

A Path to a Sustainable Stevens Point

Report from the
Stevens Point Eco-Municipality Task Force

June 1, 2008

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Stevens Point Eco-Municipality Task Force was formed in June 2007. Stevens Point Mayor Andrew Halverson appointed the Task Force, with the goal to develop a sustainable framework for our community's future. *Eco-Municipality* is an important label for the Task Force. Its name comes from both economics and ecology.

This Task Force has begun an important process to create an economically, environmentally and socially healthy community; and it will only happen with cooperation and involvement from all aspects of our community.

An eco-municipality requires the support of the entire community and involves considering all aspects of our environment and society. Therefore eight subcommittees have been formed to help with the development of this sustainable framework.

1. Civic Involvement and Education
2. Development and Land Use
3. Food
4. Green Building & Energy
5. Parks and Tourism
6. Transportation
7. Waste & Recycling
8. Water and Wastewater

The Task Force was charged to:

- develop an eco-municipality resolution for Stevens Point Common Council
- develop specific policy recommendations for municipal government
- develop specific community projects and education programs

The Path to a Sustainable Stevens Point serves as the official report of the Eco-Municipality Task Force. The recommendations included in this document are designed to spur community action and enact sustainable governmental policies.

How the document works: This report features 1) a focus on the existing strengths in the community; 2) the recommendations from each issue subcommittee; and 3) a plan for implementation. Under each recommended goal, there are objectives and recommended actions that each subcommittee felt was need to help Stevens Point reach our sustainable goals.

It is the hope of the Task Force that Steven Point's elected officials, government staff, and the community at large will take action on specific parts of this plan.

BASICS OF AN ECO-MUNICIPALITY

What is sustainability?

Sustainable development meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

What is an eco-municipality?

An eco-municipality is a city or other municipality that aspires to develop an ecologically, economically and socially healthy community for the long term. An eco-municipality develops from the “Natural Step” framework, which uses a democratic, highly participative development process.

The Natural Step Framework Guiding Objectives:

Develop policies and practices that:

1. Continually reduce dependence upon fossil fuels, and extracted underground metals and minerals.
2. Continually reduce dependence on chemicals and other manufactured substances that can accumulate in nature.
3. Continually reduce dependence on activities that harm life-sustaining ecosystems.
4. Continually contribute as much as we can to the meeting of human needs in our society and worldwide.

What's different about this process?

Many communities in the US have initiated sustainable projects. While these have made progress toward sustainable goals, they largely are occurring on a project-by-project basis. Frequently these efforts are unconnected and un-integrated throughout municipal governments and the larger communities.

In contrast, the eco-municipality model uses a systems approach. Key elements of the system's approach are widespread community awareness raising and integrated municipal involvement, using a common “sustainability language.” Using this common language brings about a shared understanding of what sustainability means and how to achieve this throughout all sectors of government and the wider community.

STEVENS POINT ECO-MUNICIPALITY TASK FORCE

Who We Are:

The Stevens Point Eco-Municipality Task Force is a group of interested citizens appointed by the mayor of Stevens Point in spring 2007. Appointed members include:

Mayor Andrew Halverson, Task Force Chair
Aldersperson Amy Heart, Task Force Vice-Chair
Tom Barrett, Stevens Point Convention and Visitor Bureau
Bill Berry, Plover River Alliance
Erik Carlson, Ellis Stone
Jackson Case, Architect, Architectural Service
Anna Haines, Director, UW-Stevens Point Center for Land Use Education
John Jury, Community Foundation
Lynn Markham, Land Use Specialist, UW-Stevens Point
Gene Numsen, Citizen Member
Carie Winn, Portage County Boys and Girls Club

Mission Statement:

The purpose of the task force is to create a process for leaders to ensure an ecologically, economically and socially viable future for Stevens Point and to inspire other communities in our region to take a similar path.

Commitments:

The task force is committed to the extensive use of public participation that includes local professionals and citizen from Portage County.

The task force is committed to examining issues of growth, recognizing the need to address the local economy and jobs, and to market Stevens Point to business in a new way.

The task force is committed to producing a set of recommendations and a resolution for the City Council.

Subcommittee Members and Input:

The Eco-Municipality Task Force identified eight issue areas that needed in-depth study and recommendations. We were fortunate to receive help and input from citizens from a variety of backgrounds. Below is a list of individuals who contributed to significantly to this report by serving on the eight subcommittees.

Civic Involvement and Education: Susan Ermer (chair), Vic Akeman, Natalie Dorler, Justin Glodoski, Bobbie Kubish, Maud LaMarche, Jeremy Rankin, Melissa Sabel, Marti Sowka

Development and Land Use: David Senfelds (chair), Cathy Dugan, John Gardner, Tom Giralamo, Eric Olson, Carl Rasmussen, Tim Schertz,

Food: Carrie Winn (co-chair), Michelle Bjella (co-chair), Rory Bancroft, DeNae Dandridge, Bobby Gifford, Barbara Grover, Nick Hylla, Guy Janssen, Mary Maller, Chris Malek, Jeremy Rankin, Jim Schickert, John Sheffy, Greg Wysocki

Green Building and Energy: Jackson Case (chair), Tom Brown, Ed Buehler, Erik Carlson, Bill Horvath, Alec Linde, Sara Polodna, Sara Windjue

Parks and Tourism: Tom Barrett (co-chair), John Jurry (co-chair), Kim Beckham, Sara Brish, Todd Ernster, George Rogers, Tom Schrader, Kathy Schwartz, Jo Seiser, Les Werner, Lindsey Wood, Dennis Yockers, Ron Zimmerman

Transportation: Jen Knade (chair), Scott Cole, Rolf Garthus, Amy Heart, Lawrence Leviton, Andrew Letson, Susan Lemke, Elbert Rackow, Robert Nemeth, Michael O'Meara

Waste & Recycling: Meleesa Johnson (chair), Andy Berner, Gary Flick, Mike Kulik, Mary McComb, Gene Numsen, Kathy Powell, Aga Razvi, Penny Warren

Water and Wastewater: Bill Ebert, Kim Halverson, Wes Halverson, Linda Kedrowski, Joel Lemke, Kevin Masarik, Lynn Markham, Earl Spangenberg and Nancy Turyk.

Community Support:

The Eco-Municipality Task Force would also like to acknowledge and thank many interested citizens and community members who participated in meetings, discussion s groups, and public forums. These public meetings and discussion brought our community more opportunities for sharing ideas and developing recommendations for our future. The Task Force thanks all who played a part in this process.

A special thanks to Ben Vondra, Eco-Municipality Intern at the Center for Land Use Education, at UW-Stevens Point.

BUILDING ON OUR STRENGTHS

Stevens Point got its start 150 years ago on the banks of the Wisconsin River. Now, as we celebrate the city's sesquicentennial in 2008, it is a perfect time to look to the future and how we might build upon our rich traditions with wise decisions that sustain our community and make it a model for the eco-municipality concept.

Natural resources have long played a role in the city's growth, from the Wisconsin River used for power and transportation to the vast forested lands that marked the region as European settlers arrived here. Natural resources remain central to the city's well-being, and it is our job to build on the good work of our ancestors and also to correct mistakes made in the past.

Many before us have been stewards of the environment and our cultural integrity. It is our responsibility to protect, preserve and enhance the work done before us, and to leave a legacy for future generations through our own actions today.

Many assets already supported in the community and assembled through the efforts of its citizens make Stevens Point a natural fit for an eco-municipality. These include but are certainly not limited to:

- The Green Circle, the 30-mile low-impact trail that stands as a splendid example of public/private partnership
- Stevens Point Area Transit
- Award-winning water and wastewater department practices
- Municipal recycling program that was born of one of the first volunteer recycling programs in Wisconsin
- A strong parks and forestry program and ample open-space for residents
- The nation's largest undergraduate natural resources program at UW-Stevens Point
- A progressive business community that has embraced many sustainability practices
- Splendid water resources worthy of perpetual protection, including the Wisconsin and Plover rivers and ample but fragile ground water supplies
- Pedestrian-friendly neighborhoods that provide easy access to services

In a time of concern about energy supplies and cost and renewed interest in conservation of resources, Stevens Point and like communities are afforded the challenge and opportunity to develop policies that provide for the needs of our residents today and shepherd our resources to serve future generations.

The Stevens Point Eco-Municipality Task Force was established with a charge to build on our strengths and identify where we might improve our practices to help chart a reasonable, practical and sustainable future for the for the city and its residents.

The plan outlined in this document is the work of dozens of concerned citizens from a variety of walks of life. They participated in forums, worked on subcommittees that developed recommendations, attended educational sessions and meetings and informed themselves and others about sustainable practices that will benefit the city and region we all call home. These citizens donated hundreds of hours for the betterment of their community. It is truly a representation of positive citizen engagement.

It is our hope that this plan will create a strong framework for community members, business leaders, and governmental representatives to build upon. It is but the first step of a long process, one that will benefit from enlightened and positive leadership as it moves forward.

CIVIC INVOLVEMENT & EDUCATION

VISION STATEMENT

Stevens Point will be a model sustainable community through citizen involvement and education.

GOAL 1: Stevens Point will create a culture of sustainability by involving and engaging residents.

Objective 1.1 Upon designation of Stevens Point being an Eco-Municipality, create and maintain a Civic Involvement and Education Subcommittee on the Stevens Point Eco-Municipality Task Force to help direct ideas and plans in the future. On this subcommittee create and maintain equal representation by all community interests.

