



VILLAGE OF MOUNT HOREB

E. Main Street

Mount Horeb, WI 53572

Phone: (608) 437-6884 Fax: (608) 437-3190

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SUSTAINABILITY & NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Tuesday, April 25, 2023 at 7:00 PM

Municipal Building Board Room

138 E. Main Street

Mount Horeb, WI

- 1) Call to order
 - a. Roll Call
- 2) Agenda Items
 - a. Consideration of March 28, 2023 Meeting Minutes
 - b. Introduction of new committee members, Elizabeth Grabe and Nate Gauger
 - c. Discussion: Debrief of Election Day Survey
 - d. Discussion: Debrief of Sustain Dane/SNR Joint Event
 - e. Discussion: Debrief of Rotary Club Presentation
 - f. Recommendation of Pollinator Ordinance
 - g. Recommendation: Sol Smart Participation
 - h. Future Agenda Items
- 3) Meeting adjournment.

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SUSTAINABILITY & NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Tuesday, March 28, 2023 at 7:00 PM

MEETING MINUTES

- 1) Call to order
 - a. Roll Call

Chair White called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Present were White, Beheler, Saltes, Butosov, Halverson and Youth In Government Student Ethan Fendrick. Absent: Danz and Gottwald. Also Present Administrator Owen.
- 2) Agenda Items
 - a. Consideration of February 28, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Motion by Beheler, second by Halverson to approve the February 28th, 2023 Meeting Minutes. Motion carried.
 - b. Consideration: Proclamation recognizing No Mow May

Administrator Owen introduced the No Mow May proclamation as a way to encourage residents to leave plants that are beneficial to pollinator species. He added that he felt participants should register with the Village so we know who is participating and who is just now mowing for our enforcement staff. Caolyn White of the Mounds View Garden Club spoke in favor of the proclamation and explained why she requested the Village consider adoption. Carilyn White informed the committee that they are working with Mark It on getting signs for participants and offered to assist the Village with registration. Chair White suggested changing the words "wild animals" in the 2nd Whereas to "wildlife". Motion by Beheler to approve the No Mow May Proclamation, second by Saltes. Motion carried.
 - c. Discussion/Recommendation Pollinator Garden Promotion

Beheler introduced a citizen request that the Village consider adding a pollinator ordinance which would promote natural habitat and natural plantings to provide year-round pollinator habitat. Elizabeth Grabe spoke in favor of the ordinance as a resident that has planted natural plantings and as a realtor who sees the benefit to homeowners. Motion by Saltes to form an adhoc committee to draft an ordinance allowing natural habitat and native plantings in the Village, seconded by Butosov. Motion

carried. Beheler and Saltes volunteered to serve on the ad hoc committee.

- d. Discussion/Presentation: Sustainable Energy Usage in Mount Horeb
Beth Carlson, Senior Energy Services Representative for WPPI Energy provided a presentation on WPPI's relationship with Mount Horeb, their overall energy portfolio including renewables resources, the total Village energy usage and the Village usage statistics for village buildings. Carlson highlighted efforts by the utility and residents to reduce energy usage and promote the use of renewable sources.
- e. Discussion on April 19 Sustain Dane/ SNR Program
White informed the committee that after our last meeting Sustain Dane contacted him about a joint event, so they are partnering with us on the April 19th event. The main theme of the meeting will be to highlight Mount Horeb businesses, residents and organizations that have been successful with sustainability efforts. The meeting will be held upstairs at the Grumpy Troll from 6:30 until 8:00 p.m. The committee discussed important civic groups and organizations for us to invite to attend to promote the committee's efforts.
- f. Review/Discuss SNR Survey for Election Day
The Committee reviewed the draft survey developed by White and Gottwald with edits by Beheler. The committee felt the survey looked great. The Chamber will help by sending out the survey in an electronic form. White is looking for volunteers to distribute the paper copy on election day. Motion by Halverson, second by Beheler to recommend approval of the survey. Motion carried.
- g. Discussion/Consideration: 2nd Installment of SNR Article
The committee discussed the article prepared by Beheler. The consensus was it looked good. The committee discussed options for future articles. White informed the group that he would like to partner with Sustain Dane to highlight the April 19th event. Motion by Saltes, second by Halverson to approve the article. Motion carried.
- h. Update on Energy Innovation Grant Program Application
Administrator Owen reported that we did not receive the EIGP Grant. The application process was very competitive and some impressive projects were improved. He added we can continue our conversation with Slip Stream on other opportunities. White read an email from Kathy Kunz providing some suggestions on how to proceed.

3) Meeting adjournment.

Motion by Halverson, second by Saltes to adjourn. Motion carried at 8:46 p.m.



AGENDA ITEM REPORT

MEETING DATE

April 25, 2023

PREPARED BY

AGENDA ITEM # 2.b

Introduction of new committee members, Elizabeth Grabe and Nate Gauger

BACKGROUND

RECOMMENDATION

ATTACHMENTS

None

Village of Mount Horeb

Sustainability & Natural Resources Committee Survey

The Mt Horeb Village Board formed the Sustainability and Natural Resources Committee (SNR) in December 2022. We now join with nine additional Dane County communities who support and promote sustainability for our communities.

