STOUGHTON, WI AREA

2022 Sustainability Plan

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INTRODUCTION & VISION

The Stoughton Area Sustainability Committee is made up of the mayor, two alderpersons, and nine community members.

Members: Mayor Tim Swadley, Alderperson Ben Heili, Alderperson Rachel Venegas (Chair), John Hallinan, Donelle Scaffidi (Vice Chair), Stephan Jackson, Yvonne Meichtry, Denise Duranczyk, Brady Troeller, Scott Taylor, Jeffrey Leverich

Scope and definition: Sustainability is defined commonly as***, "meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."*** (Brundtland Report, 1987) The City of Stoughton strives to create a sustainable future by balancing economic resilience and growth, environmental protection, and social equity in order to meet the needs of the present without compromising the resources available for future generations. Stoughton seeks a culture of sustainable use of resources within the community in which its government, residents, businesses and organizations will all be involved in informed, conscious and strategic decisions and actions leading to a sustainable future. (reference?)

"Sustainability is referred to as a whole *systems* approach addressing the environment, social equity, and the economy, which are also known as the three "E's" or the "triple bottom line." Sustainability emphasizes the importance of balancing **all three considerations** in every decision-making process. This concept of sustainability incorporates effort and impacts at both the local and global scale – the Village affects and is affected by change at both scales, including global climate change.
This plan embraces the following sustainability principles:

1. Reduce dependence on fossil fuels and extracted underground metals and minerals.
2. Reduce dependence on chemicals and other manufactured substances that can accumulate in nature.
3. Reduce dependence on activities that harm life-sustaining ecosystems.
4. Reduce barriers to achieving present and future human needs equitably and efficiently." [1]

[1] *McFarland Strategic Plan 2020-2030*

Equity definition

Planning Process

On X date, the Stoughton City Council adopted resolution X to form a sustainability committee. Beginning in September of 2021, the committee started working together on this Sustainability Plan. Other area plans including Monona, Middleton, McFarland, Sun Prairie, and Dane County were consulted. The committee reached out to people who worked on those plans for lessons learned.

Plan Organization

This plan is organized into the focus areas. Within each focus area the plan identifies:

- **Specific indicators** that will serve as baseline sustainability indicators to align with the vision statement by which the City can quantify performance and progress.

- **Specific goals and performance targets** to which the City aspires.
- An **action plan** that provides for specific projects, programs, and initiatives to help the City achieve the set targets and vision.

Areas of Focus (with assignees for reference – assignments will be removed once plan is finalized)

1.	Energy Usage	Steve, Brady
2.	Transportation	Steve, Brady
3.	Water Quality and Use	Scott, Donelle, Yvonne
4.	Solid waste management	Steve, Rachel
5.	Land Use, Development, and Buildings	Scott, Denise, Ben
6.	Community: Engagement, Education, and Health	Yvonne, Donelle, Ben

PLAN DETAILS BY AREA OF FOCUS

1. Energy usage

Goal examples: Decrease emissions by X%, Increase Renewable by X MW, Reduce city-wide energy consumption by X%, Increase renewable energy share of electric grid to X%, Increase energy efficiency by X% (residential, commercial, municipal), decrease municipal electricity consumption by X%, Decrease streetlight consumption by X%, Increase properties with solar generation, increase community-wide percentage of total energy consumed generated from renewables, increase municipal percentage of total energy consumed from renewables

Indicator metrics (measurable):

Ex. Gallons of diesel fuel

Baseline metrics (measurable):

Ex. In 2020, X used Y gallons of diesel fuel.

Goal:

Ex. The goal in 2022 is for X to use Y gallons of diesel fuel, and begin utilizing electric vehicles.

Action plan and cost level:

Time	Action	Cost	Responsible person or group	Status (Proposed, Approved, In Process, Complete)
Short-term				
Mid-term				
Long-term				

Action details:

- Prioritization rationale

Current sustainability practices/goals:

- Ex. Stoughton Utilities has a goal of being carbon neutral by 2050.

2. Transportation

Needs to be worked on – goal examples for community to respond to

Indicator metrics (measurable):

Ex. Gallons of diesel fuel

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Goal:

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Action plan and cost level:

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3. Water quality and use

Needs to be worked on – goal examples for community to respond to

Indicator metrics (measurable):

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4. Solid waste management

Goal examples: Reduce waste to landfill, decrease food waste, waste education, Increase community access to composting, specialized recycling, decrease solid waste collected by X%, increase residential solid waste recycled by X%, Decrease total municipal solid waste collected by X%, Increase percentage of municipal solid waste recycled to X%

Indicator metrics (measurable):

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5. Land use, Development, and Buildings

Possible metrics/goals: Measure amount of buildings with current LEED Certification, increase LEED practices, educate community about LEED, WPPI's New Construction program, regenerative agriculture concept (link) plus:

I: Residents per square mile

G: Increase density per square acre

A: Change ordinance to allow more housing options, i.e. accessory units like granny flats

A: Change ordinances to utilize land more efficiently, i.e. setbacks, lot size

A: Find ways to promote in-fill and re-use existing buildings

A: Provide monetary incentives (TIF, expedited review) to businesses for in-fill development and adaptive reuse of vacant buildings

A: Evaluate ande update residential parking requirements

A: Amend Land Use Comp Plan as needed

G: Increase multi-family residents

A: Amend Land Use Comp Plan

I: Protect environmentallly sensitive areas

A: Review Land Use Comp Plan and amend as needed

A: No net lose of wetlands

I: Acres of native plants

G: Increase the use of native plants and decrease the use of tuff grass

A: More native plants on muncipal properties

A: Use of native plantings to buffer stormwater

A: Educate and promote private property owners to use more native plants

A: Change ordinances to support the use of native plants vs. turf grass

I: % of trees planted

G: Increase the number of shade trees on city property and right-of-way

A: Increase city budget for more trees

A: Street Tree Master Plan

G: Increase use of shade trees on private property

A: Education progroms

A: City assisted programs to purchase trees

A: Program/Policy to prevent elimination of health mature trees

I: Sustainable building practices

A: Provide incentives for businesses and contractors who incorporate sustainable and net-zero impacts into building design

A: Promote a walkable and bike friendly city providing more dedicated bike lanes

A: Develop an education program for developers to promote sustainable planning and construction practices

G: reduce impervious surfaces

A: Evaluate and update commercial parking requirements

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6. Community Engagement, Education, & Health

Needs to be worked on – goal examples for community to respond to

Examples: survey**,** community input planning, , recognition of citizens, city departments, businesses and partners, sharing successes, sustainability dashboard and website

Yvonne -

- Bike friendly community designation, work community health into city policies,
- Website resources. Community, schools,
- EEK - Environmental education for kids
- Engagement - individual actions, community events,
- Gardening/local food fair?
- Indicators will be challenging
- Community oversight group?

Ben -

- Look into solar on superfund site
- Amend comprehensive plan
- Tool library as part of library or a distributed community org
- No mow may - City could facilitate it

Donelle -

- Dollar value of natural resources is disconnected from real value
- Curiosity about school district, what we can work with and what existing education is out there
    - Student groups?
    - Daycares & connecting to nature
    - Monona & Sun prairie had a lot about awareness. Liked their organization of indicators.
        - Citizens
        - Government
        - Schools
        - Businesses
- Connecting groups and orgs doing good work already
- Nature center like urban ecology center in Milwaukee
- Education for sustainability

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