



# **AGENDA OF THE SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION**

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19, 2025, 5:00 PM**

**In person at City Hall, Room 310.**

**Virtual attendance also available via Zoom.**

## **A. Zoom Meeting Information.**

### **I. Join Zoom Meeting Online:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82236285137?pwd=bzBScDVVRysrQlpSZEZpK2FMSnd4Zz09>

Or call in by phone: +1 312 626 6799

Meeting ID: 822 3628 5137

Passcode: 769016

If you wish to speak at this public meeting or leave a comment, please fill out the online [Comment Form](#) prior to the meeting. More detailed [Zoom Instructions](#) can be found online.

## **B. Roll Call.**

- I. Chair- Christa Kananen; Vice Chair- Ned Dorff; Alder Joey Prestley; Julia Noordyk; Jenny Brinker; Amy Kox; Mark Walter; Daniela Beall; Staff person- Kaurie Mihm

## **C. Approval of the Agenda.**

- I. Approval of the Sustainability Commission meeting agenda for March 19, 2025.

## **D. Approval of Minutes.**

- I. Approval of minutes from February 19, 2025.

## **E. Presentations**

- I. Speaker David Winger presents, *Decarbonizing WI Schools: A Path to Sustainability and Savings*.

## **F. Regular Business.**

- I. To recommend acceptance of the Sustainable Events Guidance as a best-practices resource

for city-sponsored events.

2. Discussion and possible action to refer to staff to evaluate the feasibility of developing a food waste composting pilot program.

## **G. Informational.**

### **I. Work Group Reports**

- a. Healthy Habitat for All Work Group
- b. Youth Engagement Work Group

2. Next Sustainability Commission meeting: **April 16** at 5:00pm.

## **H. Adjournment.**

- 1) THIS MEETING IS RECORDED: THE VIDEO OF THIS MEETING AND MINUTES ARE AVAILABLE ONLINE AT [www.greenbaywi.gov](http://www.greenbaywi.gov)
- 2) ACCESSIBILITY: Any person wishing to attend who requires special accommodation because of a disability, should contact the City Safety Manager at 920-448-3125 at least 48 hours before the scheduled meeting time so that arrangements can be made.
- 3) QUORUM: Please take notice that a majority or quorum of the Common Council will attend this Sustainability Commission meeting and will constitute a meeting of the Common Council for purposes of discussion and information gathering relative to this agenda.
- 4) REPRESENTATION: The party requesting the communication, or their representative, should be present at this meeting.

# DECARBONIZING WISCONSIN SCHOOLS

A PATH TO SUSTAINABILITY & SAVINGS

Presented By  
**David Winger**

 [dmwinger@gmail.com](mailto:dmwinger@gmail.com)

