



5-Year Plan of the Sustainability Commission 2023 to 2028

Submitted to the Red Wing City Council

(Date)

Purpose:

The Sustainability Commission works with businesses, citizens, government, and the local community to protect and preserve the ecological resources of the community so they are in balance with specific resources of our river and land for generations to come.

The Commission's goals are to direct wise energy use by thoughtful consumption practices and energy production; ensure a healthy and safe environment; reduce pollution of the environment and promote alternative practices; and strive to enhance and preserve the community's natural resources.

To accomplish this, the Sustainability Commission assists and advises the City Council, Planning Commission, and other City agencies in assessing the environmental impact of proposed undertakings; completes studies; develops educational programs; establishes volunteer programs and opportunities; recommends environmental policies; and recommends a sustainability plan to the City.

History of the Sustainability Commission

At the City Council's September 22, 2008, meeting, plans were brought forward to create a Sustainability Commission. The commission's purpose would be to provide advice to the City Council concerning environmental issues and initiatives in the City.

City Council approved the formation of a Sustainability Commission later that year at the November 10, 2008, Council meeting, and at its following meeting on November 24, Ordinance No. 451 was passed, which officially created the Sustainability Commission.

The Ordinance was signed by Mayor Donna Dummer on December 8, 2008. The first meeting of the Sustainability of the Commission was held on March 24, 2009, with nine members in attendance.

The current Sustainability Commission is composed of nine to fifteen members with the purpose of providing advice to the City Council concerning environmental issues and initiatives confronting the City.

Definitions for the 5-Year Plan

Strategy: An overarching role or responsibility the board/commission does as part of its work.

Action: A specific action, activity, or priority the board/commission will accomplish.

Year: The year or years of a specific initiative. *Ongoing* means the action is continuous and not limited to a particular year.

Budget: The range of dollars an action is expected to cost.

0 = No dollars

\$ = \$1 to \$999

\$\$ = \$1,000 to \$3,000

\$\$\$ = \$3,001 to \$5,000

\$\$\$\$ = \$5,001 or more (a dollar amount will be noted if higher than \$7,000)

Staff Time: The estimated staff liaison time an action is estimated to take.

None = No additional time

Small = 5 hours or less

Medium = 6 to 15 hours

Large = More than 15 hours

Equity: How the board/commission will consider the input and experiences of all in Red Wing.

1 = The group will **collect input or feedback from more people** so a wider variety of ideas and thoughts are considered. This may involve using surveys, gathering input at public meetings, hosting events, attending community groups to learn, etc. This may include partnering with organizations, community members, and/or boards and commissions.

2 = The group will **increase its promotion or publicity in a wider variety of places** to reach more people in the community. This may include translating materials into Spanish.

3 = The group will **utilize data that identifies different population groups and how people are experiencing aspects of life** so that information can be considered during decision-making.

4 = The group will **lead or collaborate on an event or project that acknowledges history and/or provides representation or voice** to one or more identified groups*.

5 = The group will recommend to Council **a policy, plan, or practice that will improve the lives of more people.**

** "More people" or "identified groups" refers to those who are often under-represented or not focused on due to their age, race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, marital status, disability, status with regard to public assistance, and/or limited English proficiency. (These groups are identified by state and federal governments and are also included in the City of Red Wing's required Title VI Plan, approved by City Council on September 12, 2022.)*

Strategic Plan: This designates where the board/commission's actions fit with the goals of the City's 10-Year Strategic Plan.

