



# Wauwatosa, WI

## Sustainability Committee

### Meeting Minutes - Final

7725 W. North Avenue  
Wauwatosa, WI 53213

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Wednesday, June 4, 2025

6:30 PM

Zoom Only:  
<https://servetosa.zoom.us/j/81245734808>,  
Meeting ID: 812 4573 4808

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#### Regular Meeting

#### CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Mr. Zimmerman called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

#### ROLL CALL

**Present 8**      Member, Chair Michael Arney  
Member Heather Deaton  
Member Jill McClellan  
Member Steven Ostrenga  
Member Katherine Riebe  
Member Ian Schmitt-Ernst  
Member Rob Zimmerman  
Aldersperson Liaison Melissa Dolan

**Excused 3**      Member Seth Flanders  
Member Zoe Hastert  
Member John Horkey

Megan Conway, Wauwatosa Sustainability Manager, present  
Grant Helle, Milwaukee County Director of Office of Sustainability, present

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Approval of the minutes of the May 7, 2025 regular meeting [25-0936](#)  
**RESULT:** APPROVED  
**MOVER:** Steven Ostrenga  
**SECONDER:** Michael Arney  
**Aye: 7** Arney, Deaton, McClellan, Ostrenga, Riebe, Schmitt-Ernst,  
Zimmerman, and Dolan  
**Excused: 3** Flanders, Hastert, and Horkey

#### NEW BUSINESS

1. Announcements and upcoming activities/events [25-0937](#)  
*Mr. Zimmerman noted that today is World Environmental Day. Mr. Schmitt-Ernst shared that he is tabling for Wisconsin Conservation Voters at the Juneteenth Celebration on MLK Dr on June 19. Mr. Arney shared that Citizens Climate Lobby is looking for others to travel to Washington DC for their annual*

conference on July 20-22. Mr. Ostrenga shared that the current budget bill in Congress right now would have significant impacts to the solar industry, specifically residential solar affordability.

**RESULT: INFORMATIONAL ONLY**

2. Guest speaker: Grant Helle, Director-Office of Sustainability, [25-0938](#)  
Milwaukee County

Mr. Helle shared that the County's recent Climate Action 2050 Plan was recently approved. This is a plan for carbon neutral operations focusing on vulnerabilities of extreme heat, increased flooding, and air quality hazards. The initial focus is avoiding new sources of carbon emissions and reducing existing sources first; adopting alternatives and implementing offsets second. The full estimated cost for the plan is \$442M in addition to the regular County spending. They are working on a financing model. There is a City and County Advisory Board that meets later this year. There is a customized tool - the Sustainable Design Standard document - that is available for municipalities and organizations to use. The County is looking collaborate with municipalities on projects and learnings. Border communities could engage with plans for Milwaukee County Transit System, direct pay and technical assistance. Mr. Helle and his family recently moved to Wauwatosa.

**RESULT: INFORMATIONAL ONLY**

3. City Sustainability Manager update [25-0939](#)

Ms. Conway provided an in-depth report out of activities and plans. She discussed the report with the team. Decision points:

The City approved 15 residential solar permit fee waivers and 5 business solar permit fee waivers. Ms. Conway and the committee agreed to co-host the Grow Solar Power Hour with the City of Milwaukee at the Urban Ecology Center in Washington Park on Wednesday, June 18; Ms. McClellan will attend as well. Ms. Conway will work on promotion of the event. Ms. Conway will find a date before end of July to host a session at the Wauwatosa Library. Ms. Conway is investigating educational opportunities for composting and Focus On Energy. Mr. Zimmerman suggested reusable cups at Wauwatosa events by engaging a company like r.Cup. Ms. Conway asked for the committee's help communicating compost bin purchasing through the City of Milwaukee's sale.

**RESULT: INFORMATIONAL ONLY**

4. Annual report presentation talking points [25-0940](#)

Mr. Zimmerman will present the story to and results of the WSC efforts. At the Government Affairs meeting on Tuesday, June 17 at 6:30 PM. Committee members should attend if available.

**RESULT: INFORMATIONAL ONLY**

5. Goal discussion [25-0941](#)

Mr. Zimmerman shared the poll results and will send the team listing out to the group with an assigned lead. Expectation is for each group to get together and bring updates/plans to the August committee meeting.

**RESULT: INFORMATIONAL ONLY**

6. Wauwatosa School District updates [25-0942](#)

Energy Efficiency and Sustainability Subcommittee (E2S): Ms. Deaton shared that she and another W2S member met with Mr. Ostrenga about the solar analysis process and will be updating the data and share with Ms. Deaton to bring to E2S. The committee's goals include educating the school board and leadership on opportunities, provide ideas for school curriculum, etc.

*Green Teams: Ms. McClellan shared that she has a sign for the rubbish and recycling containers to put in each school over the summer before next school year. Additional ideas are to bring Waste Wizard education to the schools and use Waste Wizard on branding.*

**RESULT:** INFORMATIONAL ONLY

7. Outreach plans, schedule, and staffing [25-0945](#)

*Farmers' Market: Ms. Hastert confirmed July 5 as the date for tabling. Committee members will reach out to her to let her know if they are able to help. Ms. McClellan will reach out to Tosa Tonight about tabling at a concert to promote WSC and the group solar buy and power hours.*

**RESULT:** INFORMATIONAL ONLY

8. Joint Housing Coalition update [25-0946](#)

*Mr. Arney shared that the Community Development Authority passed the plan.*

**RESULT:** INFORMATIONAL ONLY

### **ADJOURNMENT**

*Meeting adjourned at 8:03 PM.*