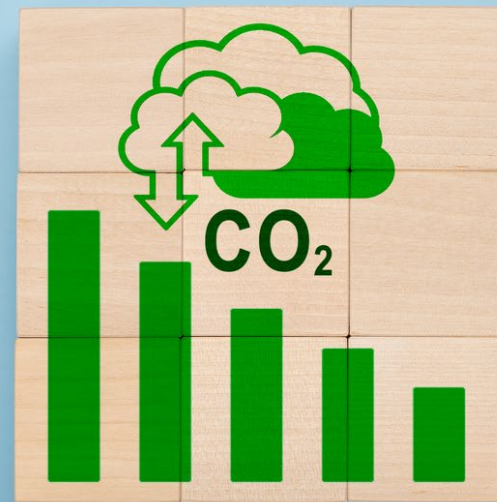
 262-729-5533

# WHY SCHOOLS?



## Operational Savings

Energy is the second highest cost to districts



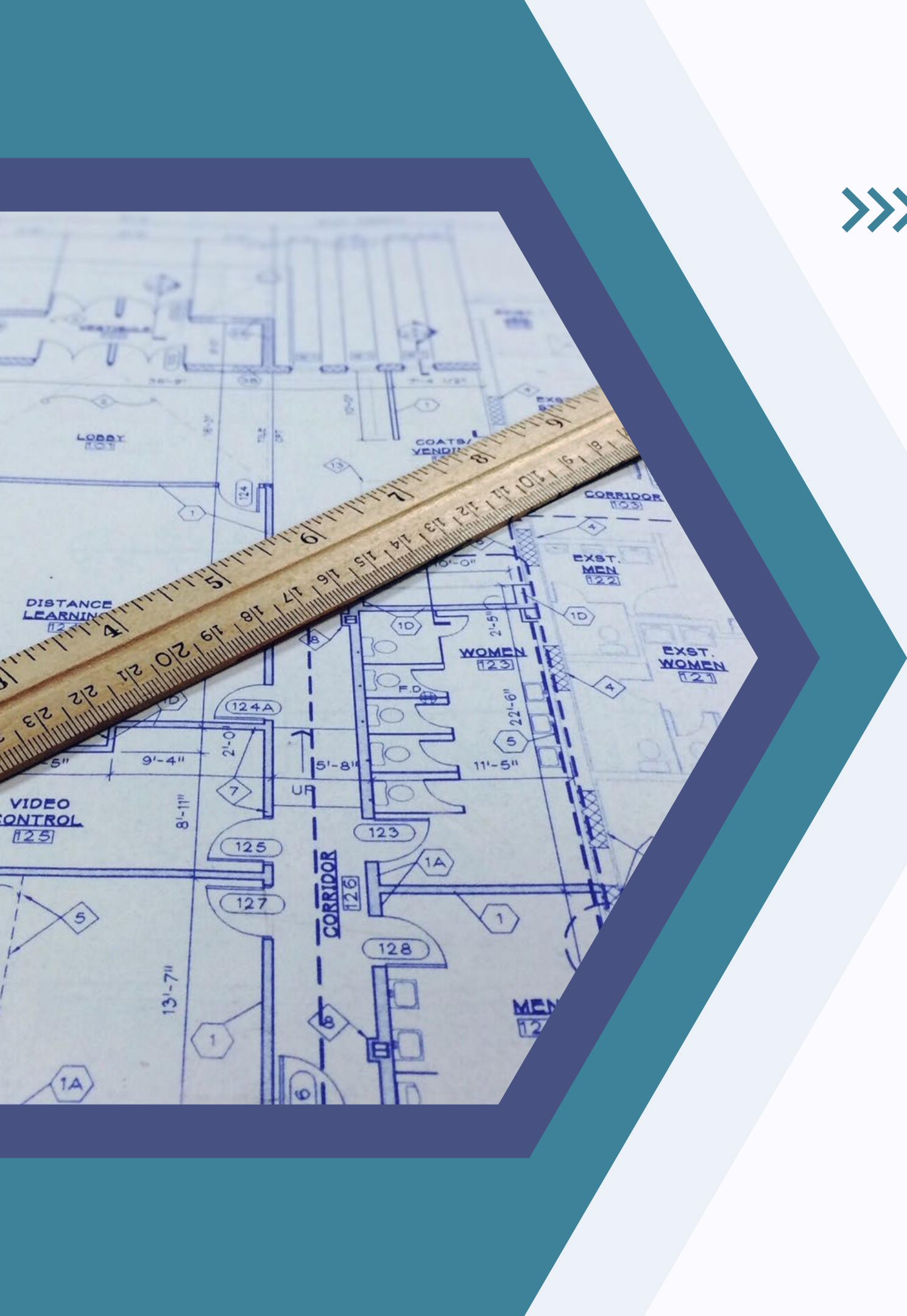
## Lowers GHG Emissions

Support state and local sustainability goals



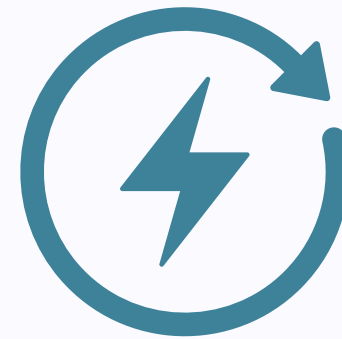
## Creates Healthier Spaces

Positive impact on children, staff, and community



# THE BLUEPRINT

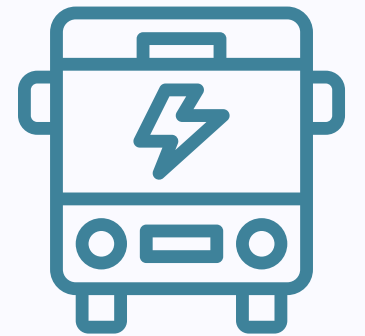
## Decarbonizing WI Schools: The Five Tactics



