

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**

**October 2, 2025 - 5:30 PM**

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

**OR**

**Zoom Teleconferencing**

**Meeting ID: | Passcode:**

**By Computer: \*\*URL\*\***

**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 specific agenda items must register their request at this time.

Discussion and Possible Action on:

1. Approval of the minutes of September 4, 2025, meeting of the Sustainability Commission.
2. Presentations by Assistant Chiefs Joseph Gemza and Dennis Zvara of the Fire Department, and Police Chief Robert Kussow. Fire, EMS, and Police departments sustainable and resilient operations. Community resilience to future heat waves, air quality warnings, and flooding/severe weather events.
3. Review of the Sustainability Commission 2025 meeting calendar and presentations. Updates and new information from sustainability commission members for meeting agenda topics, presentations and speakers for 2025 and 2026.
4. Discussion on Sustainability Commission goals, objectives, planning document.

5. Next meeting is November 6, 5:30pm at 100 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Presentation from Dave Barbier, USWP Office of Sustainability. Climate action planning and opportunities for collaboration.

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**

**September 4 - 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.

**PRESENT OTHERS:**

Adam Kuhn – Associate Planner / Zoning Administrator.

Lara Broderick – District 4 Alderperson

**2. 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.

**3. 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:**

**4. Minutes of Sustainability Commission on June 5, 2025**

Ald. Sam Lang moved, Robert Michitsch seconded, to approve meeting minutes of June 5, 2025

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

## **5. Presentation by Adam Kuhn – Associate Planner / Zoning Administrator.**

Adam Kuhn presented the city zoning code rewrite and the Green House Gas (GHG) inventory.

### Zoning Code Rewrite:

The current city zoning code has had no significant updates since 1979.

Planning versus zoning codes: The city comprehensive planning process covers many topics like land uses, transportation, recreation & parks, housing and business development and provides the vision for orderly development.

The zoning code is the rules & regulations process that implements the city's comprehensive plan: 1. Promote & protect health, safety and general welfare of citizens. 2. Environmental and natural resource protection. 3. Community character & aesthetics.

Zoning maps: designate a zoning district for each property.

Ordinance: describes regulations that apply to each zoning district.

The zoning code rewrite is a 2-year process to complete (started in 2025). Deliverables include updated zoning codes and maps. This process includes community engagement; public surveys, neighborhood meetings that included discussions on topics such as housing, business, industry, transportation, allowable uses, aesthetics, setbacks, sustainability, etc.

Purpose of the zoning code rewrite:

1. Have the existing built environment be reflective in zoning regulations to reduce the amount of legal nonconforming situations.
2. Reflect modern development and land use practices.
3. Be compliant with State & Federal laws.
4. Increase efficiencies and user-friendliness.
5. Consider context-sensitive design standards.

Adam asked sustainability commission members for input on incorporating community and environmental sustainability principles into comprehensive city planning and the updating of the city zoning code. Commission member discussion topics included:

- Environmental goals, green space preservation, supporting native plants & trees, flood mitigation such as limiting impervious surfaces because the city relies on rain infiltration to mitigate storm water runoff.
- Identify flood water and rain infiltration areas to mitigate potential flood damage.
- Outdoor lighting & illumination standards for buildings, signage, and streets to “put the light where it is needed” and mitigate nuisance lighting. Encourage “dark sky”.
- Forest/tree requirements and conservation & parkland land use designations for greenhouse gas emissions mitigation and carbon sinks.

- Identify undeveloped parcels in the city that should be designated parkland or conservation.
- Extending the green circle trail to existing and new neighborhoods.
- Require new park development as new residential neighborhoods are developed and annexed to the city.
- Provide bus transportation options and bicycle, walking, safe streets to reduce the need for cars.
- Planning and zoning codes should encourage and/or incentivize the reduction in greenhouse gas emissions. Should there be requirements?
- Groundwater protection should be a mandate and requires effective zoning codes and coordinated planning and zoning with adjacent municipalities and Portage County to protect this most important natural resource.
- Discussed question about the regulatory approach to use for implementation of zoning codes, Incentives or mandates? Some codes require mandates such as health and safety. Some codes require a flexible approach as to how to accomplish the code objectives such as aesthetics, housing types & density, park development. Some codes may require a combination of incentives and mandates.
- Social fairness in planning and zoning codes, it is important that the city be a place where all residents can find affordable housing, transportation, healthcare, social support, jobs, lifestyle, amenities, and educational opportunities. The future success of Stevens Point will depend on keeping and attracting a workforce and people who want to live in the city.

