



Eau Claire County 2018 Green Tier Legacy Community Annual Report

for Eau Claire County's participation in the Sustainability Component of the Green Tier Legacy
Communities Charter

Last Revision April 3, 2019

Summary of sustainable initiatives and activities undertaken in the County in 2018. Note that many of the long-term initiatives identified in the 2016 and 2017 Annual Reports are ongoing but are not reflected in this report as it is primarily focused on new initiatives and activities:

• **LAND USE**

- Assisting town of Seymour to complete 10-year comprehensive plan updates, which include policies to promote efficient land use and sustainability
- Continuing work on comprehensive amendment to the zoning ordinance which will modernize the code and integrate best practices for sustainable development including
- Working with the City of Eau Claire in the development of their Renewable Energy Action Plan (REAP)

• **HEALTHY COMMUNITY PLANNING**

- Commencing 10-year update of Eau Claire County Comprehensive Plan, which will include a focus on public health and sustainability
- Working with developers to design cluster and conservation subdivision designs, which conserve environmentally sensitive lands, preserve habitat, and provide community amenities such as trails and interconnected open space areas for recreation

• **TRANSPORTATION**

- In conjunction with Dunn County and Chippewa County, worked with West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission to develop a regional Bicycle-Pedestrian Plan to plan for a connected multi-modal transportation network in the community

• **WATER**

- Leveraged the Eau Claire River Watershed 9-Key element plan to be awarded unique and innovative DNR grants which will allow both counties to protect the Eau Claire River. The grant programs will foster the efforts of the Eau Claire River Watershed Coalition, which is a partnership of the DNR, UW-Ext, West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission, the Land Conservation offices in Eau Claire, Clark and Taylor Counties, Lake Associations and Districts for Lake Altoona, Lake Eau Claire, and Mead Lake, and area residents. The Coalition efforts have also resulted in the following successes:
 - Two Soil Health field days, one each hosted by both Eau Claire and Clark Counties, for local farmers and agronomist to learn of soil health practices
 - Healthy Lakes presentation which saw over 60 participants from Lake Altoona, Lake Eau Claire, and Lake Wissota gather at the Beaver Creek Reserve to learn of ways lake residents can help protect our waterbodies

- Completion of river bank erosion and lake bathymetric surveys to monitor erosion and sedimentation
 - Installation of river gauge equipment which will also assist in monitoring sedimentation as well as river flow data
- The State of the Groundwater in Eau Claire County -2018 report was completed by the Groundwater Advisory Committee and staff. The report includes background information, trends potentially influencing groundwater, local programs and highlights priority recommendations for continued groundwater protection.
- Eau Claire County's Stormwater education efforts continue with our participation in Rain to Rivers (R2R) of Western Wisconsin, which also saw the R2R organization fulfill its dream of becoming an independent organization following incorporation in 2018

🌿 ENVIRONMENT

- The Eau Claire County Land Stewardship Subcommittee of the LCC partnered with Landmark Conservancy (formerly West Wisconsin Land Trust) and other private organizations on the purchase of the former Kiwanis property, which was then donated to the Town of Union to annex onto their existing Youth Forest.
- Creation of the Ag Ordinance Review Special Committee to begin the review of existing Animal Waste Storage Ordinance and explore options for additional ordinances in response to the Large-Scale Livestock Facilities Moratorium.
- Installation of the first pasture pump system which has limited livestock access to the Dells Millpond located north of Augusta.
- The Eau Claire County Land Conservation Division held its 36th annual tree and shrub sale, offering 20 species of coniferous and hardwood trees, and several types of native shrubs. To date, over a million trees have been sold.
- The Land Conservation Division has helped landowners enroll over 1000 acres of land in the CREP program, which helps farms meet their conservation goals, particularly those who farm or graze animals along rivers and streams







🌿 ENERGY


- **Energy Efficiency:**
 - Retrofit Juvenile Detention Center Gym Lighting from metal halide to LED
 - Replaced 100 fluorescent 2'x2' fixtures with LED fixtures in Courthouse
 - Work with Focus on Energy to maximize investment dollars on energy reduction projects
- **Solar**
 - Purchased additional subscription of XCEL Energy Solar Connect Capacity for the Courthouse Building bringing the total solar capacity from XCEL and Eau Claire Energy Coop to 129kW







🌿 WASTE

- **Holiday Light Recycling:** Collected 1,620 pounds of holiday lights for recycling
- **Household Hazardous Waste:** Held 3 Clean Sweep hazardous household waste collection events in 2018; collected 72,816 pounds (approximately 36.4 tons) of hazardous waste total.