Action 1.1.1 On the Stevens Point Task Force and the Civic Involvement and Education Subcommittee, include representation from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point and other appropriate community educational institutions. This action will maintain continuous connections and collaboration between the city and university relations. Eco-Municipality activities in the community should reflect the sustainability actions on the UW-SP campus and vice versa.

Objective 1.2 Establish a small grants program to support local eco-municipality initiatives.

Action 1.2.1 By 2010, establish an Eco-Municipality Grant Fund by working with the Community Foundation or other similar organizations.

Objective 1.3 Assist and support specific community events that promote Stevens Point Eco-Municipality initiatives.

Action 1.3.1 Beginning in 2008, annually target two large community events to assist them in “greening” their event and educating the public.

Action 1.3.2 Develop an “event assistance guide” and make it available online by January 2009 to be used by all community event planners and coordinators.

Objective 1.4 Develop mechanisms to communicate with neighboring communities such as Plover, Whiting, and Park Ridge in regard to eco-municipality efforts.

Action 1.4.1 Include local community leaders on recipient list for regular eco-municipality communications.

Action 1.4.2 Continuously include eco-municipality news in other regular city communication with neighboring communities.

Objective 1.5 Specifically target *residents with lower incomes* to help them participate and benefit from eco-municipality efforts.

Action 1.5.1 Develop an outreach plan which includes incentives that efficiently and effectively encourage involvement of and benefits to this target audience in eco-municipality activities by July 2009.

Action 1.5.2 Develop partnerships and outreach plans with agencies who specifically work with this target group.

Action 1.5.3 Distribute eco-municipality information in appropriate target group locations throughout the community. Possible locations should include: central kiosks or bulletin boards downtown, Portage County Health and Human Services Building, CAP Services, Lincoln Center, Age and Disability Resource Center, Salvation Army, Operation Boot Strap, St. Vincent's, Goodwill, and other appropriate locations.

Objective 1.6 Specifically target residents who are *first or second generation Americans* to engage and involve them in eco-municipality efforts.

Action 1.6.1 Develop an outreach plan which includes incentives that efficiently and effectively encourage involvement of and benefits to this target audience in eco-municipality activities by July 2009.

Action 1.6.2 Develop partnerships and outreach plans with agencies who specifically work with these target groups.

Action 1.6.3 Distribute eco-municipality information in appropriate target group locations throughout the community. Possible locations should include: central kiosks or bulletin boards downtown, Portage County Health and Human Services Building, CAP Services (Hmong and Hispanic Services Program), Literacy Council, Asian and Hispanic Markets, and other appropriate locations.

Objective 1.7 Specifically target *students and teachers in the K-12 schools* to educate them and engage them in the eco-municipality efforts.

Action 1.7.1 Engage and involve 7th-12th grade students in a contest to develop an eco-municipality logo the spring of 2008.

Action 1.7.2 Develop a basic presentation (PowerPoint or other formats) on the eco-municipality effort, its goals, and positive ways students can become involved by August 2009. This should be made available to schools

upon request. The presentation should include a list of suggested ideas for sustainability projects.

Action 1.7.3 Create a guest speaker list for the superintendent, principals, and teachers to access. Guest speakers would be volunteers in the community willing to present in the classroom to educate about eco-municipalities and the efforts currently in the community.

Action 1.7.4 Invite high school students to actively participate on eco-municipality subcommittees

Action 1.7.5 Develop a Stevens Point Area School Recognition Award and present it annually to a school or student group that meets various award criteria such as carbon footprint reduction at the school, improvement of schoolyard environment, creative learning opportunities for students in regards to education for sustainability, active student participation in eco-municipality activities, etc.

Objective 1.8 Specifically target *post-secondary students and professors at Mid-State Technical College and UWSP* to educate them and engage them in the eco-municipality efforts.

Action 1.8.1 Develop a basic presentation (PowerPoint or other formats) on the eco-municipality effort that targets this audience to be used in higher education courses. It should include a list of positive ways students can become involved in eco-municipality efforts.

Action 1.8.2 Work with the UWSP Chancellor's office and other appropriate administration officers to inform and garner support for local eco-municipality efforts. Ask the chancellor to invite eco-municipality presenters and other speakers who support eco-municipalities and the sustainability movement to university events, such as commencement. Provide a list of possible presenters.

Action 1.8.3 Invite UWSP and Mid-State Technical College students to actively participate on eco-municipality subcommittees.

Objective 1.9 Specifically target *local businesses* to educate and encourage them to support and practice sustainable initiatives.

Action 1.9.1 Develop a basic presentation (PowerPoint or other formats) about the eco-municipality effort, its goals, and positive ways businesses can become more sustainable and involved in the effort to be delivered on request.

Action 1.9.2 Target various business and industry groups with eco-municipality presentation and information, such as Portage County Business Council, Stevens Point Area Inn Keepers Association, Restaurant Association, Tavern League, and other appropriate business and industry associations.

Action 1.9.3 Create a Sustainable Business Practice workshop for business owners to educate them about profitable and sustainable business practices by January 2010.

Action 1.9.4 Identify a community business representative who already practices sustainable techniques, to serve as a willing contact for other businesses by January 2009.

Action 1.9.5 Develop a Stevens Point Area Green Business Award and present it annually to a business that meets various award criteria such as solid waste and carbon footprint reduction, improvement of employee working environment, use of local or regional products, customer education program on sustainable purchasing practices, etc.

Action 1.9.6 Host an annual business forum to share ideas of economically and environmentally viable options on how to do business.

GOAL 2: Stevens Point will commit to promoting and providing access to information and networks to encourage sustainable practices among homeowners, businesses, government officials, and schools.

Objective 2.1 Maintain a website that serves as the primary information center for local sustainability efforts that includes information, tips, ideas, and upcoming events related to eco-municipality efforts in Stevens Point.

Action 2.1.1 By September 2008, the City of Stevens Point should allocate at least a 25% time paid position to assist with the maintenance, upkeep, and improvement of the eco-municipality website. Position duties should include the support and accomplishment of this objective and action items.

Action 2.1.2 Maintain active links to all local sustainability oriented web sites and other appropriate institutions and organizations web pages with similar missions.

Action 2.1.3 On the web site, create a method so local groups and individuals can submit pertinent information regarding sustainability issues and eco-municipality related information to contribute to the web site.

Action 2.1.4 Include information suggested by all of the Stevens Point Eco-Municipality Subcommittees outlined throughout this document.

Objective 2.2 Create a sustainable living, green guide specifically for Stevens Point.

Action 2.2.1 Create a specific green guide for long-term residents to be distributed and posted on the Stevens Point Eco-Municipality web site by the summer of 2009.

Action 2.2.2 Create a specific green guide for students and other temporary residents to be distributed and posted on the Stevens Point Eco-Municipality web site by the fall of 2009.

Objective 2.3 By 2010 create an eco-center in downtown Stevens Point that helps develop, initiate, and educate community-wide education programs for residents, schools, and businesses to engage and involve residents in sustainable choices.

Objective 2.4 Create various methods of maintaining a continuous presence within the community and at all community events to continue the education and involvement of community members.

Action 2.4.1 Create a mobile information booth that will be displayed at different community events and locations at least once each month starting November 2008.

Action 2.4.2 On an annual basis work with Stevens Point event coordinators to create a timeline for the location and viewing times of the mobile information booth.

Action 2.4.3 Create a bi-weekly eco-municipality column in the Stevens Point Journal to update residents on recent eco-municipality efforts and news items. This column could include tips regarding sustainable practices, updates from eco-municipality subcommittees, and any other pertinent information that would help residents become more aware and contribute to the goals and objectives of the Eco-Municipality Task Force.

Action 2.4.4 Create an Eco-Municipality News and Updates column in the Mayor Halverson's newsletter to the residents of Stevens Point and the surrounding areas.

Objective 2.5 Maintain existing study groups and offer more opportunities for residents to learn about eco-municipalities.

Action 2.5.1 By 2009, purchase two sets of 10 books, *Natural Step for Communities*, so community members can engage in study circles without having to purchase more books each time.

Action 2.5.2 By 2009, purchase a set of 10 books, *Natural Step for Businesses*, and encourage business owners and members to participate in sharing circles.

Action 2.5.3 By August 2008, create reading circles specifically for City Council members, Alderpersons, and key government officials to read and discuss the book *Natural Step for Communities*.

Objective 2.6 Work with and support efforts of the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point Campus to create an Institute for Sustainability.

Objective 2.7 Encourage and promote neighborhood groups to maintain the “small town” feel of Stevens Point as the population grows.

Action 2.7.1 Create a communication tool for parents and local school districts to learn about and create walking school buses by August 2008.

Action 2.7.2 Gather and distribute information on community gardens to various neighborhoods by May 2009.

Action 2.7.3 Encourage and support neighborhood groups.

Objective 2.8 Create a sustainable business team to discuss, share, and develop new ideas for growing business in a sustainable way.

Action 2.8.1 Invite business representatives to actively participate on the Stevens Point Eco-Municipality Task Force and its subcommittees, including the Civic Involvement and Education subcommittee.

Objective 2.9 Provide easy access to information for K-12 schools in Stevens Point and the surrounding areas to learn about and participate in eco-municipalities.

Action 2.9.1 Invite school representatives such as teachers, principals, and school board members to actively participate on the Stevens Point Eco-Municipality Task Force and its subcommittees, including the Civic Involvement and Education subcommittee.

Action 2.9.2 Distribute information and updates regarding eco-municipality efforts through school newsletters 2-3 times a year.

DEVELOPMENT & LAND USE

VISION STATEMENT

We support sustainable growth through land uses and development that reduces fossil fuel consumption, supports healthy eco-systems, promotes social and economic equity, and creates a beautiful community.