Were you aware of the Mount Horeb SNR before this survey?

YES 104 (11.6%) ←

No 759 (84.7)

DID NOT FILL OUT 33

If yes, where did you hear about it?

22	Mount Horeb Mail	1 Village Improvement
11	From Committee Member	1 Program
6	Friends or acquaintance	1 Family
3	Mound View Garden Club	1 Community
3	At the election meeting	1 Media
3	Village Website	1 Association with Village Service
4	Watching Village Board Meeting	1 Door to door
3	Neighbors	1 Went to talk on solar
3	Facebook	1 Frolic Committee
3	Online	1 Bulletin Board
3	Mound View Garden Club	1 Email
2	MH School District	1 Sustain Dane Event Poster

On a scale of 1-10 are you excited by the new committee

1	15	(2.3%)
2	10	(1.5%)
3	4	(0.6%)
4	10	(1.5%)
5	147	(22.7%) ←
6	57	(8.8%)
7	96	(14.8%)
8	137	(21.0%)
9	37	(5.7%)
10	135	(21.0%)

648 responded

Did not respond 263

Which Statement best applies to you?

I Care deeply about sustainability	367	(42.3%)	←
I act sustainably if it is not too expensive	340.	(39%)	
I sustainably if it is not too much trouble.	140.	(16%)	
Don't consider sustainability as a priority.	24.	(2.75%)	
Multiple answers or No Answer	-39		
	909		

Do you to support businesses based on its sustainability practices?

It's the primary factor	61	(7%)	
Very important	515.	(59%)	←
Only if it doesn't cost more	216.	(24.75%)	
Not Important to me	81	(9.25%)	
Not filled out	-33		
	906		

How important is it to you that your local government promote sustainability in its operations?

Very important.	478	(53.25%)	←
Only if it doesn't cost more	90.	(10%)	
It should be one of several factors	319	(35.5%)	
It should not be Considered	11	(1.25%)	
Multiple answers or no answer	-10		
	908		



AGENDA ITEM REPORT

MEETING DATE	PREPARED BY
April 25, 2023	
AGENDA ITEM # 2.d	
Discussion: Debrief of Sustain Dane/SNR Joint Event	
BACKGROUND	
RECOMMENDATION	
ATTACHMENTS	
None	

Mount Horeb Sustainability and Natural Resources Committee established December 2022

Mission Statement: To collaborate with our Village residents to create and expand sustainability practices which are inclusive, safe, and resilient, and improve quality of life for current and future generations who call Mount Horeb home; to advocate and promote sustainable Village policies and practices, and seek innovative solutions while recognizing the interdependence of environmental quality, economic resiliency and growth, and social equity.

The Mount Horeb Sustainability and Natural Resources Committee will serve in an advisory capacity to the Village, and act in the long-term interests of environmental and economic sustainability



What is sustainability? A United Nations commission defined it as “meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.” Sustainable development requires an integrated approach that considers environmental concerns along with economic development. The Mount Horeb SNR believes we can incorporate sustainability into all areas of our lives, from the food we eat to the energy we use.





Goals of the SNR include advocating partnerships with other communities and regional governments to leverage resources and funding for projects, and reducing Mount Horeb's carbon footprint to mitigate the effects of climate change.

Duties and Responsibilities of the SNR include

1. Examining and developing recommendations, guidelines, actions, and policies for consideration and approval by the Village Board.
2. Create a Sustainability and Natural Resource Plan that will act as a guide and provide a "green-print" for Village actions. The SNR Plan will be a living document, and will be evaluated and revised as needed.
3. Evaluate and recommend opportunities, projects, and partnerships for Village sustainable infrastructure, actions, and services. Have collaborating partnerships with Federal, State, County, or local governing bodies.
4. Establish educational and outreach programs to engage community residents, businesses, institutions, and other community stakeholders about sustainability issues and initiatives.
5. Assist and advise Village staff, committees, and the Board in developing sustainable environmental and economic development objectives that promote renewable technologies, and protect the environment and economic viability of the Village.

We have been busy! A few of the SNR actions and activites so far include:

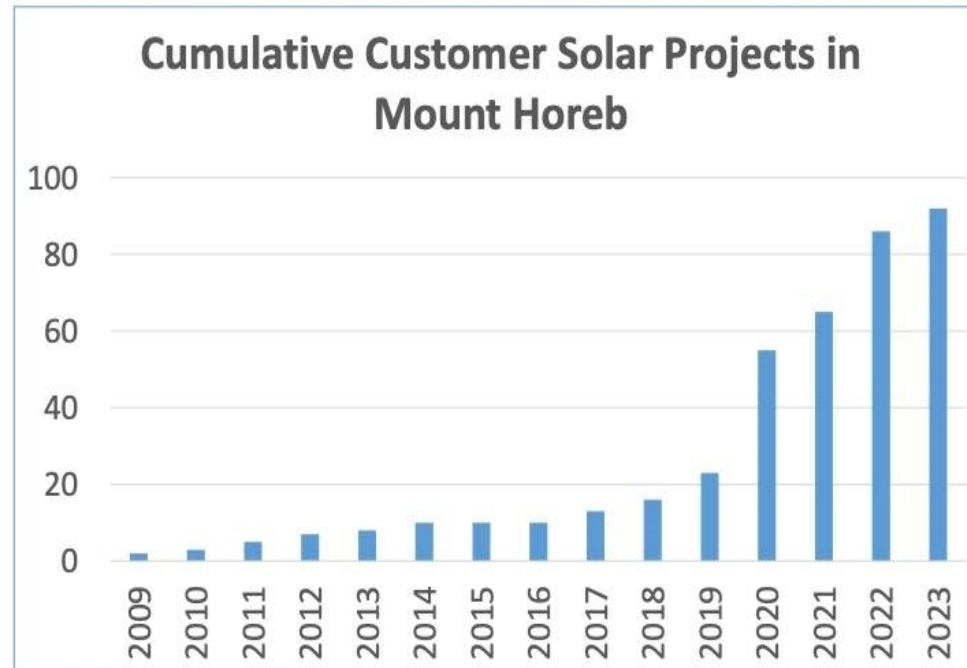
- Public presentation by **Kathy Kuntz**, director of the **Dane County Office of Energy & Climate Change**, who spoke about the federal Inflation Reduction Act legislation, which assists municipalities, businesses, and homeowners in leveraging savings for installing renewable energy technologies.
- Received presentations from the **Cities of Sun Prairie and Stoughton on their community sustainability efforts.**
- Began an **informational column in the Mount Horeb Mail**, written by members of the SNR, to communicate opportunities and actions that readers can take to create and enhance their own sustainability efforts.
- Unanimously passed a **No Mow May** proposal and proclamation submitted by the **Mound Vue Garden Club**. The proclamation will go the full Village Board for consideration and vote of approval in April.
- Considered and unanimously passed a **citizen request to create and enact a Village native plant pollinator habitat ordinance**. The ordinance will be written and submitted to the SNR for thorough review in April.



Beth Carlson, Senior Energy Services Manager with WPPI Energy, our Village energy provider, presented information on our power supply, energy usage, and renewable energy at the SNR meeting on 28 March 2023. Of interest is the growth of renewable energy in the Village!

Renewable Energy in Mount Horeb

- 90 Solar projects on customer homes/businesses
- 1 Wind project at customer home
- 1 Solar project on utility facility



At our next upcoming event, a few of our Village sustainable champions will be celebrated on April 19 at the Grumpy Troll. Stop in for food, drinks, networking, and learn more about sustainability happenings in our community!

FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
Food, networking & presentations

 **SUSTAIN
DANE**


VILLAGE OF
MOUNT HOREB

ALL AROUND DANE COUNTY

*Join us to learn about local initiatives, and meet Mount Horeb residents,
business, and organizations who are passionate about sustainability.*

Wednesday, April 19, 2023
6:30 PM-8 PM
Grumpy Troll Brew Pub
105 S 2nd St, Mt Horeb, WI



Presenters
Sustain Dane and MH Sustainability Committee,
Grumpy Troll Brew Pub, Montessori Community School,
Friends of Stewart Park, land restoration, Brix Cider,
Mt. Horeb Community Garden, Mound View Garden Club,
Residential Sustainability Champions

Sponsored by:


HO-CHUNK GAMING
MADISON


Everlight Solar

More information on the SNR, and previous meeting notes, can be found on the Village webpage. SNR meetings are held 7-8 pm on the last Tuesday of every month in the Municipal Building Board Room. We welcome citizen input! To provide your comments and suggestions, contact SNR Committee Chair Tim White, or Village President Ryan Czyzewski .

Thank you for your attention! Any Questions?





AGENDA ITEM REPORT

MEETING DATE

April 25, 2023

PREPARED BY

AGENDA ITEM # 2.f

Recommendation of Pollinator Ordinance

BACKGROUND

Jack and Kerry have drafted two potential pollinator ordinances; one being short and sweet, the other containing a little more substance to try to provide guidance for those interested in creating a pollinator garden. If the committee recommends approval, the draft ordinance will undergo legal review, then it will proceed to the Village Board for consideration. The draft ordinances and supplemental information are included in your packets.

RECOMMENDATION

ATTACHMENTS

1. Mt H pollinator ordinance for SNR consideration 25 April 2023
2. Supplemental Information Mt H pollinator ordinance for SNR 25 April 2023

Village of Mount Horeb Natural Landscaping Native Plant Pollinator Habitat Ordinance, for Sustainability and Natural Resources Committee consideration and recommendation.

Mount Horeb has a municipal code lawn ordinance. Ordinance and details can be found here:
<https://ecode360.com/27692222?highlight=lawns&searchId=39384037742034116#27692222>

Current Mount Horeb municipal code lawn ordinance is listed below verbatim.