Energy



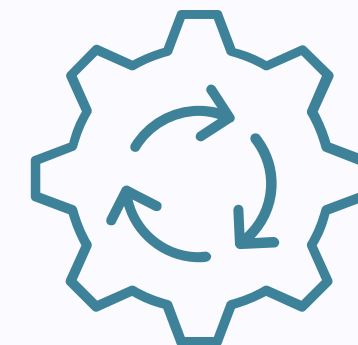
Procurement



Transportation



Land-Use  
Management



Waste  
Management

# IMPACT & BUSINESS CASE

Implementation of decarbonization strategies can lead to a number of benefits such as:

- Health and wellness benefits
- Educational opportunities
- Reallocation of funds
- Aid in creating resilient communities
- Potential to reduce future tax burden



# AN EARLY ADOPTER

## Loudoun County Public Schools - Virginia

- Sustainability initiatives for over 30 years
- 82,000 students in 100 buildings
- Has a Director of Sustainability
- Educational opportunities
- Reallocation of funds



# HAS SAVED \$119 MILLION



ENGAGE · EMPOWER · ENRICH

An aerial photograph of a modern school building, Forest Edge, featuring a large array of solar panels on its flat roof. The building has a mix of grey, white, and orange vertical panels. In the foreground, there is a paved courtyard with a red brick pattern, a flagpole with the American flag, and several small trees in planters. A curved asphalt road is visible on the right side of the image. The background shows a dense forest of green trees under a clear blue sky.

# FOREST EDGE

WISCONSIN'S FIRST ~~NE~~ZERO SCHOOL

Projected to save ~\$100,000 annually in energy costs  
Resilience strategically planned



# MAPLEWOOD

WISCONSIN'S SECOND  
NET-ZERO SCHOOL

Projected to save  
**~\$190,000**  
annually  
in energy costs

Resilience strategically planned

# KEY TAKEAWAYS



## Cost Effective

Net-zero schools can cost less to build and run than traditional schools. Incentives boost savings.



## Value Add

This holistic approach to decarbonization allows space for improved operations while increasing the value the school has on its community.

## Staff & Champions

School staff are busy. Dedicated sustainability roles are key. Empower champions in each building.

# THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

Looking to help your local school district or businesses decarbonize? Let's talk!

## Contact Me



262-729-5533



[dmwinger@gmail.com](mailto:dmwinger@gmail.com)





## Report to the Sustainability Commission of the City of Green Bay

### MEETING DATE

March 19, 2025

### AGENDA ITEM # F.1

To recommend acceptance of the Sustainable Events Guidance as a best-practices resource for city-sponsored events.

### BACKGROUND

This item was first introduced to the Sustainability Commission on October 16, 2024, for input on draft recommendations. The intent of this guidance is to support the City of Green Bay in hosting sustainable city-sponsored events by minimizing environmental impact, supporting the local economy, and fostering eco-friendly community practices. The guidance covers key areas such as waste management, energy use, transportation, responsible purchasing, vendor engagement, and sustainability monitoring.

Following its initial introduction, the guidance was written by the Sustainability Commission with input from city staff and then routed to staff leadership for additional feedback. The attached document serves as a guidance-only resource; it does not create mandates for City departments but instead provides best practices to make City-hosted events more sustainable.

### RECOMMENDATION

To recommend acceptance of the Sustainable Events Guidance as a best-practices resource for city-sponsored events. This guidance provides voluntary recommendations to minimize environmental impact, promote responsible material use, and advance sustainability goals for public events in Green Bay.

### FISCAL IMPACT

### ATTACHMENTS

- I. Sustainable Events Guidance 03 19 2025

## Sustainable Events Guidance Green Bay Sustainability Commission

These recommendations offer guidance to the City of Green Bay to host sustainable events that minimize environmental impact, support the local economy, and inspire the community to embrace eco-friendly practices. From waste management and energy use to transportation, purchasing, and vendor engagement, these strategies aim to set a new standard for green events in the region. By incorporating measurable goals, clear action steps, and community collaboration, the City ensures that each event not only delivers memorable experiences but also contributes to a healthier, more sustainable future for all.

