solids are easier product to sell or dispose of at a lower cost.
 - PFAS in bio-solids can affect disposal and ability to land spread. Land fill leachate is the number one source of PFAS contamination in the sewage treatment plant process. Landfills dispose of leachate in municipal treatment plants for safe disposal of this leachate.
 - Well head protection of City water system includes groundwater monitoring wells upstream of well head recharge areas.
- **Other projects.**
 - Lift station replacement results in efficient sizing and reduced costs of operating resulting in energy use savings.

- Fiber optic network connecting all City facilities resulted in no duplication of service in phone and data and eliminate network provider fees.
- E-gauge tool will continue to be used to monitor electric power use to determine power efficiency options and cost effective use of solar power use. Current monitor projects to determine solar power suitability; Well number 11, Airport lighting, City transit building, Waste water plant facilities.
- **Questions and Discussion.**
 - Stormwater management and potential flooding in high rainfall events; The City is always working to reduce or mitigate flooding, but flooding cannot be eliminated. Most stormwater runoff is overland flow through ditches and infiltration swales. A Citywide Stormwater sewer system that could handle all high rainfall events is not feasible.
 - Bio-gas methane emissions; Depending on the heating demand, some methane gas produced by the digester cannot be used and is flared (burned).
 - Establish a City budget allocation for investigating the potential cost savings and investing in future solar power & battery storage at City facilities, Electric vehicle charging stations for City use, Micro-gas turban electrical generation using bio-gas.

8. Selection of a meeting date in duly for field trip of Public Works facilities.

- Presentations are planned for the May and June meetings.
- Staff designee for May meeting (Joel Lemke, Director of Public Utilities and Central Transportation).
- June will be Parks and Forestry
- Commission to explore a potential field trip for the commission for July meeting
- July meeting dates to be discussed offline due to the normal schedule falling next to the July 4 holiday.

9. Next meeting: Staff designee (Dan Kremer, Director of Parks, Recreation and Forestry).

- Ald. Lang suggested topics include; Solar park shelter, EV charging stations, Food forest, Short term projects to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

CLOSING SECTION:

10. Adjournment.

Heather Phelps moved, Ald. Lang seconded, Motion to adjourn at 6:44pm

Call for the Vote: Ayes: All Nays: None; Motion Carried

2025 Meeting Calendar and Presentations [05/27update](#)

Sustainability Commission

Date	Presentation	Description
March 6, 2025	Public Works	Scott Beduhn, Director: Streets, Fleet, Facilities, Resident garbage, compost, recycling.
April 3	Community Development -Planning & Zoning	Adam Kuhn, Associate Planner/Zoning: Wis Local Gov Climate Coalition, GHG Inventory.
May 1	Public Utilities and Central Transportation	Joel Lemke, Director.
June 5	Parks, Recreation & Forestry	Dan Kremer, Director
July 10 Field trip	Public Works. Scott Beduhn Chris Johnson	Garbage & recycling, Garage facilities planning & Sustainability. 5:30pm at 100 6 th Avenue.
August 19 or 26 confirm date Field trip	Public Utilities. Joel Lemke	Waste Water Treatment plant; Bio-gas, heat pumps, solar, E-gauge operations.
September 4	Community Development Adam Kuhn, Associate Planner/Zoning	Zoning code revision update. Green House Gas inventory status update.
October 2		
November 6		
December 4		
January 1?, 2026		
February 5		
March 5		

Potential Presentation Topics and Departments for future Meetings

- Community Development (Neighborhood Improvement and Economic Development). There are several topics to choose in these Departments.
- Airport
- Police
- Fire and EMS
- Community Media (City Department)
- Wisconsin Public Service
- UWSP, Office of Sustainability; Climate Action Plan