



2026

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



Building a Resilient Future

The City of Sun Prairie has long been a leader in sustainability. From adopting the Energy Independent Communities “25 x 25” Resolution in 2009 to achieving 100 percent renewable electricity for municipal operations in 2025, the City has consistently demonstrated what local climate leadership looks like. The Sun Prairie Climate Action Plan (CAP) builds on that momentum with a clear, data-driven roadmap for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, improving resilience, and ensuring a healthy, prosperous future for all residents.

This plan represents a milestone in Sun Prairie’s commitment to sustainability and climate action. It reflects more than a decade of community leadership, innovation, and investment, and charts a path toward a net zero future by 2050.



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

About the Plan

The Climate Action Plan (“CAP”) outlines how Sun Prairie will reduce emissions, strengthen resilience, and create a more sustainable community over the next 25 years. The CAP was developed through a year-long process of technical analysis, community engagement, and collaboration across departments, and written to align local action with global goals to limit warming to 1.5°C, as outlined in the Paris Agreement.

The plan is organized into five framework areas that together represent the systems shaping daily life in Sun Prairie:



1. MUNICIPAL OPERATIONS

How the City leads by example.



2. BUILDINGS & ENERGY

How we power and heat our homes, businesses, and institutions.



3. URBAN DESIGN & TRANSPORTATION

How we move through and shape our community.



4. RESOURCE CONSERVATION

How we use, reuse, and protect our materials, water, and waste.



5. PARKS & GREEN SPACE

How we maintain the health of our ecosystems and residents.

Each section includes measurable goals, strategies, and actions designed to reduce emissions, improve resilience, and generate community benefits such as lower energy costs, cleaner air, and stronger local economies.



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Science-Based Targets

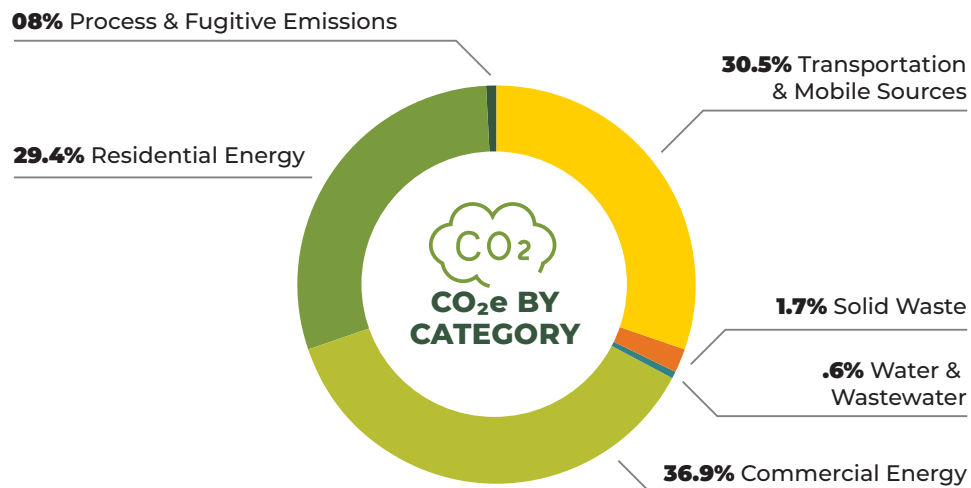
The CAP is grounded in science. Using 2024 as a baseline year, Sun Prairie has adopted a **science-based target** to reduce community GHG emissions by **63% by 2035** and achieve **net zero by 2050**. Meeting this goal will require coordinated efforts across all sectors alongside continued innovation and public participation.

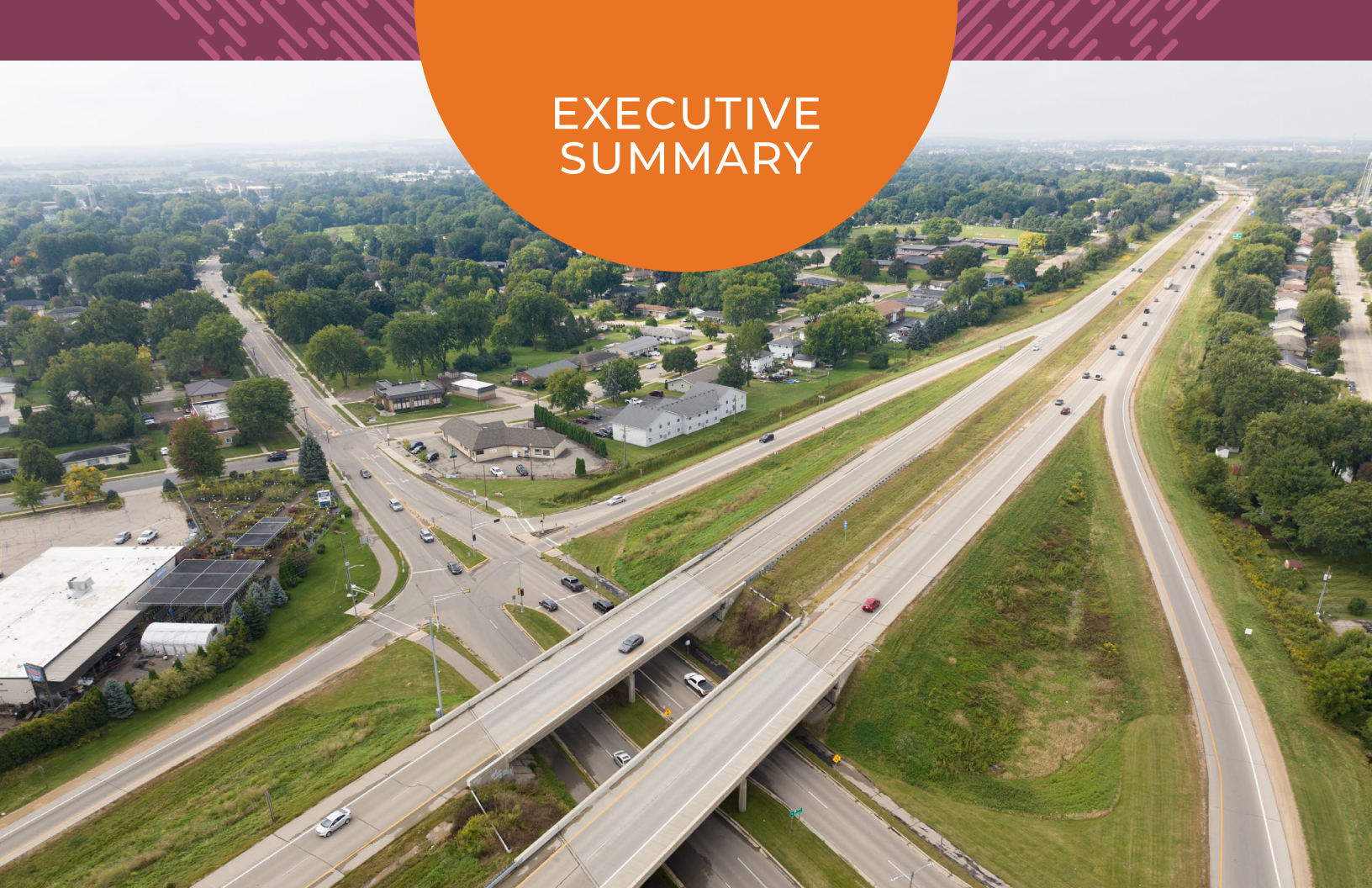
Where We Stand Today

In 2024, community-wide activities in Sun Prairie produced approximately **320,049 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂e)**, about **8.2 metric tons per person**. The majority of emissions come from: Commercial and residential energy use (66%), Transportation (31%), and Solid waste and wastewater (3%).

The City's own operations represent a smaller share of total emissions but play an outsized role in demonstrating community values, leadership, and accelerating community-wide progress.

FIGURE 1: EMISSIONS BY CATEGORY





EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A Plan for Action

This plan moves beyond goals—it defines how to achieve them. Each framework area includes measurable strategies, implementation timelines, and lead departments. Together, these efforts will cut emissions, build community resilience, and improve quality of life for all residents.

The CAP's strategies were prioritized based on their potential to:

- Deliver **MEASURABLE REDUCTIONS** in GHG emissions.
- Provide **TANGIBLE CO-BENEFITS** such as cost savings, cleaner air and water, and public health improvements.
- Support **LONG-TERM RESILIENCE** against climate and economic challenges.
- Reflect **COMMUNITY PRIORITIES** and ensure equitable outcomes.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Top 12 Strategies and Efforts

The following twelve strategies represent the highest-impact, most transformative actions in the Climate Action Plan. They span all five framework areas and serve as the foundation for achieving Sun Prairie's science-based emission reduction targets. Each strategy is supported by specific actions, implementation timelines, and measurable outcomes.



MO4.1
EXPAND EV
CHARGING
INFRASTRUCTURE



BE1.1
ADVANCE
RESIDENTIAL
EFFICIENCY



BE2.1
ADVANCE
RESIDENTIAL
ELECTRIFICATION



BE2.2
ADVANCE
COMMERCIAL
AND INDUSTRIAL
ELECTRIFICATION



BE2.3
STRENGTHEN
BUILDING CODES
AND STANDARDS



BE3.1
EXPAND RENEWABLE
ENERGY ADOPTION
FOR HOMES AND
BUSINESSES



UDT2.1
MODERNIZE ZONING
AND DEVELOPMENT
POLICIES



UDT2.2
PROMOTE
COMPACT, MIXED-
USE, AND INFILL
DEVELOPMENT



RC2.3
ENHANCE
STORMWATER
MANAGEMENT AND
RESILIENCE



RC3.1
SUPPORT LOCAL
FOOD PRODUCTION
AND ACCESS



PG3.1
STRENGTHEN TREE
PROTECTION AND
PLANNING POLICIES



PG3.2
EXPAND URBAN
TREE CANOPY AND
DIVERSITY

Together, these strategies represent the most effective and achievable path for Sun Prairie to meet its 2035 and 2050 targets while delivering widespread community benefits.

 **Click to
jump to
strategy.**



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



Looking Ahead

Implementing this plan will require collaboration, transparency, and accountability. The City will track progress through sustainability reports, periodic greenhouse gas inventories, and public dashboards. The CAP will be a living document, updated regularly to reflect new technologies, funding opportunities, and community priorities.

Together, these efforts ensure that Sun Prairie remains a place where sustainability and quality of life grow hand in hand. The choices made today will shape a thriving, low-carbon future for generations to come.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

CAP PROJECT TEAM

Dr. Rose Daily
Former Sustainability & Resilience Manager
CITY OF SUN PRAIRIE

Hannah Best
Sustainability Program Coordinator
CITY OF SUN PRAIRIE

Josh Clement
Planning Director
CITY OF SUN PRAIRIE

Adam Schleicher
Former Director of Public Services
CITY OF SUN PRAIRIE

Andrew Hirvela
Supervisory Engineer
SUN PRAIRIE UTILITIES

Clint Cry
Senior Energy Services Manager
WPPI ENERGY

Jon Landsverk
Facilities Manager
CITY OF SUN PRAIRIE

CONSULTING TEAM

Rich Swanson
BLUE STRIKE ENVIRONMENTAL

Andrea Green
BLUE STRIKE ENVIRONMENTAL

Sol Shepherd
BLUE STRIKE ENVIRONMENTAL

Claire Schaefer Oleksiak
SUSTAIN DANE

Sam Worden
SUSTAIN DANE

Sonali Bhikha
SUSTAIN DANE

CAP STEERING COMMITTEE

Cassi Benedict
Former District 4 Alder
CITY OF SUN PRAIRIE

Becky Binz
Housing & Equitable Development Manager
CITY OF SUN PRAIRIE

Cindy Burtley
Parks & Forestry Director
CITY OF SUN PRAIRIE

Ria Hull
Planner
CITY OF SUN PRAIRIE

Ben John
Former Public Works Operations Manager
CITY OF SUN PRAIRIE

Ashley Manthei
Communications Manager
CITY OF SUN PRAIRIE

Marly Owens
Food for Kids Coordinator
SUNSHINE PLACE

Sarah Sauer
Planner
CITY OF SUN PRAIRIE

David Salmon
Transportation Coordinator
CITY OF SUN PRAIRIE

Kevin Splain
Sustainability/Energy Manager
SUN PRAIRIE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Jessica Wagner
Sustainability Committee Member
CITY OF SUN PRAIRIE

OUR SINCEREST APPRECIATION

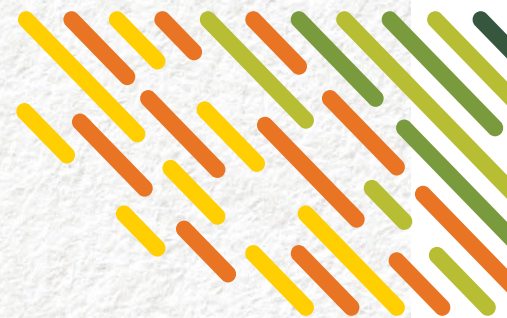
to City staff and community members who contributed their time, ideas, and expertise throughout this planning process.

Thank you to the City team, partner organizations, and those who provided data, shared insights, and helped shape Sun Prairie's Climate Action Plan.





LETTER FROM THE NEXT GENERATION



ON BEHALF OF THE 2025-2026 ENVIRONMENT CLUB from Sun Prairie East High School, we are proud to introduce the city of Sun Prairie's Climate Action Plan. As current high school students, we represent the future stakeholders and citizens of Sun Prairie, and we are excited to see our shared interests recognized through impactful changes that will take effect during our lifetimes.

We would like to emphasize the urgent need for meaningful action to address climate change in Sun Prairie and to protect our community's overall well-being. According to The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (2023), Human activities have unequivocally caused global warming and the time is **NOW** to claim responsibility as a city for our impact, and work together to counteract it by establishing this initiative to mitigate our impact on the climate and prepare to adapt to the changing climate. To be able to continue supporting our vibrant, growing community, it is critical that we have the resources and resiliency to thrive, five, ten, fifty years down the road. We and our children, and our children's children, will be facing the effects of the decisions being made today.

