



VILLAGE OF MOUNT HOREB

E. Main Street

Mount Horeb, WI 53572

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

Email: mhinfo@mounthorebwi.info Web: mounthorebwi.info

SUSTAINABILITY & NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Wednesday, December 11, 2024 at 7:00 PM

Municipal Building Board Room

138 E. Main Street

Mount Horeb, WI

- 1) Call to order
 - a. Roll call
- 2) Consent Agenda
 - a. Adopt a Municipality Reports
 - b. Consideration of October 22, 2024 Meeting Minutes
 - c. Energy Plan Update
- 3) Agenda Items
 - a. Appearance by MHASD Energy Team
 - b. Idling Campaign Update
 - c. EPA Thriving Communities Grant
 - d. Green Team Discussion
 - e. Sustainability Plan Update
 - f. Sustainability Event at Skandahoovian Fest
 - g. Future Agenda Items
- 4) Meeting adjournment.

UPON REASONABLE NOTICE, EFFORTS WILL BE MADE TO ACCOMMODATE THE NEEDS OF DISABLED INDIVIDUALS THROUGH APPROPRIATE AIDS AND SERVICES. FOR INFORMATION OR TO REQUEST THIS SERVICE, CONTACT ALYSSA GAFFNEY, CLERK, AT 138 E MAIN STREET, MOUNT HOREB, WI (608) 437-9404.



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SUSTAINABILITY & NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Tuesday, October 22, 2024 at 7:00 PM

DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

- 1) Call to order
Chair White called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Members present: White, Saltes, Halverson, Butusov and Gottwald. Absent: Behler, Grabe and Gilles.
- 2) Consent Agenda
Motion by Halverson to approve the consent agenda, second by Butusov. Motion carried.
 - a. Consideration of September 24, 2024 Meeting Minutes
 - b. Adopt a municipality report
- 3) Agenda Items
 - a. Comprehensive Energy Plan Update
Owen updated the committee that he has met with Slipstream for a kickoff meeting. The first phase of the process is gathering benchmark energy data. When that has been gathered Slipstream will attend a SNR meeting to discuss the results with the Committee.
 - b. Sustainability Plan Development
Saltes has not heard back from the Nelson Institute on interest in assisting with the Plan Development. The Committee discussed the report from Stoughton provided by Gottwad and felt it was a good template to use. The committee discussed the potential process for preparing a plan on our own. White will follow up with Kathy Kunz at Dane County and Gottwald will look for Milwaukee's plan as an example.
 - c. Idling Campaign Update
White reported that the school is still in discussion on the program. Administrator Owen reported that the Finance and Personnel Committee recommended a \$1,000 budget for the SNR committee for 2025 to the Village Board for consideration. Butusov will reach out to contacts at the school to continue discussion on moving the campaign forward.
 - d. Strategic Plan Update

The committee reviewed the 2024 strategic plan and were satisfied with the amount of progress made.

e. Future Agenda Items

Updates on the Energy Plan, Sustainability Plan, Green Team Survey update and recommendation, Idling Campaign, Sustainability event at Skandahoovian festival, Adaptive Management Update, Update of 2025 Strategic Plan in January.

4) Meeting adjournment.

Motion by Gottwald to adjourn, second by Halverson. Motion carried. 7:42 p.m.

Idling Reduction for Personal Vehicles

Idling your vehicle—running your engine when you’re not driving it—truly gets you nowhere. Idling reduces your vehicle’s fuel economy, costs you money, and creates pollution. Idling for more than 10 seconds uses more fuel and produces more emissions that contribute to smog and climate change than stopping and restarting your engine does.

Researchers estimate that idling from heavy-duty and light-duty vehicles combined wastes about 6 billion gallons of fuel annually. About half of that is attributable to personal vehicles, which generate around 30 million tons of CO₂ every year just by idling. While the impact of idling may be small on a per-car basis, the impact of the 250 million personal vehicles in the U.S. adds up. For saving fuel and reducing emissions, eliminating the unnecessary idling of personal vehicles would be the same as taking 5 million vehicles off the roads.

Modern Cars Don’t Need To Idle

Advances in vehicle technology have made it easier than ever to avoid idling. Current vehicle owner’s manuals, which contain information on how to get the best and most economical performance, often recommend avoiding idling.

In today’s vehicles, driving the vehicle helps the engine reach its ideal operating temperature faster than idling it. The catalytic converter, which reduces emissions, operates much sooner if the car is driven. Even on the coldest days, most manufacturers recommend avoiding idling and driving off gently after running the vehicle for about 30 seconds. Not only will the engine warm up faster by being “at work,” but the car’s interior will warm up more quickly as well. Similarly, today’s gasoline and diesel vehicles do not suffer damage by being turned on and off. Starters and batteries are much more durable now than they were in the past.

Consider Your Circumstances

Drive-through lines are a common place for vehicles to idle. If a line at a drive-through restaurant, pharmacy, or bank is long, consider turning off your car while you wait or parking and



Personal-vehicle idling wastes about 3 billion gallons of fuel—generating around 30 million tons of CO₂ annually in the U.S.
Photo from Shutterstock (12004621).

going inside. Likewise, when waiting for passengers, consider the weather. If the temperature is moderate, turning off your engine makes sense. It’s especially important for caregivers waiting to pick up schoolchildren to minimize idling, because vehicle emissions are more concentrated near the ground, where children breathe. Poor air quality can contribute to asthma and other ailments, and children’s lungs are more susceptible to damage than adults’ lungs are.

There are a few circumstances where idling is hard to avoid. When waiting in traffic, you must keep your car running for safety reasons. In winter, you may need to idle to defrost your windows. When bringing your car for vehicle emissions testing, your inspection station may require that you idle to keep your engine at operating temperature.



