

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

September 4, 2025 - 5:30 PM

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

OR

Zoom Teleconferencing

Meeting ID: 825 7172 6325

Passcode: 795417

By Computer:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82571726325?pwd=QsLgxFpHdlehXuHbQ5EavCSxNo8bpU.1>

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:

4. Report of the June 5, 2025 meeting of the Sustainability Commission.
5. Presentation by Adam Kuhn, Associate Planner / Zoning Administrator: Zoning Code rewrite and update on the City's greenhouse gas inventory.
6. Update on a new contact for the Focus on Energy program, and contacts with UWSP and the Portage County Planning & Zoning Department.
7. Review of the Sustainability Commission's 2025 meeting calendar, and discuss meeting agenda topics for 2026.
8. Next meeting: October 2nd, 2025 at 5:30pm at 100 Sixth Avenue.

Presentation by Police Chief Kussow and Fire Chief Moody on police, fire and EMS sustainable and resilient operations.

Closing Section:

9. 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

June 5 - 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, Robert Michitsch, Greg Knight. Doug Stingle absent.

PRESENT OTHERS:

Dan Kremer - Director of Parks, Recreation and Forestry.

Todd Ernster – Forestry & Landscape Operations Superintendent.

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 May 1, 2025

Ald. Allison Birr moved, Heather Phelps seconded, to approve meeting minutes of May 1, 2025

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

6. Presentation by Dan Kremer – Director of Parks, Recreation and Forestry.

- **Department operations overview and efforts to increase efficiency and sustainability of operations that can reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adaptations to climate change**
 - Dan presented a power point of examples of sustainable operations and projects the Department does and has completed to increase efficiency and reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to changing climate.
- **Forestry.**
 - City plants 300 trees and removes 100 annually. Diverse species planted for more resilience to pests and climate change (red maple is the most common tree).
 - City Utility funds about \$30,000 for tree planting because of significant stormwater mitigation benefits. Alder person added \$5,000 in FY25 funding for tree planting.
 - 2024 updated city urban forestry management plan.
 - Trees reduce storm water runoff and increase water infiltration.
 - Value of reduced storm water runoff is \$283,000 (361,000 gallons).
 - Trees reduce/sequester carbon in the atmosphere and reduce city heat island effects.
 - Value of carbon sequestration is \$575,000.
 - No estimates for numbers and contributions of private trees in the city.
 - Urban orchards or the planting of fruit trees in city parks available to pick by the public are being considered/planned.
- **Pollinator Areas.**
 - Program to replace no mow May with planting of pollinator gardens in city parks and planning & information assistance for private citizens to participate.
 - Increase storm water infiltration and reduce runoff.
 - Store carbon and increase plant diversity for pollinator habitat.
 - Boost biodiversity and resist climate change stress.
- **Naturalized areas in Parks.**
 - 300 acres of park land with about ½ of area that is not mowed.
 - Naturalized (not mowed) area increases storm water infiltration and stores more carbon than mowed areas.
 - Save money on maintenance and reduce carbon impact from less mowing and maintenance.
 - Increases pollinator habitat.

- **Battery Power.**
 - Push mowers, weed whips, leaf blowers, chain saws, other power tools have been or are being converted to battery power: Lighter, less maintenance & expense to operate, Less carbon emissions.
 - Will acquire battery powered front-mount riding lawn mowers when they become available.

- **New Build Park Projects.**
 - Consider solar power in all park building projects.
 - Consider wood vs steel in all new park structures.
 - Net metering solar arrays are installed in Seramur and Groholski parks.
 - Level 2 electric car charger is installed in Groholski park.
 - Net metering covers most or all the electric utility cost of the two parks including most of the cost of the car charger (\$18 to \$22/month expense).

- **Other energy saving upgrades and future upgrades.**
 - New insulation to increase building energy efficiency.
 - LED lighting in interior of buildings.
 - LED lighting and timers for exterior lights.
 - Ice chiller upgrade KB Willett ice arena.
 - Large window panels were installed for increased natural lighting.
 - Restroom timers and sensors to turn off lights and mechanical.
 - Sink water metering to limit water consumption.
 - Consider solar power in all new facility projects.
 - Use wood and gravel to replace asphalt and concrete in trail and trail bridge projects.
 - Use wood to replace steel in park facilities construction.
 - Expand the use of battery power tools, equipment and EV vehicles.
 - Consider city tree carbon credit market for new revenue source if this market becomes available.

- **Questions and Discussion.**
 - Could plant more trees but new tree planting requires a 5 to 10 year commitment to watering and pruning to ensure survival and good start. Increasing tree planting would require more personnel time.
 - Suggestion to sign orchard plantings to let people know they can pick the fruit.
 - There are 15 full-time and 26 park time/seasonal staff in the Forestry and Parks department.
 - Pollinator garden planting areas are limited by funding. Naturalized areas in parks are mostly area that is not mowed or left in original wild state.
 - Athletic field playing turf has limited fertilizer & herbicide use to maintain.

- Carbon Credit program; currently looking for opportunities to sell carbon credits. Tree inventory does not include carbon sequestration and storm water mitigation contributions from private trees.

7. Review of the Sustainability Commission 2025 meeting calendar and presentations.

- Tour of Public Works garage and recycling facility was held on July 10 at 5:30 pm.
- Tour of Public Utilities wastewater treatment plant facility was held on August 19 at 5:30 pm.
- Adam Kuhn, Associate Planner/Zoning will present at the regular September 4 Sustainability Commission meeting.

8. Next meeting: September 4, Staff designee (Adam Kuhn, Associate Planner/Zoning.

- Update on zoning code revision and greenhouse gas inventory.

CLOSING SECTION:

10. Adjournment.

Robert Michitsch moved, Ald. Sam Lang seconded, Motion to adjourn at 7:00 pm

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

2025 Meeting Calendar and Presentations [AUGUST 18 update](#)

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 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	Fire and Police Moody and Kussow	Fire, EMS, Police departments sustainable projects and plans.
November 6	UWSP office of Sustainability	Dave Barbier, Climate action planning and opportunities for collaboration.
December 4 2026	Focus on Energy program	Silvia Lopez, N Cent/N East Energy Advisor
January 8 ?	WPS - NatureWise	To be confirmed
February 5		
March 5		

Potential Presentation Topics and Departments for future Meetings

- Caity Carmody, DOA Office of Sustainability & Clean Energy