We are proud of what Sun Prairie has done to work towards a sustainable future. Already, Sun Prairie has established educational events, such as the Sun Prairie Sustainability Fair, to increase public awareness and support. The city has also organized programs, including Slow Mow-Let it Grow, to promote native biodiversity. Additionally, Sun Prairie has led bold initiatives to transition from non-renewable energy resources to solar energy and other sources of renewable energy. Particularly, we are proud of our city's accomplishment as the second in the nation to receive a SolSmart Platinum designation. Programs such as these not only help raise awareness on ways everyday civilians can minimize their carbon footprint, but they also highlight the commitment Sun Prairie is making to ensuring a sustainable, efficient future for its current and future citizens.



The Sun Prairie East High School Environmental Club has also contributed many things to Sun Prairie and its local environment. Our club organizes cleanups of local parks like Burke Town Hall Park and Sheehan Park. Several years ago, the club wrote and received a grant from the Pollinator Habitat Education Program in conjunction with the Sand County Foundation to plant native prairie plants near Sun Prairie East High School. We have also provided guidance and information to the Youth Climate Conference at MATC in the past. Our leadership has been leading the charge as well, as we have been connecting with other clubs like National Honor Society to write a grant to reestablish native prairie on eight acres of school property with the help of students in the Agriculture Sciences and AP Environmental Science classes. By restoring the native prairie, large amounts of carbon are sequestered from the atmosphere by storing carbon in its deep root systems. Our club understood the threat of climate change and took many actions to work for the prosperity of future generations.

We in the club have been properly informed as to what the climate action plan hopes to achieve, and we see that it presents an actionable, science-based approach to reaching community-wide carbon neutrality through resource conservation, new urban design and transportation, and maximizing the impact of our green spaces. We are hopeful and encouraged that the City of Sun Prairie is seeking to lower its carbon footprint and minimize its environmental impact.

With sincere hope and resolve,

**Sun Prairie East High School Environment Club
2025-2026**



OUR COMMUNITY AND CLIMATE FUTURE



OUR COMMUNITY AND CLIMATE FUTURE



Background

Sun Prairie is a community that takes pride in its history as a modest agricultural settlement, and its ongoing evolution as one of Wisconsin's fastest-growing cities. It is home to diverse residents, innovative businesses, and strong community values.

This rapid growth brings both opportunities and challenges. As the city expands, demand for housing, transportation, and energy continues to rise. At the same time, more frequent flooding, extreme weather events, and seasonal temperature swings show that the local effects of global climate change are already visible. Sun Prairie residents value clean air and water, safe neighborhoods, and accessible green spaces, all of which are increasingly affected by these changes.

The CAP is an important step toward protecting what Sun Prairie residents value. It builds on the City's history of environmental stewardship and its commitment to a resilient future that supports people, nature, and the local economy alike.

An aerial photograph showing a large body of water on the left, surrounded by a dense forest of trees with vibrant autumn foliage in shades of orange, yellow, and red. In the background, a residential neighborhood with houses and more trees is visible under a clear sky. A large yellow circle is overlaid on the top right of the image, containing the text 'OUR COMMUNITY AND CLIMATE FUTURE'.

OUR COMMUNITY AND CLIMATE FUTURE

What is Climate Action?

Climate action refers to the steps a community takes to both reduce its contribution to climate change (mitigation) and prepare for its impacts (adaptation and resilience). For Sun Prairie, that means cutting greenhouse gas emissions from existing buildings, vehicles, and waste streams, planning for low-impact future growth, while strengthening the City's ability to adapt to changing weather and economic conditions.

This work goes beyond reducing emissions. Climate action is also about improving quality of life by lowering energy bills, creating safer and more connected neighborhoods, supporting local jobs, and ensuring that all residents, especially those most vulnerable to environmental and economic stresses, share in the benefits of a cleaner and more resilient future. Sun Prairie's approach links climate actions with related community values such as environmental stewardship and social equity by identifying interconnected opportunities and strategically pursuing the most beneficial choices.

Sun Prairie's CAP translates global goals into local action by connecting everyday decisions, such as how we build, move, and use resources, to the broader effort to keep global temperature rise below 1.5°C in line with the Paris Agreement. Through collective effort, Sun Prairie can grow responsibly while ensuring that future generations inherit a community that is both thriving and sustainable.



OUR COMMUNITY AND CLIMATE FUTURE

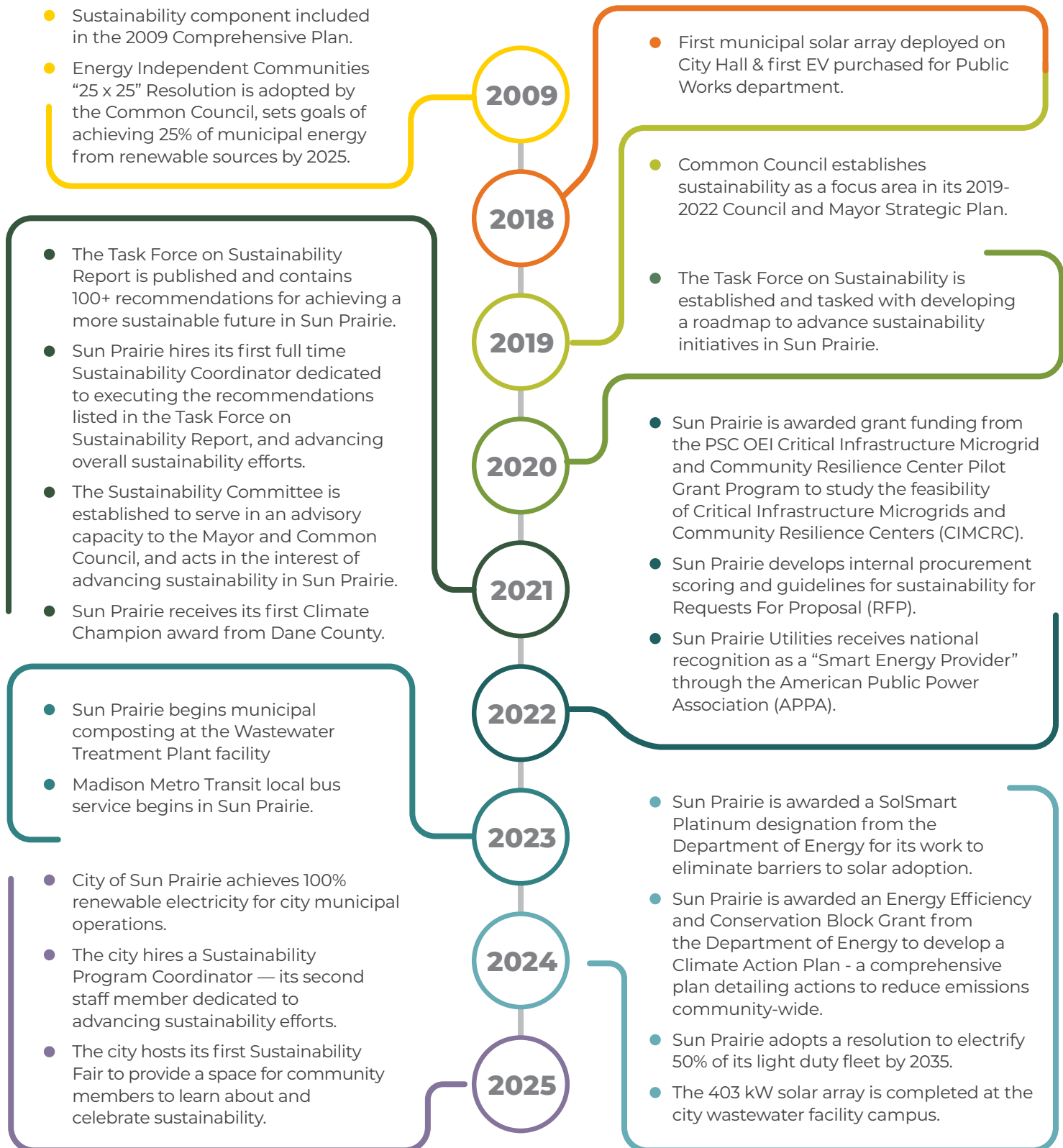
Sun Prairie's Progress

Over the past 15 years, Sun Prairie has transitioned from approaching sustainability as a new aspiration into a core part of city operations and community life. What began with a commitment to clean energy and concern for consuming farmland for development has grown into a more comprehensive effort to reduce emissions, improve efficiency, and build resilience across every department. The City has invested in renewable energy, green infrastructure, sustainable transportation, and waste reduction, while fostering strong partnerships with local organizations and residents.

Each milestone represents a step toward a more sustainable and connected community. From adopting the Energy Independent Communities "25 x 25" Resolution in 2009 to achieving 100% renewable electricity for municipal operations in 2025, Sun Prairie has consistently demonstrated local leadership and innovation. The City's progress has been supported by the dedication of its staff, elected officials, Sustainability Committee, and residents who continue to champion a cleaner, healthier future for all.

These achievements lay a strong foundation for the Climate Action Plan. The work accomplished to date proves that meaningful change is possible through collaboration, data-driven decision-making, and long-term commitment. As Sun Prairie continues to lead on sustainability, this plan builds on that momentum to chart the path toward a resilient, low-carbon future.

OUR COMMUNITY AND CLIMATE FUTURE



OUR COMMUNITY AND CLIMATE FUTURE

CAP Development Process

The Sun Prairie Climate Action Plan was developed through a collaborative, year-long process that combined extensive data collection and analysis, technical expertise, and community engagement. Each phase of the project was designed to ensure that the final plan reflects the community's priorities, aligns with City goals, and positions Sun Prairie to achieve meaningful climate and sustainability outcomes.

FIGURE 2: SUN PRAIRIE CAP MILESTONE TIMELINE



The process began with a baseline assessment to understand Sun Prairie's greenhouse gas emissions and identify opportunities for reduction. Stakeholder engagement followed, including surveys, workshops, and pop-up events that gathered input from residents, businesses, and community organizations. This feedback directly informed the strategies and actions outlined in the plan.

Throughout plan development, the project team coordinated closely with City staff and technical partners to ensure alignment with existing plans, policies, and capital investments. The resulting Climate Action Plan represents a shared vision for a sustainable future and a practical roadmap for local implementation.



**OUTREACH
BY THE
NUMBERS**

2

**PUBLIC
WORKSHOPS**

2

**POP-UP
TABLES**

202

**SURVEY
RESPONSES**





GREENHOUSE GAS INVENTORIES



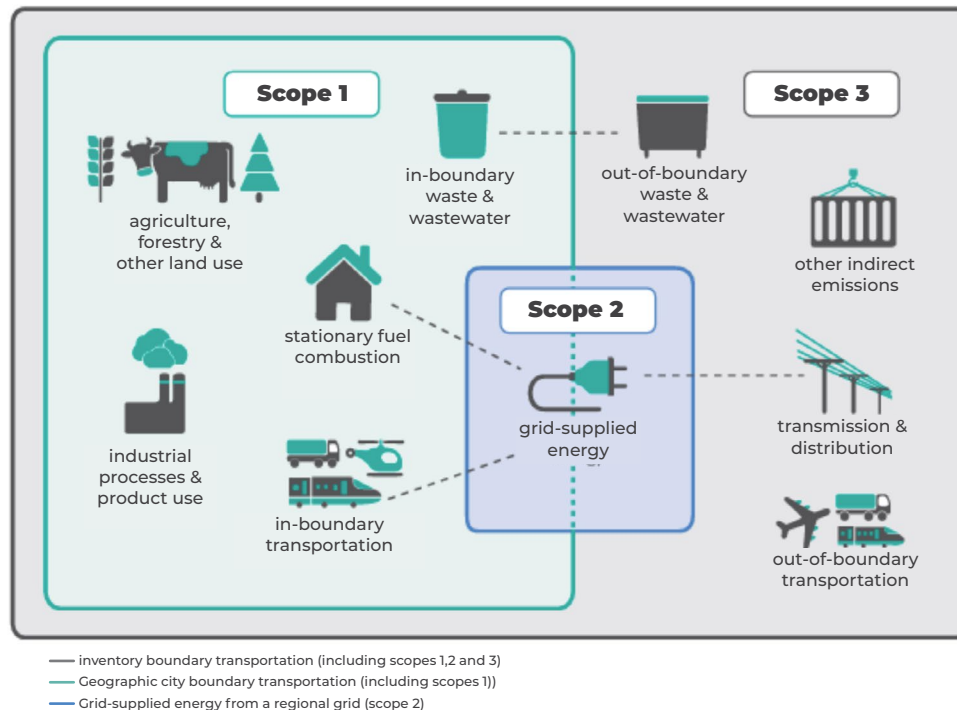
GREENHOUSE GAS INVENTORIES

Greenhouse Gas Inventories

Sun Prairie's GHG inventories provide the foundation for setting climate targets and tracking progress over time. The inventories measure the total emissions produced within the community and from City government operations. They establish a 2024 baseline year against which future reductions will be compared, helping to guide strategies for energy efficiency, transportation, waste reduction, and renewable energy adoption.

Both inventories were developed using the ICLEI U.S. Community Protocol and ClearPath emissions-tracking tool, ensuring consistency with national and international best practices. Emissions are reported in carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂e), which allows comparison of different greenhouse gases on a common scale. This methodology provides transparency, comparability with peer cities, and a reliable baseline for future updates.

FIGURE 3: SOURCES AND BOUNDARIES OF CITY GHG EMISSIONS
(IMAGE BY GPC)





GREENHOUSE GAS INVENTORIES

WHAT ARE SCOPES?

Emissions are typically organized into three categories, known as Scopes 1, 2, and 3. This framework is widely used in greenhouse gas inventories to distinguish between direct emissions within the city, indirect emissions from energy use, and other emissions that occur outside the city boundary as a result of activities within the community.

SCOPE 1 EMISSIONS

include direct greenhouse gas emissions that occur within the city's geographic boundary, such as emissions from on-road transportation, stationary fuel combustion in buildings, industrial processes, and agriculture and land use activities.

