



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.

Members

- Alderperson Lang
- Alderperson Birr
- Heather Phelps
- Gregory Knight
- Robert Michitsch
- Erin Redmond (Alt. 1)

AGENDA

SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

Date and Time:	August 6, 2026 5:30 PM	Location:	Community Room 933 Michigan Avenue, Stevens Point, WI
			<u>OR</u>
			<u>Zoom Teleconferencing</u>
			Meeting ID: 867 3790 9674 Passcode: 110496
			By Computer: Zoom Link
			By Phone: +1-312-626-6799 (US Chicago)

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-agenda items must register their request at this time.

Discussion and Possible Action on:

1. To approve the Minutes of June 4, 2026, Sustainability Commission Meeting.
2. Presentation and discussion with Adam Kuhn, Associate Planner/Zoning Administrator. Preliminary results of the city Greenhouse Gas (GHG) inventory and potential uses for sustainability planning.
3. Heather Phelps and Alder Birr lead commission discussion on Sustainability Commission public engagement survey tool and survey questions, timeline and approval/implementation process.
4. Commission discussion on reporting and recommendations presentation to the Mayor and City Council meeting November 16, 2026.
5. Discussion of Sustainability Commission 2026 meeting calendar updates

Closing Section:

1. The next meeting is scheduled for September 3, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. in the Community Room at 933 Michigan Avenue, Stevens Point, WI. Discussion on commission report presentation and recommendations to Mayor and City Council. Discussion on community survey tools and results if available.
2. Adjournment.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that any person who has special needs while attending these meetings or needs agenda materials for these meetings should contact the City Clerk as soon as possible to ensure that a reasonable accommodation can be made. The City Clerk can be reached by telephone at (715) 346-1569 or by mail at 1515 Strong's Avenue, 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 4:00p.m.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that a quorum of the Common Council may be in attendance at this meeting.

**CITY OF STEVENS POINT
SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION MINUTES**

**June 4, 2026 - 5:30 PM Community
Room
933 Michigan Avenue, Stevens Point, WI**

Opening Section:

1. Roll Call.

PRESENT Heather Phelps, Robert Michitsch, Greg Knight, Alderpersons Sam Lang - District 9 and Allison Burr - District 5.

OTHERS PRESENT **Speakers:** Amanda Haffele, Director, Portage County Solid Waste and Kelly Adlington, Bucket Ruckus.
Members of the Public: Bill Fisher, resident.

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 May 7, 2026, Sustainability Commission meeting.

Robert Michitsch **moved**, Sam Lang **seconded**, to approve the meeting Minutes of June 4, 2026.

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

2. Presentation and discussion with Amanda Haffele, Director, Portage County Solid Waste, promoting waste reduction into landfills and Kelly Adlington of Bucket Ruckus, promoting organic waste recycling.

Overview of Portage County Solid Waste Operations – Amanda Haffele

Topic: Waste reduction, landfill diversion, recycling operations, and potential organics strategies.

- Oversees:
 - Closed landfill
 - Solid waste transfer facility
 - Recycling facility
 - Household hazardous waste program
- Annual volume: **~44,000 tons** of material handled.
- Staff: **3 full-time, 4 contracted**, seasonal litter aid, summer intern.
- Funding:
 - User fees, material sales, grants
 - Not supported by tax levy
 - Municipalities may charge residents separately

Garbage & Recycling Volumes

- **110 tons/day** processed at transfer facility ($\approx$ weight of a blue whale).
- **33,000+ tons** sent to Wisconsin Rapids landfill in 2025.
- **4,300 tons** of recyclables sent to Appleton MRF in 2025.

