



Village of Weston,
Wisconsin

2016 Green Tier Legacy Communities Annual Report

Sustainability Component of the
Green Tier Legacy Charter

Report last revised March 31, 2016

This Report Covers the 2016 Annual Report

Sustainability Mission Statement: The Village of Weston strives to be the location of choice for living, working, and recreation. The Village is committed to excellence and delivery of cost-effective public services. Weston will promote sustainable new development and redevelopment that add jobs, products, services, and homes and that contribute to a sense of community and quality of life in the Village. Weston will protect, enhance, and celebrate natural amenities such as the riverway and wetlands, and will grow its sense of place through a network of attractive spaces, buildings, and activities. Weston will provide, maintain, and collaborate on trails, parks, playgrounds, and open spaces that encourage an active, engaged and healthy community. Weston will provide and support community facilities, utilities, and broadband communications that are cost-effective, efficient, support resident connections, maintain reasonable tax rates, and protect natural resources.

Transportation

- Commuter Bike Route (MPO Bike Plan)
 - The Village continues to work with the Wausau Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) to list projects on the regional long range transportation plan, which includes supporting bicycling as a commuting option. Weston now has on-street bike routes that connect to other communities in the Wausau metro area. When performing improvements on roads along the bike routes, Weston intends to provide bike lanes or similar space to accommodate riders.
- Bike and Pedestrian Network Connection (Comprehensive Plan)
 - As Part of our Comprehensive Plan, Transportation Chapter, an emphasis has been placed on the importance of constructing pedestrian and bicycle friendly paths and lanes as Village roads are being reconstructed or constructed.
- League of American Bicyclists Certification
 - Continue to maintain our Bronze certification status.
- Complete Streets
 - The Village plans to design new and improved roadways as Complete Streets serving motorists, pedestrians, bicyclists, and adjoining neighborhoods. The Village also promotes interconnected streets.
- Street Maintenance Program
 - The Village spent the past two decades building a sizeable inventory of roadways. Maintaining these roads is essential for commerce and daily transportation needs. Keeping existing road in good condition and engaging in strategic improvements will take priority over new construction projects.
- Road Diets
 - The Village utilized a technique in transportation planning called a road diet to improve safety and congestion relief on public roadways, by taking an existing four-lane, undivided roadway, that serves both through and turning traffic into a three-lane segment with two through lanes and a center, two-way left-turn lane, and pedestrian lanes.

- Anti-Icing
 - The Village has added an anti-icing truck to the fleet by retrofitting an existing 1-ton truck with a salt brine tank and spray bar. The process of spraying salt brine onto streets is called anti-icing.

Anti-icing consists of applying liquid salt brine to the pavement surface prior to anticipated snow or ice storms. Anti-icing significantly reduces the amount of salt used because it prevents snow from becoming compacted and bonded to the road surface, which allows plows to more effectively clear the streets.

Anti-icing will be applied on major thoroughfares, main intersections, bridge decks, hills and curves

Land Use

- Camp Phillips Corridor (Redevelopment)
 - Camp Phillips Road is the major travel way into the Village of Weston from State Highway 29. The road struggles to keep up with traffic, and residential land uses along it reflect a quieter time. In collaboration with land owners and residents, the Village will advance redevelopment along Camp Phillips Road. The intent is to grow the local economy and tax base; increase commercial services, retail, and restaurants; provide sensitive transitions to neighborhoods; and beautify and unify Weston’s front door.
- Mixed Land Use Language
 - Within the Land Use Chapter of our Comprehensive Plan, we have added the allowance and language for mixed use land uses within certain zoning districts. General description consists of: A carefully designed blend of commercial services, retail, office, multiple family residential, and/or institutional land uses, including mixed use sites and/or buildings, creating vibrant urban places and community gathering spots. Compared to the “Planned Neighborhood” future land use designation, “Mixed Use” areas typically are denser, more focused on non-residential development, do not typically include single family housing, and are generally located along major roadway corridors. All served by a public sewer system.
- New Landscaping Requirements
 - The Village continues to apply new landscaping requirements which were put in place to help provide and maintain vegetation in a manner that promotes the Village’s natural resource protection, aesthetic, and public health goals.
- Tree Planting (Street trees)
 - Through our Natural Resources Chapter of the Comprehensive Plan and an updated Subdivision Ordinance, the Village plans to require street terrace trees in new developments and street reconstruction projects, per the Village’s Complete Streets policy and zoning and subdivision regulations.
 - In 2016, the Village planted 171 new trees on Village-owned property and in the right of ways.