SCOPE 2 EMISSIONS

include indirect emissions associated with the generation of electricity consumed within the city. Although these emissions occur at power plants outside the city boundary, they are attributed to the community because they result from local electricity use.

SCOPE 3 EMISSIONS

include other indirect emissions that occur outside the city boundary but are driven by activities within the city, such as waste disposal and wastewater treatment, transmission and distribution losses, and out-of-boundary transportation.



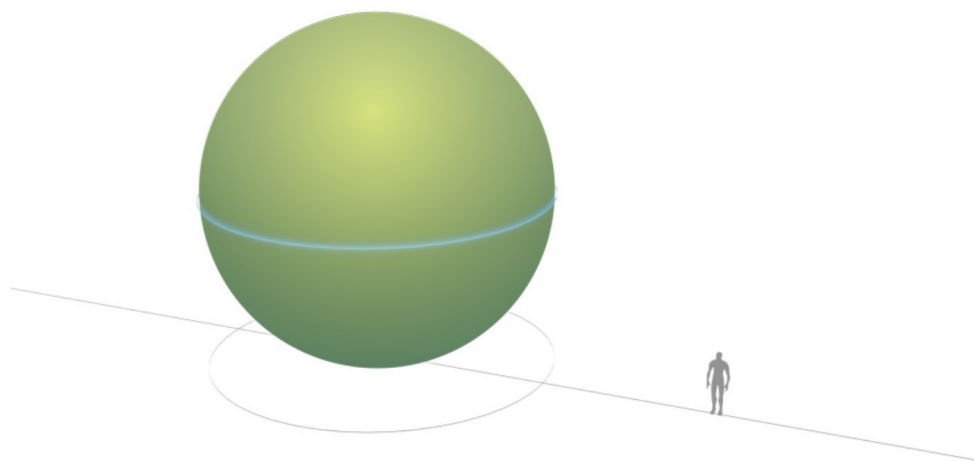
GREENHOUSE GAS INVENTORIES



Community Greenhouse Gas Emissions

In 2024, community-wide activities in Sun Prairie produced an estimated 320,049 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (MT CO₂e). This is approximately 8.2 MT CO₂e per person.

FIGURE 4: VISUALIZATION OF ONE METRIC TON OF CO₂E COMPARED TO A HUMAN (IMAGE BY NASA SCIENCE)



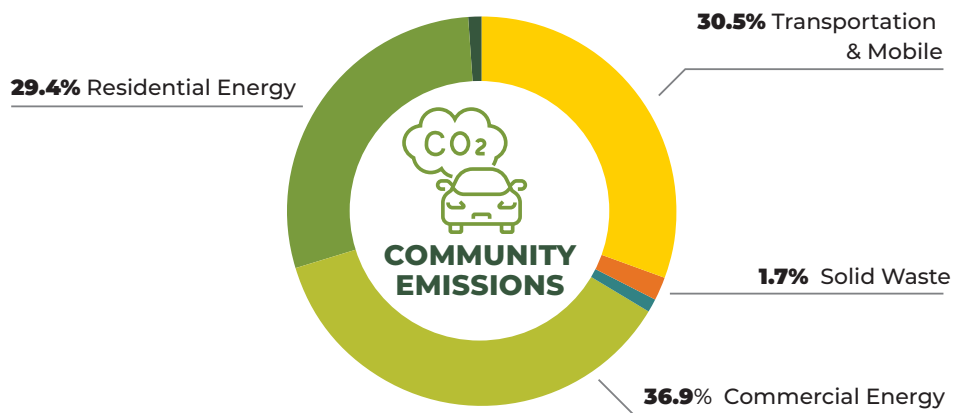
Most emissions came from energy use in homes and businesses, followed by transportation. The largest sources were:

GREENHOUSE GAS INVENTORIES

TABLE 1: SUN PRAIRIE COMMUNITY GHG EMISSIONS BY SECTOR, 2024

Emission Category	MT CO ₂ e	% of Total
Commercial Energy	118,220	37%
Residential Energy	94,110	29%
Transportation & Mobile	97,589	31%
Solid Waste Disposal	5,546	2%
Wastewater	2,044	1%
Process & Fugitive Emissions	2,540	1%
Total	320,049	100%

FIGURE 5: COMMUNITY EMISSIONS BY SOURCE



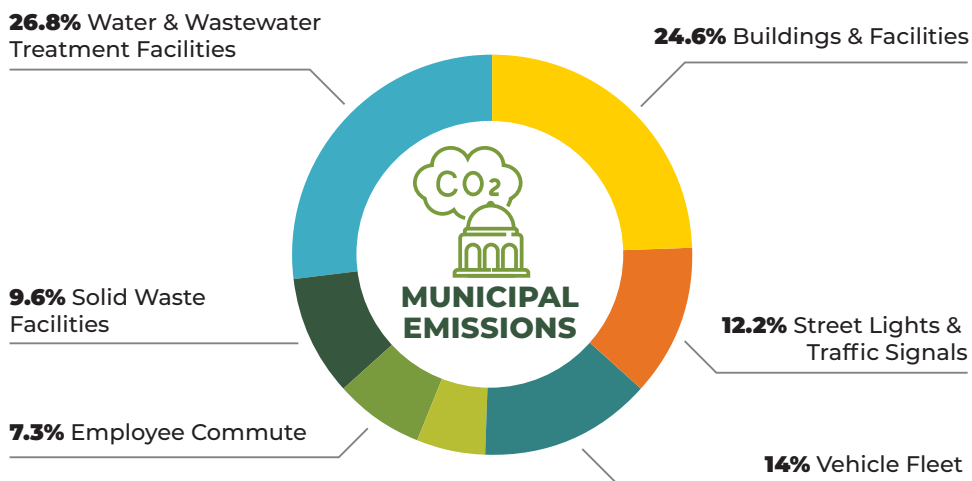
These results show that the majority of Sun Prairie’s emissions are tied to the ways residents and businesses use energy and move through the community. Improving energy efficiency, transitioning to renewable electricity, and supporting sustainable transportation options will therefore have the greatest impact on reducing overall emissions.

GREENHOUSE GAS INVENTORIES

Municipal Greenhouse Gas Emissions

In addition to the community inventory, a separate analysis measured emissions from **CITY OF SUN PRAIRIE GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS**, known as the Local Government Operations (LGO) inventory. These emissions come from municipal buildings and facilities, fleet vehicles, streetlights, wastewater infrastructure, and employee commuting.

FIGURE 6: MUNICIPAL EMISSIONS BY SOURCE



Tracking municipal emissions allows the City to lead by example, demonstrating accountability and identifying opportunities for cost savings through improved energy management. The LGO inventory uses the same accounting framework and will be updated regularly to monitor progress toward operational sustainability goals, such as achieving 100 percent renewable electricity for municipal operations in 2025 and electrifying 50 percent of the light-duty fleet by 2035.

GREENHOUSE GAS INVENTORIES



Greenhouse Gas Projections

To understand Sun Prairie's future emissions trajectory, a business-as-usual (BAU) forecast was developed to estimate how greenhouse gas emissions may change if no additional local, state, or federal mitigation measures are adopted beyond those already in place. The BAU scenario reflects expected population and economic growth, projected changes in energy use, and anticipated improvements in vehicle efficiency and the regional electricity grid mix under current policies. This forecast provides a baseline against which the potential impact of future climate actions can be measured.

Business-as-Usual (BAU) Forecast

The Business-as-Usual (BAU) emissions forecast estimates future community-wide greenhouse gas emissions under the assumption that no new local, state, or federal policies beyond those already in place materially influence activity levels or emission factors. In this simplified forecasting approach, total emissions are projected to scale directly with population growth, reflecting the premise that per-capita emissions remain constant over the forecast period. The base-year emissions inventory is held constant on a per-resident basis, and future-year emissions are calculated by applying Sun Prairie's compound annual population growth rate to the 2024 baseline population and multiplying by the corresponding per-capita emissions value. This method produces an internally consistent, demographic-driven projection suitable for establishing a reference trajectory against which the impacts of future climate actions can be evaluated.

GREENHOUSE GAS INVENTORIES



POPULATION GROWTH

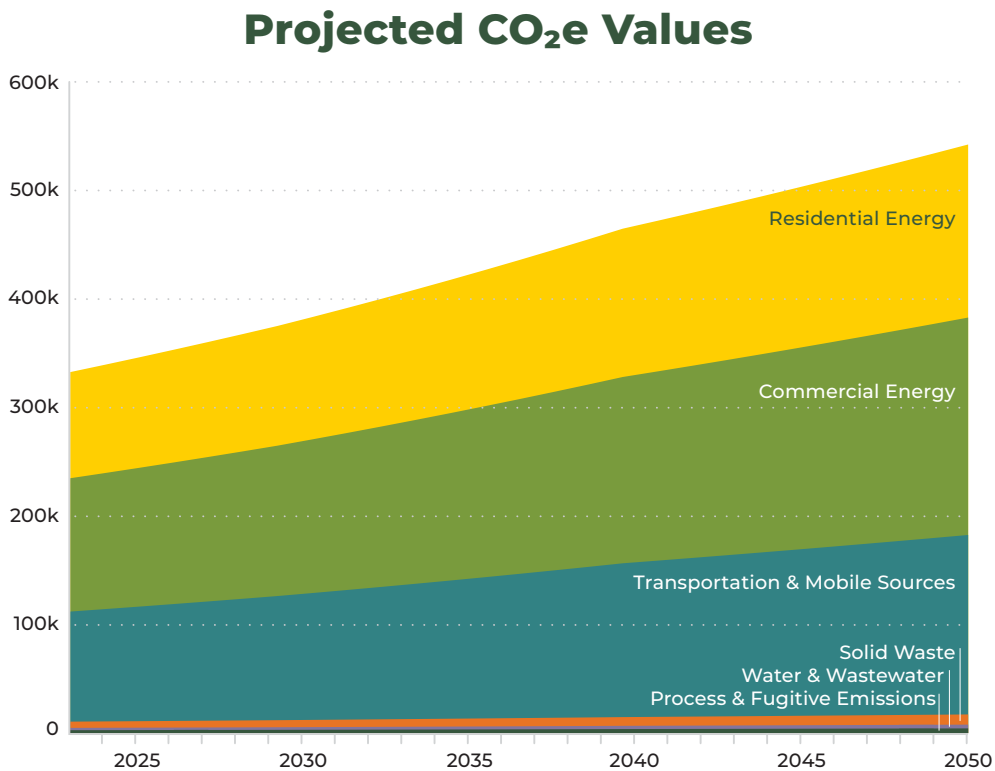
Population projections for Sun Prairie were developed using U.S. Census Bureau decennial counts as the basis for establishing a 2020 baseline. The 2020 population was recorded at 35,967 residents according to the decennial census. Future population growth was estimated using the Capital Area Regional Planning Commission's (CARPC) Regional Development Guide (RDG) projection framework, which reflects recent trends and anticipated development patterns. Under this approach, Sun Prairie is projected to grow to approximately 44,270 residents in 2030, 54,850 in 2040, and 65,000 in 2050.

GREENHOUSE GAS INVENTORIES

EMISSION ESTIMATES

Figure 7 Below shows the emissions increase from population growth. This graphic was created through the use of the ICLEI ClearPath tool, and identifies the increase of emissions from significant population growth. This is the most aggressive population estimate and the population in the City is unlikely to continue growing at the same rate as 2010-2020. In future analysis, a more detailed population growth estimate can be used.

FIGURE 7: BUSINESS-AS-USUAL PROJECTED CO₂e VALUES





GREENHOUSE GAS INVENTORIES

Adjusted Business-as-Usual (ABAU) Forecast

REDUCING ELECTRICITY EMISSIONS

Wisconsin has committed to transition its electricity supply to 100 percent carbon-free by 2050.¹ Under Office of Sustainability & Clean Energy (OSCE) leadership, the state's Wisconsin Clean Energy Plan (CEP) outlines this long-term goal and establishes a roadmap to reduce reliance on fossil-fuel generation while expanding renewable generation, energy efficiency, and clean energy infrastructure.² Although as of now Wisconsin does not have a binding, economy-wide GHG-emissions cap, the clean-electricity commitment provides a clear, state-level trajectory for decarbonizing the power sector, potentially reducing electricity-related emissions statewide, including in Sun Prairie.³

TRANSPORTATION EMISSION ESTIMATIONS

In addition to accounting for population change, ABAU scenarios also require projecting transportation-related emissions. These projections follow the U.S. Community Protocol and rely on the ClearPath tool's application of Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) standards. Within ClearPath, ICLEI incorporates anticipated year-over-year efficiency improvements in the transportation sector based on CAFE requirements, resulting in an assumed 1.8% annual reduction in transportation emissions.