GOAL 1: Provide a balance of land uses to serve existing and future residents of the City as well as non-residents that allows for a sustainable economy and environment and maintains the high quality of life that Stevens Point residents currently enjoy.

Objective 1.1: Enhance existing neighborhoods by encouraging reuse of existing buildings where physically and economically possible; retaining and creating public open space where appropriate; and encouraging redevelopment where and when appropriate.

Objective 1.2: Enhance neighborhood identities by preserving and promoting cultural and historic features, including buildings and parks; enhancing natural features (trees, streams, rivers); and supporting the creation of neighborhood associations.

Objective 1.3: Reinforce centers - including downtown and established neighborhoods - with building reuse and architecturally compatible rehabilitations / renovations; retention and recruitment of businesses offering services and goods for residents, employees, and visitors who frequent each center; pedestrian and bicyclist amenities; increased transit service; and enhancement of green space.

Objective 1.4: Create, reinforce and identify edges.

Objective 1.5: Increase density through infill, reuse, and redevelopment when physically and economically feasible.

Objective 1.6: Address growth and urban form as a region.

Objective 1.7: Encourage use of unused city owned lands for neighborhood and community gardens.

GOAL 2: All new development will be in a compact and contiguous development pattern.

Objective 2.1: Establish a method for measuring and reporting development densities and spatial patterns of population and monitor changes over time.

Objective 2.2: Annex to allow for compact and contiguous development.

Objective 2.3: Use incentives to encourage regional cooperation with respect to growth patterns.

GOAL 3: Land uses in the city are sufficiently diverse and spatially configured to minimize distances between homes, work places, and activities.

Objective 3.1: Minimize distances between residential areas and activity centers so that pedestrians can make trips in no more than 15 minutes.

Action 1: Analyze the location of activity centers (such as convenience stores) and their relations to residential areas to identify “pedestrian deserts” where households are overly auto-dependent.

Action 2: Revise zoning in light of the spatial analysis of “pedestrian deserts” to permit new mixed uses that can reduce dependence on automobiles.

Objective 3.2: Permit and encourage present and future mixes of residential, commercial and institutional land uses for each neighborhood.

Action 1: Explore the use of form-based land use codes that more explicitly permit mixed uses

GOAL 4: The city shall be a leader in applying innovative development techniques and patterns.

Objective 4.1: Create a self-guided tour and web page that highlights best practices and innovations in municipal-managed land use.

Objective 4.2: Change ordinances where needed to allow use of innovative techniques.

GOAL 5: Downtown shall be the residential, economic, cultural, entertainment, and recreational heart of the City of Stevens Point.

Objective 5.1: Create an attractive downtown environment that appeals to a mix of residents of different ages and socio-economic backgrounds.

- Action 1: Enhance the schedule of downtown maintenance and sanitation to ensure that sidewalks and streets are regularly cleaned.
- Action 2: Create and implement the “upstairs” rehab program for downtown buildings.
- Action 3: Encourage owners and developers to create new (and enhance older) apartments/condominiums and renovated historic properties in downtown and in the adjacent neighborhoods to appeal to a wider range of incomes and ages.
- Action 4: Recruit and provide incentives to stable businesses that will provide basic goods and services (e.g., groceries) to residents and employees of downtown and the adjacent neighborhoods.

Objective 5.2: Encourage greater diversity in downtown food, drink, and entertainment venues (i.e. improved offerings in cinema, performing arts, live music, and casual evening dining).

- Action 1: Encourage the development of a small-scale downtown hotel by promoting reuse of existing downtown buildings (i.e., Whiting Place, the Castle Apartments, or one of the Noel Group buildings that may become vacant in the future).

Objective 5.3: Maintain all city and county government offices in the heart of Stevens Point (with the exception of substations or satellites on the outskirts for library, police, sheriff, fire, and emergency services).

- Action 1: Reuse current city and county buildings, incorporating them creatively into a new campus plan for the justice center.
- Action 2: Support the presence and growth of the Portage County Historical Society downtown. Incorporate the synagogue into the plans for a new civic campus, i.e., downtown justice center.
- Action 3: Build one or more parking structures to permit redevelopment of existing surface parking lots for civic buildings, housing, and public green space.

Objective 5.4: Pursue all funding avenues for preserving, renovating, and/or restoring, historic buildings in the central city and downtown.

Objective 5.5: Enhance the connectivity between the Main Street downtown and the riverfront park.

Action 1: Narrow Centerpoint/Water St, extending Main St. into what is now the Chase Bank parking lot, and providing safe and appealing pedestrian and bicyclist accommodations.

Objective 5.6: Maintain and expand public open space and access on the downtown waterfront.

Action 1: Use the PDI plan (2008) as a framework for future downtown redevelopment

Objective 5.6: Redesign and rehabilitate the downtown square to accentuate pedestrian use and improve the visibility and aesthetics of the historic farmers market.

GOAL 6: Major institutional uses including the University of Wisconsin Stevens Point, Mid State Technical College, St. Michael's Hospital and others shall remain strong and grow in the central city in a pattern that is sustainable, diverse, and accessible.

Objective 6.1: Work with these groups to better create their identity (their own identified neighborhood).

Objective 6.2: Create distinguished entrances to these institutions that people and traffic can easily identify and utilize.

Objective 6.3: Encourage these organizations to use land more intensively rather than extensively so as to protect and preserve surrounding residential neighborhoods.

GOAL 7: Identify and sustain outstanding natural features both for the contribution that it makes to the quality of human life and for its own inherent value.

Objective 7.1: Protect and enhance the city's urban forest and ecology.

Action 1: Review the city's tree ordinances to ensure adequate incentives for proactive urban forest management on private lands including storm water credits for trees, right/right place and tree sale/distribution.

Action 2: Review street tree ordinances to allow fruit trees, fruit shrubs and other sustainable uses in right-of-ways where there is not a conflict with traffic and pedestrians.

Action 3: Decrease mowing on city-owned passive lands (medians, park periphery, etc)

- Action 4: Create site plans for all city owned property and parks using sustainable methods of maintenance and retrofitting.
- Action 5: Highlight environmental stewardship in park planning and management
- Action 6: Revise ordinances to permit yard landscaping and gardens that does not require mowing.
- Action 7: Revise ordinances to allow dead trees where there are little or no hazards.
- Action 8: Identify natural features that need preserving/conserving.
- Action 9: Reduce or eliminating synthetic fertilizer use and pesticide applications on city owned lands.

Objective 7.2: Work to ensure that land uses do not harm water resources

- Action 1: Establish 1000 square feet of rain gardens annually on city property.
- Action 2: Create bio-swales for street and parking lot run-off to limit storm water discharge to the river.
- Action 3: Enact a ban on fertilizers that contain phosphorous

Objective 7.3: Establish a finance system that relates the cost of environmental management to the landowners & practices that generate the needs for management.

- Action 1: Conduct feasibility study of storm water utility by 2010.
- Action 2: Review and update the city's impact fee ordinances.

Goal 8: Implement the Comprehensive Plan's transportation components, which highlight best practices for meeting multiple needs in small areas.

Objective 8.1: Create at least one visible demonstration site to educate citizens of the multiple needs that good street design can help meet.

- Action 1: Identify the area within Stevens Point that best illustrates good transportation design for the widest range of travel modes.
- Action 2: Create model parking lot screening and landscaping demonstration sites at select city-owned parking lots.

Action 3: Design and carry out informational signage that explains what good transportation design consists of.

Objective 8.2: Make walking and bicycling safer for and more appealing to residents of all ages and abilities.

Action 1: Narrow traffic lanes at crosswalks to slow traffic.

Action 2: Allow alternate materials for sidewalks to allow for easy changes or repairs when impacted by tree roots.

Action 3: Use alternate crosswalk paving to accentuate crossing areas

Action 4: Add crosswalks and sidewalks to all existing commercial and retail areas.

Action 5. Require that pedestrian and bicycle use is included in all new development plans and road reconstruction projects.

FOOD

VISION STATEMENT

Stevens Point will make continuous progress toward becoming a local food economy. The local food economy will allow residents and visitors ease of access to food grown in the city and proximate rural districts. The food will be raised, delivered, preserved, and prepared in a way that maintains and enhances the life-giving nourishment of the food and the productivity of the landscape. The system of distribution will facilitate a trusting relationship between the food producer and consumer. The food will be priced in a way that permits farmers to sustain excellence in providing a clean, highly nutritious supply, to pass that noble task onto succeeding generations, and to provide the strong economic base, which allows solvency in all supporting businesses.

GOAL 1: Establish an urban agriculture community in Stevens Point.

Objective 1.1: Establish 100 strategically placed, active community garden plots by 2010.

Action 1: City Planning & Zoning department will identify & secure appropriate remnant/open spaces owned by the city by 2009.

Action 2: City will secure funds to support the development and maintenance of the community gardens.

Action 3: City will establish one part-time position to coordinate the gardens and educational programming.

Objective 1.2: Expand the use of agricultural conservation easements for local food production on private land in and around the city of Stevens Point

Action 1: City will work collaboratively with local organizations to promote agricultural conservation easements to private landowners.

Action 2: City will work collaboratively with local organizations to promote the development of diversified and sustainable farming practices on agricultural conservation easements.

GOAL 2: Create an eco-community food network.

Objective 2.1: Establish a food processing center to facilitate the processing & distribution of locally grown products.

Action 1: City will work with local organizations to identify and purchase vacant space in the downtown area by spring 2010.

Action 2: City will hire a consultant to put in place the appropriate equipment and processes to meet health standards.

Objective 2.2: Offer consumer/producer education and awareness programs.