- **Waste Medication Disposal:** Collected and properly disposed of 3,321 pounds (1.66 tons) of waste medication through the Waste Medication Collection Program in cooperation with the Sheriff's Department and other local law enforcement agencies.
- **Education & Outreach:**
 - Developed a magnet depicting best recycling practices and distributed to all incoming UWEC dorm residents as well as other groups and public
 - Eau Claire County Solid Waste hosted informational tables at several events and in local elementary schools, including participation in Earth Day activities to promote recycling and sustainability measures







| Max. Score |  Sustainability Strategies Scoresheet |      | | | | | |
|---|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5 | Prepare a plan identifying disconnections in bike and pedestrian networks, prioritizing fixes and identifying potential funding sources for the most important projects. | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 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. | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| 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 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| <u>Electric Vehicles</u> | | 1 | | | | | |
| 10 | Electric vehicles in gov't fleets - 2% of fleet=5 points. 5% of fleet=10 points. | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2 | Allow NEVs on appropriate roadways. | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2 | Provide public charging stations | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| <u>Vehicle Idling</u> | | | | | | | |
| 5 | Ban idling (more than 5 minutes) with local government vehicles. | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 5 | Ban idling (more than 5 minutes) community-wide. | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| <u>ZONING AND DEVELOPMENT</u> | | | | | | | |
| 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. | | | | | | | |
| <u>Infill Development</u> | | | | | | | |
| 5 | Identify priority areas for infill development, including those eligible for brownfields funding. | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| 10 | Create land bank to acquire and assemble priority infill sites | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 10 | Develop an inventory of known contaminated properties for reuse planning, with possible GIS application | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| <u>Walkscore</u> | | | | | | | |
| 5 | Measure Walkscore at 10 random residential addresses per Census tract, compute average, and improve upon overall score | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| <u>Zoning</u> | | | | | | | |
| 5 | Adopt traditional neighborhood design ordinance (If population is less than 12,500) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| 5 | Zoning for office and retail districts permits floor-area ratio > 1, on average. | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| 5 | Zoning for office and retail districts requires floor-area ratio > 1, on average. | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| 5 | Zoning code includes mixed use districts | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 |
| 5 | Mixed-use language from Smart Code TBA. | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| <u>NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT</u> | | | | | | | |
| 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. | | | | | | | |

| Max. Score | Sustainability Strategies Scoresheet | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|
| |  | | | | | |
| Canopy | | | | | | |
| 3 | Adopt tree preservation ordinance | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 3 | Set a tree canopy goal and develop a management plan to achieve it | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2 | Require trees to be planted in all new developments | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Vegetation Management | | | | | | |
| 10 | Public properties and rights of way mown or cleared only for safe sightlines and/or to remove invasive species. | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 6 |
| 10 | Create community policy and BMP guidelines on minimizing chemical use during vegetation management of public and private properties | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 |
| Water Protection | | | | | | |
| 6 | Establish 75-foot natural vegetation zone by surface water. | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 6 |
| 6 | Inventory wetlands and ensure no net annual loss. | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 |
| Community Energy Use Community energy use strategies encourage energy efficiency and the use of renewable fuels to reduce total energy consumption throughout the community | | | | | | |
| Community Energy Use Policies | | | | | | |
| 10 | Adopt PACE ordinance/jpa | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 10 |
| 10 | Use PACE financing | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 5 | Watt meters available to the public | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | NA |
| 5 | Offer residents and businesses a mechanism to purchase shares of the electricity generated through a local renewable energy project. (Ex. a community solar program) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 |
| 5 | Facilitate a group-buy program through which residents receive discounted, volume-based pricing on energy efficiency or renewable energy projects based on aggregated demand. | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| 3 | Commit to achieving a science-based, community-wide GHG reduction goal. | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 3 | Adopt Residential Energy Conservation Ordinance (time-of-sale certification and upgrades). | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Measuring Community Energy Use | | | | | | |
| 6 | Work with local utilities to calculate total electricity and natural gas consumption annually, beginning with the fifth year before entering the program. | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 |
| 5 | Achieve milestone reductions in GHG emissions, as specified in the community's science-based GHG reduction goals. | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 5 | State of Wisconsin Energy Independent (EI) Community designation. | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | NA |
| MUNICIPAL ENERGY USE 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. | | | | | | |
| Government Energy Use Policies | | | | | | |