¹ <https://osce.wi.gov/pages/cleanenergyplan.aspx>

² <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/sites/default/files/topic/AirQuality/AMSG/CleanEnergyPlan.pdf?>

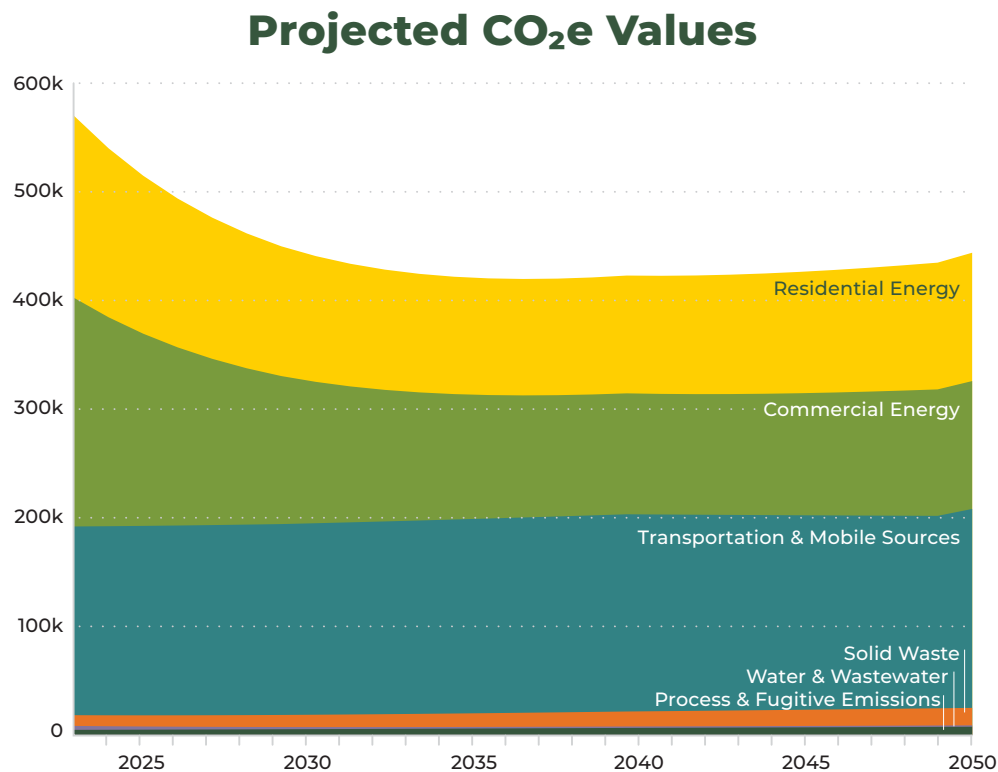
³ <http://climatepolicydashboard.org>

GREENHOUSE GAS INVENTORIES

EMISSION ESTIMATES

The ABAU emissions for the City are estimated to fall significantly over the next few years due to the transition of state electricity generation from high emission sources to renewable energy. The transportation sector will continue to grow slightly due to population growth, although not as significantly when compared to the BAU as the CAFE standards are estimated to impact the efficiency of the vehicle fleet. Due to continued population growth, emissions will continue to rise in the City, although emissions will have been significantly reduced compared to the 2024 inventory.

FIGURE 8: ADJUSTED BUSINESS-AS-USUAL PROJECTED CO₂e VALUES



GREENHOUSE GAS INVENTORIES

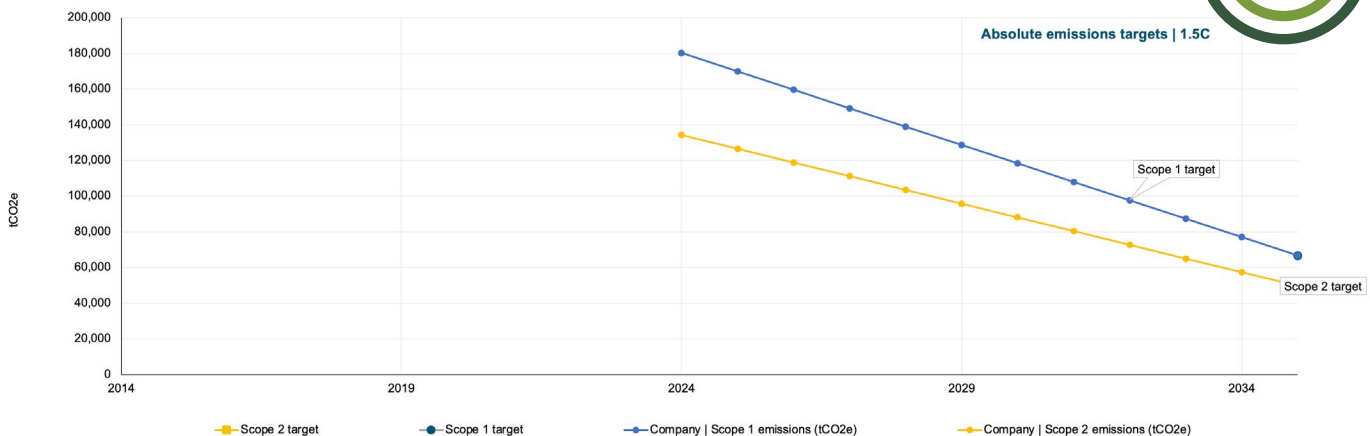
Greenhouse Gas Reduction Target

Setting a clear target for GHG reductions provides a foundation for Sun Prairie's Climate Action Plan. By defining both near-term and long-term goals, the City can track measurable progress toward a cleaner, more resilient future. Sun Prairie's reduction targets are rooted in science and guided by global best practices for limiting global temperature rise to 1.5°C, as outlined in the Paris Agreement.

These goals reflect more than a technical benchmark, they represent the City's leadership and commitment to sustainability, fiscal responsibility, and community well-being. By choosing an ambitious pathway, Sun Prairie is positioning itself as a regional leader in climate action and setting an example for municipalities across southern Wisconsin.

These goals are consistent with international science-based guidelines that call for emissions reductions of roughly half by 2035 to avoid the most severe impacts of climate change. Meeting this target will require collective action from residents, businesses, institutions, and local governments alike.

FIGURE 9: SBTi EMISSION REDUCTION TRAJECTORY FOR 2024 TO 2035



SUN PRAIRIE
IS CHARTING
A PATH TO

**NET ZERO
BY 2050**

WHILE LEADING
REGIONAL ACTION
ON CLIMATE AND
CLEAN ENERGY

SUN PRAIRIE
HAS ADOPTED
THE FOLLOWING
COMMUNITY-
WIDE TARGETS:

**63%
REDUCTION
IN EMISSIONS
BY 2035**

RELATIVE TO
2024 LEVELS NET
ZERO EMISSIONS
BY 2050



GREENHOUSE GAS INVENTORIES



TABLE 2: SUN PRAIRIE'S ANNUAL EMISSION TARGETS FOR SCOPES 1 AND 2 THROUGH 2035

	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
Scope 1 emissions (tCO₂e)	180,247	169,924	159,601	149,277	138,954	128,631
Scope 2 emissions (tCO₂e)	134,258	126,569	118,879	111,190	103,501	95,811
Scope 1+2 emissions (tCO₂e)	314,505	296,492	278,480	260,467	242,455	224,442
	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035
Scope 1 emissions (tCO₂e)	118,308	107,984	97,661	87,338	77,015	66,691
Scope 2 emissions (tCO₂e)	88,122	80,433	72,743	65,054	57,365	49,675
Scope 1+2 emissions (tCO₂e)	206,430	188,417	170,404	152,392	134,379	116,367

GREENHOUSE GAS INVENTORIES

The accompanying chart illustrates Sun Prairie's Science-Based Target trajectory, showing how the City's planned reductions align with global climate stabilization goals. The pathway demonstrates that steady progress over the next decade is essential to achieving the deep cuts required for carbon neutrality by mid-century.

Sun Prairie's Science-Based Target is one of the more ambitious goals adopted by a Wisconsin municipality of its size. By leading the region in climate planning, the City is showing that practical, locally driven action can support both environmental and economic success. Progress toward these goals will deliver measurable benefits to the community, including:

- Lower household and business energy costs through efficiency and electrification
- Cleaner air and improved public health outcomes
- Enhanced community resilience to heat, flooding, and other climate impacts
- Local job growth in clean energy, construction, and green infrastructure sectors

These co-benefits make climate action a smart investment in the long-term vitality of Sun Prairie and its residents.

CARBON NEUTRALITY

is achieved when greenhouse gas emissions are balanced by an equivalent amount of emissions reductions or removals, often through a combination of direct reductions and offsets.



means reducing greenhouse gas emissions to as close to zero as possible, with any remaining emissions balanced only by permanent carbon removal.



GREENHOUSE GAS INVENTORIES

Greenhouse Gas Reduction Estimates

The table below summarizes the CAP goals and their estimated greenhouse gas emissions reductions, expressed in metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (MTCO₂e). Where feasible, emissions reduction estimates were developed to illustrate the relative impact of major strategies and to help track progress toward the City's emissions reduction targets.

Not all Climate Action Plan goals are associated with a quantified emissions reduction estimate. Some strategies focus on policy changes, capacity building, equity, resilience, or long-term systems transformation that are critical to achieving emissions reductions but are not readily quantifiable with available data or standard modeling approaches. In these cases, goals are included in the table without an estimated MTCO₂e value to ensure their importance is fully reflected in the plan.

Together, the quantified and non-quantified goals represent a comprehensive approach to emissions reduction, recognizing that measurable actions and enabling strategies both play essential roles in achieving the City's long-term climate goals.

GREENHOUSE GAS INVENTORIES

TABLE 3: CAP GOALS AND EMISSIONS REDUCTION ESTIMATES

GOAL	EMISSION REDUCTION ESTIMATE
MO1. Increase transparency and accountability in municipal sustainability by publishing annual reports starting in 2026.	N/A
MO2. Transition municipal fleet and equipment to low-carbon alternatives by converting 50% by 2035 and reaching 100% by 2050.	8,080 MT CO ₂ e avoided cumulatively by 2050
MO3. Improve sustainability performance of municipal facilities by achieving and maintaining an EUI of < 100 kBtu/sqft/yr.	9,080 MT CO ₂ e
MO4. Demonstrate leadership in public-facing sustainability by maintaining 2 municipally-owned public EV charging stations per 10,000 residents and achieving low-waste standards at municipal facilities and events by 2035.	920 MT CO ₂ e
MO5. Achieve 100% renewable energy for all municipal operations and facilities by 2040.	25,200 MT CO ₂ e
BE1. Advance energy efficiency in residential, commercial, and industrial buildings.	200,000–260,000 MT CO ₂ e cumulative avoided
BE2. Increase community-wide electrification in residential, commercial, and industrial buildings by reducing natural gas usage by 63% by 2035 and 100% by 2050.	~1,240,000 MT CO ₂ e cumulative avoided
BE3. Achieve community-wide net-zero carbon emissions electricity supply by 2050.	≈ 1,660,000 MT CO ₂ e cumulative avoided



GREENHOUSE GAS INVENTORIES

GOAL	EMISSION REDUCTION ESTIMATE
UDT1. Expand safe and accessible walking and biking networks by completing at least 50% of the recommended Active Transportation walking, biking, and rolling facilities and achieving Bicycle Friendly Community Diamond designation by 2035.	~76,000 to ~95,000 MT CO ₂ e cumulative by 2050
UDT2. Ensure sustainable growth by adopting updated zoning and subdivision codes by 2026 and locating at least 50% of new housing units in designated centers and corridors by 2040.	~25,000 MT CO ₂ e cumulative
UDT3. Expand multimodal transportation options by offering high-frequency service on major arterials by 2030 and ensuring 50% of new households are within 1/4 mile of a transit stop and 50–75% of all households are within 3/4 mile of a transit stop by 2040.	~52,000 MT CO ₂ e cumulative
RC1. Reduce community-wide waste generation and increase landfill diversion to 50% by 2030 and 90% by 2050.	~77,000 MT CO ₂ e avoided
RC2. Improve water conservation, reuse, and stormwater management to reduce potable water use by 20% by 2035 and 35% by 2050, relative to a 2025 baseline.	8,295 MT CO ₂ e
RC3. Strengthen sustainable food systems and preserve agricultural resources, achieving 30% increase in local food access by 2040, relative to a 2025 baseline.	RC3 is estimated to reduce landfill methane emissions by approximately 350 MT CO ₂ e by 2040, representing roughly 6% of baseline solid waste emissions.

GREENHOUSE GAS INVENTORIES

GOAL

EMISSION REDUCTION ESTIMATE

PG1. Expand, conserve, and protect natural green space within Sun Prairie by designating 5 green spaces as conservation areas or conservancy parks by 2035 and 20 by 2050.

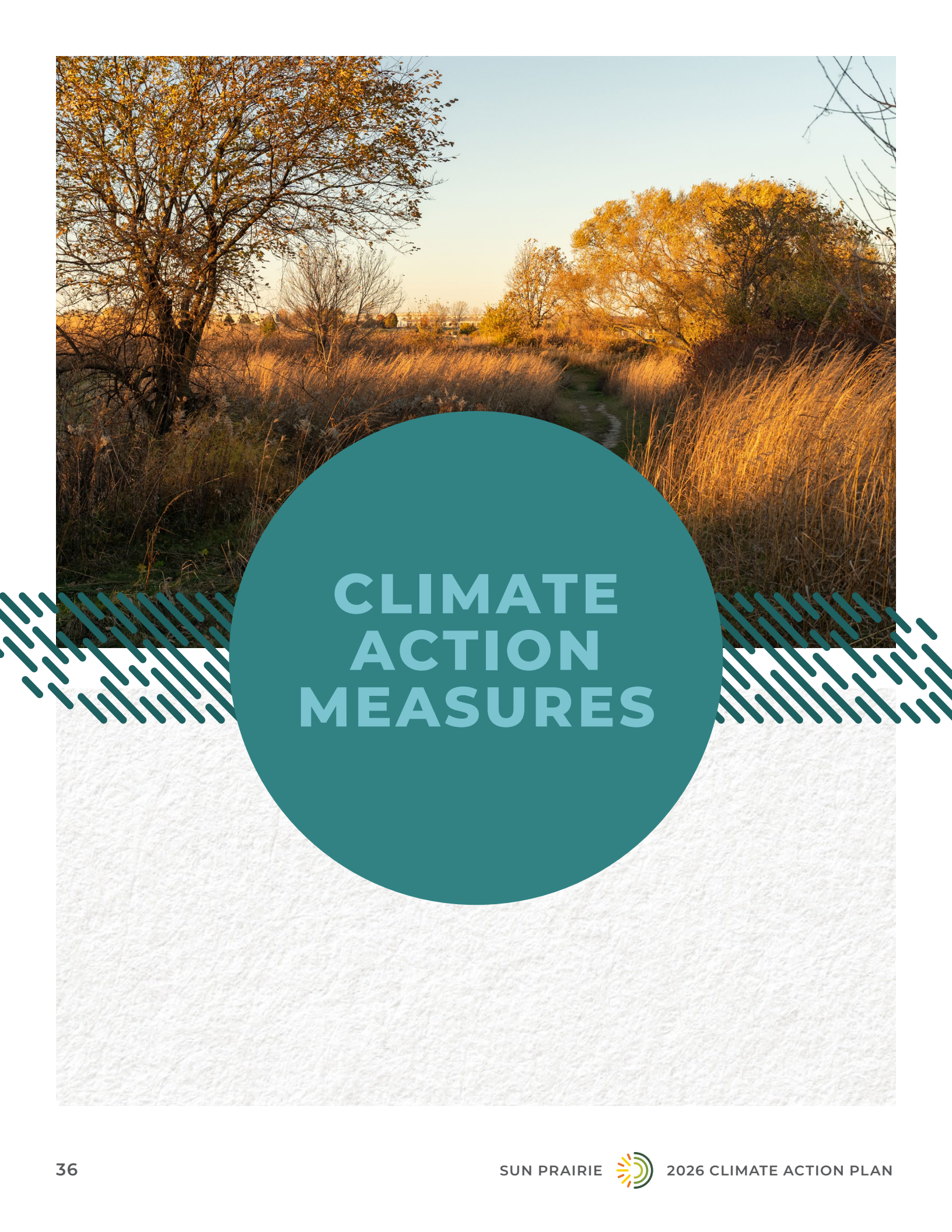
N/A

PG2. Increase sustainable landscaping practices within Sun Prairie by incorporating low-mow areas, natural lawns, ecological restoration, and native species into 10% of city-managed properties by 2050.

