



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

Tuesday, June 24, 2025 at 7:00 PM

Municipal Building Board Room

138 E. Main Street

Mount Horeb, WI

- 1) Call to order
- 2) Public Comments
- 3) Consent Agenda
 - a. Consideration of May 27, 2025 Meeting Minutes
 - b. Adopt a Municipality Reports
 - c. Green Team Update
 - d. Solsmart Update
- 4) Agenda Items
 - a. Pollinator Pathway Update
 - b. Bird City Update
 - c. Bike City Update
 - d. Report on Sustainability Leaders Collaborative Meeting
 - e. Wisconsin Local Government Climate Coalition Membership
- 5) Future Agenda Items
- 6) 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.



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

Tuesday, May 27, 2025 at 7:00 PM

DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

- 1) Call to order
 - a. Roll Call
Chair White called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Members present: White, Grabe, Saltes, Roeethle and Giles. Absent: Behler and Halverson. Also Present: Administrator Owen.
- 2) Public Comments
No comments.
- 3) Consent Agenda
 - a. Legislative Proposal To Protect Pollinators
White noted the information provided by Beheler. No action taken.
- 4) Agenda Items
 - a. Consideration of April 22, 2025 Meeting Minutes
Motion by Giles to approve the April 22, 2025 meeting minutes as presented, second by Saltes. Motion carried.
 - b. Presentation by Rand Langer, Strand Associates, Wastewater Discharge Permit and Adaptive Management Program
Randy Langer of Stand Associates presented the changes to the new wastewater discharge permit effective April 1, 2025. The utility chose to address the new phosphorus management requirements by adopting an adaptive management program as it seemed to be more cost-effective in the long-term. In the adaptive management program, the Village works with conservation-related organizations in Dane County to identify interested property owners in the watershed and provide an incentive to fix a sustainable practice from traditional agricultural practices. Sustainable practices include continuous cover crops, no-till agriculture, streambank improvements and farmyard improvements. The end goal is to lower the phosphorous runoff into the West Branch of the Little Sugar River. The effectiveness will be measured at the end of the 5-year permit term.

- c. **Green Team Update**
Grabe reported there were over 13 attendees at the kick-off meeting. They will be developing a mailing list for distributing information, setting a meeting schedule and setting up a database for messaging. Grabe will speak to other organizations to make sure the Green Team is included in future events to distribute relevant information. The Green Team set their purpose, goals and vision and established the leadership team for the group and discussed projects. Once the next meeting date is set, Grabe will send it to Administrator Owen. Grabe added the paperwork for inception of the group should be submitted to Rotary International for creation of the group by July 1.
 - d. **Discussion on Seed money for Green Team**
Administrator Owen reported he spoke with the Village Attorney who advised the SNR should be provided seed money for the Green Team to keep the separation of the group so they are not considered an extension of the committee and required to comply with open meetings and records laws.
 - e. **Charge Up Dane County**
White noted the Charge Up Dane County Flyer in the Packet. The committee discussed areas in Mount Horeb where EV chargers may be beneficial. Grabe thought the west side would be good and thought of potentially a project with the school that ties in with their electric charger for the new electric bus. The committee discussed ways to publicize, including having the chamber share the flyer. Administrator Owen reported the utility is working on an application as well.
 - f. **Revisit SolSmart Designation**
White reported that he felt with the SolSmart energy plan we may be eligible for an upgrade to Silver status. Owen will discuss with SolSmart and White will research what is needed for an application and report back next month. The committee was in favor of moving forward.
- 5) **Future Agenda Items**
Future agenda items include: Green Team Update, SolSmart update, Charge Up Dane County Update, Pollinator Pathway/Bird City Update, Bike City Update, Update on Sustainability Leaders Collaborative meeting update.
- 6) **Meeting adjournment.**
Motion by Giles to adjourn, second by Roethle. Motion carried. 8:12.

