



MINUTES OF THE SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 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- Maria Otto

Present: Mark Walter, Ned Dorff, Christa Kananen, Jenny Brinker, Joey Prestley, Julia Noordyk, Maria Otto

Excused: Amy Kox

Late to the meeting: Daniela Beall

C. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA.

1. Approval of the agenda for the Thursday, November 20, 2025, meeting of the Sustainability Commission.

Moved by Ald. Joey Prestley, seconded by Christa Kananen to approve.

Motion Passed.

Yes-Mark Walter, Ned Dorff, Christa Kananen, Jenny Brinker, Joey Prestley, Julia Noordyk, Maria Otto, No-None, Abstain-Daniela Beall.

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES.

1. Approval of the minutes from the October 16, 2025 meeting.

Moved by Ald. Joey Prestley, seconded by Christa Kananen to approve the minutes.

Motion Passed.

Yes-Mark Walter, Ned Dorff, Christa Kananen, Jenny Brinker, Joey Prestley, Julia Noordyk, Maria Otto, No-None, Abstain-Daniela Beall.

E. ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Moved by Christa Kananen, seconded by Ald. Joey Prestley to To receive and place on file the announcements.

Motion Passed.

Yes-Mark Walter, Ned Dorff, Christa Kananen, Jenny Brinker, Joey Prestley, Daniela Beall, Julia Noordyk, Maria Otto, No-None, Abstain-None.

1. Farewell and thank you to Dr. Amy Kox for serving on the Sustainability Commission since 2021. Best wishes to Amy as she gets ready for retirement.

2. Green Bay Accelerator Cohort

Moved by Christa Kananen, seconded by Ald. Joey Prestley to receive and place on file.

Motion Passed.

Yes-Mark Walter, Ned Dorff, Christa Kananen, Jenny Brinker, Joey Prestley, Daniela Beall, Julia Noordyk, Maria Otto, No-None, Abstain-None.

F. REGULAR BUSINESS.

1. Continue discussion of Sustainability Commission Work Plan for 2026 work group priorities and initiatives.

Moved by Julia Noordyk, seconded by Mark Walter to Move to hold the workplan approval until the December 2, 2025 meeting.

Motion Passed.

Yes-Mark Walter, Ned Dorff, Christa Kananen, Jenny Brinker, Joey Prestley, Daniela Beall, Julia Noordyk, Maria Otto, No-None, Abstain-None.

Each workgroup went through and discussed priority goals for 2026 workplan. Workgroups include: Clean Energy; Community Engagement; Climate Resilience; Healthy Habitat; Waste Reduction. Goals are specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, and time-based.

2. Discussion and possible action to choose a name for the No Mow May alternative initiative.

Initiative names under consideration: 1. Healthy Habitats, 2. Neighbors for Nature, 3. Pollinator Pockets.

Moved by Ald. Joey Prestley, seconded by Mark Walter to open the floor.

Motion Passed.

Yes-Mark Walter, Ned Dorff, Christa Kananen, Jenny Brinker, Joey Prestley, Daniela Beall, Julia Noordyk, Maria Otto, No-None, Abstain-None.

Moved by Ald. Joey Prestley, seconded by Christa Kananen to close the floor.

Motion Passed.

Yes-Mark Walter, Ned Dorff, Christa Kananen, Jenny Brinker, Joey Prestley, Daniela Beall, Julia Noordyk, Maria Otto, No-None, Abstain-None.

Moved by Ned Dorff, seconded by Ald. Joey Prestley to Approve Neighbors for Nature as program name.

Motion Passed.

Yes-Mark Walter, Ned Dorff, Christa Kananen, Jenny Brinker, Joey Prestley, Daniela Beall, Julia Noordyk, Maria Otto, No-None, Abstain-None.

G. INFORMATIONAL.

1. Healthy Habitat for All Work Group Report

Moved by Christa Kananen, seconded by Ald. Joey Prestley to receive and place on file.

Motion Passed.

Yes-Mark Walter, Ned Dorff, Christa Kananen, Jenny Brinker, Joey Prestley, Daniela Beall, Julia Noordyk, Maria Otto, No-None, Abstain-None.

200-300 Native plant kit giveaway is planned for May 2026. Partners include: Green Bay Botanical Garden, Stone Silo, and Green Bay Conservation Corps. Grant funding is secure for 2026 for plants and signs.