Services Offered

- Construction/demolition waste
- Hazardous waste
- Agricultural waste
- Confidential paper
- Sharps
- Oil filters, antifreeze
- Bulbs, batteries, electronics
- Tires, compressed gas cylinders
- Deer carcasses
- And more

New Programs (2026)

- Cooking oil recycling
- Eyeglass donation (Lions Club partnership)
- **Nicotine vape recycling** (to reduce lithium-ion battery fires and hazardous exposure)

City–County Collaboration

- Bin contamination monitoring
- Consistent messaging on recycling rules
- Shared communication channels
- Support for expanding services (including organics)

Discussion Highlights

- **Green business awards:** None currently through Solid Waste; business council may have programs.
- **City waste share:** Amanda can provide Stevens Point-specific tonnage for trash and curbside recycling.
- **Food waste:**
 - County currently has **no organics program**.
 - Exploring feasibility of composting at old landfill.
 - Interest in developing program within **5–10 years**.
- **Recommendations for reducing waste:**
 - Promote **home composting**
 - Buy only what you need
 - Reuse and thrift
 - Avoid unnecessary online purchases
- **Battery recycling:**
 - Permanent drop-off program (fee per pound)
 - Free options in Staples stores
 - Anticipated statewide battery recycling program (pending industry decisions)
- **Waste vs. recycling data:**
 - County publishes annual report
 - City could receive annual Stevens Point-specific numbers
 - Could be included in the tax bill mailer or city annual report
- **Food pantry waste:**
 - Significant amount of expired/unusable food enters waste stream
 - Potential opportunity for organics diversion
- **Waste-to-energy:**
 - Landfill methane used at Cranberry Creek
 - No current local partnership for food-to-energy
- **Community compost drop-off sites:**
 - Idea supported (e.g., food pantries, farmers market, community gardens).

Commission members discussed opportunities to improve contamination monitoring, expand consistent public messaging, publish city-specific waste and recycling data, and explore ways to increase organic waste diversion. Amanda Haffele noted that the county can provide city-specific data for trash and curbside recycling, though other material streams are tracked in aggregate.

The discussion also covered potential food-waste priorities, including home composting, food pantry waste, food-industry waste, community compost drop-off locations, and possible future county composting options. Members also discussed battery recycling, lithium-ion battery fire risks, and the importance of keeping vapes and batteries out of the waste stream.

Overview of Bucket Ruckus – Kelly Adlington

Topic: Community composting, food scrap collection, organics diversion, and local opportunities.

About Bucket Ruckus

- Local LLC providing **paid food scrap collection** for:
 - Households
 - Businesses
 - One school (current year)

- Accepts **all food scraps**, including:
 - Meat, dairy, bones
 - Processed foods
- Containers: **5-gallon buckets** or **32-gallon bins**
- Compost site located at **White Feather Organics** (Kuster, WI)

Composting Process

- Mix of **nitrogen (food scraps) + carbon (wood chips)**
- Aerobic decomposition → finished compost
- Benefits:
 - Reduces methane emissions
 - Reduces landfill airspace usage
 - Supports soil health
 - Encourages Environmental Literacy

Contamination Challenges

- Common contaminants:
 - Produce stickers
 - Twist ties, rubber bands
 - Plastic cutlery, bags
 - Milk cartons
- Critical that customers remove contaminants to avoid litter in finished compost.

Food Waste Problem

- Kelly shared photos of large quantities of edible food discarded locally.
- Referenced DNR study showing **~30% of landfill material is organic**.

Environmental & Economic Impacts

- Food waste represents:
 - Lost labor
 - Lost land use
 - Lost transportation fuel
 - Lost economic value
- Community composting keeps value local rather than sending funds to large national waste companies.

Community Composting Network

- Bucket Ruckus is part of **Community Composters Coalition** (400+ members).
- Coalition supports:
 - Local jobs
 - Food scrap composting
 - Community education
 - Local economic retention

Policy & Market Challenges

- Large waste companies are increasingly entering organics hauling.
- Municipal RFPs sometimes require hauling **trash + recycling + compost**, which excludes small composters.
- Example: New York City's organics program criticized for:
 - Sending material to anaerobic digesters (not composting)
 - Reinforcing Monopoly Structures
 - Undercutting community composters

Free Community Drop Site

- Funded by Community Foundation grant.
- Location: **Union Street (Nordic Night Sauna lot)**
- Free with signup; 32-gallon bin serviced weekly.
- Opportunity for expansion with city partnership.

Discussion Highlights

- Cost to operate drop site: **\$502/year** for weekly service.
- City-wide organics hauling would require significant scaling; Bucket Ruckus currently serves ~160 customers.
- Cart-based systems (like California) could work for curbside organics.
- Yard waste is already banned from landfills; municipalities must provide diversion.
- City yard waste currently goes to processors like Busy Bee.
- State exploring feasibility of organics diversion; household waste identified as major contributor.
- Enforcement of existing bans (if any) is limited.
- Contamination is a major risk—Madison's pilot program failed due to excessive trash in organics stream.