Chapter 10.03 Public Nuisances: Weeds and Grass:

1. Weeds and grass on unimproved lands shall be kept cut to a height not to exceed 18 inches and six inches on areas within 20 feet of the street curb and within 10 feet of undeveloped lots immediately adjacent to developed lots.
2. Lawns on improved lots shall be maintained to a height not to exceed six inches. Weeds and grasses allowed to grow in excess of the height limitations shall be deemed "noxious weeds" under § 66.0407, Wis. Stats., and the Village may cause all such weeds to be cut and removed and the cost charged to the property owner. A property owner shall have five days from the date of notice or postmark to comply with the regulations on weeds and grasses.
3. Lands located in the A-1 Agricultural District or CO-1 Conservancy District, woods, and lawns with special areas identified as "prairie grasses" are exempt from these provisions. Berms installed for the purpose of erosion control as shown on an approved stormwater management plan shall be exempt from this requirement, as well as berms adjacent to undeveloped lots.
4. Berms installed for the purpose of erosion control as shown on an approved stormwater management plan shall be exempt from this requirement, as well as berms adjacent to undeveloped lots.

We recommend amending the existing Chapter 10.03 Public Nuisances: Weeds and Grass to allow and promote natural landscaping and the growth of native plants for pollinator habitat. The Mount Horeb natural landscaping native plant pollinator ordinance will allow residential yards to help sustain a healthy environment for pollinators and for ourselves, while emphasizing the need to limit uncontrolled plant growth. The ordinance will give clear definitions of what constitutes planned natural landscape pollinator gardens, and will exclude plants on the State of Wisconsin noxious plant lists.

We recommend amending Chapter 10.03 Public Nuisances: Weeds and Grass to read:
(pollinator habitat ordinance wording is bolded and in large font, original ordinance wording is in regular font)

- 1. It is the purpose of Chapter 10.03 to prohibit the uncontrolled growth of vegetation and to control noxious weeds, while permitting the planting and**

maintenance of planned natural landscaping using native plants to enhance pollinator habitat.

2. Weeds and grass on unimproved lands shall be kept cut to a height not to exceed 18 inches and six inches on areas within 20 feet of the street curb and within 10 feet of undeveloped lots immediately adjacent to developed lots.

3. Lawns on improved lots shall be maintained to a height not to exceed six inches. The Village may cause all such vegetation that exceeds this height to be cut and removed and the cost charged to the property owner. A property owner shall have five days from the date of notice or postmark to comply with the regulations on weeds and grasses.

4. Lands located in the A-1 Agricultural District or CO-1 Conservancy District, woods, and lawns with special areas identified as "prairie grasses" are exempt from these provisions. Berms installed for the purpose of erosion control as shown on an approved stormwater management plan shall be exempt from this requirement, as well as berms adjacent to undeveloped lots.

5. Berms installed for the purpose of erosion control as shown on an approved stormwater management plan shall be exempt from this requirement, as well as berms adjacent to undeveloped lots.

6. Lawns may be identified as natural landscaping native plant pollinator areas, and will be exempt from these provisions.

7. Definitions:

A. Planned natural landscaping means a planned, intentional, and maintained planting area which may include, without limitation, trees, shrubs, and native plants, or vegetation associated with a rain garden.

B. Native plants include grasses (including prairie grasses), sedges (solid, triangular-stemmed plants resembling grasses), forbs (flowering broadleaf plants), groundcovers, vines, shrubs, and trees that are native to or naturalized to the State of Wisconsin. Refer to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources information for native plant specifics:

<https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/endangeredresources/nativeplants.html>

Native plants shall not include noxious weeds or noxious grasses as defined by the State of Wisconsin statutes (§ 66.0407 or §§ 23.235, Wis. Stats.).

C. Types of plantings:

- 1. Plantings may include forbs, grasses, edible plants, shrubs, or trees.**
- 2. Plantings may be designed as rain gardens with plantings and grading specifically designed to receive and infiltrate rainwater or clear water flows.**
- 3. Plantings shall be deliberately selected and arranged as part of a coherent overall plan. Overgrowth of conventional turf grasses or weeds, or any other unmanaged vegetation growth, shall not constitute a planned natural landscaping area.**

- 4. No species identified on the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Regulated Invasive Plants list, Chapter NR 40, whether designated as Prohibited or Restricted, shall be permitted.**

<https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Invasives/RegulatedSpecies>

- 8. Registration of natural landscaping native plant pollinator habitat areas with the Village of Mount Horeb is encouraged. A sign designating the area as a planned natural landscaping native plant pollinator area is encouraged.**

**Supplemental Information on Natural Landscaping Native Plant Pollinator Areas:
Why should Mount Horeb write and enact a natural landscaping native plant pollinator habitat ordinance?**

1. A citizen request was made to the Sustainability and Natural Resources Committee on 28 March 2023 that the Village of Mount Horeb join with other communities and organizations who are concerned about, and take actions, to help our pollinators and create healthy lawns and spaces.

