

Green Tier  
Legacy Communities  
Annual Report, 2013



Village of Weston, Wisconsin  
January 23, 2014

## 2013 Progress

This section identifies the sustainability-related projects that were undertaken by the Village of Weston during 2013 to further the Village's efforts to become a sustainable community.

### Transportation:

**Bicycle Facilities:** In partnership with Marathon County Health Department, the Village of Weston installed bicycle route signs throughout the Village that connect to additional routes with six additional municipalities. There are a total of about 14 miles of signed routes throughout the Village as a result of this effort.

### Energy:

**Alternative Fuel:** The Village has decided to implement the use of biodiesel in the municipal fleet. The Village has worked with local vendors and manufacturers to produce its own biodiesel processor converting vegetable oil from local sources. This is an effort to help reduce the reliance on conventional fuels as well as a reduction in carbon emissions that is both environmentally and economically beneficial.

### Water:

**Stormwater Awareness:** The Village of Weston is part of the North-Central Wisconsin Stormwater Coalition (NCWSC), which consists of 10 other local municipalities and Marathon County. This group meets periodically to discuss combined community stormwater educational efforts and ideas. NCWSC's vision statement is it's devoted to sustaining water quality in the basin by focusing on public education and coordination of local groups.

NCWSC is a proud sponsor of the annual Wisconsin River Clean-up event. At this event, staff participated with area junior and senior high school students in picking up garbage along the banks and shorelines of the Wisconsin River. Staff then educated these students on the impacts of stormwater runoff and non-point source discharge.

**Water Meters:** The Village of Weston Water Utility is continuously working towards transitioning from touch pad water meters to radio-read water meters, in the homes of residential water utility customers. This transition is occurring as water meters are due to be changed out. By using radio-read water meters, the Village of Weston Water Utility will save a great amount of time and energy used in our utility operators traveling from house to house to read water meters, where readings will, in the future be done by a touch of a button by our Utility Clerk from the office computer.

**Municipal Watering:** The Parks and Recreation Department deployed the use of slow-release drip irrigation bags on the Village's trees instead of using the tank truck to water them individually saving time, fuel and water.

### Waste:

**Material Reuse:** 4,700 tons of recycled asphalt base course was used on local streets in 2013. Asphalt that was reclaimed from 2013 projects is planned to be crushed and used as base course for future projects.

**Residential Composting:** The Village promoted home composting by displaying and offering information on home composter containers sold by Marathon County Solid Waste Department. The Zoning Code was updated to provide regulations to promote proper residential composting.

**Bulk Items:** During the Spring Bulk Item Drop-Off the Village collected 76.94 tons worth of items, this included non-metallic items, furniture, carpeting, scrap lumber, mattresses and glass windows.

**Recycling:** Through the Village's curbside pick-up program and drop off site: 1895 gallons of waste oil, 11.63 tons of junk mail, 430.23 tons of newsprint, 151.16 tons of magazines, 197.68 tons of cardboard, 174.42 tons of glass, 93.02 tons of plastic, 81.39 tons of tin and bi-metal, 23.26 tons of aluminum were collected.

Also, the Village has taken the steps to introduce single stream recycling for residents under the Village's Refuse and Recycling contract for 2014.

Along with the annual recycling grant received by the State, the Village has also received a recycling consolidation grant by entering into a cooperative agreement (Marathon County Responsible Units of Recycling Cooperative Waste Reduction, Reuse, and Recycling Program Agreement) with numerous other local municipalities and the Marathon County Solid Waste Department.

Due to these past efforts, the DNR has recognized the Village of Weston with the Recycling Excellence Award.

Environment:

**Trees:** The Parks and Recreation Department of the Village planted 30 new trees throughout the Village's Park with a the Urban Forest Grant through the Department of Natural Resources.



Village of  
Weston  
2012  
Baseline\*

Village of  
Weston  
2013  
Goal\*

Village of  
Weston  
2016  
Goal\*

## Wisconsin Legacy Communities Strategy Options

(Last Revised 09-21-2011 by Rick Eilertson)

The purpose of the strategy options matrix is to provide a broad list of best management practices that encompass several elements of sustainability including transportation, energy, land use, water, and waste. This list is not inclusive.

