

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

November 6, 2025 - 5:30 PM

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

OR

Zoom Teleconferencing

Meeting ID: 880 2036 0495 | Passcode: 517417

By Computer:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88020360495?pwd=jXFnshlK8jnliancj3NijfE0ReDZ9c.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 specific non-agenda items must register their request at this time.

Discussion and Possible Action on:

1. To approve the Minutes of the October 2, 2025, Sustainability Commission meeting.
2. Presentation by Dave Barbier and Michelle Gullickson from the UWSP Office of Sustainability regarding campus climate action planning and accomplishments. Discuss how the City of Stevens Point could collaborate with the University on reductions in CO2 emissions and achieving carbon neutrality, including a planning process, goals, and objectives.
3. Discussion on the 2025 and 2026 meetings calendar, agenda topics, presentations, speakers, and new information from the sustainability commission members.
4. Discussion on the Sustainability Commission's goals, objectives, and

development of a City sustainability planning document.

5. The next Sustainability Commission meeting is on December 4, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. in the Community Room at 933 Michigan Avenue, Stevens Point, WI, with a presentation from Silvia Lopez, the North East Energy Advisor for Focus on Energy, regarding Focus on Energy Programs and potential for future collaboration with the City of Stevens Point.

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

October 2, 2025 - 5:30 PM

Community Room

933 Michigan Avenue, Stevens Point, WI

Opening Section:

1. Roll Call.

PRESENT:

Heather Phelps, Robert Michitsch, Greg Knight, Doug Stingle. Sam Lang - District 9 Alderperson and Allison Birr - District 5 Alderperson are excused absence. Member of the public Nathan Sandwick was also present.

PRESENT OTHERS:

Dennis Zvara – Assistant Chief, Fire and EMS.

Robert Kussow – Police Chief, Police Department.

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. Approval of the Minutes of Sustainability Commission on September 4, 2025

Correction noted for future agenda item number 3 wording to change “specific agenda” to “specific non-agenda” items for persons who wish to address the commission.

Correction noted for agenda item number 5 to change meeting location at 100 6th Avenue to 933 Michigan Avenue.

Doug Stingle moved, Heather Phelps seconded, to approve meeting minutes of September 4, 2025.

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

5. Presentation by Police Chief Robert Kussow – Stevens Point Police Department.

In 2017 the police department moved from the basement of the county courthouse to the present location at 933 Michigan Avenue.

Department overview and staffing:

There are 51 total members, including 18 patrol officers, 12 auxiliaries, 6 chaplains, 3 K9 (two specialized and one therapy).

Department manages the un-housed and those with mental health issues.

Number one call is resident welfare checks (600 in 2024). Officers are trained in crises intervention.

Dispatching is through Portage County dispatch center. Staffing vacancies are an ongoing issue because dispatching is a stressful job.

SWAT team and negotiation team is a partnership with Village of Plover.

Budget and Cost Controls savings, Energy savings, Sustainable operations:

The Department has managed department with a 0% increase in budget for the last 5 years.

- Fleet savings with replacement of patrol vehicles with “hybrid vehicles”. There is a total of 12 patrol vehicles in the fleet. In 2024 the first hybrid was purchased and used 25% less gas consumption compared to a non-hybrid vehicle. In 2025 there are 8 hybrid vehicles in the fleet with an estimated savings of 28% in gas use and maintenance. Previous budget for fleet gas & maintenance was \$83,000 but that cost has been reduced to \$42,000.
- 2026 two unmarked fleet vehicles will be replaced with hybrid vehicles.
- EV vehicles are currently not feasible for the police department because police fleet is operated 24/7 which eliminates re-charging time.
- MRAP military surplus vehicle. No cost for acquisition. Used for SWAT and is a high-water vehicle used for flooding events.
- Focus on Energy program energy savings; Building interior lighting is converted to LED and operates on motion sensors to turn off lighting when not in use. Building window

replacement is the biggest need for energy savings. 14 windows are budgeted for replacement and will plan to replace all the windows.

- Drones are used by the department for search and rescue, and other applications. This tool saves a significant amount of time and personnel needed.
- Digital evidence collection and sharing using smart phones and other technology saves paper, time, elimination of DVDs, and increases efficiencies and capabilities.
- Training cost and time savings using in-house virtual classroom and remote log-in. Eliminate travel.

Severe Weather and Emergency Management:

Heat and cold are the most significant threats to city residents and employees.

- Cooling shelter is available using city transit buses and designated city and county buildings.
- City applied for a storm shelter/emergency power BRIC grant but did not receive it.
- EOC (City Emergency Operations Center) is in the city transit facility and provides a unified and coordinated response to all disaster events. Portage County also has an EOC facility and these two EOC can coordinate the emergency response of city and county departments.
- Black board Alert System provides emergency text notifications and information to City residents.

6. Presentation by Assistant Chief Dennis Zvara – Stevens Point Fire & EMS Department.

Mission statement of the department is community safety and preparedness. This includes sustainable operations and mitigating the threats posed by climate change. In 2026 a new 5-year plan will be completed.