2. The citizen request was that Mount Horeb write and enact such an ordinance so we can have pollinator gardens on our own properties, without fear of condemnation or reprisals, and to allow our yards to help sustain a healthy environment for pollinators and for ourselves.

Direct Benefits to the Village of Mount Horeb:

By writing and enacting a natural landscaping native plant pollinator habitat ordinance, Mount Horeb would:

1. Be supporting several local small businesses who propagate and sell native plants, and/or provide natural landscaping design.

2. Be supporting several local community, business, faith-based, and/or school sponsored educational initiatives that promote pollinators and native plants.

3. Be supporting and enhancing tourism, in the form of Mount Horeb garden tours which will include natural landscaping native plant pollinator gardens in the tours.

4. Be supporting and enhancing property and real estate values, as natural landscaping native plant pollinator areas are a desirable and positive economic feature.

Natural landscaping native plant pollinator ordinances in other local municipalities:

1. the City of Green Bay WI natural lawn municipal ordinance is a national model.

https://library.municode.com/wi/green_bay/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=COOR_CH24_NU_ARTIINUAB_DIV2CHNUPR_S24-84NOWEMAVE

2. the City of Sun Prairie WI Natural Lawn ordinance:

https://library.municode.com/wi/sun_prairie/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=COOR_TIT8H_ESA_CH8.28NALAPE

Wisconsin Legislation: WI legislators introduced legislation to preserve and protect our irreplaceable and vitally important pollinators in 2021 with the Pollinator Protection Package. And a detailed 2020 Pollinator Health report was published by the Wisconsin Legislative Council: https://legis.wisconsin.gov/lc/media/1612/lirr_pollinator_health.pdf

Creating and maintaining native plant pollinator habitats ensures survival for ourselves and for pollinators who include European honeybees, native bees, birds, bats, butterflies, moths, flies, beetles, and wasps. Many pollinator populations are imperiled and have been declining in

recent years, including in Wisconsin. Wisconsin is an important place for pollinators, as 54 of our 72 counties are within the priority breeding area for monarch butterflies. We are a stronghold for the federally endangered rusty patched bumble bee, which in recent years has been found in Mount Horeb native plant gardens!

More than 80% of the world's flowering plants need a pollinator to reproduce. The food supply systems we depend on would be jeopardized without a thriving pollinator population, as most of our food comes from flowering plants. Pollinators are vital to Wisconsin's agricultural, ecological, and economic health. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Wisconsin's leading pollinator-dependent crops were valued at over \$247 million in 2017. In 2020 it was estimated that 1 of every 3 bites of food you take come from the help of pollinators!
<https://www.farmers.gov/blog/value-birds-and-bees>

A variety of factors contribute to pollinator decline including pollution, diseases, and changes in climate patterns, yet the chief causes are habitat loss and the misuse of pesticides and herbicides. Bipartisan pollinator protection legislation and ordinances can slow pollinator decline by acknowledging and promoting the importance of creating and maintaining pollinator habitat. Habitat creation includes intentional practices such as choosing native plants that host pollinator larval stages and provide nectar and pollen, avoiding cutting back perennials at the end of the growing season, and leaving leaf litter for insect egg laying and seasonal hibernation.

Pollinators require places with native plants to live and eat. Small patches or larger spaces with the appropriate plants can help increase and maintain pollinators, who can thrive alongside us if we provide habitat. Healthy, sustainable habitats provide the four basic elements of food, water, cover, and places to raise young.

Additional benefits for Mount Horeb in enacting a natural landscaping native plant pollinator area ordinance include:

1. Native plant landscaping is good for our health. The less lawn you mow, the less air, water, and noise pollution you create. It is estimated that during the growing season, 56 million Americans mow 40 million acres of grass each week, an area eight times the size of New Jersey! Mowers, leaf blowers, and weed-whackers burn more than 800 million gallons of gasoline per year, contributing to the greenhouse gases that drive global warming. Gasoline spills that happen while filling the machines pollute the air and water. According to the Noise Pollution Clearinghouse, a typical gas-powered push mower emits 85 to 90 decibels for the operator, 90-95 decibels for riding lawnmowers.

2. Less lawn mowing means less use of fertilizer and pesticide applications, water saving, and helps with flood control, all of which creates cleaner air and water. Homeowners apply nearly 80 million pounds of pesticides to U.S. lawns each year, and use up to 10 times more pesticides per acre on their lawns than farmers use on agricultural crops. During storms, lawn chemicals can run off and contaminate streams and wetlands. By planting native species, you save water and control flooding. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, 30 to 60% of fresh water in U.S. cities is used for watering turf grass lawns. Planting native flowering plants, shrubs, and

trees creates layers of vegetation that deflect pounding rains, increasing the chance for water to be absorbed by soil before running off into storm drains and streams. Native plants are often hardier than non-native ornamentals, and have adapted to thrive in their native areas without pesticides or fertilizers. Natural landscaping with native plants also helps mitigate the effects of climate change, due to carbon sequestration from the plantings.