Prospective signatories should use the strategy options to gauge environmental performance and then use this baseline to strive for superior results.

Superior environmental performance may be achieved when municipalities use the strategy options to develop a sustainability plan that reduces their overall negative impact on the environment.

### TRANSPORTATION DEMAND MANAGEMENT:

Transportation demand management strategies aim to reduce GHG emissions and VMT by influencing change in individual behavior. These strategies encourage walking, bicycling, and transit as modes of transportation within a community and seek to curb the number and length of trips by vehicle.

#### Bicycle and Pedestrian Programs/Projects

T R A N S P O R T A T I O N	2	Require bike parking for all new non-residential and multifamily uses.	0	0	1
	1	Set standards for placement and number (as function of intensity of use) for bike parking spaces.	0	0	1
	3	Commuter bike routes identified and cleared.	2	3	3
	5 to 10	League of American Bicyclists certification. (Bronze 5, Silver 7, Platinum 10)	0	0	5
	3	Funded and operating SRTS program (or functional equivalent) covering at least 10 percent of students.	0	0	1
	1	Conduct annual survey of students' mode of transport to school.	0	0	1
	<u>Employer-Based Programs</u>				
	5	Require large employers seeking rezoning to set a price signal (cash-out or charge).	0	0	0
	5	Require large employers seeking rezoning to provide subsidized transit.	0	0	0
	5	Require large employers seeking rezoning to provide a TDM plan that would reduce trips by 20 percent over business as usual.	0	0	0
<u>Traffic Volume</u>					
3	Track VMT or traffic counts and report on efforts at reduction (including those on this list).	1	1	2	
3	Eliminate parking minimums from non-residential districts.	0	0	0	
5	Set parking maximums at X per square feet for office and retail uses.	0	0	0	
5	Scheduled transit service at basic level (hour peak service within half-mile of 50 percent of addresses).	0	0	0	
10	Scheduled transit service at enhanced level (half-hour peak service within 75 percent of addresses).	0	0	0	

### TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM MANAGEMENT

Transportation system management strategies aim to reduce GHG emissions and VMT by improving the overall performance of a transportation system. These strategies improve existing infrastructure, introduce new technology, and plan for the future of the system.

#### Preservation and Improvement

T R A N S P O R T A T I O N	3	Develop and fully fund comprehensive maintenance program for existing roads.	2	2	2
	1 to 5	Charge impact fees for new roads.	0	0	0
	5	Calculate lane-miles per capita for arterials and collectors, and show reductions	2	2	2
	5	Prepare a plan identifying disconnections in bike and pedestrian networks, prioritizing fixes and identifying potential funding sources for the most important projects.	4	4	5
	5	Any proposal to add lanes to a two-lane roadway shall be evaluated for a center turn lane, the preferred option over an expansion to four lanes.	1	1	1
	3	Identify four-lane roadways with fewer than 20,000 vehicles per day (AADT) and evaluate them for "road diets" with bike lanes or on-street parking	1	1	1
	<u>Electric Vehicles</u>				
1	Allow NEVs on appropriate roadways.	0	0	1	
2	Provide public charging stations	0	0	1	
<u>Vehicle Idling</u>					
2	Ban idling (more than 5 minutes) with local government vehicles.	0	0	1	
5	Ban idling (more than 5 minutes) community-wide.	0	0	0	