Department overview and staffing:

- 5 department chiefs including emergency management.
- Ambulance and fire services work in shifts to maximize coverage and personnel.
- County contract for ambulance service. 5 Ambulances with 2 on call 24/7 cover the NW ¼ of the county.
- Fire investigation MOU with Police Department.
- Boat, Confined Space, Trench Collapse rescue capability.
- Provide public education and career exploration, completed 114 speaking events.
- CAP services
- Calls: EMS = 4,018 (increase of 10% over prior year). Fire = 1,227 (increase of 20% over prior year).
- SPFD, two fire stations built in 1969 and 1883. Training site use theater fog to simulate smoke for safer training. Both fire stations have backup power generation.

Sustainable operations, reducing energy and fuel use, budget savings:

- Utility Trailers; used to haul supplies and equipment. Pulled by pickup trucks. Reduce the number of support vehicles needed.
- HVAC upgrades for fire stations
- Steel roofing to reflect heat from the sun.
- LED and motion sensor interior lighting.
- Use Microsoft TEAMS for communication and sharing of information to reduce travel for face-to-face communication.
- Training in-house and online to reduce travel.
- Pickup Trucks use more fuel efficient V6 engine rated to 29mpg.
- Battery power fire tools for lighting, fans, chain saws, other saws. Reduced operating and maintenance costs.
- Replaced truck with a fire department car for fire inspections.

Emergency Management and Climate Change heat and storms:

- Emergency management is coordinated with Portage County emergency management and the University.
- Next generation Siren warning system.
- Emergency Operations Center (EOC) is city transit building and can be relocated to the city garage. Backup EOC with County and University facilities.
- City-wide employee training and planning for emergency management.
- Public can get phone/text notification emergency alert system.
- City has backup emergency generators and can assist University and County.
- Fire trucks can not function in water over one foot deep.
- Flooding in the RR underpasses are the main threat for deep water.
- Heat wave (85 degrees or higher) emergency can open designated cooling shelters and air-conditioned buses.
- Air-conditioned buses are used to mitigate fire fighter and emergency responder heat stress.
- Solar panels could be put on fire station roof and used to shade parking area.
- Mutual aid agreement when additional emergency response resources are needed.
- Pop up splash pads used around the city neighborhoods for heat mitigation.
- Fire department can recharge batteries for residents' medical equipment during power outage.

Questions and Discussion:

Heather Phelps:

EV batteries and other battery fires? Battery fires are hard to put out and require significantly more water. Disposal of burned electric vehicles and damaged batteries requires towing company safe storage on sand lots in case of fire. Auto dealerships require separate storage of

EV batteries. Battery fires are more likely in off-brand or after market batteries. Need for more battery fire risk awareness.

Charging stations for EV vehicles are safe but need more data on safety of home use charging equipment.

Robert Michitsch and Doug Stingle:

How fast will the cost of battery powered fire engines decrease? Battery power for large vehicles will need significant improvement in cost and utility before it is cost competitive to purchase.

Fire station Battery storage for backup power in combination with solar panels could be feasible.

You can install solar panels to metal roofs and not have to drill through the metal roof.

Solar panels for power and sunshade could be installed in parking lots at the fire stations.

Police Department building could have roof solar panels.

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

Chair Greg Knight reviewed confirmed presentations for the November 6 and December 6 commission meetings. The Chair asked commission members for potential topics and speakers for 2026 commission meetings. Future meeting suggestions include:

- City of Middleton sustainability committee zoom meeting.
- Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions modeling exercise.
- Food waste landfill diversion and reducing landfill gas emissions.
- Facility Tours; Police and Fire Departments – open invitation.
- Planning meeting to develop commission report, roadmap, next steps, etc.

8. Next meeting: November 6, 2025, at 5:30 at 933 Michigan Avenue.

Presentations by UWSP office of sustainability, Dave Barbier and Michelle Gullickson on campus sustainability programs and potential for city and university collaboration on GHG emissions reductions and sustainability planning.

CLOSING SECTION:

10. Adjournment.

Heather Phelps moved, Doug Stingle seconded, Motion to adjourn at 7:30 pm

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

2025 Meeting Calendar and Presentations [November 6 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 & Michelle Gullickson, Climate action planning and opportunities for collaboration.
December 4	Focus on Energy program	Silvia Lopez, N Cent/N East Energy Advisor
2026		
January 8	No meeting	
February 5	City of Middleton	Middleton Sustainability Committee Zoom meeting, planning process and projects
March 5	Recycling Connections	Susan Schuller Executive Director and Rylee Mullikin. Downtown recycling program.

Potential Presentation and/or Topics for future Meetings

- Modeling scenarios and planning priorities for Green House Gas (GHG) emissions 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.
- Planning meeting to develop Sustainability Commission report, recommendations, road map, timelines, etc.
- Food waste diversion from landfills.
- Fleet management planning and replacement tools.
-