Kelly Adlington emphasized that the best use of food is to eat it, with composting serving as the preferred option when food cannot be consumed. She also stressed the importance of public education, noting that contamination can undermine composting programs and force collected material back into landfill disposal.

The Commission discussed local composting opportunities, including food pantry partnerships, grant-funded service for nonprofit or community sites, free drop-off locations, potential city collaboration, and the importance of structuring any future procurement process so that small local composting businesses are not excluded. Bucket Ruckus currently operates a grant-funded free drop-off site near Nordic Night Sauna on Union Street, with weekly service for one 32-gallon bin.

3. Heather Phelps, Sustainability Commission public engagement survey tool and survey questions discussion, timeline and approval.

Heather Phelps introduced draft materials for a potential public engagement survey on sustainability priorities. The draft drew from a sustainability survey used by the City of Appleton and included additional brainstorming questions tailored to Stevens Point.

Commission members discussed the need for a brief introductory statement explaining why the survey is being conducted, how sustainability is currently defined, and how the City has already been working on sustainability-related goals. Members generally supported using the survey to identify community priorities, assess public support for possible actions, and invite residents to participate in future Commission work.

- The Commission discussed whether to include a definition of sustainability from the City's existing planning documents.
- Members supported keeping the survey concise to improve response rates.
- There was interest in using mostly multiple-choice questions for easier data analysis while preserving at least one open-ended comment opportunity.
- The survey may include a question inviting residents to express interest in serving on the Sustainability Commission.
- The Commission discussed possible outreach channels, including the City website, city news alerts, paper copies, the senior center, social media, and other public-facing venues.

The Commission agreed to continue refining the survey at the August meeting. Members also discussed the need to determine which survey platform the city prefers and how the survey would be hosted or distributed. Greg Knight agreed to research City processes for publishing or distributing a public survey. The Commission also discussed whether members may submit individual survey suggestions outside a meeting without violating open meetings requirements; the City Attorney may be consulted for guidance.

4. Meeting with the Mayor. District 5 Alder, Allison Birr and Sustainability Commission chair, Greg Knight report on discussions with Mayor Wiza on the sustainability commissions work to date, member vacancies, commission administrative support, future direction and priorities, Commission report/presentation to City Council November 16 meeting.

Greg Knight and Allison Birr reported on a meeting with Mayor Wiza regarding the Commission's work to date, member vacancies, organizational needs, staff support, and future direction.

- The commission has met with multiple city departments to understand current operations, existing sustainability practices, and opportunities for reducing energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions through energy efficiencies, solar, electric versus gas power, hybrid and EV, tree planting & natural landscaping, water and waste management, etc.
- The commission has gathered substantial background information through presentations, meeting minutes, and related materials.
- Discussed the value of existing local and regional resources, including UW-Stevens Point, Focus on Energy, Recycling Connections, and examples from other communities such as Middleton.
- Doug Stingle resigned from the Commission after being elected to the Portage County Board of Supervisors, creating a vacancy that has been posted by the city.
- Several Commission terms will expire at the end of December 2026. Members whose terms are expiring are expected to be asked whether they wish to continue serving.

- Commission's role discussed, including whether it should focus on planning and policy, serve as a resource for City departments, or take on specific sustainability topics and projects.
- The Commission has identified November 16, 2026 as a possible date to present its work and recommendations to the City Council.

Also discussed with the mayor was the need for City staff support or a formal staff liaison like other city commissions have. Members noted that the Commission currently relies heavily on the chair for agenda development/publication, documentation, communication, and logistics. Several members expressed concern that the Commission needs a more formal connection to City departments in order to operate effectively and preserve continuity of records and work products.

Commission members discussed the possibility of amending the Commission ordinance to include a nonvoting City staff liaison, similar to the structure used by the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee. The city Community Development department was identified as a likely organizational home, though members noted that sustainability spans multiple City departments. The Commission agreed to continue this discussion at the August meeting.