6/17/25 Green Team Meeting Notes



Green Team Meeting Notes 6/17

Attendance: Katie Hartman Grohn, Allison Martinson, Aubree Hanks, Karrie Faidley, Tim White, Cory Chovanec, Lorna and Brad Brookins, Tom Butusov, Elizabeth Grabe

After introductions, meeting notes were reviewed, followed by discussion on status of email address for club, setting up an account, IRS registration as a non profit 501(c)7, website, meeting dates: establish/clarify monthly meeting dates for 1st Tuesday of the month starting August, **Next meeting is July 1st.** Running virtual meetings was discussed.

Discussion followed about the village's energy survey, increasing the scope of responses, exploring more in-person contact, QR symbol of on-line survey, handouts, village website, MH Utility page, posting in Facebook page, "Things going on in Mount Horeb" group page. PFlag group event (6/25), Historium, knitter night, farmer's market, faith based organizations, posting at local businesses (Brix). Allison volunteered to generate QR symbol, and has Avery label stock.

Discussion about Travel green, increasing awareness for sustainable practices with our local businesses

Bike friendly and birdy friendly status in the village, finding out the criteria; Tim will reach out to the chamber.

Katie Hartman Grohn suggested "Make a meter matters"/ a yard for every yard/ a pot for every spot/ to build pollinator habitat and get buy-in throughout the village and create a pollinator pathway with projects such as mailbox, planters or pots. Discussion about offering seed mixes, started plants from Plant Dane, and local organizations. Roll out later in the summer for site selection, site prep, working with local clubs, newspaper and chamber to help blast the message.

Cory suggested promoting the initiative, a possible give away.

Katie mentioned an example of an annual plant donation example Olin park Grabe suggested setting up a schedule of outreach topics and using a shared google document highlighting topics, and time of year.

Future Agenda Items:

- Travel green designation information: <https://www.industry.travelwisconsin.com/travel-promotion/travel-green-wisconsin/>
- calendar of topics to push via outreach
- dark skies
- protecting songbirds: best practices re: cats, planting shrubs, preventing collisions
- Village Wastewater treatment facility adaptive management (shared powerpoint presentation is on this link: <https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1jjcWAtn0yADGpdHvKrs34C2UqdbTyigF/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=100693447880330019687&rtpof=true&sd=true>)



AGENDA ITEM REPORT

MEETING DATE

June 24, 2025

PREPARED BY

Nicholas Owen, Administrator

AGENDA ITEM # 3.d

Solsmart Update

BACKGROUND

I have been in communication with Solsmart. It seems we are very close to an upgrade to a Silver designation. I'm still waiting for final details, but it seems like we still may need to finish the zoning update to be eligible.

RECOMMENDATION

ATTACHMENTS

None



AGENDA ITEM REPORT

MEETING DATE	PREPARED BY
June 24, 2025	

AGENDA ITEM # 4.a

Pollinator Pathway Update

BACKGROUND

RECOMMENDATION

ATTACHMENTS

None



AGENDA ITEM REPORT

MEETING DATE

June 24, 2025

PREPARED BY**AGENDA ITEM # 4.b**

Bird City Update

BACKGROUND**RECOMMENDATION****ATTACHMENTS**

None



AGENDA ITEM REPORT

MEETING DATE

June 24, 2025

PREPARED BY

AGENDA ITEM # 4.c

Bike City Update

BACKGROUND

RECOMMENDATION

ATTACHMENTS

None

Sustainability Leaders Collaborative

06 June 2025 / 1:00 PM / Oregon Public Library / Notes Recorded by Scott Roethle

ATTENDEES

Scott Roethle & Tim White - Mount Horeb Sustainability and Natural Resources Committee

Sustainability Leaders of Dane County

BACKGROUND

The Sustainability Leaders Collaborative (SLC) is a partnership of the cities, towns, villages, and school districts across Dane County. SLC facilitates collaboration, enabling all Dane County communities to achieve their sustainability goals by sharing resources and working together to reduce emissions and increase resiliency.

