



Comprehensive Plan Update: Environment and Sustainability Goals, Values, and Strategies

Energy Goals:

- Increase uptake of clean renewable energy.
- Maximize energy efficiency and conservation measures through all sectors.
- Align actions to achieve City's net zero by 2050 goal.

Strategies:

- Lead by example as a city by reducing energy consumption, making our municipal buildings energy efficient, and subscribing to renewable energy options where possible.
- Assist energy burdened community members in lowering energy bills.
- Employ direct outreach to the business community to help energy savings and renewable energy adoption measures.
- Engage the community around available programs and grants that will assist energy reduction and renewable energy adoption
- Evaluate and reimagine policies that make both energy efficiency and renewable energy adoption more accessible

Transportation Goals:

- Winona residents and visitors are able to get around town via the mode of transportation of their choice
- Those with limited mobility or transportation options are included in transportation decision making
- More energy efficient forms of transportation are promoted and used whenever possible
- Reduce city's dependence on automobiles / create equality opportunities for other modes of transportation

Strategies:

- Make improvements to all public transportation through partnerships with state organizations, neighboring communities, and residents. Assist energy burdened community members in lowering energy bills.
- Balance transportation needs with recreational areas and the environment through efficiencies, route evaluations, and limiting pollutants on the roads
- Encourage walking and biking transportation options through infrastructure and incentives.
- Expand electric vehicle adoption and accessibility.

Water Goals:

- Work to ensure sustainable use of aquifers.
- Protect water quality and aquatic resources such as streams, rivers, lakes, springs, seeps and wetlands to maintain the integrity of the natural environment.

Strategies:

- Protect our groundwater and drinking water from overuse and pollutants through reduction of use measures and protection of source waters.
- Implement municipal structures that better reflect the value of water.
- Use native landscaping techniques where needed.
- Protect surface waters from pollutants carried in stormwater runoff by implementing best practices for infiltration of stormwater, restoring lakeshores, and reducing impervious surfaces.
- Budget to implement and maintain best management practices each year.

Waste Reduction Value Statements:

- Follow the reduce > reuse > recycle hierarchy to minimize waste for residential, institutional and commercial users
- Options for management of organic waste will become more available

Strategies:

- Strengthen the recycling programs with support, outreach, and increased ease.
- Improve disposal and reduce waste production with fee structures and incentives.
- Explore and implement an organics recycling program or campaign.
- Reduce construction waste and implement reuse initiatives.

Natural Resource Value Statements:

- Work cooperatively with other units of government, institutions and organizations to manage growth without compromising the natural environment.
- Protect the ecological integrity of the river corridor, bluff land areas and steep slopes, and other valued resources
- Follow environmental protection standards
- Increase and restore natural ecosystems

Strategies:

- Manage wildlife and invasive species in partnership with the DNR's recommendations to best protect or enhance ecosystems and bluff land, waterways, and shoreline restoration
- Create or reimagine policies and ordinances to support the sustainability practices outlined in this plan to match or exceed state standards.
- Budget to protect and maintain existing natural areas while creating a development preservation plan.
- Create or reimagine policies and ordinances to support the sustainability practices outlined in this plan to match or exceed state standards.

- Restore urban tree coverage

Food Value Statements:

- Local food has health, economic, and environmental benefits.
- Rules on utilizing public land for food harvest and production should follow sustainable principles.

Strategies:

- Create resource hubs and food libraries to access locally grown foods and connect local vendors to market opportunities.
- Expand access to community gardening and build residents' knowledge of community gardening.
- Adjust or create city codes to make local food, gardening, and harvesting more accessible.

General Sustainability Value Statements:

- Better communications about sustainability and resilience benefit the other strategies outlined.
- Accountability and engagement, within the city and externally, ensure that this plan gets implemented.
- Bolster the resilience of physical infrastructure and awareness about how to prepare and act in the event of shocks or stressors.

Strategies:

- Foster environmental stewardship.
- Improve city public communication regarding sustainability.
- Expand sustainability focus among city employees.
- Establish official sustainability commission.
- Address environmental justice issues.
- Develop extreme weather preparation strategies.