5. Discussion of Sustainability Commission 2026 meeting Calendar updates.

- Commission discussion on remaining calendar meeting date for 2026 and planning for potential meeting topics.

Closing Section:

1. The next meeting is scheduled for August 6, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. in the Community Room at 933 Michigan Avenue, Stevens Point, WI. Presentation and discussion with Adam Kuhn, Associate Planner/Zoning Administrator on the preliminary results of the city Greenhouse Gas (GHG) inventory and potential uses for sustainability planning. Heather Phelps and Alder Birr will lead discussions on the development of a community survey tool for sustainability planning.

2. Adjournment.

Heather Phelps **moved**, Alder Birr **Seconded**, to adjourn the Sustainability Commission Meeting at **7:20 p.m.**

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



MEMORANDUM

To: Sustainability Commission

From: Adam Kuhn, AICP
Associate Planner / Zoning Administrator

Date: August 6, 2026

RE: **Preview of the City's Greenhouse Gas Inventory Report**

Background: As Commissioners are aware, the City was awarded funds in 2023 from the Wisconsin Public Service Commission's Energy Innovation Grant Program. Awarded funds were intended for the City and partnering Wisconsin Local Government Climate Coalition communities to conduct a community-wide greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory. Since being awarded funds, a considerable amount of time was spent collecting data from various agencies to compute the amount of GHG emissions in the city.

Included in the agenda packet is a high-level overview of the City's GHG inventory. Emissions data that was collected were placed into one of the following sectors:

- Stationary energy
- Transportation
- Waste
- Industrial process and product use
- Agriculture, forestry and other land use

When reviewing the attached report, it is important to highlight a few points:

- Only data from 2023 was used in the production of this report. At the time when the City first began our GHG inventory work, some of the data points had data only from 2023, while others had both 2023 & 2024. At the advice of our project consultant, ICLEI USA, it was advised to only use 2023 data to eliminate any bias in the data.
- The intention going forward is that the attached GHG inventory report would be updated once subsequent years' worth of data is collected. It is imperative that the City identify the means to conduct additional GHG emissions collection in

www.stevenspoint.com

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the future as it helps establish trends and identifies the effectiveness of policy decisions that may be pursued post-adoption of a Citywide Climate Action Plan.

- While it is not included in the agenda packet, I do have a spreadsheet with all of the 'hard data.' I would be more than happy to provide you with some of the hard data once the Commission deliberates specific policy recommendations to include in your Climate Action Plan.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Stevens Point GHG Emissions Inventory

Introduction

The City of Stevens Point has committed to achieving 100% clean energy and carbon neutrality in all city operations by 2050. This commitment was unanimously adopted by the Common Council in June 2024 and is supported by a formal Sustainability Commission.¹

Progress towards these commitments can be measured through the completion of a greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory. A GHG inventory is defined as a systematic measurement of the greenhouse gases released within a set community boundary over a given time period. They can empower communities to track and reach their climate goals through:

- ❖ Establishing a baseline
- ❖ Identifying priority climate actions based on emissions
- ❖ Measuring progress
- ❖ Setting emissions targets
- ❖ Embedding accountability in climate goals
- ❖ Evaluation of climate action successes

¹ <https://www.wpr.org/news/stevens-point-passes-resolution-pledging-to-be-carbon-neutral-by-2050>

Climate Action in Stevens Point

Stevens Point has been an eco-municipality since 2007, taking a systems-based approach to sustainability across land use, energy, and water.² In 2017, the City formalized its commitment through the establishment of a sustainability committee and coordinator, documented in A Path to Sustainable Stevens Point.³ In 2024, the Common Council passed a resolution committing to 100% clean energy and carbon neutrality by 2050 and established a Sustainability Commission to oversee implementation.⁴

It is important to note that while these commitments focus on city operations, the inventory discussed in this report measures community-wide emissions across all residents, businesses, and institutions in Stevens Point. Understanding where emissions originate at the community scale is essential for identifying the highest-impact opportunities and for the city to work with its community partners toward shared climate goals.

Stevens Point's 2023 community-wide GHG emissions inventory serves as the formal baseline for understanding the city's overall emissions footprint. This inventory informs the planning process and helps to identify the highest-priority opportunities for community-scale impact.