#### Green House Gas (GHG) inventory:

The GHG inventory was funded by a 2024 Public Service Commission (PSC) planning grant and Wisconsin Local Government Climate Coalition.

This inventory collects data on Community-wide CO2 emissions (not just city operations). The categories of emission sources and energy consumption in Stevens Point are Stationary energy, Transportation, Waste, Industrial processes.

Energy sources are primarily electric natural gas, electricity, and oil.

The inventory data is collected from: Wisconsin Public Service (WPS), city utilities, and all other users of electricity, natural gas, oil. This data is analyzed using the software tool, ClearPath.

The GHG inventory data and ClearPath software tool will be used to: 1. Establish community baseline emissions and sources. 2. Model future scenarios and policy impacts. 3. Inform the city's Sustainability Commission climate action planning.

The city will need to continue funding the annual fee for the ClearPath software in the 2026 city budget.

Heather Phelps suggested the commission plan a future meeting to explore ClearPath tool and run simulations to help the commission prioritize GHG reductions strategies. Heather will also contact Middleton, a city of similar size, that has experience with running the ClearPath simulations and sustainability planning for advice and ideas.

Discussion by commission members suggested these goals in a climate action plan:

- Food waste diversion from landfills. A significant amount of GHG emissions occur from landfills due to too much organic material disposal.
- Solid waste management improvements to reduce GHG emissions.
- Fleet management and planning to reduce GHG emissions, reduce vehicle replacement costs, lower maintenance costs, realize higher trade in values when replacing vehicles.

Alder District 4, Lara Broderick addressed the commission and agreed with the priorities for GHS simulation exercise using the ClearPath tool and discussion on goals for the climate action plan.

#### **6. Update on new contact for the Focus on Energy program and contacts with UWSP and the Portage County Planning & Zoning Department.**

The city has a new Focus on Energy representative, Silvia Lopez. The city has utilized the Focus on Energy program incentives and grants to produce annual savings on gas and electric utility bills and reductions in CO2 emissions for city facilities. Silvia will have been contacting the city to continue this program.

Austin Holland, Associate professor conservation & community planning extension specialist was contacted for future assistance and input on city sustainability planning efforts. Austin's comments are that there is city operational & financial sustainability and social-community sustainability. Sustainability planning must also consider the social factors for community success or the stuff that makes Stevens Point a city where people want to live and can be successful. It is important to include equity in sustainability planning so all citizens can participate. Examples: affordable housing, transportation modes, parks, main street, etc. Collaboration with adjacent communities; Plover, Park Ridge, Whiting, Portage County, UWSP are important to creating a sustainable community.

Austin suggested contacting Katie Livernash, community development, UW-Extension, Portage County, for collaboration on city sustainability planning.

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

Chair Greg Knight reviewed confirmed presentations for the October 2, November 6 and December 6 commission meetings. The Chair asked commission members for potential topics and speakers for 2026 commission meetings. It was suggested that the city of Middleton could

be contacted to present on their sustainability planning, and they are a city of similar population. Heather Phelps will contact the city of Middleton for a potential speaker.

In 2025 the commission could use the Green House Gas (GHG) tool for analysis of GHG inventory data to help determine sustainability & CO2 reduction planning priorities.

Other suggested sustainability commission agenda items: Food waste diversion from landfill and solid waste management, Fleet management and vehicle replacement strategy, Collaboration meetings with adjacent communities and UWSP.

**8. Next meeting: October 2, 2025, at 5:30 at 933 Michigan Avenue.**

Presentations by Staff designees: Police Chief Kussow and Fire Chief Moody on police, fire, and EMS sustainable and resilient operations.