LA	<b>ZONING AND DEVELOPMENT</b>					
	Zoning and development strategies work toward improving the overall environmental, economic, and social health of a community by promoting mixed-use and infill development, walkable neighborhoods, and an overall sustainable lifestyle.					
	<b>Infill Development</b>					
	5	Identify priority areas for infill development, including those eligible for brownfields funding.	5	5	5	
	1	Create land bank to acquire and assemble priority infill sites	0	0	0	
	1	Develop an inventory of known contaminated properties for reuse planning, with possible GIS application	1	1	1	
	<b>Walkscore</b>					
	10	Measure Walkscore at 10 random residential addresses per Census tract, compute average, and improve upon overall score	5	5	10	
	<b>Zoning</b>					
	5	Adopt traditional neighborhood design ordinance (if population is less than 12,500)	5	5	5	
5	Zoning for office and retail districts permits floor-area ratio > 1, on average.	3	3	3		
8	Zoning for office and retail districts requires floor-area ratio > 1, on average.	0	0	0		
5	Zoning code includes mixed use districts	5	5	5		
8	Mixed-use language from Smart Code TBA.	0	0	0		
<b>NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT</b>						
Natural resource management strategies seek to conserve, preserve, protect and promote a community's greenspace, wildlife, wetlands and waterways for this and future generations by promoting pervious surfaces and adequate setbacks.						
<b>Canopy</b>						
3	Adopt tree preservation ordinance per GTLC standards.	1	1	2		
4	Set a tree canopy goal and develop a management plan to achieve it	2	2	4		
2	Require trees to be planted in all new developments	0	0	1		
2	Certification as Tree City USA	2	2	2		
<b>Mowing</b>						
2	Local government rights of way mown or cleared only for safe sightlines and/or to remove invasive species.	1	1	1		
<b>Water Protection</b>						
10	Establish 75-foot natural vegetation zone by surface water.	10	10	10		
5	Inventory wetlands and ensure no net annual loss.	2	2	3		
<b>COMMUNITY ENERGY USE</b>						
Community energy use strategies encourage energy efficiency and the use of renewable fuels to reduce total energy consumption throughout the community						
<b>Community Energy Use Policies</b>						
6	Use PACE financing	0	0	0		
1	Watt meters available to the public	1	1	1		
10	Adopt Residential Energy Conservation Ordinance (time-of-sale certification and upgrades).	0	0	0		
<b>Measuring Community Energy Use</b>						
4	Work with local utilities to calculate total electricity and natural gas consumption annually, beginning with the fifth year before entering the program.	1	1	2		
1	State of Wisconsin Energy Independent (EI) Community designation.	0	0	0		
<b>MUNICIPAL ENERGY USE</b>						
Municipal energy use strategies encourage municipal employees to conserve energy, preserve the environment, and decrease greenhouse gas emissions from municipal facilities, services, and vehicle fleets.						
<b>Government Energy Use Policies</b>						
5	Include transportation energy/emissions as criterion in RFPs for purchases of goods over \$10,000.	0	0	0		
3	Develop list of lighting, HVAC and shell improvements to raise Energy Star Portfolio Manager or LEED EBO&M score	1	1	2		
3	Reduce motor fuels use for non-transit activities --	1	1	2		
6	Provide transit passes at 50 percent or more off the regular price and/or provide parking cash-out options for local government employees.	0	0	0		
5	Streetlights operate at 75 lumens/Watt or higher	5	5	5		
3	Stoplights are LED or functional equivalent	3	3	3		
5	Municipal electricity purchases are at least 5 percentage points higher in renewable content than the statewide renewable portfolio standard requires. Calculation may include self-generated power and purchased offsets.	0	0	1		
<b>Measuring Government Energy Use</b>						
5	Complete EPA Energy Star Portfolio Manager spreadsheet for government energy use. Or score existing buildings with LEED EBO&M.	0	0	2		
2	Calculate annual government fleet use of motor fuels, in gallons of petroleum and biofuels, beginning with the fifth year before entering the program.	1	1	2		
10	All new and renovated municipal buildings must meet LEED Silver or greater.	0	0	4		
ENERGY						