This report is meant to be used as a starting point and can be updated overtime as:

- 1) Additional data is incorporated into Stevens Point's baseline inventory (such as agriculture emissions)**
- 2) Future inventories are completed to track progress**

² <https://stevenspoint.com/512/Eco-Municipality>

³ <https://stevenspoint.com/512/Eco-Municipality>

⁴ <https://www.wpr.org/news/stevens-point-passes-resolution-pledging-to-be-carbon-neutral-by-2050>

Emissions Inventory Breakdown

Baseline inventory data was collected in collaboration with ICLEI and their ClearPath 2.0 modeling platform. ClearPath 2.0 is an industry-standard tool used by hundreds of local governments across North America to calculate and track community-scale greenhouse gas emissions.⁵ Data included in the inventory was collected by ICLEI, WLGCC staff, and City of Stevens Point staff. Data collected for the inventory represents community-wide emissions, not just local government operations.

Stevens Point's inventory is complete for BASIC reporting, using methods in line with the Global Protocol for Community-Scale Greenhouse Gas Emission Inventories (GPC). All community emissions data is placed into one of the following sectors:



Local leaders can use this data to understand the highest emitting sectors for their community, incentivizing impactful action.⁶

Below is the specific community-wide data that was collected for Stevens Point's inventory⁷.

- ❖ Utilities
 - Electricity
 - Natural Gas
- ❖ On Road Transportation
- ❖ Solid Waste Generation
- ❖ Water & Wastewater
- ❖ Non-utility Fuels (Propane, Fuel Oil)
- ❖ Rail, Waterborne, Off-Road Transportation
- ❖ Fluorinated Gases

⁵ <https://icleiusa.org/ghg-protocols/>

⁶ <https://icleiusa.org/what-is-a-greenhouse-gas-inventory-and-why-is-it-important/>

⁷ https://ghgprotocol.org/sites/default/files/standards/GPC_Full_MASTER_RW_v7.pdf

Note: Water and Wastewater process emissions were estimated using the [Clear Path 2.0 Data Playbook tool](#), Water & Waste Water Energy Use emissions were assumed to be captured by stationary energy data or calculated using WW.14 and WW.15 of Appendix F of the [U.S. Community Protocol](#).

Emissions are expressed in units of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂e), which allows different greenhouse gases, including CO₂, methane (CH₄), and nitrous oxide (N₂O) to be compared on a common scale using each gas's Global Warming Potential (GWP). CO₂e is the standard unit used in GHG inventories to express the warming impact of different greenhouse gases relative to carbon dioxide⁸. For example, methane (CH₄) is approximately 28 times more potent than CO₂ over 100 years, so releasing 1 ton of methane is therefore counted as 28 tons CO₂e.

In this report, emissions are expressed in Thousand Metric Tons (TMT) CO₂e. One ton is approximately 2,205 pounds⁹. Stevens Point's total 2023 inventory of 809 TMT CO₂e is roughly equivalent to the annual emissions from more than 175,000 gasoline-powered passenger vehicles.¹⁰ Future inventories can be compared to this baseline data.