### **Waste Management**

**Goal:** Maximize diversion of waste from landfills through recycling, composting, and waste reduction strategies.

- **Recycling:** Aluminum cans, cardboard, paper, plastic bottles and containers.
  - Set up clearly labeled, color-coded bins for recycling at all event points.
  - Offer collection bins that are designed to accommodate the type of recyclable material being collected (e.g., paper vs. non-paper, receptacles with can/bottle-shaped entry points).
  - Use transparent bin liners for easy monitoring and to reduce contamination.
  - Routine emptying of containers to ensure adequate space for collection throughout the event.
- **Composting:** Food scraps, or other biodegradable items.
  - Contract with one or more local composting services to support specific events.
  - Contact compost facilities to confirm they can handle post-event volumes and accept expected waste streams.
- **Waste Reduction:** Reduce the amount of waste generated per event.
  - Collaborate with food donation organizations to redistribute unused food.
  - Partner with vendors offering deposit systems to reduce the use of disposal materials (e.g., customers pay a refundable deposit for reusable cups at events).
  - Provide refillable water stations to reduce single-use plastic waste.
  - Select materials that can be reused for future city events to reduce one-time waste.
  - Provide waste management education:
    - Provide on-site volunteers to assist attendees in correctly sorting their waste. Include signage at all waste stations explaining what can be recycled or composted and/or post QR codes for waste sorting instructions
    - Create a social media campaign to educate attendees about sustainability efforts and how they can participate.
    - Engage local schools and community groups in providing recycling education and volunteer support at events.
  - Set measurable and realistic goals to divert waste from landfills during events.
    - Work with vendors and contractors to align their practices with the City's waste reduction goals.

- Conduct a waste audit during and after the event to measure success and identify areas for improvement.
- For large events, consider artistic collection bins or collection toward a work of sculpture/art which can be donated to the community following the event
- Prepare an event-specific written plan that addresses how and when containers will be emptied, how and when event waste will be collected and removed, and who will be responsible for these activities.

## **Energy**

**Goal:** Harness renewable and energy-efficient solutions to minimize the environmental impact of event operations while showcasing leadership in clean energy practices.

- Use renewable energy sources, such as modular solar, for powering temporary features such as stages, lighting, and other equipment.
- Partner with local utilities to provide green power and educational resources for the events.
- Incorporate energy-efficient (i.e. LED) lighting and equipment where possible.
- Provide signage and/or QR code links to City of Green Bay's Clean Energy Hub

## **Transportation & Accessibility**

**Goal:** Facilitate and incentivize sustainable, low-carbon transportation options to reduce the transportation footprint and ensure accessibility for all attendees.

- Promote sustainable transportation options for attendees, such as biking, walking, carpooling, or public transit.
- Provide bike racks or secure storage areas at event sites to encourage cycling.
- Offer incentives or discounts for attendees who use public transportation.

## **Purchasing and Vendor Guidelines**

**Goal:** Prioritize sustainable products and practices while supporting local and eco-conscious vendors.

- **Sourcing Priorities**
  - Reusable: Encourage reusable tableware, drinkware, and service items.
  - Recyclable: Preference for materials with high local recycling rates, such as aluminum and uncoated paper products.
  - Compostable: For single-use items, consider those that are compostable and free of harmful additives (e.g., PFAS-free).
  - Eco-friendly promotional items: Focus on practical and eco-friendly giveaways like seed packets, reusable straws and utensils, and reusable cups and glasses.
  - Energy-efficient technology: Use LED lighting, energy-efficient appliances, and low-carbon generators.
  - Preference for local and regional suppliers to minimize transportation emissions.
  - Preference for vendors certified to a sustainable business standard
- **Sustainability Clauses in Contracts**
  - Encourage vendors to act to reduce environmental impacts.

- Provide guidelines for vendors specifically regarding how to minimize environmental impacts.
- Encourage use of eco-friendly packaging for all goods and services.
- Include in RFP/bidding process a request for vendors to include a list of sustainable initiatives in their proposals/bids
- Prohibit the use of materials with known negative environmental impacts (e.g., Styrofoam)
- Provide preference to vendors who align with City of Green Bay's sustainability priorities.

### **Monitoring & Reporting**

**Goal:** Establish systems to measure, evaluate, and communicate the environmental impact of events, driving continuous improvement for future events.

- Track waste diversion rates (recycling, composting, reclamation) and compare performance to TRUE Zero Waste standard as benchmark.
- Encourage /request vendors to submit sustainability metrics (e.g., energy use, waste generated, avoided greenhouse emissions). Include the request in the bidding document, with special provisions to encourage and/or showcase vendors' actions.
- Share post-event sustainability impact reports with stakeholders to maintain transparency and build momentum for future improvements.
- Capture costs related to implementation of sustainable activities and compared to the cost of less sustainable alternatives



## Report to the Sustainability Commission of the City of Green Bay

### MEETING DATE

March 19, 2025

### AGENDA ITEM # F.2

Discussion and possible action to refer to staff to evaluate the feasibility of developing a food waste composting pilot program.