N/A

PG3. Enhance the health of Sun Prairie's urban forest by increasing the number of tree species (100 tree species by 2035), increasing stocking density (15% increase in stocking density of street trees by 2050), and increasing age-class diversity (increasing the number of publicly managed mature trees > 12" DBH by 20% by 2035).

N/A



CLIMATE ACTION MEASURES



CLIMATE ACTION MEASURES

THE FOLLOWING MEASURES outline how Sun Prairie will achieve its climate goals through focused, achievable, and community-driven action. These strategies build on the City's commitment to responsible growth, environmental stewardship, and equitable opportunity for all residents. Together, they form a roadmap for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, improving resilience to climate impacts, and creating a healthier and more sustainable community.

Each measure is organized around a framework category that reflects a key part of community life: how the City operates, how we build and use energy, how we move through our neighborhoods, how we conserve resources, and how we care for natural spaces. Within each category, goals, strategies, and specific actions are designed to guide coordinated progress across City departments, partner organizations, and the broader community.



DID YOU KNOW?

Sun Prairie has been recognized as a Dane County Climate Champion five years in a row (2021–2025) for its ongoing commitment to clean energy, innovation, and community leadership.



MUNICIPAL OPERATIONS



BUILDINGS & ENERGY



URBAN DESIGN & TRANSPORTATION



RESOURCE CONSERVATION



PARKS & GREEN SPACE

The measures are not stand-alone initiatives but tools to evaluate progress and follow interconnected steps toward a shared vision. By working across these areas, Sun Prairie can make measurable progress toward its climate targets while strengthening the local economy, improving health outcomes, and ensuring that every resident benefits from a more sustainable future.



CLIMATE ACTION MEASURES



Understanding the Measures

Each of the following sections includes detailed measures that outline how Sun Prairie will achieve its sustainability and emissions-reduction goals. These measures are organized in a consistent format to make it easy to see how strategies connect to specific goals, departments, and implementation priorities. Each measure is presented in a table like the example below and includes the following components:

GOAL: A broad statement that defines the desired outcome within each framework category. Goals describe what the City aims to accomplish and reflect long-term priorities, such as improving energy efficiency or expanding access to green space. Each goal includes one or more strategies.

STRATEGY: The approach the City will take to achieve the goal. Strategies identify the key actions or programs that will drive measurable progress.

LEAD DEPARTMENT: The City department or division responsible for overseeing implementation of the strategy. In many cases, additional City teams, partner organizations, or community stakeholders will play supporting roles.

IMPLEMENTATION YEAR: The year or general timeframe in which work on the strategy is expected to begin, based on capacity, funding, and alignment with other City priorities.

CLIMATE ACTION MEASURES



GHG REDUCTION: A relative measure of the potential for emissions mitigation by strategy. See Appendix D for more information.



LOW MITIGATION



MEDIUM MITIGATION



HIGH MITIGATION

COST ESTIMATE: A relative measure of the expected cost to implement the strategy, expressed using a simple scale (\$, \$\$, \$\$\$). These symbols provide a general understanding of effort and investment needed, not a detailed budget. Cost estimates are based on accepted industry values as of December 2025. See Appendix D for more information.

PRIORITY SCORE: Each strategy was scored against criteria selected by the project team. Criteria included: potential for GHG mitigation, cost of implementation, resilience impacts, and equity impacts. Based on these scores, strategies were prioritized into three tiers. See Appendix D for more information.

CLIMATE CONNECTION: A short narrative describing how the strategy supports the City's broader climate goals, resilience objectives, or equity considerations.

ACTION STEPS: The specific, on-the-ground actions that the City and its partners will take to carry out the strategy. These steps make the plan actionable and measurable.

CLIMATE ACTION MEASURES



Municipal Operations

SUN PRAIRIE'S municipal government plays a critical leadership role in reducing emissions and demonstrating the value of sustainability in everyday decision-making. By improving the efficiency of City facilities, vehicle fleets, and services, the City can lower operating costs and set an example for residents and businesses. These efforts not only reduce greenhouse gas emissions but also strengthen City resilience, protect taxpayer resources, and ensure public services continue to meet community needs in a changing climate.



DID YOU KNOW?

As of 2025, Sun Prairie's fleet includes 8 EVs, 2 PHEVs, and 13 hybrid vehicles.



CLIMATE ACTION MEASURES



Goal MO1

INCREASE TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY IN MUNICIPAL SUSTAINABILITY BY PUBLISHING ANNUAL REPORTS STARTING IN 2026.

GHG REDUCTION	
COST ESTIMATE	\$
PRIORITY SCORE	3

STRATEGY

MO1.1
Institutionalize sustainability reporting and tracking

LEAD DEPARTMENT

Sustainability & Resilience Manager

IMPLEMENTATION YEAR

2026-2027

CLIMATE CONNECTION

Regular reporting and public dashboards build accountability and enable data-driven emission reductions by tracking municipal energy use, fleet performance, and progress toward climate targets.

ACTION STEPS

MO1.1A: Publish the first annual sustainability report in 2026 and continue annually.

MO1.1B: Develop an online dashboard to publicly share municipal energy, fleet, and emissions data.

MO1.1C: Continue using EnergyStar Portfolio Manager to manage utility data across all departments.

MO1.1D: Provide annual public updates through dashboards, Council briefings, and newsletters. Make these resources available in multiple languages.



CLIMATE ACTION MEASURES



Goal MO2

GOAL TRANSITION MUNICIPAL FLEET AND EQUIPMENT TO LOW-CARBON ALTERNATIVES BY CONVERTING **50% BY 2035** AND REACHING **100% BY 2050**.

GHG REDUCTION	
COST ESTIMATE	\$\$\$
PRIORITY SCORE	3

STRATEGY

MO2.1
Decarbonize the municipal fleet

LEAD DEPARTMENT

Public Services; Sustainability & Resilience Manager; Fleet Manager

IMPLEMENTATION YEAR

2028-2044

CLIMATE CONNECTION

Electrifying City vehicles and transitioning to renewable fuels directly reduces greenhouse gas emissions from municipal operations and lowers long-term fuel and maintenance costs.

ACTION STEPS

MO2.1A: Achieve a 50% fully electric light-duty fleet by 2035 with all other light-duty vehicles being a hybrid at a minimum.

MO2.1B: Pilot an electric police patrol car by 2030.

MO2.1C: Transition 50% of police patrol vehicles to renewable fuel or electric vehicles by 2040.

MO2.1D: Equip all non-electric fire and EMS vehicles with APUs by 2035

MO2.1E: Pilot an electric fire engine by 2040.

MO2.1f: Transition all fire and EMS vehicles to renewable fuel or electric vehicles by 2050.

MO2.1G: Transition all medium-duty vehicles to renewable fuel or electric vehicles by 2040.

MO2.1h: Ensure the ratio of municipal electric vehicles to EV charging ports is equal to 2:1 by 2035 to support fleet electrification.

DID YOU KNOW?

Sun Prairie is on track to electrify 50% of its light-duty fleet by 2035.



CLIMATE ACTION MEASURES



Goal MO2

GOAL TRANSITION MUNICIPAL FLEET AND EQUIPMENT TO LOW-CARBON ALTERNATIVES BY CONVERTING **50% BY 2035** AND REACHING **100% BY 2050**.

GHG REDUCTION	
COST ESTIMATE	\$\$
PRIORITY SCORE	3

STRATEGY

MO2.2
Modernize small equipment and off-road operations

LEAD DEPARTMENT

Sustainability & Resilience Manager; Fleet Manager

IMPLEMENTATION YEAR

2027-2029

CLIMATE CONNECTION

Replacing gas-powered tools and machinery with electric alternatives eliminates tailpipe emissions, reduces noise pollution, and cuts fuel consumption in daily operations.

ACTION STEPS

MO2.2A: Transition 100% of small-engine tools (e.g., lawn care, snow removal) to electric alternatives by 2035.

MO2.2B: Pilot electric or hybrid off-road and construction equipment.

MO2.2C: Retrofit remaining diesel equipment with emission control technologies.

MO2.2D: Train staff on eco-friendly operational practices, such as reducing idling and optimizing fuel use.

CLIMATE ACTION MEASURES



Goal MO2

GOAL TRANSITION MUNICIPAL FLEET AND EQUIPMENT TO LOW-CARBON ALTERNATIVES BY CONVERTING **50% BY 2035** AND REACHING **100% BY 2050**.

GHG REDUCTION	
COST ESTIMATE	\$\$
PRIORITY SCORE	2

STRATEGY

MO2.3
Improve efficiency of snow removal and outdoor operations

LEAD DEPARTMENT

Public Services

IMPLEMENTATION YEAR

2027-2028

CLIMATE CONNECTION

Optimizing winter operations and using cleaner fuels reduces idling, fuel waste, and emissions from heavy-duty vehicles while maintaining essential public services.

ACTION STEPS

MO2.3A: Evaluate snow removal operations and adopt efficiency improvements.

MO2.3B: Explore alternative equipment and fuels to reduce emissions from winter operations.



CLIMATE ACTION MEASURES



Goal MO3

IMPROVE SUSTAINABILITY PERFORMANCE OF MUNICIPAL FACILITIES BY ACHIEVING AND MAINTAINING AN EUI OF < 100 kBTU/sqft/yr.

GHG REDUCTION	
COST ESTIMATE	\$
PRIORITY SCORE	3

STRATEGY

MO3.1
Strengthen sustainable procurement policies

LEAD DEPARTMENT

Sustainability & Resilience
Manager; Finance

IMPLEMENTATION YEAR

2026-2027

CLIMATE CONNECTION

Sustainable purchasing reduces embodied carbon in materials and equipment, ensuring that City operations support a low-carbon supply chain and long-term emission savings.

ACTION STEPS

MO3.1A: Adopt a sustainable procurement policy to prioritize recycled-content, low-emission, energy efficiency, and sustainably sourced products in procurement and bidding.

MO3.1B: Provide staff training on new procurement policies and practices.



CLIMATE ACTION MEASURES



Goal MO3

IMPROVE SUSTAINABILITY PERFORMANCE OF MUNICIPAL FACILITIES BY ACHIEVING AND MAINTAINING AN EUI OF < 100 kBTU/sqft/yr.

GHG REDUCTION	
COST ESTIMATE	\$\$\$
PRIORITY SCORE	3

STRATEGY

MO3.2
Enhance municipal building efficiency and management

LEAD DEPARTMENT

Community Development;
Sustainability & Resilience
Manager

IMPLEMENTATION YEAR

2027-2029

CLIMATE CONNECTION

Upgrading lighting, HVAC, and building systems lowers energy consumption and directly reduces emissions from electricity and natural gas used in City facilities.

ACTION STEPS

MO3.2A: For all major municipal renovations and new construction, require LED lighting, demand controls, efficient HVAC with preference for electrification (heat pumps or geothermal when feasible), solar feasibility analysis, and reflective or green roofing, with solar/EV readiness where applicable.

MO3.2B: Enroll all new construction in energy efficiency programs (e.g., Focus on Energy Design Assistance Program and the WPPI New Construction Program)

MO3.2C: Ensure all existing municipal facilities achieve an EnergyStar score of at least 75 by 2040 (note: formal certification not required).

MO3.2D: Adopt a policy requiring all new municipal construction and major renovations to achieve LEED-gold readiness.



CLIMATE ACTION MEASURES



Goal MO4

DEMONSTRATE LEADERSHIP IN PUBLIC-FACING SUSTAINABILITY BY MAINTAINING 2 MUNICIPALLY-OWNED PUBLIC EV CHARGING STATIONS PER 10,000 RESIDENTS AND ACHIEVING LOW-WASTE STANDARDS AT MUNICIPAL FACILITIES AND EVENTS BY 2035.



GHG REDUCTION	
COST ESTIMATE	\$\$\$
PRIORITY SCORE	1

STRATEGY

MO4.1
Expand EV charging infrastructure

LEAD DEPARTMENT

Sustainability & Resilience Manager

IMPLEMENTATION YEAR

2026-2029

CLIMATE CONNECTION

Expanding publicly accessible EV charging supports community-wide adoption of electric vehicles, displacing gasoline use and helping reduce local transportation emissions.

ACTION STEPS

MO4.1A: Maintain at least 2 public EV charging stations per 10,000 residents at municipal facilities and parking lots.

MO4.1B: Develop siting criteria to prioritize equitable access across neighborhoods.

MO4.1C: Coordinate with regional partners to integrate City-owned chargers into broader charging corridors and networks.