2. Staff Report(s)

Moved by Ald. Joey Prestley, seconded by Maria Otto to receive and place on file staff

reports.

Motion Passed.

Yes-Mark Walter, Ned Dorff, Christa Kananen, Jenny Brinker, Joey Prestley, Daniela Beall, Julia Noordyk, Maria Otto, No-None, Abstain-None.

3. Next Meeting: December 17, 2025

H. ADJOURNMENT.

1. Adjournment of the Thursday, November 20, 2025, meeting of the Sustainability Commission.

Moved by Mark Walter, seconded by Ned Dorff to adjourn the meeting.

Motion Passed.

Yes-Mark Walter, Ned Dorff, Christa Kananen, Jenny Brinker, Joey Prestley, Daniela Beall, Julia Noordyk, Maria Otto, No-None, Abstain-None.



MINUTES OF THE SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2025, 5:00 PM
In person at City Hall, Room 310.
Virtual attendance also available via Zoom.

A. ZOOM MEETING INFORMATION.

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

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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- Maria Otto

Present: Ned Dorff, Christa Kananen, Jenny Brinker, Joey Prestley (left meeting at 5:30), Daniela Beall (joined late), Julia Noordyk, Maria Otto

Excused: Amy Kox, Mark Walter

Absent: None.

C. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA.

1. Approval of the agenda for the Thursday, October 16, 2025, meeting of the Sustainability Commission.

Moved by Ald. Joey Prestley, seconded by Maria Otto to approve.

Motion Passed.

Yes-Ned Dorff, Christa Kananen, Joey Prestley, Julia Noordyk, Maria Otto, No-None, Abstain-None.

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES.

Moved by Ald. Joey Prestley, seconded by Christa Kananen to approve.

Motion Passed.

Yes-Ned Dorff, Christa Kananen, Joey Prestley, Julia Noordyk, Maria Otto, No-None, Abstain-None.

1. Approval of the minutes from the September 17, 2025, meeting.

E. ANNOUNCEMENTS.

1. Energize Green Bay, a City of Green Bay initiative, is hosting an information session October 24, 2025 at NWTC to educate and promote the adoption of air source heat pump technology. The session is open to local municipal employees who work in HVAC-related or policy roles, representatives from community-based organizations, and interested members of the public. Additional details and a QR registration code is attached.
2. Salt Awareness webinar will take place on Tuesday, November 11, 2025 from 12:00 to 1:00 pm. Alyssa Reinke from the Fox-Wolf Watershed, Emily Henrigillis from the De Pere Sustainability Commission, and City of Green Bay Public Works staff Nathan Wachtendonk and Josh Brassfield will be the presenters. The webinar is sponsored by JOSHUA Environmental Justice Task Force.

F. REGULAR BUSINESS.- NONE

G. INFORMATIONAL.

1. Discussion of Sustainability Commission Work Plan ideas for 2026 priorities and initiatives.

Moved by Julia Noordyk, seconded by Ned Dorff to open the floor.

Motion Passed.

Yes-Ned Dorff, Christa Kananen, Jenny Brinker, Joey Prestley, Daniela Beall, Julia Noordyk, Maria Otto, No-None, Abstain-None.

- Member of the public: Selena Darrow, Address: 2768 Creekwood Circle, Green Bay.

Moved by Christa Kananen, seconded by Maria Otto to close the floor.

Motion Passed.

Yes-Ned Dorff, Christa Kananen, Jenny Brinker, Joey Prestley, Daniela Beall, Julia Noordyk, Maria Otto, No-None, Abstain-None.

Member of the public: Selena Darrow, Address: 2768 Creekwood Circle, Green Bay.

2. Work Group Reports

a. Climate Resilience Workgroup

Moved by Christa Kananen, seconded by Ned Dorff to receive and place on file.

Motion Passed.

Yes-Ned Dorff, Christa Kananen, Jenny Brinker, Daniela Beall, Julia Noordyk, Maria Otto, No-None, Abstain-None.

b. Healthy Habitat for All Workgroup

3. Next Meeting: Thursday, November 16, 2025.

Correction: Next meeting is Thursday, November 13 at 5pm.

H. ADJOURNMENT.

1. Adjournment of the Thursday, October 16, 2025, meeting of the Sustainability Commission.

Moved by Ned Dorff, seconded by Jenny Brinker to adjourn.

Motion Passed.