Action 1: City will provide support (overhead costs, publicity, educator stipends) for programs at the food-processing center that educate producers and consumers in the proper handling and use of local products.

Objective 2.3: Establish an online inventory of local producers and restaurants serving local foods.

Action 1: City will link with local organizations to advertise local food purchasing opportunities when they become available (ie: Farmshed, Farm Fresh Atlas, UWSP Sustainable Agriculture program, etc.)

GOAL 3: Expand and improve the Stevens Point Farmer's Market.

Objective 3.1: City will make the expansion and improvement of the Farmer's Market a priority in the revitalization of downtown Stevens Point.

Action 1: City will redesign the market layout to allow for 48 canopied stalls and appropriate parking by 2010.

Action 2: City will create one part-time position to manage/coordinate the Farmer's Market.

GOAL 4: Increase local foods served at all public events held in Stevens Point.

Objective 4.1: Promote locally grown/produced products served at city-sponsored events.

Action 1: City will offer incentives to local producers such as discounted vendor licenses & permits.

Action 2: City will give preferential placement to vendors selling local products.

Action 3: City will use biodegradable foodservice products at all public events held in Stevens Point.

GOAL 5: Create a Stevens Point Food Policy Commission.

Objective 5.1: The Food Policy Commission will oversee the implementation of the goals of the eco-municipality task force and expand upon these goals.

- Action 1: The Food Policy Commission will act in an advisory capacity to the Stevens Point City Council.
- Action 2: The Food Policy Commission will act as liaison to the Portage County Board of Supervisors.
- Action 3: The Food Policy Commission will participate in the Portage County Emergency and Disaster Planning.

GREEN BUILDING & ENERGY

Vision: *The City of Stevens Point will continuously work towards a more efficient use of energy through conservation and innovative technologies. The use of engineering practice will be implemented in the decision making process when new technologies are being considered. The City of Stevens Point will also make it a priority to increase the development and use of renewable energy technologies.*

GOAL 1: Stevens Point will have on staff a city sustainability coordinator.

Justification: The issues related to energy usage are dealt with through a number of mechanisms and departments in city government. Presently, there is no central office or position to provide overall coordination between departments.

Objective 1: Create a new staff position focused on sustainability issues by 2009.

Action: The Mayor will develop a new position of sustainability and fill the position by January 2009.

Objective 2: Create a permanent sustainability commission to work with the sustainability coordinator by 2009.

Action: The Mayor will create a permanent sustainability commission to guide and work with the new City sustainability staff member.

Objective 3: The new position will work with all City departments to put into effect the Eco-municipality task force recommendations.

Action: The new sustainability staff member will work with the sustainability commission and all City departments to implement Eco-municipality recommendations.

Action: The new sustainability staff member will provide yearly reports to citizens and regular informational meetings to continue to gain community support and input.

GOAL 2: The city will require energy modeling as part of architectural design in all new public building construction.

Justification: It can be predetermined what energy costs can be expected before a public building is constructed. That can assist in determining the construction materials and design as well as location and landscaping requirements. Energy modeling processes can help determine the most efficient construction for energy conservation.

Objective 1: Begin modeling energy consumption on all new public building construction starting January 2009.

Action: Energy modeling can be performed by the design team retained for a project or an independent consultant

Action: Use the information gained by modeling to ensure the new building is as energy efficient as possible

Objective 2: Share the information about public building energy modeling and results with the public.

Action: Before each public building is constructed, share the energy modeling information with the public to gain public input.

Action: Lead by example and teach how energy modeling is beneficial, sharing how other businesses and residential structures can also use modeling as an economic and environmental benefit.

GOAL 3: The city will create a reporting system to establish a baseline for all energy costs in the city.

Justification: City energy costs for buildings, street lights, stoplights, and equipment are all assigned to various departments. As a result, energy costs can only be compared by department rather than total energy costs for the city. A baseline for energy costs for the entire city is needed.

Objective 1: Create a reporting system that cuts across all city departments and standardizes the collection of energy usage data from all City activities, by January 1, 2009.

Action: The Mayor will designate a Coordinator to oversee the reporting and gathering of energy data.

Action: Energy data will be collected in a standardized fashion on at least a quarterly and annual basis.

Objective 2: Disseminate the energy use information to the public.

Action: On an annual basis, mail the energy information to the citizens of Stevens Point beginning January 2009.

GOAL 4: The city will prepare an annual report on energy use and costs in the city as well as steps taken to reduce energy costs.

Justification: All operational costs for the city including energy costs are paid by public funds. Expenditure of these funds should be available for public scrutiny and comments to help insure the city's duty to reduce energy costs and usage.

Objective 1: Energy usage data, categorized by energy type and end use, will be analyzed and an Annual Report to the public will be prepared, by January 1, 2009.

Action: The Coordinator will categorize energy use and break down energy usage into units suitable for comparison with other user averages, such as those from other governmental entities and/or State or National averages.

Objective 2: Energy usage data will be compared over time to track trends and serve as a benchmark for making improvements or changes to City energy use, after January 1, 2009.

Action: Current energy usage will be compared to past energy usage.

Action: The impact of changes in City operations will be identified and highlighted in the energy baseline data.

GOAL 5: The city will continue its support of an urban forestry program and seek a 40% tree canopy for the city by assisting homeowners and incorporating this goal into city ordinances.

Justification: An effective urban forestry program can assist in reducing air conditioning and heating costs for homes and businesses. Tree planting in boulevards can extend the life of a street surface by as much as ten years. Urban trees improve the business atmosphere and enhance the aesthetic and property value of homes. These values can be maintained with a 40% tree canopy.

Objective 1: Determine the current tree canopy percentage and provide recommendations, by January 1, 2009, to achieve the desired canopy percentage.

Action: City Forester will determine current tree canopy percentage as a benchmark.

Action: City Forester will develop a series of recommendations to achieve the desired canopy percentage over time.

Action: City Forester will identify constraints and obstacles to achieving the desired canopy percentage.

Action: The City Forester will educate the public on ways to improve the City's tree canopy.

GOAL 6: The city will establish a physical location(s) where its residents can get up-to-date information on energy conservation, renewable energy, and green building. An electronic website should also be developed to assist in this effort.

Justification: Energy issues are complex and constantly changing. City residents need a central location to secure information on how they can assist in reducing energy consumption through conservation and other sustainable practices.

Objective 1: The designated Staff person should establish a physical location in the City where residents can obtain energy conservation, renewable energy, and green building information, by January 1, 2009.

Action: Establish a physical location for energy information.

Action: Develop an ongoing program to keep energy information up to date. It is suggested that the use of local utilities assist in this process.

Objective 2: The designated Staff person should oversee the www.sustainablepoint.org website to ensure that it offers electronic versions of materials available at the physical location and offers links to other resources, by January 1, 2009.

Action: Maintain the already existing website by updating and promoting it.

GOAL 7: The city will develop an outreach program to regularly distribute energy conservation, renewable energy, and green building materials to city residents including students.

Justification: Materials dealing with energy conservation, renewable energy, and green building are an important part of the educational process for city residents.

Objective 1: Collaborate with organizations such as the Midwest Renewable Energy Association (MREA) and Focus on Energy to disseminate educational materials to City residents starting in 2009.

Action: Materials focused on energy efficiency in the home, renewable energy use, efficient transportation, etc. will be disseminated in multiple ways including tax bills and City newsletter.

Objective 2: Financially support the education of teachers in Stevens Point on energy issues beginning in 2010 to prepare them to incorporate energy education into their curriculums.

Action: The City will support 20 Stevens Point teachers/year to attend an energy education course developed and taught by the Wisconsin K-12 Energy Education Program (KEEP).

GOAL 8: The city will undertake a thorough review of all zoning and other ordinances to make energy conservation a conscious part of the ordinance implementation process.

Justification: City ordinances historically have not dealt with energy use or conservation including street lighting, home or business construction. As energy costs rise, this impacts the city tax base and ultimately the tax payer.

Objective 1: Change the city regulations that do not have sustainable building practice as a priority.

Action: The City will perform a review of all existing City ordinances and procedures, to determine their potential energy impact, by January 1, 2009

Action: The city staff will identify areas in the regulations that could be altered to increase energy conservation and sustainable building practices in both residential and commercial projects.

Objective 2: Develop and propose recommendations to City ordinances and procedures to reduce energy impacts, by January 1, 2009.

Action: Propose new ordinances and revisions to existing ordinances that are intended to reduce energy usage or use resources more efficiently.

GOAL 9: The city will evaluate the opportunity to incorporate alternative energy and sustainable development strategies in all of its development or redevelopment activities and will encourage citizens to incorporate alternative energy and sustainability into residential projects.

Justification: Energy consumption is primarily electrical, gas, fuel oil, gasoline or diesel. Energy can also be obtained from alternative energy sources such as wood, wind, solar or geothermal. Regarding sustainable development, infill development where existing infrastructure exists is a more effective use of land.

Objective 1: Evaluate opportunities to incorporate renewable energy systems or other alternatives to conventional fossil-fuel based technologies when undertaking development or reconstruction projects after January 1, 2009.

Action: Conventional systems will be compared to alternative systems on a life-cycle basis, with costs and benefits identified and quantified.

Action: Ensure the alternative energy potential is studied through an engineering process prior to all municipal construction. This will be accomplished prior to 01/01/2009.

Objective 2: Encourage citizens to incorporate alternative energy into residential projects.

Action: Provide financial incentives to residents in Stevens Point to encourage them to utilize renewable energy, especially solar hot water and photovoltaics.

GOAL 10: The City of Stevens Point will become a leader in renewable energy consumption.