3. One way to reduce lawn mowing is a No Mow May conservation initiative. No Mow May allows yard vegetation to grow unmown for the month of May, creating habitat and forage blooms for early season pollinators, such as violets, clovers, or dandelions. A No Mow May proclamation, sponsored by the Mound View Garden Club, was passed by the Mount Horeb Village Board on 5 April 2023. More information on No Mow May is here <https://beecityusa.org/no-mow-may/>

4. Native plant gardens create healthy, colorful, and visually appealing areas that help pollinators. Native plant landscaping is not maintenance free, as invasive species are an ongoing issue in any garden. With careful planning and plant selection, native plants that minimize time and money investments can be chosen. Native plants can help pollinators and birds adapt and survive amid a changing climate. More than half of North American bird species are threatened by climate change. Native plant habitats can help increase their resilience by giving them food and places to nest and rest. For more information on birds, a few National Audubon Society articles can be found here <https://www.audubon.org/climate/survivalbydegrees>

5. Creating, maintaining, and improving pollinator habitat can be done by ourselves, our schools, faith-based organizations, governments, and other property owners. Mount Horeb can join with other local, state, and national communities and organizations who are concerned about, and take actions, to help our pollinators and create healthy lawns and garden spaces. Our yards can be part of the Pollinator Pathways Project, an ecological and social project with the goal to connect existing isolated green spaces and create healthy spaces for pollinators. A Pollinator Pathway can be initiated by individuals, municipalities or organizations. Each patch of restored native habitat can be thought of as a patch in the frayed fabric of the ecosystem, and by working together to create and maintain native habitats, we can turn a patchwork of green spaces into a quilt of restored habitat. More information can be found here at Pollinator Pathways <https://www.pollinator-pathway.org/>

More Information and Organizations:

1. Wisconsin pollinator information from the WI Department of Natural Resources: <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/endangeredresources/pollinators.html> and <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/endangeredresources/nativeplants.html> and the WI Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection Pollinator Protection Plan <https://datcp.wi.gov/Documents/PPPComplete.pdf>

2. Minnesota pollinator program “Lawns to Legumes: Your Yard can BEE the Change”

Minnesota homeowners are encouraged, and given financial incentives, to change their turf-grass lawns into native plant pollinator habitats. The Lawns to Legumes program offers a combination of workshops, coaching, planting guides and cost-share funding (individual support grants) for installing pollinator-friendly native plantings in residential lawns. The program also includes demonstration neighborhoods, which are pollinator programs run by local governments and nonprofit organizations with support from the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources, and a public education campaign to raise awareness about pollinator habitat. Details here: <https://bwsr.state.mn.us/residential-pollinator-habitat>

3. Native plant and natural habitat laws in other states, including Florida, Maryland, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Tennessee can be found here in the Native Plant Conservation Campaign newsletter: <http://nativeplantsocietyofus.org/native-plant-laws/native-plants/>

4. Guide to native landscaping and model ordinances: National Wildlife Federation 2021: <https://www.nwf.org/-/media/Documents/PDFs/Mayors-Monarch-Pledge/NWF-Landscaping-Guide> This guide is for municipal leaders and staff, heads of local and tribal governments, homeowners’ associations, and others who want to promote natural habitats in their communities. It provides case studies of cities that revised property maintenance ordinances to incentivize transformation of turf lawns into healthy habitats. This guide also provides model ordinances and policies that can be adopted by any municipality across the country.

5. Local organizations who provide information on pollinator habitat and can be resources for Mount Horeb residents include: Dane County Land & Water Resources Department, pollinator plants <https://lwrd.countyofdane.com/grants-and-costshare/free-plants>
Lawn to Meadow Conversions, Monarch Gardens <https://www.monarchgard.com>
University of Wisconsin Arboretum <https://arboretum.wisc.edu/>

6. National non-profit organizations who provide information on pollinator habitat and can be resources for Mount Horeb residents include:

Bee City USA, No Mow May <https://beecityusa.org/no-mow-may/>
Center for Biological Diversity https://biologicaldiversity.org/campaigns/native_pollinators
National Audubon Society’s bird and native plant information
<https://www.audubon.org/news/how-make-your-yard-bird-friendly-0>
<https://www.audubon.org/climate/survivalbydegrees> <https://www.audubon.org/native-plants>
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation’s Monarch Butterfly and Pollinators Conservation Fund
Nontoxic Communities <http://www.nontoxiccommunities.com/>
Pollinator Partnership <https://www.pollinator.org/pollinators>
Pollinator Pathways <https://www.pollinator-pathway.org/>
We Are The ARK <https://wearetheark.org/what-is-an-ark/>
Xerces Society <https://www.xerces.org/pollinator-conservation>
Wild Ones <https://wildones.org/>

Village of Mount Horeb, WI SolSmart Consultation Call

Agenda

Introduction to Village of Mount Horeb, WI

- Community Interest in SolSmart
 - Nic Owen: Village Administrator
 - Tim White:
- Solar Progress and Key Considerations

SolSmart Program Overview

- Intro to SolSmart
- Benefits of Solar Development
- SolSmart Technical Assistance

Next Steps

Introduction

Thank you for your inquiry and interest in SolSmart!