Yes-Ned Dorff, Christa Kananen, Jenny Brinker, Daniela Beall, Julia Noordyk, Maria Otto, No-None, Abstain-None.

A WEBINAR ON WINTER SALT IN GREEN BAY, WI

TO EDUCATE ON THE IMPACT
OF SALT ON OUR ROADS

NOV 11, 2025 | 12 PM



Visit joshua4justice.org/environmental-justice for more information.

 REGISTER NOW





JOIN THE GREEN BAY ACCELERATOR



HELPING GREEN BAY BUSINESSES TURN
SUSTAINABILITY INTO A STRATEGIC ADVANTAGE.

BE ONE OF TEN BUSINESSES LEADING THE WAY TO A CLEANER, MORE RESILIENT GREEN BAY.

The Green Bay Accelerator is a hands-on cohort designed to help local businesses start their sustainability journey and implement nature-based solutions to reduce costs, improve resilience, and strengthen community impact. Through coaching, peer collaboration, and access to expert guidance, your business can become a local leader in sustainable transformation. Available at no cost in 2026 for select businesses in Green Bay.

PROGRAM BENEFITS

Value: Lower costs, reduce risks, improve resilience, and strengthen your reputation.

Impact: Contribute to community resilience, flood protection, and healthier neighborhoods.

Visibility: Showcase your business as leading sustainable transformation in Green Bay.

Accessibility: Access proven processes, hands-on coaching, and peer learning

PARTICIPANT REQUIREMENTS


Businesses must:

- Have fewer than 500 employees.
- Be operating within the City of Green Bay.
- Have decision-making control over facility and land use.
- Demonstrate interest in engaging strategically in sustainability as a value driver for stakeholders.

READY TO LEAD CHANGE IN GREEN BAY?

Apply now to be part of a community-based cohort driving measurable impact—improving water quality, reducing emissions, and enhancing community resilience.

 **Eligibility:** Businesses with <500 employees operating in the City of Green Bay

 **Cost:** FREE, thanks to our generous partners at the Daybreak Fund

 **Time Commitment:** 15-20 hours between February – August 2026

Learn more and apply at: www.wisconsinsustainability.com/gbaccelerator

Questions? Contact christa@sustainablebusinesscouncil.org

Clean Energy

- **Goal**
 - 100% clean energy and carbon neutrality for the City of Green Bay by the year 2050 (Resolution 5/4/2021).
- **Research, Data, or Evidence**
 - *Clean Energy Green Bay Plan* – adopted December 2023
- **Actions**
 - In Q1 2026, define internship opportunities and expectations for college students to support achievement of the City’s clean energy and carbon neutrality targets.
 - Collaborate with the Sustainable Business Council to deliver the Green Bay Accelerator Cohort program by Q3 2026, in support of the City’s Clean Energy Plan.
 - Provide three outreach touchpoints to the Large Energy Users workgroup to advance the City’s Clean Energy Plan by year-end 2026.
- **Target Dates**
 - Internship Opportunities and Expectations – Q1 2026
 - Deliver Green Bay Accelerator Cohort – Q3 2026
 - Three Touchpoints to Large Energy Users – EOY 2026
- **Partners**
 - Internal City Employee Energy Team
 - WPS
 - Wisconsin Local Government Climate Coalition
 - Green Bay Metro Transit
 - Green Bay Water Utility
 - Green Bay Neighborhoods
 - Focus on Energy
 - Large Energy Users group
 - Sustainable Business Council
- **Funding Source**
 - Daybreak Fund grant (to Sustainable Business Council) for GB Accelerator cohort
- **Point People**
 - Jenny Brinker, Christa Kananen