**CLOSING SECTION:**

**10. Adjournment.**

Ald. Alison Birr moved, Heather Phelps seconded, Motion to adjourn at 7:30 pm

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

Stevens Point Police Department  
933 Michigan Avenue



## **Our Mission**

- To work professionally as a team
- To promote public safety
- To enhance the quality of life in our community through innovative policing and community partnerships

## **Our Values**

- Integrity
- Respect
- Professionalism



## Department Organization

1 Chief  
2 Assistant Chiefs  
7 Lieutenants  
5 Sergeants – 1 Investigations 4 Patrol  
4 Lead Officers - Patrol  
3 School Resource Officers (SRO)  
5 Detectives  
1 Crisis Intervention Officer (CIT)  
1 Court and vehicle officer  
18 Patrol Officers  
1 Records Bureau Supervisor  
3 Administrative Assistants  
1.5 Community Service Officer (1FT/1 PT)  
**52.5 Total Members**

3 K-9 (2 dual purpose  
and 1 therapy)  
4 Crossing Guards

### Volunteers:

12 Auxiliary Police  
6 Chaplains



Total Calls for service average approximately 14,000 per year

Top calls:

- Welfare checks
- Disturbances
- Suspicious person
- Property Crimes
- Threats and Harassment



## Specialized Areas of the Department

Special Weapons and Tactics Team (SWAT – joint with Plover PD)

SWAT team Negotiator

Honor Guard

K-9

Firearms Instructor

Bike Patrol

Drone Pilot

Field Training Officer (FTO)

Emergency Vehicle Operations Course instructor (EVOC)

Drug Recognition Expert (DRE)

Project Lifesaver

Armorer

Defense and Arrest Tactics (DAAT)

Taser Instructor

Standardized Field Sobriety Test Instructor (SFST)

Peer Support Team



**SPPD Fleet**

12 Patrol vehicles (2 unmarked and 2 K9)

- 8 of the vehicles are Hybrid and run 24/7. This change has saved approximately 28% in fuel consumption since 2022. 2 unmarked squads will be transitioned to Hybrid in 2026

3 Administration vehicles

7 Investigator vehicle

1 Parking truck

1 Under cover seizure vehicle

1 MRAP

1 Multi-purpose transit van



## Facility Updates

- HVAC – 1 RTU replaced and another to be replaced in 2026 for energy efficiency
- Replacing bulbs throughout building from fluorescent to LED (Focus on Energy Rebates received)
- Room occupancy sensors in various rooms throughout the department
- 14 new windows to be replaced in 2026 to assist in energy efficiency



### Additional Efforts

- Use of drones for searches – battery powered
- Went to online scheduling 3-23, eliminating paper schedules
- Our evidence collection is all electronic and eliminated burning of DVD's
- Reduction of paper usage due to digital processing
- Hosting of training at the Police Department eliminates gas consumption on travel out of town.



## SPPD response to severe weather events

Cooling/Warming Shelters for severe heat/extreme cold – we work with other City locations to offer reprieve from the heat/cold

- Portage County Public Library; Salvation Army; Portage County Health and Human Services; SPPD lobby

Severe Weather Events –

- Officers will go through out the City to notify those at outdoor events of the pending weather concerns; utilize Streets Dept for barricades for known flood areas (underpasses)
- Keep a visual on the sky and advise dispatch of any sightings of tornados
- Will open up EOC if needed to work with all city departments to have a unified response to the situation



Thank you!

Questions?



## 2025 Meeting Calendar and Presentations [October 1 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 <sup>th</sup> 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	Focus on Energy program	Silvia Lopez, N Cent/N East Energy Advisor
<b>2026</b>		
January 8		
February 5		
March 5		

#### Potential Presentation and/or Topics for future Meetings

- Modeling scenarios and planning priorities for Green House Gas (GHG) emissions using the ClearPath tool.
- City of Middleton presentation on climate action planning using the ClearPath tool.
- Caity Carmody, DOA Office of Sustainability & Clean Energy, sustainability, resilience, climate action planning.
- Katie Livernash, Community Development UW-Extension Portage County, sustainability, resilience, climate action planning.
- Austin Holland, UWSP Center for Land Use Education, community sustainability and regional cooperation for sustainability, resilience, climate action planning.