| Max. Score |  Sustainability Strategies Scoresheet |      | | | | | |
|---|--|---|---|---|---|---|----|
| 5 | Include transportation energy/emissions as criterion in RFPs for purchases of goods over \$10,000. | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2 | Develop list of lighting, HVAC and shell improvements to raise Energy Star Portfolio Manager or LEED EBO&M score | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| 10 | Reduce motor fuels use for non-transit activities -- | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 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 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 6 | Streetlights operate at 75 lumens/Watt or higher | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | NA |
| 4 | Stoplights are LED or functional equivalent | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | NA |
| 2 | Establish a policy requiring that all major remodeling projects on municipal buildings result in the building receiving an ENERGY STAR score that is five points higher than the building's pre-remodel score. | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 6 | Commit to achieving a science-based GHG reduction goal for emissions resulting from all municipal operations. | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 3 | Incorporate energy use intensity (EUI) targets into the contracting process for all significant municipal construction projects. | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 5 | Establish policies requiring that all new municipal buildings achieve an ENERGY STAR score of 75 or higher. | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2 | 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 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Measuring Government Energy Use | | | | | | | |
| 2 | Work with Energy Task Force OEI to track municipal facilities - Complete EPA Energy Star Portfolio Manager spreadsheet for government energy use. Or score existing buildings with LEED EBO&M. | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 3 | Achieve milestone reductions in GHG emissions, as specified in the municipality's science-based GHG reduction goal. | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 4 | Calculate annual government fleet use of motor fuels, in gallons of petroleum and biofuels, beginning with the fifth year before entering the program. | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 10 | All new and renovated municipal buildings must meet LEED Silver or greater. | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| WATER USE CONSERVATION | | | | | | | |
| 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. | | | | | | | |
| Water Conservation | | | | | | | |
| 5 | Track water and sewer use annually, beginning with fifth year before entering program, and develop plan for reductions. | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| 1 | 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 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2 | Join EPA's WaterSense Program for water utilities or the Groundwater Guardian Green Sites program and promote them to local business. | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 6 | Use block rates and flat rates to encourage water conservation among residential, commercial, and industrial users. | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 3 | Infiltration and inflow reduction by 10% | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 3 | Plan for replacing all toilets using > 1.6 gpf and annual progress sufficient to reach 90 percent replacement in 10 years. | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

| Max. Score | Sustainability Strategies Scoresheet | | | | | |
|--|--|---|---|---|---|----|
| | | | | | | |
| Local Government Use | | | | | | |
| 2 | Install waterless urinals in men's restrooms at municipal facilities (city hall, parks, etc.) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2 | All outdoor watering by local government, excluding parks and golf courses, from rain collection. | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2 | Develop a water efficiency and conservation plan for municipal buildings | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| WATER AND WASTEWATER INFRASTRUCTURE MANAGEMENT | | | | | | |
| Setting goals for the sustainable management of water and wastewater infrastructure reduces costs; saves energy; and ensures the protection of public health and the environment. | | | | | | |
| 5 | Develop and implement asset management plans that set targets for the sustainable maintenance, operation and renewal of water and wastewater infrastructure. | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 5 | Wastewater biogas captured and used in operations. | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 6 | Conduct an energy assessment for municipal water and wastewater facilities and develop a plan to increase energy efficiency | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 3 | Financial assistance for sewer lateral replacements. | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 4 | Set goals for increasing the recovery of resources from wastewater for energy generation (heat or electricity) and fertilizer. | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 4 | Explore partnership options with high-strength waste. | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 4 | Upgrade water and wastewater utility equipment (e.g., variable frequency drive motors) to achieve energy efficiency based on total life cycle, triple bottom line costs (e.g. maintenance and replacement strategies in asset management plans). | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| STORMWATER MANAGEMENT | | | | | | |
| 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. | | | | | | |
| 3 | Develop a regular street sweeping program to reduce total suspended solids | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 4 | Stormwater utility fees offer credits for best management practices such as rain barrels, rain gardens, and pervious paving | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | NA |
| 3 | Inventory all paved surfaces (e.g., by GIS mapping), and develop a plan for reduction | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| 5 | Work with commercial or light industrial businesses to develop stormwater pollution plans | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 |
| WATER AND DEVELOPMENT | | | | | | |
| 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. | | | | | | |
| Land Development | | | | | | |
| 3 | Identify key green infrastructure areas during plan development and/or implement a plan to acquire and protect key green infrastructure areas | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| Waters, Wetlands, and Wildlife | | | | | | |
| 3 | Replace concrete channels with re-meandered and naturalized creeks, wetlands, or swales | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| 4 | Develop a system for identifying culverts that obstruct fish migration and install fish friendly culverts where needed | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |

| Max. Score |  Sustainability Strategies Scoresheet |      | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|
| 8 | Encourage the formation and/or support of Neighborhood Improvement Districts (NIDs), Neighborhood Development Corporations, or other similar types of neighborhood reinvestment and enhancement strategies in plans or policies. | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| <u>Healthy Food Access</u> | | | | | | | |
| 7 | Implement strategies (urban agriculture, community gardens on public land, diversified farmer's markets, expanded traditional retail food options, ordinances to allow urban chickens and beekeeping and vegetable gardening in rights of way) that help increase fresh food access in the community, in particular in areas with food insecurity (e.g., "food deserts" and "food swamps"), including access by EBT and WIC participants. | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| 6 | Create a Food Systems Plan that addresses the production, distribution, value-added, marketing, end-market, and disposal of food, and charge a new or existing governmental body to oversee the plan's implementation. | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| <u>Physical Activity and Access</u> | | | | | | | |
| 5 | Provide an on-street and/or off-street trail network connecting recreational areas in the community (e.g. safe routes to parks) and other trip generators, such as shopping malls, ensuring all neighborhoods are included in planning and implementation. | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| 4 | Encourage pedestrian and bicycle site connections from front door of businesses or apartments to a public sidewalk and/or bike lane ensuring connections to all neighborhoods. | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| 4 | Provide education and establish programming to encourage physical activity, especially by youth. | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 7 | Establish an expanded public transit that serves commuters from all neighborhoods and major parks and recreation facilities, and has racks on vehicles for carrying bicycles. | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | NA |
| 5 | Require sidewalks in new residential areas and establish a policy for adding sidewalks, as appropriate, in areas built out without sidewalks. | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | NA |
| 2 | Implement a Complete Streets policy. | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 5 | Provide recreation programs for youth, adults, senior citizens and disabled persons. | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 |
| 5 | Establish a pedestrian safety task force. | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| <u>Housing</u> | | | | | | | |
| 6 | Adopt ordinances and programs to maintain a healthy housing stock (code enforcement, landlord licenses, volunteer program, truth-in housing disclosure before sale, etc.). | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| 5 | Allow life cycle or adaptable housing options, such as "aging in place", accessory dwelling units, Universal or Inclusive Design, Dementia Friendly Communities, Age-Friendly Communities, etc. | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| 8 | Establish a program to make housing more affordable. | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| 5 | Establish a program to address chronic homelessness, such as "permanent housing". | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| <u>Crime Prevention and Other Harm Reduction</u> | | | | | | | |
| 4 | Use by policy, ordinance or practice, Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design and active threat planning to make public spaces, such as recreational space, crime free. | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| 5 | Establish and implement Harm Reduction strategies for alcohol outlet density and sexual oriented establishments (e.g. zoning limitations) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

| Max. Score |  Sustainability Strategies Scoresheet |      | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | | |
| 5 | Adopt an ordinance or policy that requires tobacco-free and e-cigarette free apartments or places limitations on such structures. | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 6 | Adopt an ordinance or policy that promotes tobacco-free and e-cigarette free parks and/or public events on local government-owned property. | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| <u>Climate Change</u> | | | | | | | |
| 5 | Create and implement a climate change action plan that includes a carbon footprint study, and health related components on reducing air pollution from combustion of fossil fuels and responding to heat episodes and flooding, focusing in particular on most vulnerable populations. | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| <u>Noise</u> | | | | | | | |
| 5 | Adopt an ordinance, including conditional use permits, on noise abatement for various zoning districts. | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| <u>Employee Health</u> | | | | | | | |
| 5 | Implement a wellness program for employees of the local jurisdiction. | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 |
| 5 | Encourage or partner with others, such as the Chamber of Commerce, etc., to advance workplace wellness programs within the community. | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| <u>Placemaking</u> | | | | | | | |
| 5 | Support placemaking at varying scale (neighborhood to major city facility) and permanence (temporary to permanent) through programming, financial support and removal of regulatory barriers to promote healthy living and social capital in the community. | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| 5 | Adopt form-based codes or similar type design guidelines for healthy active living environments. | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| <u>Waste Pharmaceuticals</u> | | | | | | | |