- Tree City USA
 - Continue to maintain our “Tree City USA” status by maintaining trees in the public right-of-way and on public lands, managing common tree diseases that threaten urban forest health, and serving as a resource for landowners to manage other mature trees and woodlands.
- New Permitting, Licensing, and Planning Software
 - In 2016, Village staff started working with a software company called InfoVision to implement a new on-line permitting, licensing, and planning software called Evolve. This allows residents and contractors to apply for permits online, and removes the need to for printed paper materials. Along with implementing this software, will be the ability to pay for permits online, where currently, payments have to be made in person or through U.S. mail.

Energy

- Alternative Energy
 - Regulations in favor of:
 - Solar Panels
 - Wind Turbines
 - Geothermal Systems

The Village’s Zoning Regulations allows for the construction and use of Solar, Wind, and Geothermal energy sources; however, places regulations to follow to ensure these are constructed and used properly as to not have any adverse impacts on neighboring properties.
- LED Street Lights

Following the successful grant awarded to the Village from the State Energy Office, the Village was able to put into motion a \$110,000 project to replace light fixtures throughout the Village with LED lights. In 2016, the Village installed 397 LED fixtures, which replaced existing High Pressure Sodium Fixtures.

This will be a long-term benefit for the Village as we predict our yearly energy costs will drop and the lighting will also be better along our commercial corridors.
- Municipal Facilities Study – Reduce Energy Consumption
 - Plans for future replacement of municipal structures (I.e. Municipal Center, Parks Office, Police Department, etc.) with keeping the reduction in energy consumption in mind by improving building efficiency, reducing heating/cooling costs, increase employee environments.

Water

- Asset Management (Beehive)
 - A new software program “Beehive” has been implemented and now in use to improve planning and work scheduling and optimize labor and equipment use. This maintenance management system will help to track history and document certain events.

- VFD's for Pumps at Well Houses
 - Variable Frequency Drives have been installed at Municipal well houses, which will eliminate wasted water by eliminating high maintenance control valves prone to leakage and reduces energy consumption of pumping operations.

- Automated Meter Reading
 - Since the last report, the Village of Weston Water Utility has been continuing its efforts in transitioning from touch pad water meters to radio-read water meters, in the homes of residential customers. This transition is occurring as water meters are due to be changed out. As previously reported, 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 meter readings will, in the future, be done by a touch of a button by our Utility Clerk from her office computer.
 - This service will allow the Village to go from quarterly utility billing to monthly utility billing.

- Stormwater Credits – Rain Barrel and Rain Garden
 - Each spring the Village holds a “How to Build a Rain Barrel” Workshop. Through these workshops, participants receive education on the importance of conserving water, protecting our wetlands by being aware of what is washing from your yards, through the storm sewer system, to the wetlands, and how to take advantage of the storm water, by collecting it and reusing it for watering lawns, gardens, and other outdoor watering uses.
 - Residents who have rain barrels installed or rain gardens are then offered a one-time storm water credit, which is equivalent to 68% of their annual storm water utility billing.

Waste

- “Sell It”, “Donate It”, “Pitch It” Campaign
 - In 2013, the Village held a “Sell It”, “Donate It”, “Pitch It” campaign as part of our annual spring clean-up. Here we were encouraging residents who had unwanted items to first consider selling those items by taking part in our annual Village-Wide Rummage Sale, which typically occurs the first weekend in May. If people are unsuccessful in selling their unwanted items, we then encourage that they consider donating their items to non-profit locations, such as Goodwill. Lastly, if they were unsuccessful in selling or donating their unwanted items to take part in the spring bulk-item drop-off, which occurs at our contracted refuse/recycling hauler's location, where they can unload those items free of charge.

- Single-Stream Recycling Program
 - In 2014, the Village of Weston began its Single-Stream Recycling Program. Through this program, all Village residents within single-family up to 4-unit residences (on one tax parcel), received a 95-gallon single-stream recycling cart, where all of their clean recyclables (plastics, glass, metals, paper, and cardboard) can be loosely mixed and placed within their cart. Prior to this, though recycling was collected dual stream, residents placed their recyclables within 18-gallon containers. This meant potentially several containers, open to the elements, carried to and placed at the edge of their property. By making recycling easier, more people are participating. The single-stream recycling cart keeps the neighborhoods cleaner, are easier to use, safer for the recycling driver and the resident.