Justification: The State of Wisconsin has joined other states to increase its renewable energy sources to 25% by 2025. Congress has also passed resolutions to achieve the same goal.

Objective 1: Meeting or exceed the goal of “25 X 25” beginning in 2009.

Action: Take advantage of Focus on Energy’s grants and incentives to fund renewable energy projects on public buildings.

Action: Research the possibility of Stevens Point having its own municipal wind turbine(s). Research complete by 2009. Report to public on feasibility.

Action: Research the possibility of constructing a waste-to-energy plant. Research complete by 2009. Report to public on feasibility.

Action: Schedule renewable energy workshops where technologies and financial incentives are showcased. One workshop per year starting in January 2009.

Action: Create energy co-ops for renewable energy produced locally.

GOAL 11: The city will adopt the LEED certification and rating system for all publicly-funded buildings by ordinance and other governmental review processes.

Justification: The Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green Building Rating System represents the U.S. Green Building Council’s effort to provide a national standard for what constitutes a “green building.” Through its use as a design guideline and third-party certification tool, it aims to improve occupant well-being, environmental performance and economic returns of buildings using established and innovative practices, standards and technologies. This system while complex has been adopted by many cities as part of their efforts in energy conservation.

Objective 1: The City will employ third-party verification of sustainable design and construction features incorporated into new City projects, after January 1, 2009.

Action: All new construction projects will be registered and submitted for certification under the LEED Green Building Rating System of the U.S. Green Building Council

Action: The scope of work and associated design fees for new construction projects should reflect the tasks associated with the certification process.

Objective 2: The City will evaluate by January 1, 2009 all existing buildings for opportunities to make improvements in energy usage, operations and maintenance.

Action: All existing buildings will be evaluated under the LEED-EB Rating System for existing buildings.

Action: Existing buildings with significant potential will be registered and submitted for certification under the LEED-EB Rating System.

GOAL 12: The city will undertake a comprehensive review of street light numbers, locations and intensity, with the goal of reducing overall public lighting levels. The city should by ordinance and other governmental review processes adopt a model “dark sky” lighting ordinance that addresses lighting location, acceptable fixture types, signage lighting and other relevant aspects.

Justification: Public lighting has a worthwhile public benefit that should be balanced with mid-block streetlights, unshielded security and signage lights can be excessive and inefficient in their use of energy. Many communities are adopting “dark sky” ordinances to mitigate the effects of glare, light trespass, light pollution and other negative aspects of lighting in public and private areas alike, while at the same time using lighting fixtures that are highly efficient in directing light where it is most needed.

Objective 1: The City will undertake by January 1, 2009 to reduce the overall level of street lighting, to be phased-in over a specific time period.

Action: Identify current street lighting locations, intensities, energy usage and costs.

Action: Propose revised street lighting strategies to address safety concerns, while reducing the overall number and level of lighting throughout the City.

Action: Pass an ordinance to adopt a model “dark sky” lighting ordinance that addresses lighting location, acceptable fixture types, signage lighting and other relevant aspects.

GOAL 13: The city will undertake a comprehensive review of traffic light settings with the intention of limiting the number of intersections with 24-hour signal operation to a select group of specifically-identified high-traffic locations.

Justification: Traffic control lights perform a necessary function for public safety. However, many traffic control signals operate beyond peak traffic periods. This results in needless fuel use by vehicles waiting for traffic lights to change when there are no or very few other vehicles at the intersection, especially in later evening and early morning hours. Many communities convert a majority of lesser used intersections to all-flashing mode from early evening to early morning as a matter of policy.

Objective 1: Conserve energy on traffic signals and not lessen the safety of the roadways.

Action: Re-configure city traffic lights by January 1, 2009 to operate on a timed-mode only during peak traffic hours for the specific intersection where they are located. Few, if any, traffic lights should operate on a timed-mode late at night or continuously for 24 hours.

Action: Traffic lights should be programmed to revert to flashing-mode during off-peak and low-traffic periods.

Objective 2: City traffic lights with dedicated turn-signals should be reconfigured by January 1, 2009 to allow through traffic to proceed before turning traffic, as has been done in many other cities, to avoid holding up larger volumes of through-traffic for smaller numbers of turning-traffic.

Action: Traffic light turn-signals should be programmed to activate at the end of the cycle, rather than the beginning, in a “lagging-left” configuration.

PARKS & TOURISM

VISION STATEMENT

Our mission is to protect the, preserve, maintain and enhance the community's natural resources, creating a desirable environment and destination for residents and visitors.

GOAL 1: To promote our unique natural diversity and features to both residents and visitors that results in sustainable economic growth for the community.

Objective 1: Create a eco-destination brand for the area that residents, visitors and potential businesses and residents can identify with.

Action 1: Continue to work with the Stevens Point Area Convention & Visitors Bureau to promote Travel Green program and identity.

Action 2: Promote quiet recreational opportunities are promoted including gardening, bird watching and other wildlife viewing.

Action 3: Life-long learning is promoted within parks, open spaces and recreational facilities.

GOAL 2: To encourage government and tourism related businesses to adopt more environmentally sustainable practices.

Objective 2.1: Educate businesses and facilitate the process for increasing the participation in the Travel Green program.

Action 1: Develop a series of workshops to facilitate increased participation in Travel Green Wisconsin amongst tourism related businesses.

Objective 2.2: Develop sustainable resource use guidelines, practices and incentives for community events.

Action 1: Create a sustainable best practices document to hand out to event planners.

Action 2: Develop mechanisms (such as indicators) for measuring progress towards sustainable tourism

GOAL 3: To develop and promote sustainable tourism through partnerships and voluntary activities by all sectors and stakeholders.

Objective 3.1: Include sustainable practices as a criterion for evaluating future room tax projects.

Action 1: As part of the application process for room tax projects, projects will be given points for sustainable practices.

Objective 3.2: Inventory current eco-tourism assets in the area. Determine how they are currently being utilized and their potential used for events.

Action 1: Develop a searchable database regarding eco-friendly community assets.

Action 2: Consider regional collaboration for integrated eco-tourism development.

GOAL 4: To provide parks, recreational facilities, open space, streetscapes, and waterways for the benefit, enjoyment health, and wellbeing of Stevens Point residents.

Objective 4.1: Maintain/increase the proportion of park acreage/population as the community (land/population) expands.

Action 1: Identify opportunities to create new parks or open spaces for broad public uses

Action 2: Appropriate unused and underutilized open spaces have been reclaimed for public use.

Action 3: Re-establish wild and native places in the community such as natural shorelines and prairies, incorporating an educational component i.e. plant identification etc.

Objective 4.2: Create a destination that is appealing with historic commercial areas, neighborhoods with sustainable technology practices. Example: gentle lighting, big boulevards, sidewalks, bike lanes.

Action 1: All new development projects should include a dedicated amount of green space which involves native landscaping.

Objective 4.3: Parks of city-wide interest are easily accessible to every resident by foot, bicycles or public transit.

Action 1: Propose modifications to the existing public transit systems to improve linkages to parks

GOAL 5: To maintain our parks, open spaces, recreational facilities, and streetscapes through practical, economic, creative, and collaborative means to achieve clean, safe, inviting, and inspiring spaces for people and wildlife.

Objective 5.1: Biodiversity considerations are integrated into all open space management Decisions and policies and enhance native biodiversity on parks, open spaces, waterways and streetscapes.

Action 1: Protect the natural integrity of our waterways through conservation easements and public ownership.

Action 2: Study resource issues associated with the area waterways and its future (non- point source pollution, invasive species).

Action 3: Support the restoration of open spaces to their natural conditions in coordination with existing programs.

Action 4: The business community and private sector should be an active participant in providing staff and volunteers to assist in the management of the city's parks, open spaces and streetscapes.

Objective 5.2: Streetscapes have been improved to make pedestrian, bike and transit use safe and efficient and make neighborhoods more livable by reducing noise, visual clutter (utility lines), traffic congestion and air pollution by introducing landscaping (emphasizing native) to all neighborhoods.

Objective 5.3: Continue support for proper tree planting and care of city trees. Infrastructure is in place with existing city forestry department.

Action 1: Plant more trees, strive for at least 40% tree canopy for the city of Stevens Point.

Action 2: Promote benefits of city trees on both public and private property.

Objective 5.4: Protect and expand the Green Circle Trail.

Action 1: Develop official use agreements with private landowners whose properties incorporate sections of the Green Circle Trail.

Action 2: Buy land and conservation easements (ex. Green Circle Trail, Plover River, Wisconsin River) through city, county and private donations

GOAL 6: To promote and strengthen community participation in planning, creation, management, and stewardship while building and improving the financial resources for our parks, open spaces, recreational facilities and streetscapes.

Objective 6.1: Increase the long-term success of sustainable tourism projects by involving all primary stakeholders including the local community, tourism industry and government in the development and implementation of a sustainable tourism plan.

Action 1: Raise awareness of sustainable tourism and its implementation by promoting the exchange of information between government and all stakeholders on best practices for sustainable tourism.

Objective 6.2: Parks are promoted as outdoor classrooms, which enhance stewardship of nature and understanding of local places.

Action 1: Each school is linked to a park or open space for learning and stewardship purposes

Action 2: Establish an information campaign to promote the benefits of plant, herb, and flower gardens, streetscapes and native landscaping to the community.

Objective 6.3: Strengthen the permanent, dedicated source of funding for open space acquisition and its management.

Action 1: Investigate dedicated source of funding opportunities for open space land acquisition and management

Action 2: Incorporate volunteers and community-based agencies into maintenance programs.

