

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**

December 4, 2025 - 5:30 PM

Community Room

933 Michigan Avenue, Stevens Point, WI

OR

Zoom Teleconferencing

Meeting ID: 892 4943 0282 | Passcode: 168870

By Computer: [Zoom Link](#)

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. To approve the Minutes of the November 6, 2025, Sustainability Commission Meeting.
2. Presentation by Sylvia Lopez, Northcentral/Northeastern Energy Advisor, Focus on Energy. Focus on Energy overview, accomplishments, and savings for the City of Stevens Point. Also, the potential for future collaboration, new programs, and grant opportunities. Opportunities to reduce energy consumption and reduce greenhouse gas emissions to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050.
3. Discussion of Sustainability Commission 2025-26 meeting calendar. Updates and potential new information for future meeting topics, presentations, and speakers.
4. Discussion on the Sustainability Commission sustainability and climate resilience planning document process, goals, objectives, and timelines.

Closing Section:

1. The next meeting is scheduled for February 5, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. in the Community Room at 933 Michigan Avenue, Stevens Point, WI. Zoom presentation and discussion with the City of Middleton's Sustainability Committee Members on their planning process, community involvement, and development of climate sustainability and resilience goals, projects, and carbon neutrality by 2050.
2. 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
November 6, 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, and Alderpersons Sam Lang - District 9 and Allison Birr - District 5.

OTHERS PRESENT **Speakers:** Dave Barbier and Michelle Gullickson - UWSP Office of Sustainability.
Members of the Public: Aaron Hintz and Quinn Erst both UWSP Students and Joel Lemke with City of Stevens Point Public Utilities.

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 on specific non-agenda items must register their request at this time.

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

Discussion and Possible Action on:

1. To approve the Minutes of the October 2, 2025, Sustainability Commission meeting.

Heather Phelps **moved**, Ald. Sam Lang **seconded**, to approve the meeting Minutes of October 2, 2025.

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

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.

4. Discussion on the Sustainability Commission's goals, objectives, and development of a City sustainability planning document.

City Sustainability Commission goals:

- Catalog City sustainability efforts.
- Develop benchmarks, goals, and a planning process for 2026.
- Emphasis on collaboration due to limited commission size.
 - The City's role in setting sustainable expectations for incoming businesses/industries.
 - Use of community resilience building workshops for public engagement.
 - City resources for sustainability planning and public engagement; The Nature Conservancy (TNC) community resilience building guide and materials.

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.

There will be a presentation by Sylvia Lopez, Northcentral/Northeastern Energy Advisor, Focus on Energy. Overview and accomplishments of the Focus on Energy program with the City of Stevens Point. New Focus on Energy Programs and potential future collaboration.

Closing Section:

1. Adjournment.

Robert Michitsch **moved**, Ald. Allison Birr **seconded**, to adjourn the Sustainability Commission Meeting at **7:00 p.m.**

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

2025 Meeting Calendar and Presentations [December 4 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	Sylvia 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.
- Planning meeting to develop Sustainability Commission report, recommendations, road map, timelines, etc.
- 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.
- Food waste diversion from landfills.
- Fleet management planning and replacement tools.
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