Community Engagement

- **Goal:** Build relationships across the private, public, nonprofit, education, and youth sectors to foster community participation in local sustainability initiatives.
- **Research, Data, or Evidence:**
 - Studies on community engagement in effective local governance
 - Loeffler, Elke, and Tony Bovaird. “From Engagement to Co-Production: The Contribution of Users and Communities to Outcomes and Public Value.” *Voluntas*, 23 (4): 1119–1138 , 2012.
 - Putnam, Robert D. *Bowling Alone: The Collapse and Revival of American Community*. Simon & Schuster, 2000.
 - Rowe, G., & Frewer, L. J. (2000). Public Participation Methods: A Framework for Evaluation. *Science, Technology, & Human Values*, 25(1), 3-29.
<https://doi.org/10.1177/016224390002500101> (Original work published 2000)
 - Existing community engagement programs in other WI municipalities (e.g., Dane, MKE)
- **Actions:**
 - Establish & promote a central list of sustainability-related volunteer projects, in collaboration with City staff and local partners.
 - Coordinate with the outgoing Clean Energy Connector, to ensure resources and connections established during their tenure are not lost and to identify opportunities to continue this important work.
- **Target Dates:**
 - Meet with the Clean Energy Connector to initiate handoff by the end of Q1 2026.
 - Establish a list of sustainability-related volunteer projects by the end of Q4 2026.
- **Partners:**
 - Green Bay Conservation Corps
 - Local schools (e.g., Green Bay Area Public Schools)
 - Higher education institutions (e.g., UW-Green Bay, NWTC)
 - Youth organizations (e.g., Boys & Girls Club, Youth Action Council)
 - Wisconsin K–12 Energy Education Program (KEEP)
 - WI Youth Engagement Coalition + Conservation Corp
- **Funding Sources:**
 - None needed at this time
- **Point People:** Christa Kananen, Maria Otto, Ned Dorff



Public Works Department
100 North Jefferson Street - Room 300
Green Bay, Wisconsin 54301-5026
www.greenbaywi.gov

Administration | Engineering | Traffic 920.448.3100
Operations 920.448.3535
Parking 920.448.3431
Fax 920.448.3102

November 20, 2025

Clean Energy / Energize Green Bay Campaign updates

Submitted by Alex Galt, Clean Energy Connector

- Grow Solar – Green Bay, the group purchase program the City of Green Bay partnered with the Midwest Renewable Energy Association has now concluded. The program provided solar PV systems to 20 households in NE Wisconsin. Half of these were within Green Bay city limits, about 3/4s in the greater Green Bay area. In all, this added 70 kW of additional solar PV to the City's grid.
- With substantial solar PV arrays under construction by the Green Bay Area Public Schools at East High School and Lombardi and Washington Middle Schools, overall, the City of Green Bay permitted ~ 1.2 mW of solar PV in 2025. To put that into perspective, during the ten years prior, 1.5 mW of solar PV was installed.
- As the 2025 public outreach season ends, we've engaged approximately 1,450 people this year through one-on-one conversations. The quality of these interactions varied—some were quite in-depth, others more surface-level, and a few were unproductive. It remains difficult to assess the overall impact of this work. Promoting independent events, such as those we hosted earlier in the year with neighborhood associations, proved to be of limited value. For future outreach efforts, I recommend focusing on farmers markets—especially the Saturday market—and other venues where people are already gathered.
- As the Energize Green Bay campaign enters its fourth quarter and the IRA provisions that it was designed to promote begin to sunset, we are shifting our focus toward addressing the extreme energy burden faced by low-income families in Green Bay. We're doing this in several ways:
 - The Energize! Green Bay board game will be distributed via foamcore stands that will be sited in various well trafficked places in Green Bay.
 - Educating leaders within local community-based organizations (CBO) about energy efficiency and clean energy - hopefully in partnership with Brown County United Way, who can provide access to up to 32 local organizations.
- We are also working to create an online resource for small business owners. We have begun talking to The New North.



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TO: Sustainability Commission

FROM: Melissa M. Schmitz

DATE: November 20, 2025

RE: Staff Report

Over the past couple months, I continued advancing several key resiliency and clean energy initiatives for the City of Green Bay. Much of this work centered on supporting the East River Flood Solutions wetland restoration projects, including preparing narrative sections and refining materials for grant submissions. I continue to manage grants for East River flood resiliency, Connect the Bay, and the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant. Time was spent reviewing project budgets, monthly invoices, matching requirements, and consultant scopes to ensure alignment with funding opportunities and project timelines.

In support of the Clean Energy Green Bay Plan, I advanced planning related to municipal solar installations, including refining potential system sizes for the East and West Side Garage. I also began evaluating the next phase of the Energize Green Bay campaign with the Clean Energy Connector as IRA incentives begin to sunset.

Additional efforts included coordinating with partners to strengthen long-term flood resiliency planning, contributing time with department staff for planning a food waste compost pilot and a No Mow May replacement initiative. Alternative funding mechanisms for stormwater and flood mitigation infrastructure were investigated.

Overall, recent work involved project management, grant development, and cross-departmental coordination to support the City's long-term climate resilience and clean energy goals.