CLIMATE ACTION MEASURES



Goal MO4

DEMONSTRATE LEADERSHIP IN PUBLIC-FACING SUSTAINABILITY BY MAINTAINING 2 MUNICIPALLY-OWNED PUBLIC EV CHARGING STATIONS PER 10,000 RESIDENTS AND ACHIEVING LOW-WASTE STANDARDS AT MUNICIPAL FACILITIES AND EVENTS BY 2035.

GHG REDUCTION	
COST ESTIMATE	\$
PRIORITY SCORE	3

STRATEGY

MO4.2
Implement zero-waste practices in municipal operations

LEAD DEPARTMENT

Sustainability & Resilience Manager; Building Maintenance

IMPLEMENTATION YEAR

2026-2029

CLIMATE CONNECTION

Reducing landfill waste and increasing recycling and composting cuts methane emissions and models circular, low-waste practices for the broader community.

ACTION STEPS

MO4.2A: Require permanent three-bin (landfill, recycling, compost) systems at municipal facilities by 2035.

MO4.2B: Establish a low-waste policy for all City-hosted events.

MO4.2C: Track and report diversion rates from municipal operations and events annually.



CLIMATE ACTION MEASURES



Goal MO5

ACHIEVE 100% RENEWABLE ENERGY FOR ALL MUNICIPAL OPERATIONS AND FACILITIES BY 2040.

GHG REDUCTION	
COST ESTIMATE	\$\$\$
PRIORITY SCORE	2

STRATEGY

MO5.1
Electrify municipal facilities and outfit with renewable energy systems

LEAD DEPARTMENT

Community Development;
Sustainability & Resilience
Manager; Building Maintenance

IMPLEMENTATION YEAR

2029-2038

CLIMATE CONNECTION

Installing on-site renewable energy and electrifying building systems eliminates fossil fuel use in City facilities, leading to direct and measurable emission reductions from municipal operations.

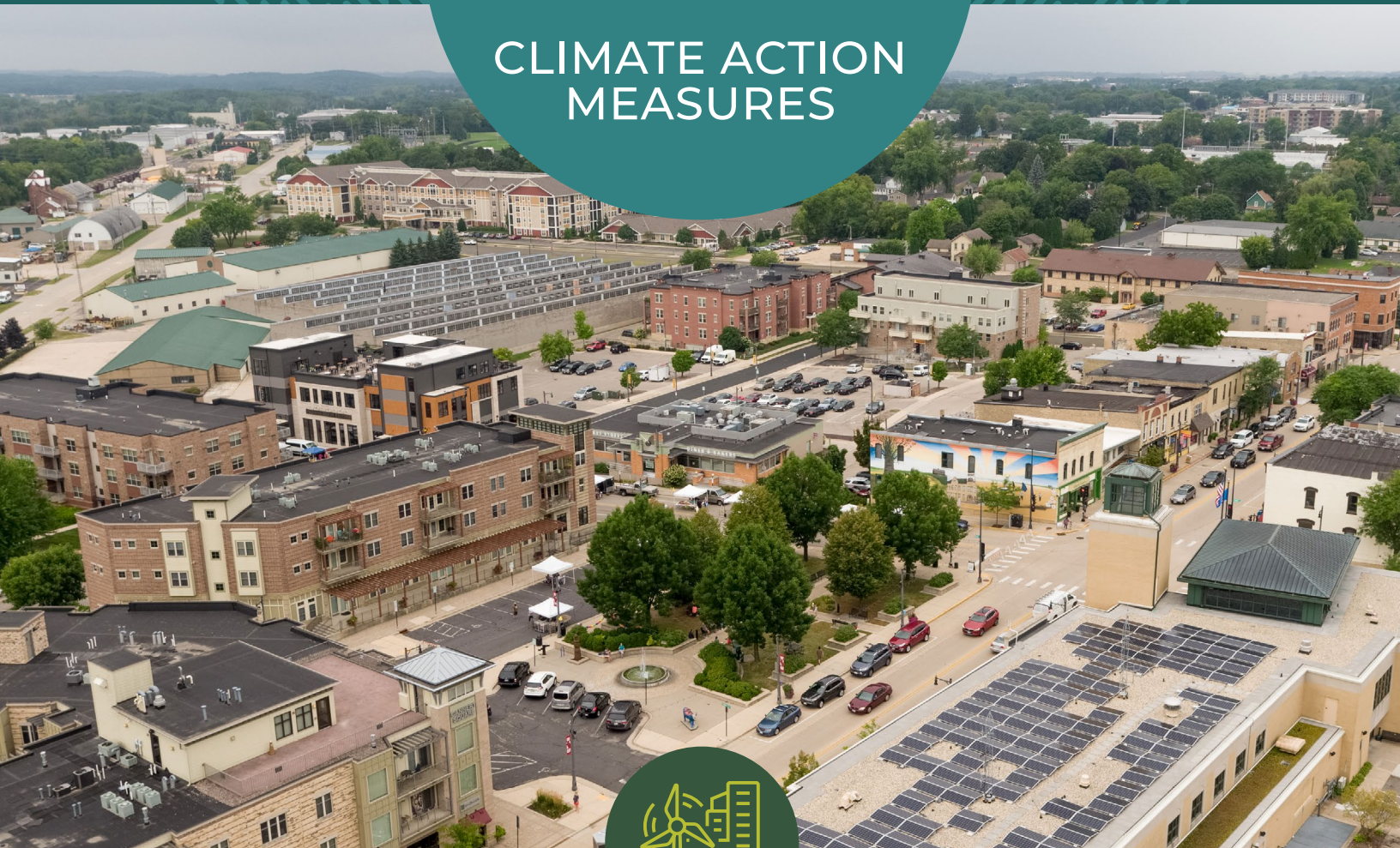
ACTION STEPS

MO5.1A: Continue to deploy renewable energy generation systems on municipal facilities, aiming to have all facilities outfitted with renewable energy by 2035.

MO5.1B: Work to electrify municipal facilities by replacing HVAC equipment with fully-electric alternatives.

MO5.1C: Consider over-purchase Choose Renewable blocks to offset residual natural gas consumed by difficult to decarbonize municipal buildings after 2038.

CLIMATE ACTION MEASURES



Buildings & Energy

BUILDINGS ACCOUNT for a significant portion of local energy use and greenhouse gas emissions. As Sun Prairie grows, improving the efficiency of both existing and future buildings and shifting to clean energy are essential to meeting long-term sustainability goals. By supporting energy-efficient design, renewable energy generation, and electrification, the City can help residents and businesses lower costs, improve comfort, and reduce reliance on fossil fuels. These strategies position Sun Prairie to achieve a more resilient, affordable, and low-carbon built environment.



DID YOU KNOW?

There are more than 300 solar installations on Sun Prairie homes and businesses, generating over 3 megawatts of clean energy across the community.



CLIMATE ACTION MEASURES



Goal BE1

ADVANCE ENERGY EFFICIENCY IN RESIDENTIAL, COMMERCIAL, AND INDUSTRIAL BUILDINGS.



GHG REDUCTION	
COST ESTIMATE	\$
PRIORITY SCORE	1

STRATEGY

BE1.1

Advance residential efficiency

LEAD DEPARTMENT

Sustainability & Resilience Manager; Sun Prairie Utilities; Administrative Services

IMPLEMENTATION YEAR

2026-2028

CLIMATE CONNECTION

Improving efficiency in homes reduces overall energy demand, lowering emissions from both electricity and natural gas while saving residents money on utility bills.

ACTION STEPS

BE1.1A: Partner with Sun Prairie Utilities to promote Focus on Energy's existing HOMES and HEAR programs to homeowners, residents, and multifamily property managers.

BE1.1B: Launch the Efficiency Navigators program in Sun Prairie by 2028.

BE1.1C: Partner with Sun Prairie Utilities to promote and expand their existing residential energy efficiency program offerings.

BE1.1D: Promote Dane County's and Focus on Energy's resource hubs for existing incentives and financing options for households to adopt heat pumps, induction stoves, and efficient water heaters.

BE1.1E: Work with Focus on Energy to launch a multilingual outreach and education campaign to help residents understand energy efficiency programs and available rebates.



CLIMATE ACTION MEASURES



Goal BE1

ADVANCE ENERGY EFFICIENCY IN RESIDENTIAL, COMMERCIAL, AND INDUSTRIAL BUILDINGS.

GHG REDUCTION	
COST ESTIMATE	\$\$
PRIORITY SCORE	2

STRATEGY

BE1.2
Advance commercial and industrial efficiency

LEAD DEPARTMENT

Sustainability & Resilience Manager; Community Development; Sun Prairie Utilities

IMPLEMENTATION YEAR

2026-2028

CLIMATE CONNECTION

Increasing building efficiency across commercial and industrial sectors reduces operational energy use and helps businesses cut emissions while improving competitiveness.

ACTION STEPS

BE1.2A: Establish a commercial building benchmarking program to track and compare energy performance by 2030.

BE1.2B: Partner with Sun Prairie Utilities to promote and expand their existing energy efficiency commercial program offerings.

BE1.2C: Work with Focus on Energy and Sun Prairie Utilities to promote existing retro-commissioning programs to optimize the performance of existing commercial buildings.



CLIMATE ACTION MEASURES



Goal BE2

INCREASE COMMUNITY-WIDE ELECTRIFICATION IN RESIDENTIAL, COMMERCIAL, AND INDUSTRIAL BUILDINGS BY REDUCING NATURAL GAS USAGE BY **63% BY 2035** AND **100% BY 2050**.



GHG REDUCTION	
COST ESTIMATE	\$\$
PRIORITY SCORE	1

STRATEGY

BE2.1
Advance residential electrification

LEAD DEPARTMENT

Sustainability & Resilience
Manager; Community
Development

IMPLEMENTATION YEAR

2026-2027

CLIMATE CONNECTION

Electrifying home heating, water heating, and cooking replaces fossil-fuel use with clean electricity as the grid transitions to renewables, directly cutting household emissions.

ACTION STEPS

BE2.1A: Accelerate heat pump adoption in homes through City-supported bulk purchasing, neighborhood campaigns, and coordination with utility incentive programs.

BE2.1B: Promote participation in home-energy financing programs, such as PACE or state/federal rebate programs, to support electrification, weatherization, and water-heating upgrades.

BE2.1C: Provide homeowner and contractor support via technical assistance, online resources, and office hours with City staff to navigate permitting, incentives, and equipment options.

BE2.1D: Explore local incentives, such as expedited permitting, streamlined inspections, or property-assessed financing, for full-electric retrofits or replacement of gas heating and appliances.



CLIMATE ACTION MEASURES



Goal BE2

INCREASE COMMUNITY-WIDE ELECTRIFICATION IN RESIDENTIAL, COMMERCIAL, AND INDUSTRIAL BUILDINGS BY REDUCING NATURAL GAS USAGE BY **63% BY 2035** AND **100% BY 2050**.



GHG REDUCTION	
COST ESTIMATE	\$\$
PRIORITY SCORE	1

STRATEGY

BE2.2:
Advance commercial and industrial electrification

LEAD DEPARTMENT

Sustainability & Resilience Manager; Community Development; Sun Prairie Utilities

IMPLEMENTATION YEAR

2026-2028

CLIMATE CONNECTION

Replacing gas-fired systems with electric technologies in larger buildings reduces carbon emissions from industrial processes and supports a clean local energy economy.

ACTION STEPS

BE2.2A: Promote installation of building-scale ground-source and air-source heat pumps in commercial and industrial facilities by offering technical assistance and connecting property owners with state/federal incentives.

BE2.2B: Support electrification readiness in existing buildings by encouraging wiring and panel upgrades, EV-ready infrastructure, and replacement of gas-fired process or space-heating systems with electric alternatives.

BE2.2C: Engage local businesses and institutions through targeted outreach, case studies, and partnerships to demonstrate cost-effective electrification projects and share lessons learned.

BE2.2D: Leverage financing mechanisms such as commercial PACE and utility on-bill financing to support large-scale electrification and building retrofits.



CLIMATE ACTION MEASURES



Goal BE2

INCREASE COMMUNITY-WIDE ELECTRIFICATION IN RESIDENTIAL, COMMERCIAL, AND INDUSTRIAL BUILDINGS BY REDUCING NATURAL GAS USAGE BY **63% BY 2035** AND **100% BY 2050**.



GHG REDUCTION	
COST ESTIMATE	\$
PRIORITY SCORE	1

STRATEGY

BE2.3
Strengthen building codes and standards

LEAD DEPARTMENT

Sustainability & Resilience Manager; Community Development; Sun Prairie Utilities, Economic Development

IMPLEMENTATION YEAR

2026-2028

CLIMATE CONNECTION

Adopting stronger energy codes and electrification-ready requirements ensures new buildings are designed for long-term climate resilience and zero-emission performance.

ACTION STEPS

BE2.3A: Adopt local stretch codes or voluntary building standards by 2027, and support adoption of state stretch codes.

BE2.3B: Require new buildings to be designed for future on-site renewable integration (solar-ready, EV-ready, electrification-ready).

BE2.3C: Support projects pursuing zero-net energy or green building certification through TIF and VBS incentives, and promote Focus on Energy's Design Assistance Program / WPPI New Construction Program where applicable.

BE2.3D: Partner with Dane County, Sun Prairie Utilities, or a local college to offer training opportunities for builders, contractors, and HVAC technicians on electrification and high-efficiency technologies.



CLIMATE ACTION MEASURES



Goal BE3

ACHIEVE COMMUNITY-WIDE NET-ZERO CARBON EMISSIONS ELECTRICITY SUPPLY BY 2050.



GHG REDUCTION	
COST ESTIMATE	\$
PRIORITY SCORE	1

STRATEGY

BE3.1
Expand renewable energy adoption for homes and businesses

LEAD DEPARTMENT

Sustainability & Resilience Manager; Sun Prairie Utilities; Community Development

IMPLEMENTATION YEAR

2026-2028

CLIMATE CONNECTION

Increasing local solar and renewable energy generation directly displaces fossil fuels, lowering community-wide emissions and enhancing energy independence.

ACTION STEPS

BE3.1A: Encourage residential and commercial solar installations through permitting support, streamlined approval processes, and promotion of existing rebates and incentives.