TRANSPORTATION

VISION STATEMENT

The city of Stevens Point will continually work to reduce its dependence on non-renewable transportation fuels. Stevens Point residents will be able to ride a bicycle, walk, or take public transit throughout the community and there will be a community culture that supports and encourages these activities.

GOAL 1: Stevens Point will continually increase the efficiency of fueled vehicles and continually increase the use of alternative-fueled vehicles.

Objective 1.1: Stevens Point steadily incorporates alternative-fueled vehicles into the city government's fleet and public transit vehicles, and the community as a whole.

- Action 1: In July 2008, then on a yearly basis, the Director of Public Works, with input from the Board of Public Works, provides a feasibility timeline for when the city may best utilize bio-diesel, alternative fuels, or purchase hybrid vehicles. *Government*
- Action 2: In July 2008, then on a yearly basis, the Transit Manager provides a feasibility timeline for when the Transit Department may best incorporate or purchase alternative fueled vehicles. *Government*
- Action 3: By October 2008, the Public Works Department reviews "Designated Truck Route" signage, and makes necessary revisions, so that trucks making deliveries or pick ups in the city are able to use the most direct routes, therefore saving fuel and keeping air pollution from truck exhausts low. *Government*
- Action 4: By December 2008, the City Council adopts an ordinance allowing Neighborhood Electric Vehicles, or other low-emission vehicles. *Government*
- Action 5: Create incentives to encourage business to provide public access to alternative fuels such as compressed natural gas, hydrogen, bio-diesel and future fuel alternatives. *Government and Community*

Objective 1.2: Stevens Point city government supports the infrastructure for vehicles to operate more efficiently, while planning for the future.

- Action 1: The Public Works Department, when developing street plans, emphasizes the importance of using or expanding existing streets before constructing new ones. *Government*
- Action 2: In July of each year, Public Works Department assess each traffic signal in the city to determine whether it could be converted to blink at certain hours or whether blinking times should be extended or shortened. *Government*
- Action 3: By December 2008, City designates at least two sites that could be used as park and ride locations, that are adjacent to public transit options. The city reviews annual the need for additional sites. *Government and Community*
- Action 4: Create website that describes all the sustainable transportation options for new residents, visitors and those attending conventions in the city. *Government and Community*
- Action 5: Work with the Convention and Visitors Bureau to develop information on sustainable transportation options for vacationers and those attending conventions in the City. *Government and Community*
- Action 6: Use signage or other means to promote sustainable transportation initiatives at rest areas, historical markers and park and ride sites. *Government and Community*
- Action 7: Ensure that abandoned railroad right-of-ways are retained for possible future use as transportation routes by converting them to bike or hiking trails. *Government and Community*
- Action 8: Continue to encourage the planting of trees along streets to help convert carbon dioxide emissions (from vehicles) to oxygen. *Government and Community*
- Action 9: Promote long-term planning for the eventual linkage of Stevens Point to other communities in Wisconsin by light rail. *Government and Community*

Objective 1.3: Stevens Point provides opportunities to share vehicle trips or carpool.

- Action 1: Employers promote car-pooling by making available a bulletin board or other means to coordinate rides. *Community*
- Action 2: Employers promote car-pooling by reserving attractive parking spaces for car-pooling employees. *Community*

- Action 3: Employers use company vans to transport employees. *Community and Government*
- Action 4: Create website that serves as a community ride-share board for short and long distance travel. *Government and Community*
- Action 5: Encourage and support local business venture to provide a community fleet of co-op cars or efficient, low emission vehicles that are available for lease by the hour, day or week to co-op members. *Government and Community*
- Action 6: Encourage local government and county to support existing ride share opportunities and promotions such as www.rideshare.gov. *Government and Community*

GOAL 2: Stevens Point will continually increase the use of bicycles for transportation and recreation.

Objective 2.1: Stevens Point supports and maintains existing, and continually increases new, infrastructure or facilities that increases community bicycle riding for transportation and recreation.

- Action 1: By January 2009, and reviewed yearly, the Public Works Department and Board of Public Works, with citizen input, reviews, and makes updates to, the Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan. *Government*
- Action 2: Stevens Point creates a Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee that consists of citizen members that can assist in reviewing, prioritizing and implementing the Stevens Point Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan. *Government and Community*
- Action 3: More bike lanes are created and striped in the city, based on the priorities created in Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan. *Government*
- Action 4: Bike routes are marked, based on the priorities and routes created in Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan. *Government*
- Action 5: Install bicycle racks at every public building or parking lot. *Government*
- Action 6: Employers provide bicycle racks near employee entrance. *Community*
- Action 7: All schools have an adequate number of bicycle racks near entrances. *Community*

- Action 8: Employers provide facilities such as showers and lockers for employees who commute to work. *Community*
- Action 9: Employers provide health program incentives for employees who commute to work. *Community*
- Action 10: City of Stevens Point, schools, and employers participate in Bike to Work Week. *Community and Government*
- Action 11: School District applies for the Safe Routes to School grants, or other future grants from the Wisconsin Dept of Transportation. *Community*
- Action 12: When public dollars are used as incentives for private businesses, they must make accommodations for bicyclists, and ensure multi-modal connections. *Government*
- Action 13: For sustainable future planning, land use plans and ordinances shall adopt the “Complete Streets” approach, which means all streets are designed and operated to enable safe access for all users (pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists and bus riders). *Government*
- Action 14: City staff and pertinent elected officials (Plan Commission, Public Works Committee, Transportation Commission members) shall be trained in the “Complete Streets” approach. *Government*
- Action 15: Start a community bike share option, such as “yellow bike”
Community
- Action 16: Become a *Biketown*, as part of *Bicycling Magazine*. *Community and Government*
- Action 17: Encourage more bicycle use by university students, by implementing programs such as Ripon College’s “Don’t Bring a Car; Get a Free Bike” campaign. *Community*

Objective 2.2: Community is aware of how to travel throughout the city and surrounding communities by bicycle

- Action 1: By January 2009, the Public Works Department along with Community Development Office, with community input, will create a Stevens Point Bicycle Map outlining recommended lanes and recommended routes. *Government and Community*
- Action 2: Stevens Point works with surrounding municipalities to create a Bicycle/Pedestrian Task Force that consists of citizen members that

can assist in prioritizing and implementing a region-wide Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan. *Government and Community*

Action 2: By May 2009, the Stevens Point Bicycle Map is promoted throughout the community *Government and Community*

Action 3: Bicycle riders are encouraged to use the transit system, which has buses with bike racks. *Government*

Action 4: When Park and Ride sites are established, all will be equipped with secure bike racks. *Government and Community*

Action 5: Bike map is created that shows recommended routes that provide easy connectivity across municipal boundaries. *Government and Community*

Objective 2.3: Stevens Point increases the education of safe bicycle use.

Action 1: Develop and periodically repeat a publicity and enforcement campaign aimed at improving the attitude of vehicle drivers toward bicyclists. *Government and Community*

Action 2: Ensure that the Stevens Point Bike Map categorizes the safety of bike routes as preferred, good and other. Map will include rules of the road and safety tips. *Government*

Action 3: School district includes safe bicycling instruction within the curriculum. *Community*

Action 4: All new UWSP students receive bicycle rules and registration information. *Community*

Action 5: Stevens Point Police Department actively educates vehicle drivers about bicyclists' rules of the road. *Government and Community*

Action 6: Community members are trained in safe cycling, through community lead instruction such as League of American Bicyclists. *Community*

Action 7: Stevens Point Police Department annually compiles the list of bicycle and pedestrian related accidents and reports results and recommendations to the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee and the Board of Public Works. *Government*

Action 8: Stevens Point Police Department, with citizen input, will review and develop recommendations to update bicycle registration rules. *Government*

GOAL 3: Stevens Point will continually increase the use of public transportation.

Objective 3.1: An increasing number of residents will use the city transit system.

- Action 1: Stevens Point Transit actively promotes the transit system and to improve the community's attitude toward bus riders. *Government*
- Action 2: Stevens Point Transit provides introductory incentives for employers to encourage the use of public transportation by employees. *Government and Community*
- Action 3: Employers take advantage of federal tax credits to encourage employees to take public transit to work. *Community*
- Action 4: The Stevens Point Transportation Commission shall review on an annual basis the possible change or expansion of bus service to include different routes, different hours, or weekend bus service. *Government*
- Action 5: Every five years, Stevens Point Transit and the Transportation Commission complete a Transportation Development Plan, with input from citizens. *Government and Community*
- Action 6: UWSP continues its support for Stevens Point Transit, and assists in developing additional routes and stops. *Community*
- Action 7: Ensure that all transportation options are available to persons with disabilities. *Government*

Objective 3.2: Stevens Point Transit encourages inter-modal transportation.

- Action 1: Choose locations for "Park and Ride" so they can readily be served by Stevens Point Transit. *Government*
- Action 2: Develop a public transportation network that encourages Stevens Point and surrounding residents to use public transportation. *Government*
- Action 3: Develop a regional transit authority. *Government*
- Action 4: Educate and encourage youth to utilize public transportation. *Government and Community*
- Action 5: Promote long-term planning for the eventual linkage of Stevens Point to other communities in Wisconsin by light rail. *Government and Community*

GOAL 4: Stevens Point residents will continually increase walking in the community.

Objective 4.1: Walking trips in Stevens Point will continually increase.

- Action 1: Educational programs on pedestrian safety issues will be implemented in schools. *Government and Community*
- Action 2: School District applies for the Safe Routes to School grants, and others that become available, from the Wisconsin Dept of Transportation. *Community*
- Action 3: Every school implements a “Walking Bus” program, which allow a specified parent to pick up more than one child and walk them to school in a safe, but healthy manner. *Community*
- Action 3: The City Inspection Department vigorously enforces the snow removal ordinance by making inspections of sidewalks and by issuing snow cleaning orders. *Government*

Objective 4.2: City takes steps to maintain and improve existing and future sidewalks.