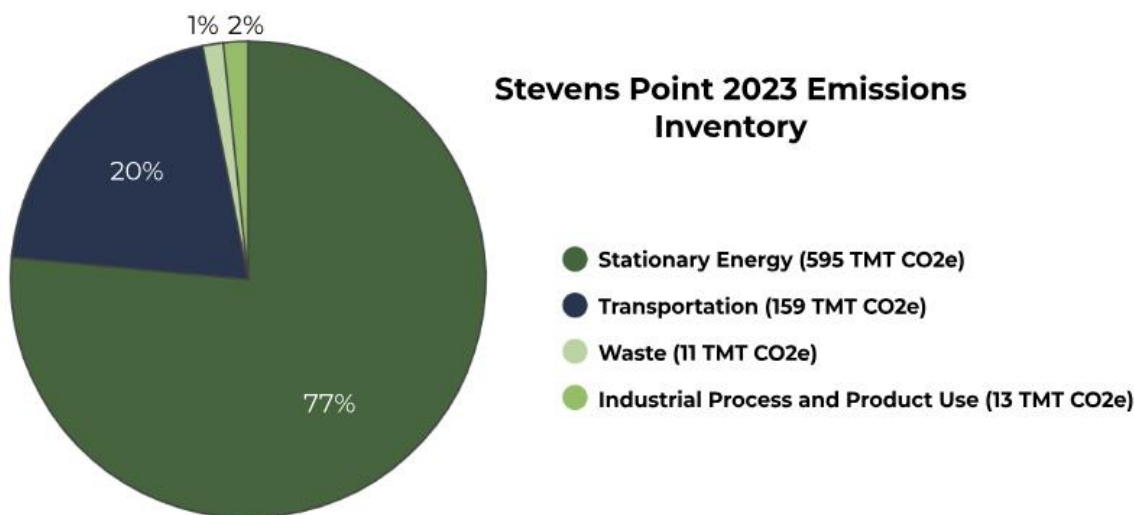


Figure 1. This chart displays the breakdown and percentages of each sector making up Stevens Point's total community GHG emissions.

⁸ <https://iclei.usa.org/ghg-protocols/>

⁹ https://ghgprotocol.org/sites/default/files/standards_supporting/GPC_Executive_Summary_1.pdf

¹⁰ <https://www.epa.gov/greenvehicles/greenhouse-gas-emissions-typical-passenger-vehicle>

General comparisons to the State of Wisconsin and national inventories can be made; however, it is important to note that inventories at these scales were made using different sector classifications and were not completed following GPC guidelines, making direct comparison difficult.^{11 12} At the national and state level, the highest emitting categories are emissions that would be classified under the Stationary Energy sector, followed by Transportation emissions, a pattern reflected in Stevens Point's inventory.

¹¹ <https://widnr.widen.net/s/pxnzsdzsm/wisconsin-greenhouse-gas-emissions-inventory-report-1990-2021>

¹² <https://www.epa.gov/ghgemissions/sources-greenhouse-gas-emissions>

Breakdown of Each Inventory Sector

Stationary Energy:

Stationary Energy is Stevens Point's largest emitting sector, accounting for approximately 77% of the City's total GHG emissions. This sector encompasses fixed-location emission sources, including commercial and institutional buildings such as offices, hotels, and hospitals, which represent the largest source of stationary energy emissions due to fossil fuel combustion for heating, cooling, and lighting.¹³ Industrial energy, which accounts for the burning of fossil fuels in manufacturing and construction, is the second largest source, followed by residential buildings. Fugitive emissions make up Stevens Point's smallest stationary energy source, capturing incidental GHG releases, most commonly methane, that occur during the extraction, transport, or distribution of natural gas.¹⁴

Breakdown of Stationary Energy Emissions	2023 Emissions (TMT CO ₂ e)	% of Total Stationary Emissions
Commercial/Institutional	~409	~69%
Residential	~78	~13%
Manufacturing Industries and Construction	~103	~17%
Fugitive Emissions From Oil and Natural Gas Systems	~5	~1%
Total	~595	~100%

¹³ https://ghgprotocol.org/sites/default/files/standards_supporting/GPC_Executive_Summary_1.pdf

¹⁴ https://ghgprotocol.org/sites/default/files/standards_supporting/GPC_Executive_Summary_1.pdf

Transportation:

Transportation emissions are the second-highest emitting sector in Stevens Point, making up ~20% of the City's total emissions, and are a growing sector nationally. Transportation emissions come from the combustion of petroleum-based fuels in vehicles traveling within the community boundaries.¹⁵ In Stevens Point, the majority of emissions in this sector come from on-road vehicles including, passenger vehicles operated by residents, trucks, and transit vehicles.¹⁶ The second highest emissions in this sector comes from off-road vehicles which includes emissions from equipment such as lawn mowers, tractors, bulldozers, etc. Emissions from railways and waterborne transport make up the lowest two emitting categories in Stevens Point.

Breakdown of Transportation Emissions	2023 Emissions (TMT CO ₂ e)	% of Total Transportation Emissions
On-Road	~133	~84%
Railways	~9	~6%
Waterborne Transport	~1	~1%
Off-Road	~16	~10%
Total	~159	~100%

¹⁵ https://ghgprotocol.org/sites/default/files/standards_supporting/GPC_Executive_Summary_1.pdf

¹⁶ https://ghgprotocol.org/sites/default/files/standards_supporting/GPC_Executive_Summary_1.pdf

Waste:

The waste sector is composed of GHG emissions associated with the disposal and treatment of solid waste and wastewater within the community. While the waste sector is representative of a relatively small share of Stevens Point's total inventory (~1%), methane released from landfill processes is a highly potent GHG, making even small emissions reductions impactful.