- Home Composting Workshops
 - Since the start of the Single-Stream Recycling Program, residents started asking us what to do with their food waste and yard waste. Working with Marathon County Solid Waste Department and Recycling Connections Corporation, we have held Home Composting Workshops in the spring of 2014, 2015, 2016, and planning a workshop this May, to teach residents how to build your own home compost, and kind of yard waste and food waste can go in those, and how to properly manage the materials as they turn to compost.

- Residential Refuse/Recycling Waste Audit
 - In August, of 2016, a week-long waste audit was conducted by the Village of Weston, Advanced Disposal Services, and Marathon County Solid Waste Department. The team inspected both the refuse and recycling carts of randomly selected houses to understand how well residents have interpreted the recycling program in the Village of Weston. Each day, about 20-30 homes were inspected during the audit. This was intended to provide the Village of Weston with in-site on how to improve the recycling program and education efforts. Each house inspected had a flyer taped to the refuse cart or recycling cart explaining any problems or congratulating them for good recycling practices.

- Free Cellcom Electronics Recycling Event
 - The Cellcom Electronics Recycling Event, held on August 3, 2016, was sponsored by Cellcom along with RecycleThatStuff.com who collected the items recycled. The Village of Weston provided the location for the event in the parking lot of the Municipal center. The event was open to the public, not just Village of Weston residents, which resulted in an overwhelming amount of participation. There was so much interest in the event from the public, that Schofield Avenue was lined with cars coming from both directions. The event was successful and based on the response from the public, there is a clear need for more events like this one available for the residents. The amount of material collected came to a total of 33,000lbs of electronics. About half of that weight was made up of TVs.

- America Recycles Week
 - As a way to increase proper recycling awareness, the Village of Weston held its third annual contest during the week of November 7th – 11th, to celebrate America Recycles Day (which was November 15th). Through a coordinated effort by Village of Weston, Marathon County Solid Waste, and Advanced Disposal Services, random addresses were given to the Advanced Disposal Services driver. Drivers were also given a checklist to gauge how well residents were recycling.

We had up to 25 inspections per day scheduled for each of the 5 refuse/recycling routes within Weston. The drivers were instructed to inspect both the refuse cart and recycling cart to verify that only allowed household recyclables were within the recycling cart, and that only household trash was within the refuse cart. If the contents within both carts passed inspection, that particular address was then recorded and entered in to potentially win one of the seven prizes being offered: 55" LG Smart TV, and \$25.00 gift certificates to several local businesses.

Healthy Community

- Farmer's Market with EBT
 - In July 2012, the Weston Farmer's Market offered the needed resource to accept FoodShare (EBT Cards). This system allows those families on the FoodShare program to swipe their EBT card at a terminal located at the market tent and receive tokens to use at participating vendors throughout the market. Tokens are then used to purchase food products, such as fruit, vegetables, cheese, meat, eggs, bakery items, spices and maple syrup.
- Sidewalk Plan (new and fill in gaps)
 - A strong emphasis will be placed on filling gaps and completing projects in areas near schools and parks and long arterial and collector roads. Filling gaps in the sidewalk or shared-use path network may happen as part of new subdivisions, with street reconstruction projects, or as stand-alone projects where need dictates.
- Complete Streets
 - Back in 2015, The Village of Weston Board adopted a Complete Streets policy, and directed Village staff to develop implementation strategies to increase the usability of all streets for all modes of travel for citizens of all ages and abilities in the Village, via Resolution VW-15-14. The policy will be implemented through inclusion of Complete Streets improvements in roadway projects proposed in the Village's Official Future Transportation Map and through an update to the Village's subdivision ordinance, which occurred in 2016.
- Employee Wellness Program
 - In 2016, the Village of Weston implemented a wellness plan for all Village employees. This plan started with a voluntary health risk assessment (consisting of a health questionnaire and biometric screening) for employees to participate in. The Village offered a financial incentive to get employees to participate. The goal is keep employees healthy and happy, as a way to keep healthcare costs down, and in keeping productivity up and employee turnover down. With this program, staff has been participating in wellness challenges, which has proven to also help bring workplace morale up.

Through our Wellness Committee, we have now coordinated several employee wellness challenges, which received a pretty high participation rate. We continue to try to create challenges that interests all employees one way or another. Our upcoming challenge, starting April 1st, will be a "bingo" style challenge, where a variety of tasks will be found in the squares of each bingo card. This ranges from number of steps take, to number of miles walked, to participating in events, like archery, to something as simple as taking a day off for relaxation, or going to the local Farmer's Market.