		<b>WATER USE CONSERVATION</b>			
		<b>Water Conservation strategy options set baselines and goals for water and energy performance in municipalities. They measure progress and promote water conservation by the government, business, and the community at-large.</b>			
		<b>Water Conservation</b>			
W A T E R	5	Track water and sewer use annually, beginning with fifth year before entering program, and develop plan for reductions.	2	2	5
	4	Develop a water loss control plan with targets below the 15% required by the state and include a system-wide water audit implementation and time table	2	2	4
	2	Join EPA's WaterSense Program for water utilities or the Groundwater Guardian Green Sites program and promote them to local business.	0	0	2
	6	Use block rates and flat rates to encourage water conservation among residential, commercial, and industrial users.	6	6	6
	1	Financial assistance for sewer lateral replacements.	0	0	1
	2 to 6	Upgrade water utility equipment (e.g., variable frequency drive motors) to achieve energy efficiency.	4	4	6
	3	Infiltration and inflow reduction by 10%	1	1	3
	NA	Wastewater biogas captured and used in operations.			
	5	Plan for replacing all toilets using > 1.6 gpf and annual progress sufficient to reach 90 percent replacement in 10 years.	1	1	4
			<b>Local Government Use</b>		
	2	Install waterless urinals in men's restrooms at municipal facilities (city hall, parks, etc.)	0	0	2
	3	All outdoor watering by local government, excluding parks and golf courses, from rain collection.	0	0	1
	4	Develop a water efficiency and conservation plan for municipal buildings	1	1	3
			<b>STORMWATER MANAGEMENT</b>		
		<b>Stormwater Management strategy options encourage the use of best management practices to achieve a reduction in the amount of harmful pollutants introduced to our streams, rivers, and lakes.</b>			
3	Develop a regular street sweeping program to reduce total suspended solids	2	2	3	
3	Stormwater utility fees offer credits for best management practices such as rain barrels, rain gardens, and pervious paving	2	2	3	
2	Inventory all paved surfaces (e.g., by GIS mapping), and develop a plan for reduction	1	1	2	
2	Work with commercial or light industrial businesses to develop stormwater pollution plans	1	1	2	
		<b>WATER AND DEVELOPMENT</b>			
		<b>Water and Development strategy options link water conservation and the preservation of land, wetlands, and wildlife habitat while promoting compact development, restoration and rehabilitation efforts, and long-term planning.</b>			
		<b>Land Development</b>			
5	Identify key green infrastructure areas during plan development and/or implement a plan to acquire and protect key green infrastructure areas	3	3	5	
		<b>Waters, Wetlands, and Wildlife</b>			
1 to 6	Replace concrete channels with re-meandered and naturalized creeks, wetlands, or swales	4	4	6	
3	Develop a system for identifying culverts that obstruct fish migration and install fish friendly culverts where needed	1	1	2	
4	Provide incentives for protection of green infrastructure, sensitive areas, important wildlife habitat, or for the restoration or rehabilitation of wetlands or other degraded habitats such as credit towards open space or set-aside requirements	0	0	2	
		<b>WASTE MANAGEMENT AND REDUCTION</b>			
		<b>Waste Management and Reduction strategy options encourage municipalities and their citizens to divert organics and recyclables from landfills and properly dispose of hazardous materials in an effort to reduce waste in a community.</b>			
W A S T E	3	Community waste stream monitored at least annually . Waste reduction plan prepared and updated annually	2	2	2
	4	Waste and materials management plan based on "zero-waste" principles, with specific goals, prepared and updated annually	0	0	3
	3	Construction/deconstruction waste recycling ordinance	0	0	1
	3	Mandatory residential curbside recycling pickup that covers paper, metal cans, glass and plastic bottles	3	3	3
	5	Develop a municipal collection program that encourages the diversion of food discards, yard materials, and other organics from landfills to composting or anaerobic digestion with energy recovery	3	3	4
	3	Develop and promote programs that dispose of household hazardous, medical, and electronic waste	3	3	3
	4	Use anaerobic digesters to process organic waste and produce energy	0	0	0
	3	Implement municipal ordinances requiring manufacturer takeback for fluorescent bulbs, thermostats and other mercury-containing devices	0	0	0
	2	Ordinances in place to reduce the usage of phone books as well as single-use shopping bags, styrofoam food containers and other disposable packaging	0	0	0
	2	Pay-as-you-throw system implemented by municipality or required of private waste haulers	1	1	1
	1	Use public education and outreach to promote recycling, backyard composting, product re-use and waste reduction	1	1	1
317		112	113	184	
		35%	36%	58%	