Breakdown of Waste Emissions	2023 Emissions (TMT CO ₂ e)	% of Total Waste Emissions
Disposal of Solid Waste	~9	~82%
Wastewater Management	~2	~18%
Total	~11	~100%

Industrial Process and Product Use:

This sector is made up of GHG emissions that occur from non-energy-related industrial activities. GHG emissions occur during industrial processes that are chemically or physically transforming materials, for example steel production and ammonia manufacturing. Additional GHG emissions come from the use and disposal of products such as refrigerants, foams, and aerosols¹⁷. In Stevens Point, product use is the only emissions type reflected from this category, making up ~2% of total community emissions. While this is a small piece of Stevens Point's total emissions, targeted interventions can lead to meaningful and cost-saving reductions.

Breakdown of Industrial Process and Product Use Emissions	2023 Emissions (TMT CO ₂ e)	% of Total Industrial Process and Product Use Emissions
Product Use	~13	~100%
Industrial Process	~0	~0%
Total	~13	~100%

¹⁷ https://ghgprotocol.org/sites/default/files/standards_supporting/GPC_Executive_Summary_1.pdf



Agriculture, Forestry, and Other Land Use:

Stevens Point's inventory does not currently include emissions data for this sector. While the inventory meets GPC guidelines for BASIC reporting, there is an opportunity to pursue a more comprehensive inventory in the future.

Recommended Transitions

The most effective approach to reducing community emissions is to prioritize the sectors contributing the highest GHG emissions in the overall inventory. For Stevens Point, this means focusing on reductions in the stationary energy and transportation sectors of the inventory.



Stationary Energy: building efficiency and electrification, heat pump adoption in single-family buildings, and retrofitting single-family buildings



Transportation: EV adoption and transition to electric vehicles, land-use planning, and transit investments



Waste: waste diversion, composting, and landfill gas management (with potential co-benefits and cost reductions)



Industrial Process and Product Use: targeted refrigerant management

For a more detailed list of transition strategies, reference [WLGCC's Database of Strategies](#).

Not all emission reduction measures require equal investment. Prioritizing low-cost and low-effort actions early on can help build momentum towards achieving more complex goals. Examples of low-cost and low-effort actions include: LED lighting retrofits, air sealing and weatherization of buildings, energy benchmarking, waste diversion (composting and recycling), and renewable energy purchases. Reviewing [Focus on Energy programs](#) is a great place to start.

Guidance on Goal Setting

GHG inventories are most valuable when they are paired with clearly defined, measurable goals. The key to translating broad aspirational commitments to specific, actionable targets that drive day-to-day decision making is to work backwards from the long-term goal, and establish milestone goals that are achievable and measurable. Goals should be set following the SMAART (specific, measurable, actionable, ambitious, relevant, time-bound) framework. SMAART and other goal setting frameworks are outlined more in depth in the [Climate Action Planning Fact Sheet](#).

Stevens Point must clearly identify who is responsible for each climate action to make progress. Below are potential roles and responsibilities for community entities.

Who (Fill in with specific names/job titles)	Responsibilities	Duration	Example Actions
Elected Officials (Common Council, Mayor) Policy & direction	Adopt enabling ordinances and policies, allocate budget, set overall strategic direction, advocate at the state level	Ongoing and aligned with budget and legislative cycles	Large building energy benchmarking requirement and EV-ready building code
City Staff Coordination	Manage inventory updates, track and report metrics, coordinate implementation across departments, apply for grants, publish progress publicly	Annual reporting cycles, grant deadlines, every 3–5 years for full inventory updates	CPRG and EIGP grant applications and WLGCC coordination
Department Heads Operations	Implement sector-specific actions within their operational control, integrate climate goals into departmental planning and capital budgets	Tied to capital improvement cycles and fleet replacement schedules	Municipal fleet electrification, LED lighting retrofits in city facilities, public transit enhancements
Utility Partners Supply side	Deliver clean energy supply-side changes,	Aligned with integrated resource	Renewable energy delivery, customer

	design and implement customer incentive programs, support grid modernization and renewable energy expansion	plans and rate cases. Ongoing program administration	rebate programs, and community solar options
Community Partners Community action	Implement emission-reduction actions within their own operations and engage customers, employees, and members in climate goals	Voluntary, can be accelerated by city incentives or requirements	Commercial building efficiency upgrades, employer EV charging, and research partnerships with universities