- How did you hear about SolSmart?
 - Learned through Bain County Office of Climate Change
- How familiar are you with the SolSmart program?
 - Looked through the guidebook
- What is driving your interest with the SolSmart program?
 - Interested in solar best practices
 - Designation could inspire further action

Solar Progress in Community to Date

- Village wide energy audit, 90 solar installation across the village
- One municipal building with solar
- Currently working toward a sustainability plans to complement comprehensive plan
- Sustainability committee meetings
 - Presenting public programming (public facing) one public meeting, second public meeting. Discussing solar and renewables in terms of IRA during last meeting.
- Member of WPPI energy, bigger solar project needs to go through with them, there are sole energy provider in the village

Your Community

What are some relevant things to know about your community?

Number of staff: Nic, Tim + 2 more (working with utilities, buildings/grounds)

Key stakeholders: utility commission, sustainability committee, partnering with the county

Other considerations: Businesses, different small businesses deploy solar, new net-zero school will deploy solar

Intro to SolSmart

What is it?

National technical assistance and designation program designed to recognize cities, counties, and small towns for encouraging solar energy growth and addressing barriers to solar energy. **Technical assistance is available at no cost.**

We tailor program/TA to the community

- Worked with over 400 communities nationwide
- Over 70 credits and multiple pathways to designation. Every designated community has earned designation in a distinct way

Bronze, Silver, Gold and Platinum Designation Levels

WI SolSmart Communities

- [21 communities in WI have been designated under SolSmart](#)
 - Connect with Fitchburg contact

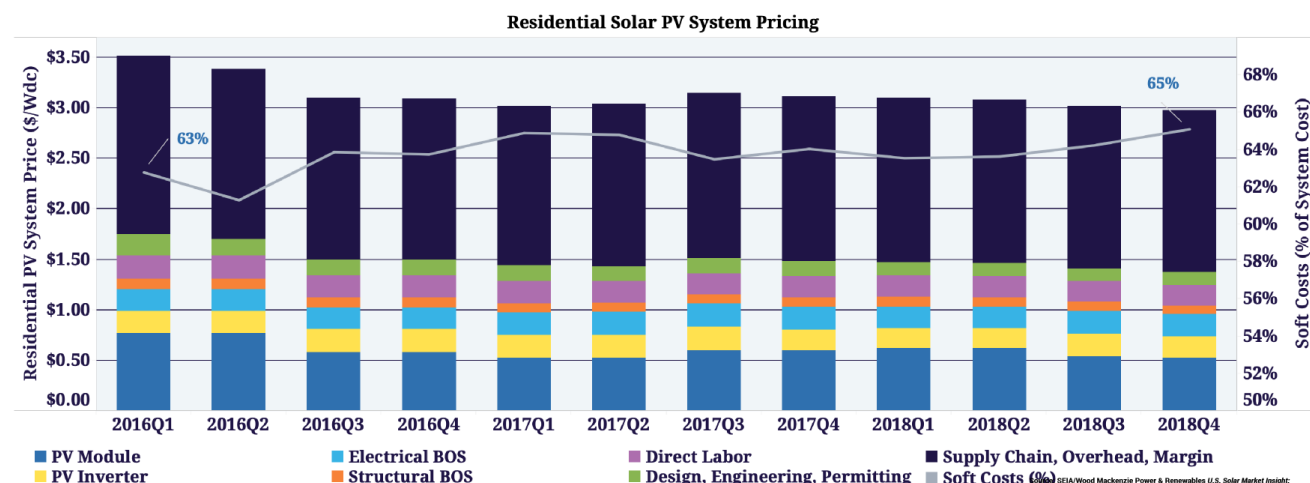
Benefits of Solar Development

- Economic development (new businesses and jobs)
- Increased property tax income
- Local power generation that benefits the community
- Helps meet local climate change and sustainability goals
- Reduces utility bills for residents and businesses
- Reduces air pollution and improves local health outcomes
- Enhances local resilience
- Low-impact large scale development can provide water quality protection, habitat value, agricultural opportunities

What is SolSmart's Role in Solar Development?

SolSmart provides best practices and guidance in areas that lead to decreasing the soft costs of solar and increasing solar development within a community.

- Soft costs can account for close to 66% of the total cost of a solar PV system's cost
- Streamlining local regulatory processes can reduce the cost of a typical system by \$2,500. Onerous permitting procedures can add \$700 to the installed cost.
- SolSmart increases solar development through guidance in areas such as municipal installations, Solarize campaigns, utility engagement, etc.



Technical Assistance

- SolSmart technical assistance providers work with elected officials, local government staff, and community members to help communities update processes using established best practices
- The technical assistance is funded by SolSmart, and there is no cost to the community
 - Communities must commit staff time to working toward SolSmart designation
 - Communities must demonstrate a commitment to achieving designation
- Delivery of technical assistance can be tailored to fit the community needs
 - Online – resource library, email, templates
 - Phone – conference calls, webinars, trainings
- Technical assistance on a variety of topics including procurement, feasibility assessments, policy development, community engagement and more!