2040 Plan: This designates where the board/commission's actions fit with the goals of the Red Wing 2040 Community Plan.

Sustainability Commission's 5-Year Plan: 2023-2028

Strategies	Actions	Year	Budget	Staff Time	Equity	Strategic Plan	2040 Plan
Advise City Council on sustainable plans and policies.	(A) Develop and recommend edits to Council related to electric vehicles for the current Complete Streets Policy. --Also research an electric vehicle rental program and make recommendation.	Ongoing	0	Small	5	29, 17	6.B. 3.B.
Monitor current and upcoming sustainable City programs and projects.	(B) Monitor and support the City's potential organics composting program.	2023-2024	0	Small	1	15	3.D.
	(C) Monitor and create ways to promote bike-ability, walkability, and multi-modal options.	2024	\$	Small; but large if we develop New program	2	28, 29	6.A. 6.B.
Increase the use of pollinator plants, native plants, and sustainable water practices in the City government organization and the community of Red Wing.	(D) Recommend to Council and Public Works staff the implementation of No Mow May on City-owned properties.	2023	\$	Large	2	16	3.C.
	(E) Work with Public Works staff to recommend native plants & pollinators in areas not utilized along highway right-of-ways.	2024	0	Large		16	3.C.
	(F) Work with Public Works staff to recommend pollinators and reduce the use of pesticides at City Hall and other City-owned properties.	2023	0	Small	5	16	3.C.
Increase the use of electric vehicles and EV infrastructure in the City government organization and the Red Wing community.	(G) Work with the Community Development Department and Planning Commission on a zoning ordinance that incorporates electric vehicle-ready elements to assist future development. Bring this recommendation forward to Council.	2023	\$\$\$\$	Large	5	17, 35	3.B. 6.E.
	(H) Support electrification of city vehicles and maintenance equipment.	Ongoing	0	Small	1,2	17	3.B.

Strategies	Actions	Year	Budget	Staff Time	Equity	Strategic Plan	2040 Plan
Increase energy efficiency and the use of renewables across the community.	(I) Promote Xcel's energy audits for residents & businesses and consider gathering local data to analyze and see where gaps exist.	2024	\$	Med	2	4, 17	3.A. 3.B.
	(J) Recommend to Council a part-time staff or intern to help launch a commercial building energy efficiency benchmarking and transparency program.	2025	\$\$\$\$	Large		4, 17	3.A. 3.B.
	(K) Recommend to Council implementing grants and other cost-share funds for small and medium local businesses and nonprofits toward energy efficiency and other energy audits and recommendations stemming from benchmarking.	2025	\$\$\$\$	Large	1,2,5	4, 17	3.A. 3.B.
	(L) Recommend to Council a proposal that outlines a renewable energy cost-share program for residences and businesses. This could include renewables on-site, utility green tariffs, and/or solar garden subscriptions to achieve 2.5MW goal.	2024	\$\$\$\$	Large	1,2,5	17	3.B.
	(M) Recommend to Council a program that offers options for low-moderate income households to access renewables and energy efficiency incentives through grants, rebates, and cost-share. Research and share best practices.	2024	\$\$\$\$	Large	1,2,5	17	3.B.
Conduct outreach and engagement to advance the goals of the City and the Climate Action Work Plan.	(N) Conduct outreach activities to reduce landfill waste through source reduction, reuse, and recycling, given that Council adopted closure of landfill.	2024	\$\$	Large	1,2	15, 16	3.D. 3.B.
	(O) Building on 2040 Comp Plan listening sessions, keep relevant and get updates by conducting listening sessions that relate to CAWP goals: --Consider existing events and resources like Farmers Market, Chamber of Commerce survey, city utility bills, City Beat articles, and other organizations with engaged members and established contact lists.	2023	\$	Large	1	16, 17	3.C. 3.B.

Strategies	Actions	Year	Budget	Staff Time	Equity	Strategic Plan	2040 Plan
	(P) Create list of Top 10 things residents and businesses can do to advance the CAWP goals. Share in multiple formats and multiple languages.	2023	\$	Med	2	16, 17	3.C. 3.B.
	(Q) Turn work plan into stories that are tangible for businesses and residents for City Communications department to share.	2024	\$	Med	1,2	17	3.C.
	(R) Website Update/Augmentation: --Carry Earth Week materials forward in a non-time-sensitive manner throughout the year. --Explore the reach and capacity of the current City website (technology, rules, etc.) and recommend cost-effective alternatives and augmentations.	2023	\$\$	Med	1,2	16	3.C.