- Action 1: Developers will be required to include sidewalks in new developments and in redevelopments in which more than half the area is redeveloped. *Government and Community*
- Action 2: By January 2009, the Public Works Department, with committee and community input, shall present an infill plan to connect the disconnected existing sidewalks. The plan should be prepared with priority areas indicated, and recommended infill to be done in coordination with the city streets plan. *Government and Community*
- Action 3: When public dollars are used as incentives for private businesses, they must make accommodations for walkers and bikers, and ensure multi-modal connections. *Government*
- Action 4: For sustainable future planning, land use plans and ordinances shall adopt the “Complete Streets” approach, which means all streets are designed and operated to enable safe access for all users (pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists and bus riders). *Government*

WASTE & RECYCLING

VISION STATEMENT

The City of Stevens Point will work toward continuously reducing the waste stream by promoting sustainable practices for all households and businesses.

GOAL 1: Minimize waste creation by improving public understanding of source reduction as the most preferred method of waste management.

Objective 1: Educate residents about the environmental impact of their purchasing decisions, encouraging them to consider packaging and material disposal during decision-making.

Action Step 1: Partner with UWSP, school systems, Portage County Solid Waste Department (PCSWD), and other organizations to educate about source reduction.

Objective 2: Explore merits of pay-as-you-throw or modified pay-as-you-throw material disposal programs.

Objective 3: Promote producer responsibility for the recycling of their discarded products.

Action Step 1: Inform community members about the impact of producer responsibility on solid waste and recycling.

Action Step 2: Partner with legislators to establish cradle-to-grave (producer responsibility) laws.

GOAL 2: Increase use of existing recycling and reuse options.

Objective 1: Improve and expand City communication about waste reduction and recycling.

Action 1: Send current Portage County recycling and waste reduction information to all city households and businesses.

Action 2: Streamline and make user-friendly the FAQs on the City website.

Action 3: Publish waste versus recycling volumes to publicize progress.

Objective 2: Increase recycling/reuse of used furniture, clothing, and household items through thrift stores, Freecycle.org, etc.

- Action 1: Work with area thrift stores and church sales to increase the reuse of such items.
- Action 2: Work with Habitat for Humanity to include reused items in their homes.
- Action 3: Partner with UWSP to recycle/reuse items discarded by hall residents at the end of the year.

Objective 3: Continue to encourage recycling with easy-to-use practices.

- Action 1: Institute single-stream collection.
- Action 2: Provide assistance for aging/disabled residents.
- Action 3: Ensure the convenience of drop-off hours.
- Action 4: Develop a recycling directory for 211.
- Action 5: Enhance public understanding of proper disposal of hazardous materials.

Objective 4: Partner with Portage County Solid Waste Department to increase business recycling.

- Action 1: Develop a “Green Report Card” that businesses can use in marketing.
- Action 2: Develop and distribute a fact sheet on recycling benefits.

GOAL 3: Develop new recycling and reuse options.

Objective 1: Increase recycling/reuse of construction and deconstruction (C & D) materials.

- Action 1: Promote establishment of a Habitat for Humanity Re-Store or similar facility.
- Action 2: Promote Freecycle.org. and Portage County Solid Waste Department exchange site.
- Action 3: Seek recycling/reuse ideas from local builders.

Objective 2: Work with Association of Downtown Businesses (ADB) to provide convenient recycling options for downtown businesses, shoppers, and pedestrians.

Action 1: Provide recycling containers downtown next to waste barrels.

Action 2: Explore solid waste and recycling multi-business contracts for downtown.

Objective 3: Explore a Solid Waste to Energy program.

Objective 4: Encourage creative re-use of items (e.g., mattresses, clothing, food) that businesses might otherwise discard.

Objective 5: Continue to explore options for all plastic recycling including review of markets and infrastructure.

Objective 6: Explore best uses for glass.

GOAL 4: Increase composting participation.

Objective 1: Promote home, school, and community composting to Stevens Point residents.

Action 1: Work with UW-Extension Master Composters and PCSWD to educate the community about how to compost and its value.

Action 2: Continue to partner with the PCSWD for compost bin distribution.

Action 3: Partner with community gardens project to develop community composting.

Action 4: Pilot a school composting program in partnership with public schools.

Objective 2: Explore the feasibility of large-scale composting partnerships.

Objective 3: Develop a source-separated organics (SSO) program, with curbside pickup of food scraps, non-recyclable paper, etc.

GOAL 5: Increase use of cloth or reusable shopping bags.

Objective 1: Promote reusable bag programs.

Action 1: Create partnerships between Association of Downtown Businesses (ADB), other businesses, and the PCSWD.

Objective 2: Educate retailers and shoppers about advantages of reusable bags.

Action 1: Promote reusable bags directly to retail management.

Action 2: Develop a catchy mnemonic or tag line for easy remembering. (“It’s in the bag...”)

Action 3: Explore availability of *Dangers of Plastic Bags* presentation for community and school showings.

Objective 3: Explore possibilities for taxing or banning plastic bags.

GOAL 6: Reduce the number of single-use water bottles purchased and disposed of within our community.

Objective 1: Educate community about water bottle waste and high quality of city tap water.

Action 1: Revive the slogan: “City of Wonderful Water.”

Objective 2: Create alternatives to the purchase and use of single-use water bottles.

Action 1: Promote the sale of safe multi-use containers.

Action 2: Restaurants and appropriate retailers promote and provide means for customers to refill bottles with city water.

GOAL 7: City governmental agencies will practice reduce, reuse, recycle.

Objective 1: All city governmental agencies focus on reducing consumption of goods.

Action 1: Work with purchasing and other department heads to evaluate current department consumption and develop reduction action plans.

Objective 2: Encourage city governmental agencies to purchase post-consumer recycled and reusable products.

Action 1: Use cooperative purchasing agreements, whenever possible.

WATER & WASTE WATER

The following vision statement, goals and objectives were developed by the Water and Wastewater Subcommittee with input from the local community. Appendix A includes 1) current efforts within the community of Stevens Point, 2) the process used to prioritize recommendations for future actions, and 3) information solicited from the community regarding vision, goals and objectives.

VISION STATEMENT

The community of Stevens Point values its surface and groundwater resources. The community's actions result in no negative environmental impact and enhance the quality of life for all living beings.

GOAL 1: To improve and maintain the groundwater resources of Stevens Point.

Objective 1.1: Reduce levels of contaminants in the source waters used to supply the city's drinking water.

Many land-use activities have the potential to contaminate our groundwater supply. Since groundwater is the primary source of water for Stevens Point's municipal wells, it is important that we have plans in place to protect the recharge areas of the city's wells and reduce the need for costly contaminant removal technology. Zones A and B include the land area in which water travels to the City wells in 5 and 10 years respectively. Activities in this area have the potential to affect the water supply quickly because of their proximity to the well.

Action 1: Send educational materials about nitrogen fertilizers in zones A and B of the wellhead protection ordinance and arrange educational programs for landowners in these areas about their role in protecting drinking water quality. Rating: 9.4

Nitrate levels have been increasing in some of Stevens Point's municipal wells to the point where the City will be installing nitrate treatment technology. Landowners have a critical role to play in protecting water quality. Fertilizer inputs are one source of nitrate in groundwater; educating land-owners about their role in protecting drinking water quality may help in transitioning to practices that reduce nitrogen inputs and minimize the need for nitrate removal technology.

Action 2: Continue to investigate and purchase when feasible lands or conservation easements in zones A and B of the wellhead protection

ordinance that will lead to a reduction in the application of pesticides and nitrogen. Rating: 8.2

Purchasing lands or conservation easements offers the city an opportunity to control what activities are allowed to take place in the recharge area of the City's wells; ultimately offering greater protection of water quality.

Action 3: Offer incentives and/or investigate grant programs that enable agreements to be reached with interested farmers in zones A and B of the wellhead protection ordinance. Agreements could encourage farmers to transition to certified organic agriculture practices or grow crops that require less nitrogen fertilizer inputs. Rating: 7.8

Incentives or agreements with farmers to promote groundwater friendly practices within those zones would help to reduce nitrogen and pesticide inputs in the most critical wellhead recharges zones of the municipal wells; ultimately resulting in improved water quality of our municipal water supply.

Action 4: Investigate the creation of a Drinking Water Protection Fund to fund projects that protect the city's municipal water supply. Rating: 7.6

Projects that work to protect drinking water quality are difficult to fund because they are not directly associated with the energy or infrastructure costs of providing water. A dedicated source of funds would allow for funding of projects that work towards protecting water quality and hopefully avoid the need for expensive water treatment. Long-term these projects have the ability to eliminate the need for treatment; thereby saving the city money or even generating revenue if lands are able to be used for activities such as timber production or groundwater-friendly agriculture.

Objective 1.2: Reduce water consumption and improve water use efficiency to minimize impacts of groundwater withdrawals on the Plover River.

As demand for water increases, more infrastructure is needed to produce water and treat resulting wastewater. Conserving water helps to extend the life of water supply infrastructure; which in turn keeps water rates low, effectively increases the capacity to provide water to expanding populations and emerging industries, and helps to minimize the negative effects of groundwater pumping on the Plover River.

Action 1: Advertise Wisconsin Focus on Energy rebates for water-saving devices to water customers. Rating: 8.0

Many homeowners may not realize that there are incentives available for people that install water saving devices. Being able to take advantage of incentives may make the difference between purchasing a water-saving device (which initially are often more costly) versus traditional devices.

