

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.**

- **Key points:**

- A draft of the UWSP Climate Action & Resilience Plan is ready for stakeholder feedback.
- The plan aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and build resilience and adaptation strategies (environmental, social, and economic).

- **Process Overview:**

- Stakeholder kickoff in February 2024 with 100+ attendees representing businesses, the community, the university, and political leadership.
- Nine working groups were formed: Academics and Curriculum, Buildings and Operations, Economics and Procurement, Ecosystems and Planetary Health, Health and Wellness, Risk Management and Safety, Social Equity and Governance, Transportation and Travel, and Waste Management.
- 63 projects were identified out of 9 working groups.
- Community engagement model adapted from The Nature Conservancy.
- The draft plan reflects input from over 100 stakeholders.
- **Plan Structure:**
- Written for a broad audience (on/off campus).
- High-level overview: The "what," not the "how". The plan draft is about 30-40 pages and describes "what to do but not how to do it." The technical details will be developed in supplementary documents.
- **Four main sections:**
- Sustainability Values, Climate Action Mitigation, Climate Action Resilience, and Thriving Campus Community.
- Appendices and carbon neutrality plan to be released in early 2026.
- **Achievements:**
- 51% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from the 2007 baseline (as of last year).
- Ongoing projects include decarbonizing travel, emergency preparedness, and a campus bike/pedestrian master plan.
- Focus on education and outreach.
- **Feedback:**
- Two feedback forms (campus and community versions) for public comments on the plan draft are located on the UWSP Office of Sustainability website.
- Deadline for Feedback: December 12th, 2025.
- **Suggestion for City-University Collaboration:**
- Infrastructure projects (e.g., transportation, emergency preparedness, and energy).
- Waste management and composting.
- Joint grant applications for larger-scale projects, collaboration at "scale."
- Student internships and fellowships with city departments to help with sustainability planning, public outreach, project development, and grant applications.
- Shared outreach and education campaigns (e.g., waste reduction).
- Water quality and groundwater protection.
- Forestry and air quality initiatives, especially in response to climate impacts (e.g., storms, flooding, wildfire smoke, and extreme heat).
- Health and wellness (mental health).

- **Student and Community Engagement:**

- Student involvement through working groups, SGA, and clubs.

- Outreach via social media, presentations, and direct invitations.
- Opportunities for students to participate in projects and internships.
- **Resilience and Energy Discussion:**
 - **Campus power plant:**
 - Overbuilt capacity; boilers nearing end of life.
 - Plans to study and transition to renewable/alternative energy sources (solar, geothermal, etc.).
 - Emphasis on parallel systems for reliability (e.g., backup generators and battery storage).
 - **Broader resilience topics:**
 - Flooding risks, emergency preparedness, and infrastructure planning.
 - Improving partnerships and collaboration with the broader community.
 - Importance of communication and outreach on climate issues.
 - UWSP campus has showers, power, and food capabilities for campus and community response to emergencies.
 - Solar-covered parking lots, multiple battery backup systems, emergency backup systems, improving technology, multiple power sources, and fossil fuel backup generators are still part of the mix.
 - Sustainable building development, green construction, and development.
 - Transportation options, traffic infrastructure.
 - Where can we get sustainable electrical power? Increasing power demand.

3. Discussion on the 2025 and 2026 meetings calendar, agenda topics, presentations, speakers, and new information from the sustainability commission members.

- Chairperson Greg Knight reviewed and confirmed presentation topics for the following Commission meetings:
 - **December 4:** Sylvia Lopez (Focus on Energy Program Advisor for the City).
 - **January, 2026:** No meeting (Holiday break).
 - **February 5:** Meeting with the City of Middleton Sustainability Committee (ZOOM).
 - **March 5:** Recycling Connections presentation.
- Chairperson Greg Knight asked the Commission members for potential topics and speakers for the 2026 Commission Meetings. Future meeting suggestions include:
 - Dedicated session on City Sustainability Commission planning process, road map, report, and public engagement process.
 - City greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory emissions modeling scenarios, exercises and planning priorities (Adam Kuhn).
 - Food waste landfill diversion and reducing landfill gas emissions.
 - Fleet management planning and replacement tools.
 - Facility Tours: Police and Fire Departments — open invitation.
 - Caity Carmody, DOA Office of Sustainability & Clean Energy - sustainability, resilience, and climate action planning.
 - Katie Livernash, Community Development UW-Extension Portage County - sustainability, resilience, and climate action planning.
 - Austin Holland, UWSP Center for Land Use Education - community sustainability and regional cooperation for sustainability, resilience, and climate action planning.