More Information: <https://daneclimateaction.org/Initiatives/Sustainability-Leaders-Collaborative>

NOTES

- **Discussed Elective Pay**

“Elective pay allows applicable entities, including tax-exempt and governmental entities that would otherwise be unable to claim certain credits because they do not owe federal income tax, to benefit from some clean energy tax credits. By choosing this election, the amount of the credit is treated as a payment of tax and any overpayment will result in a refund. For example, because of the Inflation Reduction Act, a local government that makes a clean energy investment that qualifies for the investment tax credit can file an annual tax return with the IRS to claim elective pay for the full value of the investment tax credit, as long as it meets all of the requirements including a pre-filing registration requirement. As the local government would not owe other federal income tax, the IRS would then make a refund payment in the amount of the credit to the local government.”

- Sun Prairie expects to receive \$18,250 for electric and hybrid vehicle purchases
- Dane County received \$60,000 for electric vehicle purchases

- Village of McFarland received \$1,137,593.53 for Public Safety Center

More Information: <https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p5817.pdf>

- **Discussed Wisconsin Local Government Climate Coalition**

“The Wisconsin Local Government Climate Coalition provides a platform for members to collaborate on overcoming barriers to decarbonization, accelerating local climate change solutions and ensuring the benefits of the clean energy economy are distributed to everyone throughout the state. Local governments and elected officials – as both large electricity users and policy making entities -- have a unique perspective on the threats and challenges that climate change poses”

- Resources to stay current on grant opportunities
- Share information and success stories between communities

More Information: <https://wlgcc.org/>

- **Discussed Population Growth**

- Prioritize infill growth: Building on vacant or underutilized land within existing urban or developed areas, instead of expanding outwards.
- Provide non-automobile transportation choices:
 - Public Transportation
 - Pedestrian
 - Bike
- Meet with property developers early, prior to board approval to promote sustainability
- Promote tree plantings

- **Discussed Sustainability Plans, Goals and Priorities**

- Lead by example
- Create infrastructure for community to make sustainable choices
- Do the easy things first
- Compare sustainability plans with other communities in Dane County

- **Discussed Renewable Diesel**

- The City of Madison is looking to partner with communities in Dane County to purchase renewable diesel for use in vehicle fleets. The cost of renewable diesel is too high unless it is purchased in large quantities.

ACTION ITEMS & IDEAS

1. Explore joining the Wisconsin Local Government Climate Coalition.
2. Connect with Madison for more information and pricing for renewable diesel
3. Explore collaboration between other Mount Horeb Committees to promote sustainability (ex. Parks, Recreation & Forestry Committee and Plan Commission)
4. Promote elective pay



AGENDA ITEM REPORT

MEETING DATE

June 24, 2025

PREPARED BY

Nicholas Owen, Administrator

AGENDA ITEM # 4.e

Wisconsin Local Government Climate Coalition Membership

BACKGROUND

Notes from member Scott Roethle: One follow up item from the SLC event on June 6th is the possibility of Mount Horeb joining the Wisconsin Local Government Climate Coalition. I had a brief meeting with Allison Carlson (Executive Director) to learn more about what that means to become a member. Essentially, a non-elected city employee would have to be involved. She recommended a city/village administrator or possibly a facilities director. There are no member fees, and they have monthly meetings and an annual summit.

RECOMMENDATION

ATTACHMENTS

1. WLGCC_Potential Member Slides.pptx (14)

Potential Member Discussion

Last updated 6/13/2025



The Coalition provides a platform for members to collaborate on overcoming barriers to decarbonization, accelerating local climate change solutions, and ensuring the benefits of the clean energy economy are distributed to everyone throughout the state.

WLGCC Mission Statement

History of WLGCC

Started with a small group of local government representatives in 2020 that came together around a common set of challenges, desiring practical solutions. They recognized that local governments...

- Have a unique experience and voice that should be heard
- Have limited budgets and staff, and can benefit from working together

Our membership represents about 40% of residents in WI!

- 29 local governments
- In most cases, member representatives are local government staff (sustainability staff, planners, city administrators, village managers, etc.)