Implementation Tips

Climate action is a long-term process that requires ongoing engagement to ensure progress. Key characteristics that will aid in the long-term success of goals include:

- ❖ Regular inventory updates to track progress against the baseline
- ❖ Integration of climate considerations into all major community planning decisions
- ❖ Ongoing community engagement that keeps residents and businesses informed and invested in community goals
- ❖ Celebration of milestones to maintain community enthusiasm
- ❖ Connecting with state and national networks to stay up to date on funding opportunities, policy changes, and best practices

Below are key resources and tools available to Wisconsin communities:

- [ICLEI Clear Path 2.0](#): GHG inventory and emissions scenario modeling tool (used for the collection of baseline GHG inventory data). Stevens Point will have edit access to the Clear Path 2.0 platform until March 2027, after which the account will become view-only with the continued ability to download previously uploaded data.
- [Wisconsin Local Government Climate Coalition](#) (WLGCC): Stevens Point is a member of WLGCC, which is a peer network of Wisconsin municipalities engaged in climate action planning. Provides technical assistance, shared resources, and inventory support.
- [Focus on Energy](#): Wisconsin's utility-funded efficiency and renewable energy program. A key place to find both state and federal (IRA) incentives for community residents and businesses.
- [Wisconsin Office of Sustainability and Clean Energy](#) (OSCE): Offers state-level technical assistance, the [Wisconsin Emissions Reduction Roadmap](#), and coordination of federal grant programs.
- [Climate Action Planning Fact Sheet](#): Created in collaboration with WLGCC, Clean Wisconsin, Slipstream, New Buildings Institute, and MEEA, offering step-by-step guidance to goal-setting. This is a great resource to reference for effective climate action planning.

2025_2026 Meeting Calendar and Presentations August 6, 2026

Sustainability Commission

Date	Presentation	Description
January 21, 2025	Organization & Elections Mayor Wiza	Sustainability Commission organizational meeting.
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.
April 2	Meeting Cancelled	Ice storm
May 7	Commission work session Report outline, timeline for report, internal & public review, Work assignments.	Sustainability road map & plan development Katie Livernash, UW-Extension Caity Carmody, DOA office of sustainability
June 4	Portage County Landfill Organic waste recycling	Kelly Haffele, Director Portage County Solid Waste. Kelly Adlington, Bucket Ruckus

July 2	No meeting	
August 6	GHG inventory preliminary results, use in planning. Public Survey tool.	Adam Kuhn, Associate Planner/Zoning Administrator. Clear path tool GHG. Heather Phelps, public engagement.
September 3	Commission report recommendations, public engagement, survey tool.	Heather Phelps, Alder Birr
October 1		
November 5 Nov 16	Finalize Report to Common Council & Mayor. Common Council meeting	Sustainability Commission report and future commission recommendations presentation to Mayor and Council.
December 3		
2027		

Potential Presentation and/or Topics for future Meetings

1. Modeling scenarios and sustainable planning priorities for Green House Gas (GHG) emissions using the ClearPath tool (Adam Kuhn – August 6)
2. Commission public survey tool development.
3. City facilities/buildings master planning for LEED.
4. Midwest Renewable Energy Association (MREA) site visit.
- ❖ Portage County Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan (safe streets, etc.)
- Planning meeting(s) 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, Community engagement tools.
 - Austin Holland, UWSP Center for Land Use Education, community sustainability and regional cooperation for sustainability, resilience, climate action planning.
 - Dave Barbier & Michelle Gullickson UWSP office of sustainability.
 - Hadi Veisi, Assistant Professor, TNR-UWSP, Sustainability & Resilience, Climate Adaptation. 715-346-2487, hadi.veisi@uwsp.edu