

## City of De Pere Sustainability Commission's Work Plan

- Conduct a baseline assessment of the City of De Pere's greenhouse gas emissions utilizing resources such as the Greenhouse Gas Protocol (Global Protocol for Community-Scale Greenhouse Gas Emission Inventories), City of De Pere staff, WPS staff, and local expertise from faculty and students at St. Norbert College.
- Use baseline assessment as a guideline for the City of De Pere to work towards eventually achieving carbon neutrality and for tracking changes in the City's greenhouse gas emissions annually.
- Conduct research and compile a white paper report that outlines various considerations towards transitioning to carbon neutrality that includes, but is not limited to:
  - Specific information on the baseline assessment of greenhouse gas emissions for the City of De Pere;
  - Scientific evidence for community benefits of reducing greenhouse emissions;
  - Definition of carbon neutrality and possible goals for reaching carbon neutrality;
  - Overview of types of renewable energy possible in the City of De Pere;
  - Discuss energy conservation;
  - Economic and tax rate considerations: the cost of the initial transition vs. the cost of doing nothing, the long-term economic benefits to renewable energy;
  - Policy recommendations to meet the scientific needs with consideration to the economic realities.
- Following the report's presentation and discussion at the City Council, the Sustainability Commission may submit a resolution with stated recommendations with consideration to feedback from the Council that outlines our target dates and goals for a transition to carbon neutrality.
- Solicit feedback from the community on specific possible actions towards transitioning to carbon neutrality before passing a final resolution. This can include, but is not limited to:
  - Commission members reaching out to community organizations, individuals, and other key stakeholders;
  - Receiving feedback from partner organizations' sustainability listening sessions by providing them a list of possible recommendations for them to include in any programming;

- Enlisting the help and advice of expert organizations (ex. RENEW Wisconsin);
  - Developing and sending out a survey to a random sample of city residents and also making the survey available online for residents of the City about possible solutions;
  - Advertise report to the City Council and subsequent resolution and encourage public dialogue and civic engagement prior to any policy votes.
- Following the potential passage of a resolution outlining goals towards the transition to carbon neutrality, the Sustainability Commission may work with city staff and any key stakeholders to develop a Renewable Energy Action Plan that will outline exactly how the municipality and community will make that transition toward any stated goals. This plan may be developed in consultation with third-party consultants, and the commission may identify grant opportunities to fund such a plan (including but not limited to the annual grants from the Wisconsin Public Service Commission). The Sustainability Commission will facilitate community input in this plan.
  - Prior to and following any resolution that states specific goals, the Sustainability Commission may work to identify and recommend any other policy suggestions or programmatic opportunities to encourage the use of renewable energy in the city.
  - The Sustainability Commission may engage and collaborate with other local and tribal governments in the region, the State of Wisconsin (DNR Green Tier Legacy Community Program), and the federal government (Environmental Protection Agency), higher education (e.g., St. Norbert College), business and industry to encourage progress towards these goals.
  - The Sustainability Commission may constantly be identifying funding opportunities from grants, public-private partnerships, possible city budget requests, or any other opportunities that become available.
  - Work with City staff to determine current levels of renewable energy versus other energy sources and identify any existing efforts to transition, cost estimates, and barriers to transition.
  - Utilize the Green Tier Sustainability scoresheet (and the City's 2019 baseline) as a guideline for choosing projects that Commissioners agree would advance the sustainability goals of the City, while also improving the City's score each year.