SolSmart Criteria

Pre-requisite credits required for each designation level

PR-1 Commitment Letter is the starting point to designation

Point requirements

Point requirements can be met via multiple categories

1. Permitting and Inspection
2. Planning and Zoning
3. Government Operations
4. Community Engagement
5. Market Development

Designation Structure

To receive designation, communities must complete the following:



Complete 3 prerequisites

20 pts in Permitting & Inspection
20 pts in Planning & Zoning
60 pts total



Attain SolSmart Bronze and complete 4 silver prerequisites

100 total points



Attain SolSmart Silver and complete 3 silver prerequisites

200 total points



Attain SolSmart Gold and complete 4 platinum prerequisites

350 total points

Bronze Requirements

Pre-requisites

1. **Provide a document that demonstrates your local government's commitment to pursue SolSmart designation (PR-1)**
2. Post an online checklist detailing the required permit(s), submittals, and steps of your community's permitting process for small rooftop solar PV (PI-1)
3. Review zoning requirements and identify restrictions that intentionally or unintentionally prohibit solar PV development. Compile findings in a memo. (PZ-1)

Point requirements

1. 20 points in Permitting and Inspection
2. 20 points in Planning and Zoning
3. 20 points in Government Operations, Community Engagement, and Market Development

Silver Pre-requisite Requirements

Pre-requisites

1. Meet all Bronze pre-reqs
2. Train permitting staff on best practices for permitting solar PV and/or solar and storage systems. Training must have occurred in the past two years (PI-2)
3. Train inspection staff on best practices for inspecting solar PV and/or and storage systems. Training must have occurred in the past two years (PI-3)
4. Complete one of the following two criteria:
 - a) Post an online document from the Planning/Zoning Department that states accessory use solar PV is allowed by-right in all major zones (e.g., via a zoning determination letter) (PZ-4)
 - b) Codify in the zoning ordinance that accessory use solar PV is explicitly allowed by-right in all major zones. Zoning ordinance language should not include intentional or unintentional barriers to accessory use solar, such as limits to visibility from public right-of-way, excessive restrictions to system size, glare studies, subjective design reviews, and neighbor consent requirements (PZ-5) (Also required for Gold designation)
5. Post a solar landing page with goals, educational materials and tools that promote solar, and resources for solar development (CE-1)

Silver Point Requirements

Point requirements

1. 20 points in Permitting and Inspection
2. 20 points in Planning and Zoning
3. 20 points in Government Operations, Community Engagement, and Market Development
4. Additional 40 points combined in all categories (for 100 total points)

Gold Pre-requisite Requirements

Pre-requisites

1. Meet all Bronze and Silver pre-reqs
2. Post an online statement confirming a three-business day turnaround time for small rooftop solar PV (PI-4)
3. Codify in the zoning ordinance that accessory use solar PV is explicitly allowed by-right in all major zones. Zoning ordinance language should not include intentional or unintentional barriers to accessory use solar, such as limits to visibility from public right-of-way, excessive restrictions to systems size, glare studies, subjective design reviews, and neighbor consent requirements (PZ-5)
4. Ensure zoning language doesn't include intentional or unintentional barriers (PZ-6)

Gold Point Requirements

Point requirements

1. 20 points in Permitting and Inspection
2. 20 points in Planning and Zoning
3. 20 points in Government Operations, Community Engagement, and Market Development
4. Additional 140 points combined in all categories (for 200 total points)

Platinum Pre-requisite Requirements

Pre-requisites

1. Meet all Bronze, Silver, and Gold pre-reqs
2. Demonstrate pathway for instant/automatic approval of residential rooftop PV systems (e.g., using SolarAPP+) (PI-5)
3. Post community metrics related to the number of solar PV and solar+storage permits (PI-6)
4. Install solar PV on local government facility and/or local government-controlled land (GO-1)
5. Establish partnerships with community-based organizations to define solar equity goals and develop implementation strategies (CE-2)

Platinum Point Requirements

Point requirements

1. 20 points in Permitting and Inspection
2. 20 points in Planning and Zoning
3. 20 points in Government Operations, Community Engagement, and Market Development
4. Additional 290 points combined in all categories (for 350 total points)

The SolSmart Designation Process



SolSmart Resources

SolSmart Resources

- Resource Page - <https://solsmart.org/resources/>
- SolSmart Program Guide - <https://solsmart.org/resource/solsmart-program-guide>
- SolSmart FAQ - <https://solsmart.org/faqs/>

Next Steps

Notes:

- TA Provider Next Steps: Send consultation slide deck. Look into Fitchburg contact. Zoning review and baseline assessment after solar statement.
- Village of Mount Horeb, WI Next Steps: Solar statement



AGENDA ITEM REPORT

MEETING DATE	PREPARED BY
April 25, 2023	
AGENDA ITEM # 2.h	
Future Agenda Items	
BACKGROUND	
RECOMMENDATION	
ATTACHMENTS	
None	