MEMBERS

City of Appleton
City of Baraboo
City of Eau Claire
City of Edgerton
City of Green Bay
City of La Crosse
City of Madison
City of Menasha
City of Middleton
City of Milwaukee
City of Monona
City of Monroe
City of Oshkosh
City of Racine
City of Stevens Point
City of Sun Prairie
City of Wausau
City of Wauwatosa
Village of Belleville
Village of McFarland
Village of Shorewood
Village of Shorewood Hills
Village of Whitefish Bay
Milwaukee County
Dane County
Eau Claire County
La Crosse County
Rock County
Green County



Value of Membership

WLGCC delivers value to members through:

- Facilitating local government voices on climate & clean energy policies & programs
- Providing resources and tools to achieve deeper impacts across communities
- Creating peer-to-peer learning & information sharing opportunities

Strategic Priorities

Strategic Priorities Statement

WLGCC focuses on policies, programs, and initiatives that promote clean energy and climate smart solutions for all communities across the state. This document, which is updated every two years, summarizes the strategic priorities that members support and will work together on at the state and local levels.

- 1. Decarbonize Buildings**

- a. strong state building codes, Focus on Energy program, emissions/ energy use data

- 2. Green the Grid**

- a. utility retirement of fossil fuel plants, PSC-utility accountability for clean energy goals & supporting community-led RE (net metering, third party ownership, etc)

- 3. Decarbonize Transportation**

- a. robust EV charging network, accessible to everyone, regional public transportation solutions

- 4. Implement People-Centered & Climate-Smart Land Use Policies**

- a. low/no emission land use policies (model ordinances, zoning codes), initiatives within communities

- 5. Promote Resilience & Natural Solutions**

- a. microgrids, urban forestry efforts, green infrastructure, local policies, sharing best practices

(More details on the Our Strategies page on our website: wlgcc.org/our-strategies)

What Membership Looks Like

WLGCC Membership

We understand that each community will be at a different stage, and we want to meet you where you are at. There are a number of ways for member to participate – and we also understand that you may not be able to attend everything! Here are some of the different engagement points...

Member Engagement Points

- Monthly member meetings (1 hr, the last Tuesday of each month)
- Work group meetings (typically every 2 months, depending on needs)
- Monthly webinars (bringing in experts or other speakers to discuss relevant topics)
- Annual In-Person Members' Summit (mid-October)
- Ad hoc meetings to brainstorm or discuss specific areas of member interest
- Mid-month emails from WLGCC staff, sharing updates and opportunities



Learning & Making Progress Together

Examples

- Developing a searchable **Local Government Sustainability Resources Database**
- Offering the **Resilient & Efficient Buildings Municipal Support Program**
- **Creating resources** for members to support their efforts:
 - ‘Starter Briefs’ on topics like Solar Energy, Electric Vehicles, Climate Action Planning
 - Comprehensive Planning Review Resource for Integrating Sustainability
 - Local Government Playbooks
- Supporting members in completing **community-wide emissions inventories**, a building block of climate & energy planning (*2024-25 cohort is closed, but considering ways to continue this work going forward*)
- **Submitting comments** to guide PSC decisions (like Focus on Energy program offerings, utility decisions, etc.)
- **Webinars and member spotlights** to facilitate peer-to-peer learning



How to Join

- (1) Meet with WLGCC staff for initial discussion to ensure the Coalition is a good fit for your goals
- (2) Draft a resolution substantially similar to [this template](#) and submit to WLGCC for review
- (3) Governing Body approves resolution
- (4) Appoint someone (typically a staff position) to serve as your member representative, attend meetings, and contribute to our collective efforts
- (5) Membership begins!



Questions & Discussion

- Where is your community at in its journey?
- Do you have any clean energy or climate-focused goals or initiatives in place?
- What challenges and opportunities are you facing?
- What might you hope to get out of a WLGCC membership? How could we support you in your goals?
- Other questions about WLGCC we can answer?

Thank You



Allison Carlson, Executive Director

carlson.allison@wlgcc.org

Hussain Mahmood, Energy &

Sustainability Advisor

mahmood.hussain@wlgcc.org