### BACKGROUND

The Sustainability Commission has identified organic waste diversion as a key priority in its annual work plan. Diverting food waste from landfills reduces greenhouse gas emissions, extends landfill lifespan, and supports soil health through nutrient-rich compost. Establishing a food waste composting pilot program aligns with these objectives and can serve as a foundation for a broader citywide initiative.

Recently, the Commission received a communication from Alder Johnson requesting a recommendation to the Common Council on how to develop a pilot composting program that could be expanded if successful. The request outlines key considerations for the Commission's discussion, including:

- Funding: Identifying potential sources such as city budget allocations, grants, public-private partnerships, or user fees.
- Geography: Determining feasible locations.
- Residential vs. Commercial Participation: Assessing whether the pilot should focus on households, businesses, or a combination of both.
- Partnerships: Exploring collaborations with local organizations, waste haulers, composting facilities, and community groups.
- Operational Resources: Evaluating necessary infrastructure, staffing, and public education efforts to ensure successful implementation.
- Performance Metrics: Establishing key performance indicators (KPIs) to measure success, such as participation rates, diversion tonnage, contamination levels, and cost-effectiveness.

### RECOMMENDATION

Refer to staff to evaluate the feasibility of developing a food waste composting pilot program with input from the Sustainability Commission.

### FISCAL IMPACT

### ATTACHMENTS

- I. 2025-02-14 Dist 9 to Sustain

**From:** [noreply@civicplus.com](mailto:noreply@civicplus.com)  
**To:** [Celestine Jeffreys](#); [Eric Genrich](#); [Joseph Faulds](#)  
**Subject:** Online Form Submittal: Alders' Petitions and Communications  
**Date:** Friday, February 14, 2025 2:43:20 PM

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## Alders' Petitions and Communications

|                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Name                  | Brian Johnson                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Committee Name        | Sustainability Commission                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Text of Communication | For consideration and possible action to provide common council a recommendation on how to establish a pilot composting program that could be expanded, if successful, to serve residents citywide. The commission should consider variables such as funding, geography, residential vs. commercial, partnerships, and other required resources to manage such a program. Additional analysis related to key performance indicators (KPIs) and tools to measure the program's efficacy are also welcome. |

Email not displaying correctly? [View it in your browser.](#)





Report to the  
Sustainability Commission  
of the City of Green Bay

**MEETING DATE**

March 19, 2025

**AGENDA ITEM # G.I**

Work Group Reports

**BACKGROUND**

**RECOMMENDATION**

**FISCAL IMPACT**

**ATTACHMENTS**

None



## Report to the Sustainability Commission of the City of Green Bay

### MEETING DATE

March 19, 2025

### AGENDA ITEM # G.I.a

Healthy Habitat for All Work Group

### BACKGROUND

The discontinuation of No Mow May, at the request of city staff and recommendation of the sustainability commission and common council, has been met with significant public interest. Several local media stories have covered the topic, and there have been lengthy discussions on social media as well. Comments have been divided on feelings towards No Mow May, but there has been significant interest in replacing the program with a new pollinator-friendly program sponsored by the city and with signs that people can post on their property. The HHA work group has discussed multiple ideas and will continue to discuss, with the goal of having something new in place for the 2026 growing season.

### RECOMMENDATION

The HHA work group will continue to discuss ideas and work with staff with the goal of having something new in place for the 2026 growing season.

### FISCAL IMPACT

Cost of yard signs and staff time.

### ATTACHMENTS

None



Report to the  
**Sustainability Commission**  
of the City of Green Bay

## MEETING DATE

March 19, 2025

## AGENDA ITEM # G.I.b

Youth Engagement Work Group

## BACKGROUND

The Youth Engagement Work Group had its inaugural meeting with youth advisors on Thursday, March 13th at Red Smith school, with a virtual option for those who could not attend in-person. Discussion included how to ensure access for Green Bay students who want to participate in the group and defining goals of the group.

## RECOMMENDATION

## FISCAL IMPACT

## ATTACHMENTS

None



Report to the  
Sustainability Commission  
of the City of Green Bay

**MEETING DATE**

March 19, 2025

**AGENDA ITEM # G.2**

Next Sustainability Commission meeting: **April 16** at 5:00pm.

**BACKGROUND**

**RECOMMENDATION**

**FISCAL IMPACT**

**ATTACHMENTS**

None