BE3.1B: Promote participation in group-buy programs (e.g., MadiSUN) and other collaborative purchasing efforts.

BE3.1C: Facilitate development of community renewable projects such as solar gardens and shared geothermal systems.

DID YOU KNOW?

Sun Prairie Utilities is nationally recognized as a “Smart Energy Provider” through the American Public Power Association (APPA). This recognition is for smart energy program planning, energy efficiency, distributed energy resources, environmental and sustainability programs.

CLIMATE ACTION MEASURES



Goal BE3

ACHIEVE COMMUNITY-WIDE NET-ZERO CARBON EMISSIONS ELECTRICITY SUPPLY BY 2050.

GHG REDUCTION	
COST ESTIMATE	\$
PRIORITY SCORE	3

STRATEGY

BE3.2
Partner with utilities and regional organizations

LEAD DEPARTMENT

Sun Prairie Utilities; Sustainability & Resilience Manager

IMPLEMENTATION YEAR

2028

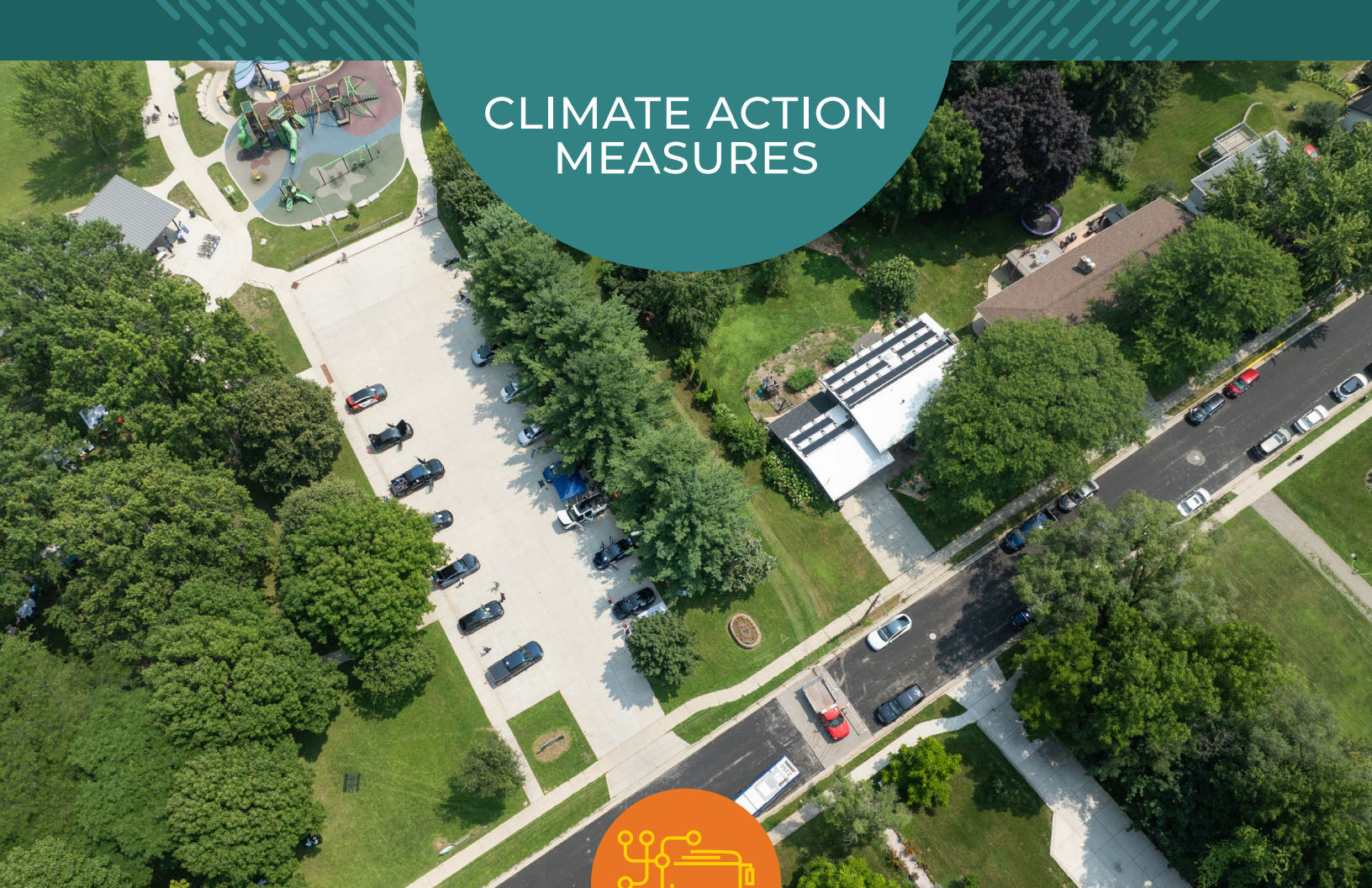
CLIMATE CONNECTION

Collaborating with utilities accelerates grid decarbonization and expands access to renewable energy options for residents and businesses.

ACTION STEPS

BE3.2A: Work with Sun Prairie Utilities and WPPI Energy to continue promoting their Choose Renewable program to residents and businesses.





CLIMATE ACTION MEASURES



Urban Design & Transportation

THE WAY SUN PRAIRIE designs its neighborhoods and transportation systems shapes daily life, economic opportunity, and environmental impact. Urban design and transportation infrastructure decisions last generations, and they have a significant impact on climate by determining how much land is directly used by our community and how frequently and far we have to travel to meet our life needs. Compact, mixed-use, and connected development patterns reduce the need for long car trips, supports active and public transportation, and enhances quality of life in many ways. By investing in safe walking and biking routes, expanding access to public transit, and planning for electric vehicle infrastructure, the City can create a more connected and equitable community while reducing transportation-related emissions.



DID YOU KNOW?

Sun Prairie earned a silver-level Bicycle Friendly Community award in 2025.



CLIMATE ACTION MEASURES



Goal UDT1

EXPAND SAFE AND ACCESSIBLE WALKING AND BIKING NETWORKS BY COMPLETING AT LEAST 50% OF THE RECOMMENDED ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION WALKING BIKING AND ROLLING FACILITIES AND ACHIEVING BICYCLE FRIENDLY COMMUNITY DIAMOND DESIGNATION BY 2035.

GHG REDUCTION	
COST ESTIMATE	\$\$\$
PRIORITY SCORE	2

STRATEGY

UDT1.1

Expand and connect active transportation infrastructure

LEAD DEPARTMENT

Public Services; Community Development

IMPLEMENTATION YEAR

2026-2029

CLIMATE CONNECTION

Investing in walking and biking infrastructure expands trip mode choices, reduces vehicle travel, and cuts transportation emissions while improving air quality and public health.

ACTION STEPS

UDT1.1A: Develop and adopt Complete Street standards for all City streets by 2027.

UDT1.1B: Complete at least 50% of the recommended Active Transportation walking biking and rolling facilities as outlined in the Active Transportation Plan by 2035.

UDT1.1C: Partner with neighboring cities (i.e. Madison, DeForest, Windsor, Cottage Grove) to identify & prioritize projects to connect local bike and walking paths with regional commuter routes and Madison's network.



CLIMATE ACTION MEASURES



Goal UDT1

EXPAND SAFE AND ACCESSIBLE WALKING AND BIKING NETWORKS BY COMPLETING AT LEAST 50% OF THE RECOMMENDED ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION WALKING BIKING AND ROLLING FACILITIES AND ACHIEVING BICYCLE FRIENDLY COMMUNITY DIAMOND DESIGNATION BY 2035.

GHG REDUCTION	
COST ESTIMATE	\$
PRIORITY SCORE	2

STRATEGY

UDT1.2

Build a strong walking and biking culture

LEAD DEPARTMENT

Parks, Recreation & Forestry;
Sustainability & Resilience
Manager; Public Services

IMPLEMENTATION YEAR

2027

CLIMATE CONNECTION

Encouraging active transportation through education and community programs helps shift daily travel habits away from cars, reducing emissions and congestion.

ACTION STEPS

UDT1.2A: Improve participation in the Safe Routes to School program by adding at least 3 additional walking school buses and 1 additional bike caravan by 2030.

UDT1.2B: Partner with Wisconsin Bike Fed, Sun Prairie Area School District, Sun Prairie Moves, and other community groups to expand bike education in schools and community programs.

UDT1.2C: Host at least 4 community challenges, promotions/incentives, or events per year that encourage and celebrate walking and biking.



CLIMATE ACTION MEASURES



Goal UDT1

EXPAND SAFE AND ACCESSIBLE WALKING AND BIKING NETWORKS BY COMPLETING AT LEAST 50% OF THE RECOMMENDED ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION WALKING BIKING AND ROLLING FACILITIES AND ACHIEVING BICYCLE FRIENDLY COMMUNITY DIAMOND DESIGNATION BY 2035.

GHG REDUCTION	
COST ESTIMATE	\$\$
PRIORITY SCORE	2

STRATEGY

UDT1.3

Expand shared mobility options

LEAD DEPARTMENT

Public Services; Public Safety;
Sustainability & Resilience
Manager

IMPLEMENTATION YEAR

2026-2031

CLIMATE CONNECTION

Shared mobility services and car-free zones reduce personal vehicle dependence, lowering emissions from short-distance and school-related trips.

ACTION STEPS

UDT1.3A: Conduct a feasibility study by 2027 and launch a bike share program by 2035.

UDT1.3B: Pilot a car-free school street by 2028 and explore more permanent solutions by 2030.

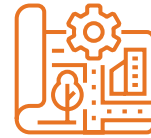


CLIMATE ACTION MEASURES



Goal UDT2

ENSURE SUSTAINABLE GROWTH BY ADOPTING UPDATED ZONING AND SUBDIVISION CODES BY 2026 AND LOCATING AT LEAST 50% OF NEW HOUSING UNITS IN DESIGNATED CENTERS AND CORRIDORS BY 2040.



GHG REDUCTION	
COST ESTIMATE	\$\$
PRIORITY SCORE	1

STRATEGY

UDT2.1

Modernize zoning and development policies

LEAD DEPARTMENT

Community Development;
Sustainability & Resilience
Manager

IMPLEMENTATION YEAR

2026-2028

CLIMATE CONNECTION

Updating zoning to allow compact, mixed-use growth to reduce land consumption, decrease commute distances, and encourage transit, walking, and biking.

ACTION STEPS

UDT2.1A: Complete zoning ordinance update to permit “missing middle” housing types in all zoning districts by 2026.

UDT2.1B: Amend zoning and subdivision codes by 2026 to align with housing and sustainability goals in the Comprehensive Plan.

UDT2.1C: Draft and adopt a climate-aligned land use evaluation checklist for rezoning and development proposals.

UDT2.1D: Strengthen Smart Growth and compact development principles in future updates of the City’s Comprehensive Plan.



CLIMATE ACTION MEASURES



Goal UDT2

ENSURE SUSTAINABLE GROWTH BY ADOPTING UPDATED ZONING AND SUBDIVISION CODES BY 2026 AND LOCATING AT LEAST 50% OF NEW HOUSING UNITS IN DESIGNATED CENTERS AND CORRIDORS BY 2040.



GHG REDUCTION	
COST ESTIMATE	\$\$
PRIORITY SCORE	1

STRATEGY

UDT2.2

Promote compact, mixed-use, and infill development

LEAD DEPARTMENT

Community Development;
Economic Development

IMPLEMENTATION YEAR

2027-2029

CLIMATE CONNECTION

Directing growth toward existing centers and corridors improves infrastructure efficiency, reduces vehicle miles traveled, and protects open space.

ACTION STEPS

UDT2.2A: Approve at least 50% of new housing units as infill or redevelopment by 2040.

UDT2.2B: Create incentives (e.g., density bonuses, tax increment financing) for mixed-use projects that integrate housing, retail, and services within walking distance.

UDT2.2C: Update zoning maps and review criteria to focus new development along corridors and centers with existing infrastructure and transit access.

UDT2.2D: Increase city-wide housing land use efficiency by 10% by 2035.



CLIMATE ACTION MEASURES



Goal UDT2

ENSURE SUSTAINABLE GROWTH BY ADOPTING UPDATED ZONING AND SUBDIVISION CODES BY 2026 AND LOCATING AT LEAST 50% OF NEW HOUSING UNITS IN DESIGNATED CENTERS AND CORRIDORS BY 2040.

GHG REDUCTION	
COST ESTIMATE	\$\$
PRIORITY SCORE	3

STRATEGY

UDT2.3
Coordinate regional growth management

LEAD DEPARTMENT

Community Development; City Administrator; Parks, Recreation & Forestry

IMPLEMENTATION YEAR

2026-2028

CLIMATE CONNECTION

Aligning growth across jurisdictions prevents sprawl, protecting carbon-sequestering landscapes and reducing emissions from long commutes.

ACTION STEPS

UDT2.3A: Establish intergovernmental agreements with neighboring municipalities to coordinate growth and prevent leapfrog development.

UDT2.3B: Sustainably plan for 500 new homes per year, emphasizing affordability and efficiency.

UDT2.3C: Use zoning updates and conservation tools to preserve agricultural land and natural areas through compact development patterns.

CLIMATE ACTION MEASURES



Goal UDT3

EXPAND MULTIMODAL TRANSPORTATION OPTIONS BY OFFERING HIGH FREQUENCY SERVICE ON MAJOR ARTERIALS BY 2030 AND ENSURING 50% OF NEW HOUSEHOLDS ARE WITHIN 1/4 MILE OF A TRANSIT STOP AND 50-75% OF ALL HOUSEHOLDS ARE WITHIN 3/4 MILE OF A TRANSIT STOP BY 2040.

GHG REDUCTION	
COST ESTIMATE	\$\$\$
PRIORITY SCORE	2

STRATEGY

UDT3.1

Improve and expand public transit service

LEAD DEPARTMENT

Community Development; City of Madison

IMPLEMENTATION YEAR

2027-2028

CLIMATE CONNECTION

Expanding bus and regional transit options provides affordable, low-carbon alternatives to car travel, reducing transportation-related emissions.