- Action 2: Encourage new construction to incorporate water reuse (greywater and/ or stormwater reuse) and/or conservation technologies. Rating: 7.6

New buildings have the potential to use much less water because of new technologies and changes to plumbing codes. Businesses that invest in water conservation and water reuse technologies help to increase the city's overall water use efficiency. This helps to decrease the demand for water, decrease the amount of wastewater produced, and in the case of stormwater-reuse reduce the impacts of stormwater.

- Action 3: Investigate opportunities to use wastewater effluent for irrigation or other landscape watering needs on city property or local businesses. Rating: 7.2

Effluent is treated wastewater that would normally be discharged to the Wisconsin River. Using effluent for irrigation ensures that potable water is not being used on activities for which a lower quality of water could be used. Using effluent for irrigation also reduces the amount of nutrients that are being discharged to the Wisconsin River.

- Action 4: Develop an ordinance to only allow unattended watering of landscaping before 10 a.m. and after 5 p.m. to reduce the amount of evaporation. Rating: 7.0

Large amounts of water are lost to evaporation, particularly during the hottest part of the day. By limiting landscape watering around the hottest part of the day, less water is needed to satisfy the plants water requirements. An ordinance ensures that the city has the authority to limit water use during periods of drought when using large amounts of water can put stress on the water system. Every other day lawn water restrictions may also be an alternative tool.

- Action 5: Investigate the implementation of a residential rate structure for Stevens Point that rewards conservation (seasonal or inclining rate structure). Rating: 6.2

Currently Stevens Point has a declining rate structure which means that the price per unit of water drops after a certain volume of water is reached. This type of rate structure does little to provide incentive for

conservation. The volume of water sold by the Stevens Point water utility is greatest during summer months when flows in the Plover River are at their lowest. Groundwater pumping as a percentage of water flow in the Plover River during this time is also at its highest. Conservation oriented rate structures provide incentive for residents to become more efficient water users which should aid in reducing the city's peak demand for water and reduces negative effects of pumping on the Plover River. Two types of rate structures that could be investigated include: 1) A seasonal rate structure charges more per unit of water when the overall demand for water is at its highest, 2) In an inclining rate structure, the price per unit of water goes up once a certain threshold is reached. These thresholds can be set so only those residences that use a disproportionate amount of water are affected and the average homeowner would see little to no difference in their water bill.

GOAL 2: To improve and maintain the rivers, lakes, ponds and wetlands of Stevens Point.

Objective 2.1: Reduce the amount of storm water and pollutants that flow into surface waters.

Whenever rain falls or snow melts water flows across city streets and other impervious areas washing soil particles, pesticides, pet wastes, oil and other pollutants into lakes and streams. Sediments, nutrients, other pollutants, and thermal heat transported by stormwater contribute to many of the problems in our streams and lakes.

Action 1: Create a rain barrel demonstration site in Stevens Point and develop a local source of rain barrels at a reasonable cost. Provide associated educational materials and technical assistance for homeowners.
Rating: 9.2

Rain barrels collect stormwater from roofs and other impervious surfaces. This helps to reduce stormwater volumes and the ability of water to transport pollutants. The collected water is utilized for landscape irrigation which helps to conserve municipal water.

Action 2: Create a rain garden demonstration site in Stevens Point and provide educational materials related to installation for homeowners and local businesses. Rating: 8.6

Rain gardens are landscaping design features that collect stormwater from impervious surfaces and reduce stormwater that enters surface waters. Instead of routing water from impervious areas to stormwater sewers, the water is first routed to a pervious low area that collects

water and allows it to infiltrate. Many times these depressions are planted

Action 3: Work with the county to only allow the sale of phosphorus fertilizers if a certified soil test shows phosphorus addition is needed. Rating: 6.4

Phosphorus is delivered to surface water primarily through runoff from stormwater events. Increasing phosphorus concentrations in surface waters leads to excessive vegetative growth and algal blooms. Phosphorus builds up in most soils; as a result most soils have sufficient phosphorus levels for plant growth. Banning the sale of phosphorus fertilizers (unless a soil test shows its lacking) ensures that phosphorus is not unnecessarily being applied to lawns. A city-wide ban would likely not be as successful as a county-wide ban.

Objective 2.2: Protect and enhance the aesthetic beauty of Stevens Point's water resources for all to enjoy.

High quality and attractive water resources that are easily accessible increase property values and can contribute to a high quality of life.

Action 1: Identify and prioritize sensitive lands, distinctive open spaces and natural areas surrounding Stevens Point's lakes, rivers and streams that are worth preserving. Rating: 7.4

Lands directly adjacent to surface waters have great ecological and aesthetic significance. Identifying areas based on their sensitivity or uniqueness will help the community prioritize which lands to focus on preserving for future generations.

GOAL 3: To reduce environmental impacts of wastewater discharge and byproducts produced by the Stevens Point community.

Objective 3.1: Reduce fossil fuel use associated with operating water and wastewater facilities.

The processing of water and wastewater is a very energy intensive process and therefore costly. Using fossil fuels to generate energy also contributes to the production of greenhouse gases.

Action 1: The water utility will continue to investigate and incorporate energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies to help power water and wastewater operations. Rating: 6.2

Energy efficiency helps to decrease the amount of pollution generated by fossil fuels for purposes of water and wastewater treatment. Energy

efficiency can also result in cheaper water rates. Renewable energy offers cleaner solutions to producing energy.

Objective 3.2: Reduce the amount of pollutants and byproducts discharged into surface waters.

GOAL 4: To be knowledgeable stewards of all Stevens Point's water resources.

Objective 4.1: Education and promotion of good water stewardship practices.

While most people want to do the right thing, sometimes it's a matter of not knowing what good water stewardship practices are and how they help the community.

Action 1: Mark storm sewer drains to prevent dumping anything into them except storm water. Rating: 9.6

Stenciling storm drains is one way to inform residents that anything that enters the storm drain will eventually wind up in Stevens Point's rivers or streams.

Action 2: Work with local businesses to support a Stevens Point "Where Water Matters" campaign to encourage water conservation, promote water quality and quantity friendly landscaping practices, inform residents of the benefits of trees for improving water quality, provide ways for residents to minimize their impact on the environment, inform about the value of water to our local economy, and advertise interesting facts about the City's water resources. Rating: 9.0

An educational campaign is a way to help raise awareness of local water issues in Stevens Point. It is also a way for local businesses and residents to show pride in our community and take ownership of our water resources. .

Action 3: Work to support a water education program in the Stevens Point School District. Rating: 8.6

Golden Sands RC & D has a model program for groundwater education in the classrooms; however the program in Portage County was discontinued. With a little support it may be possible for them to again target Stevens Point schools for water education.

Action 4: Install an educational display on the Green Circle Trail about the Plover River Watershed and its role in providing water for Stevens Point. Rating: 8.2

Many people in Stevens Point use the Green Circle Trail for recreation. A watershed is the land area that contributes water to a particular body of water. A sign on the trail about the Plover River Watershed as the source of Stevens Point's water is an easy way for residents of the area to better understand groundwater and where the city's drinking water comes from.

Action 5: Work with the Portage County Master Gardeners to organize a garden walk for sustainable landscaping in the city of Stevens Point. Rating: 6.8

Landscaping is important to maintaining the beauty and character of neighborhoods. Offering attractive landscaping ideas that use less water and fewer chemicals may encourage residents to do the same.

Objective 4.2: Attract businesses that promote water stewardship.

Action 1: Actively pursue the creation of small businesses that process and market local groundwater friendly products (organic agriculture practices, rotational grazing, local sources of timber, etc.). Rating: 8.2

There is an increasing trend of consumers looking for locally and organically grown foods and products. Pursuing or encouraging businesses that use and market locally produced groundwater friendly products is good for the environment and good for the local economy.

Objective 4.3: Monitor the relationship between the community of Stevens Point and its water resources.

A PLAN FOR IMPLEMENTATION

This plan is the result of a yearlong process of discussions, public input and insight from the members of the Eco-Municipality Task Force and its subcommittees. The plan is designed to be a springboard for future actions.

First Steps

To officially become an eco-municipality, we are requesting the Stevens Point City Council adopt a resolution and accept this report as a working document that may be utilized as an advisory resource in the future.

A part of the eco-municipality calls for creation of an Eco-Municipality Advisory Commission, to continue to develop ideas and recommendations for city staff and elected officials, but also the community as a whole.

The Eco-Municipality Advisory Commission will support municipal staff as it looks to implement some of these ideas, and will also provide recommendations as needed to city committees and departments.

The Commission, consisting of seven members, appointed by the mayor, will be advisory in nature and will be charged to gather and report on the progress our community is making to become more sustainable as we move forward as an eco-municipality.

Looking Forward

It is our hope that municipal leaders, community members, businesses and schools find ideas in this document to spur positive action that can lead Stevens Point to become more sustainable.

These recommendations and ideas stretch beyond city hall. We encourage other institutions such as our schools and universities, businesses and community members to take ideas from this document and begin implementing the plan with support of others.

This sustainability mission also reaches beyond municipal boundaries. We encourage, and look forward to working with, our neighbors to discuss and move some of these ideas forward throughout Portage County and central Wisconsin.

We realize to accomplish many of these tasks will require a great deal of energy and time. Throughout this report, several subcommittees identified the need to have a staff person to facilitate this process. We encourage the city to pursue outside funding opportunities, such as grants, to identify a staff position dedicated to making Stevens Point a sustainable community.