Drive-through windows are an opportunity to reduce idling. Idling for more than 10 seconds uses more fuel and creates more CO₂ than turning off and restarting your engine.
Photo from Shutterstock (38753656).



WISCONSIN

you hold the
key
to being

Idle free

Clean Cities
supports idling
reduction
through its online
toolkit, IdleBox
(cleancities.energy.gov/idlebox).

LET'S CLEAR THE AIR IN THE VILLAGE OF MOUNT HOREB

Let's not sit idly by with
our motors running.

We can all save money
and help improve our
community's air quality
with a simple turn of a
key.



Solutions To Minimize Idling

For everyday drivers, the best way to reduce idling is to simply turn the key when stopped for 10 seconds or more, except in traffic. Driving a hybrid-electric vehicle makes idle reduction even easier. Hybrids shut off the engine when they are not moving and even enable slow movement

with the engine off. "Mild hybrid" or stop-start technology, which is increasingly available in a number of vehicles, also eliminates idling when the car is stopped.

Idling is not a problem restricted to personal vehicles. Reducing idling in a number of community vehicles, such as school buses, taxis, police cruisers, and ambulances, can bring even bigger benefits. While emergency vehicles are usually exempt from idling regulations, these vehicles can be equipped with devices that provide power and comfort in engine-off mode. For example, police cars can use automatic start-stop devices and school buses can be equipped with block heaters to warm the engines in the morning.



Reducing idling at schools is especially helpful for protecting the health of children. Photo from Shutterstock (157939259).

Schools Offer Unique Opportunities

As communities are often concerned about the effects of poor air quality on children, many anti-idling campaigns have targeted diesel-powered school buses. To protect public health, school districts nationwide have enacted policies and trained drivers on idle-reduction techniques. There are several sources of information on designing a campaign that works for your school, many of which teachers can use as environmental education teaching tools. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Clean School Bus USA (epa.gov/cleandiesel/sector-programs/csb-overview.htm) program can help parents and school districts reduce idling. In addition to improving air quality, minimizing idling can save school districts money by reducing the vehicles' fuel cost and engine wear.

Everyone Can Contribute

Contact your local Clean Cities coalition (cleancities.energy.gov). These coalitions work to reduce petroleum use in transportation with the support of the U.S. Department of Energy.

- Talk to the principal of your child's school to ask that anti-idling signs be posted where school buses and parents' vehicles wait.
- Work with your school board on a district-wide anti-idling campaign.
- Talk to managers of local drive-through businesses about idling's air-quality impacts and suggest that signs be posted to remind patrons not to idle.

There are a number of ways drivers can reduce their own idling and encourage others to do the same.

Don't let your car be a stationary polluter - turn off the engine when you're not driving.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
ENERGY

Energy Efficiency &
Renewable Energy

For more information, visit: cleancities.energy.gov

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AGENDA ITEM REPORT

MEETING DATE

December 11, 2024

PREPARED BY

Nicholas Owen, Administrator

AGENDA ITEM # 3.c

EPA Thriving Communities Grant

BACKGROUND

Committee member Elizabeth Grabe shared the attached information regarding a grant webinar that may help with obtaining air quality monitoring equipment.

RECOMMENDATION

ATTACHMENTS

1. EPA Grant

From: Ryan Alaniz <ryan@reamp.org>

Subject: EPA "Thriving Communities" grant applications now available!

Date: December 5, 2024 at 3:37:50 PM CST

To: Ryan Alaniz <ryan@reamp.org>

Thank you for your interest in the EPA Environmental Justice [Thriving Communities Grantmaking Program](#). I am happy to share that the [application](#) is now available! Grants range from \$25,000-\$350,000.

GRANT APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN

Launching today, the Great Lakes [Thriving Communities Grantmaking Program](#) will distribute \$40 million in grants. This three-year program will serve communities in Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, Wisconsin, and 36 federally recognized tribal nations. Nonprofit organizations, local and tribal governments, and institutions of higher education that work in the Great Lakes region are all welcome to apply for funding.

Grants will support projects that focus on issues including, but not limited to:

- Environmental health
- Air, soil, and water quality
- Healthy homes
- Access to healthy food
- Stormwater and green infrastructure
- Emergency preparedness
- Disaster resilience
- Environmental job training

Applications will be accepted from today through November 2026, and grants will be approved on a rolling basis. Applications submitted by January 31, 2025 will be considered in the first review batch.

[LEARN MORE AND APPLY](#)

This program marks a major public investment in local communities through the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Grants in the Great Lakes region will be distributed by a partnership between the Minneapolis Foundation, Midwest Environmental Justice Network (MWEJN), NDN Collective, and RE-AMP Network.

UPCOMING THRIVING COMMUNITIES GRANT WEBINARS

*What is the Thriving Communities Grantmaking Program?

Tuesday, December 10 at 12pm Central/ 1pm Eastern

[REGISTER](#)

At this optional webinar, program staff will provide an overview of the grantmaking program, review the grant guidelines, and answer questions. We encourage all interested applicants to attend. A recording will also be posted on the main Thriving Communities Grantmaking Program [website](#) if you are unable to join.

If you have attended a presentation and would like to learn more about the application process, we are offering webinars on:

Developing an Application Budget

Tuesday, December 17 Time TBD

Creating a Quality Assurance Project Plan

Wednesday, December 18 Time 10AM

I am also available to answer questions—ryan@reamp.org. Sorry for any cross-posting. Please email me if you would like to be removed from this list.

My very best,

Ryan Alaniz

MA, PhD

Director of Rural and Remote Outreach

[Thriving Communities Grantmaking Program](#)

[RE-AMP Network](#)