ACTION STEPS

UDT3.1A: Provide high frequency service (every 30 minutes or faster) on all major arterials with nighttime service available on weekdays and weekends by 2030.

UDT3.1B: Partner with City of Madison and neighboring municipalities to expand regional transportation options, including bus service or transit to north and east Mendota neighbors and passenger rail to Madison/Milwaukee/Chicago by 2035.

UDT3.1C: Expand further into Sun Prairie to connect to existing Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) service to connect to Sun Prairie housing, jobs, and destinations by 2035.



CLIMATE ACTION MEASURES



Goal UDT3

EXPAND MULTIMODAL TRANSPORTATION OPTIONS BY OFFERING HIGH FREQUENCY SERVICE ON MAJOR ARTERIALS BY 2030 AND ENSURING 50% OF NEW HOUSEHOLDS ARE WITHIN 1/4 MILE OF A TRANSIT STOP AND 50-75% OF ALL HOUSEHOLDS ARE WITHIN 3/4 MILE OF A TRANSIT STOP BY 2040.

GHG REDUCTION	
COST ESTIMATE	\$\$
PRIORITY SCORE	2

STRATEGY

UDT3.2

Increase convenience and accessibility of transit

LEAD DEPARTMENT

Community Development;
Public Services; Sustainability &
Resilience Manager

IMPLEMENTATION YEAR

2027-2028

CLIMATE CONNECTION

Improving bus stop amenities and neighborhood connectivity increases ridership and reduces reliance on single-occupancy vehicles.

ACTION STEPS

UDT3.2A: Promote knowledge of Sun Prairie transit systems, including subsidized bus passes and employer-based transit benefits.

UDT3.2B: Ensure 2/3 of new households are within 1/4 mile of a transit stop and 50-75% of all households are within 3/4 mile of transit stop by 2040.

UDT3.2C: Improve 50% of bus stops with updated signage, real-time displays, and information about mobile trip planning by 2030.



CLIMATE ACTION MEASURES



Goal UDT3

EXPAND MULTIMODAL TRANSPORTATION OPTIONS BY OFFERING HIGH FREQUENCY SERVICE ON MAJOR ARTERIALS BY 2030 AND ENSURING 50% OF NEW HOUSEHOLDS ARE WITHIN 1/4 MILE OF A TRANSIT STOP AND 50-75% OF ALL HOUSEHOLDS ARE WITHIN 3/4 MILE OF A TRANSIT STOP BY 2040.

GHG REDUCTION	
COST ESTIMATE	\$\$
PRIORITY SCORE	3

STRATEGY

UDT3.3

Support shared and low-carbon travel options

LEAD DEPARTMENT

Sustainability & Resilience Manager; Public Services; Economic Development; Public Safety; Community Development

IMPLEMENTATION YEAR

2027-2032

CLIMATE CONNECTION

Promoting ridesharing, traffic calming, and electric transit reduces emissions, improves safety, and supports the transition to cleaner transportation systems.

ACTION STEPS

UDT3.3A: Increase the number of local businesses participating in the existing RoundTrip program through continued promotion.

UDT3.3B: Implement traffic calming in at least 3 corridors by 2035 to induce mode shift and align with Vision Zero priorities.

UDT3.3C: Support Madison Metro Transit as they transition to a fully electric transit fleet by 2038.



CLIMATE ACTION MEASURES



Resource Conservation

EFFICIENT USE OF MATERIALS, water, and energy is central to a sustainable future. Sun Prairie is committed to reducing waste, conserving water, and improving recycling and composting access across the community. These efforts support environmental health and help residents save money while building a stronger local circular economy. Through innovation, education, and partnership, Sun Prairie can protect natural resources and reduce the community's overall environmental footprint.



DID YOU KNOW?

In 2025, Sun Prairie launched a year-round e-waste recycling program and partnered with local schools and residents to pilot food-waste composting solutions across the City.



CLIMATE ACTION MEASURES



Goal RC1

REDUCE COMMUNITY-WIDE WASTE GENERATION AND INCREASE LANDFILL DIVERSION TO **50% BY 2030** AND **90% BY 2050**.

GHG REDUCTION	
COST ESTIMATE	\$\$\$
PRIORITY SCORE	3

STRATEGY

RC1.1

Expand recycling and composting programs

LEAD DEPARTMENT

Public Services; Sustainability & Resilience Manager; Administrative Services

IMPLEMENTATION YEAR

2026-2030

CLIMATE CONNECTION

Expanding recycling and composting reduces methane emissions from landfills and conserves resources by keeping materials in use longer.

ACTION STEPS

RC1.1A: Conduct waste audits every 5 years across residential, commercial, and institutional sectors.

RC1.1B: Expand drop-off and curbside recycling opportunities to include additional materials and increase participation in underserved neighborhoods.

RC1.1C: Install permanent three-bin (landfill, recycling, compost) systems at public facilities and events.

RC1.1D: Work with commercial haulers to establish a city-wide food waste composting program with both drop-off and curbside pickup options.

RC1.1E: Complete a food waste composting pilot with at least 100 households and 3 schools by 2027, evaluating costs and participation rate for future expansion.



CLIMATE ACTION MEASURES



Goal RC1

REDUCE COMMUNITY-WIDE WASTE GENERATION AND INCREASE LANDFILL DIVERSION TO **50% BY 2030** AND **90% BY 2050**.

GHG REDUCTION	
COST ESTIMATE	\$\$
PRIORITY SCORE	3

STRATEGY

RC1.2
Promote community participation in waste diversion

LEAD DEPARTMENT

Sustainability & Resilience Manager; Sun Prairie Public Library; Administrative Services

IMPLEMENTATION YEAR

2027-2028

CLIMATE CONNECTION

Community education and reuse initiatives reduce consumption and landfill waste, lowering emissions from manufacturing and disposal.

ACTION STEPS

RC1.2A: Launch a Library of Things and host regular Repair Cafes and stuff swaps to reduce consumption and extend product life.

RC1.2B: Continue offering periodic compost bin rebates and group buys, paired with resident education.

RC1.2C: Encourage schools to adopt expanded recycling and lunchroom composting programs, and help identify sustainability ambassadors to lead these efforts.

RC1.2D: Update the City website, event flyers, and on-site signage to clearly explain e-waste and recycling drop-off processes; expand drop-off hours or sites where feasible.



CLIMATE ACTION MEASURES



Goal RC1

REDUCE COMMUNITY-WIDE WASTE GENERATION AND INCREASE LANDFILL DIVERSION TO **50% BY 2030** AND **90% BY 2050**.

GHG REDUCTION	
COST ESTIMATE	\$\$
PRIORITY SCORE	3

STRATEGY

RC1.3
Advance circular economy practices

LEAD DEPARTMENT

Community Development; Public Services; Administrative Services; Sustainability & Resilience Manager

IMPLEMENTATION YEAR

2028-2029

CLIMATE CONNECTION

Encouraging recycling, reuse, and zero-waste events reduces lifecycle emissions from materials production and supports a more sustainable economy.

ACTION STEPS

- RC1.3A:** Require recycling and reuse of materials in construction and demolition projects.
- RC1.3B:** Establish a “zero waste” expectation for City-hosted events, requiring three-bin systems.
- RC1.3C:** Track and publish diversion rates from events and programs annually.

CLIMATE ACTION MEASURES



Goal RC2

IMPROVE WATER CONSERVATION, REUSE, AND STORMWATER MANAGEMENT TO REDUCE POTABLE WATER USE BY **20% BY 2035** AND **35% BY 2050**, RELATIVE TO A 2025 BASELINE.

GHG REDUCTION	
COST ESTIMATE	\$\$
PRIORITY SCORE	3

STRATEGY

RC2.1
Promote water conservation in homes and businesses

LEAD DEPARTMENT

Sun Prairie Utilities; Sustainability & Resilience Manager; Community Development; Public Services

IMPLEMENTATION YEAR

2027-2034

CLIMATE CONNECTION

Reducing potable water use saves the energy required for water treatment and distribution, cutting indirect emissions while improving resilience to drought.

ACTION STEPS

RC2.1A: Expand rebate programs for low-flow showerheads, faucets, and water-efficient appliances.

RC2.1B: Provide incentives for graywater systems in new and existing construction.

RC2.1C: Offer periodic rain barrel group buys for residents, rain garden workshops, and a stormwater fee reduction for residential stormwater management efforts.

RC2.1D: Work with a third-party to provide subsidized water audits for residential and commercial properties, starting with 100 pilot audits in 2035.



CLIMATE ACTION MEASURES



Goal RC2

IMPROVE WATER CONSERVATION, REUSE, AND STORMWATER MANAGEMENT TO REDUCE POTABLE WATER USE BY **20% BY 2035** AND **35% BY 2050**, RELATIVE TO A 2025 BASELINE.

GHG REDUCTION	
COST ESTIMATE	\$\$\$
PRIORITY SCORE	2

STRATEGY

RC2.2 Modernize water infrastructure

LEAD DEPARTMENT

Public Services; Sun Prairie Utilities; Sustainability & Resilience Manager; Parks, Recreation & Forestry

IMPLEMENTATION YEAR

2026-2031

CLIMATE CONNECTION

Upgrading water and wastewater systems increases efficiency, reduces leaks, and captures renewable biogas, lowering operational emissions.

ACTION STEPS

RC2.2A: Expand existing annual inflow and infiltration monitoring, with priority sewer lining and lateral replacement projects budgeted each year.

RC2.2B: Ensure all municipal facilities are enrolled in Sun Prairie Utilities' water usage alert program and partner with SPU to promote the program to the public.

RC2.2C: Continue dedicating funds annually to local waterway restoration projects to reduce phosphorus and total solids release.

RC2.2D: Increase biogas capture and use at the wastewater treatment plant.



CLIMATE ACTION MEASURES



Goal RC2

IMPROVE WATER CONSERVATION, REUSE, AND STORMWATER MANAGEMENT TO REDUCE POTABLE WATER USE BY **20% BY 2035** AND **35% BY 2050**, RELATIVE TO A 2025 BASELINE.



GHG REDUCTION	
COST ESTIMATE	\$\$
PRIORITY SCORE	1

STRATEGY

RC2.3
Enhance stormwater management and resilience

LEAD DEPARTMENT

Community Development; Public Services; Parks, Recreation & Forestry

IMPLEMENTATION YEAR

2026-2032

CLIMATE CONNECTION

Integrating green infrastructure improves flood resilience, increases local cooling, and sequesters carbon in soils and vegetation.

ACTION STEPS

RC2.3A: Revise stormwater code in 2028 to require green infrastructure (rain gardens, bioswales, permeable paving) in new developments.

RC2.3B: Develop and adopt a storm response policy for urban forestry operations by 2026, led by the Parks and Forestry Division.

RC2.3C: Increase use of recycled or reused water and wastewater plant effluent for parks, landscaping, and other non-potable uses.

CLIMATE ACTION MEASURES



Goal RC3

STRENGTHEN SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS AND PRESERVE AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES, ACHIEVING **30% INCREASE IN LOCAL FOOD ACCESS BY 2040**, RELATIVE TO A 2025 BASELINE.



GHG REDUCTION	
COST ESTIMATE	\$\$
PRIORITY SCORE	1

STRATEGY

RC3.1
Support local food production and access

LEAD DEPARTMENT

Parks, Recreation & Forestry;
Sustainability & Resilience
Manager

IMPLEMENTATION YEAR

2026-2027

CLIMATE CONNECTION

Strengthening local food systems reduces transportation emissions and builds resilience against climate-related supply chain disruptions.

ACTION STEPS

RC3.1A: Identify City-owned parcels or partner sites to establish 2–3 additional community gardens by 2030 that showcase sustainable landscaping and provide public education.

RC3.1B: Partner with schools, nonprofits, and food pantries to increase access to healthy, sustainable food choices.

RC3.1C: Support school-based garden and composting programs.



CLIMATE ACTION MEASURES



Goal RC3

STRENGTHEN SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS AND PRESERVE AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES, ACHIEVING **30% INCREASE IN LOCAL FOOD ACCESS BY 2040**, RELATIVE TO A 2025 BASELINE.

GHG REDUCTION	
COST ESTIMATE	\$\$
PRIORITY SCORE	2

STRATEGY

RC3.2 Reduce food waste

LEAD DEPARTMENT

Sustainability & Resilience
Manager; Administrative Services

IMPLEMENTATION YEAR

2026-2028

CLIMATE CONNECTION

Preventing and diverting food waste reduces methane emissions from landfills and avoids the embodied carbon from food production and transport.

ACTION STEPS

RC3.2A: Develop and launch a citywide food waste prevention campaign in 2026, including social media, workshops, and school outreach.

RC3.2B: Launch food waste diversion programs for schools, restaurants, and institutions.

RC3.2C: Encourage restaurant participation in composting services.

RC3.2D: Promote household food waste reduction through outreach and behavior change campaigns.



CLIMATE ACTION MEASURES



Goal RC3

STRENGTHEN SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS AND PRESERVE AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES, ACHIEVING **30% INCREASE IN LOCAL FOOD ACCESS BY 2040**, RELATIVE TO A 2025 BASELINE.

GHG REDUCTION	
COST ESTIMATE	\$\$
PRIORITY SCORE	3

STRATEGY

RC3.3
Preserve agricultural land and natural resources

LEAD DEPARTMENT

Community Development;
Planning Division; Sustainability
& Resilience Manager

IMPLEMENTATION YEAR

2027-2028

CLIMATE CONNECTION

Protecting farmland and promoting regenerative practices enhances carbon sequestration in soils and prevents emissions from land conversion.

ACTION STEPS

- RC3.3A:** Encourage agricultural land preservation through zoning and land-use planning.
- RC3.3B:** Partner with local farmers and UW Extension to host annual workshops and demonstration plots on regenerative practices (e.g., cover crops, soil health).

CLIMATE ACTION MEASURES



Parks & Green Space

SUN PRAIRIE'S PARKS, trails, and natural areas are vital to community well-being and environmental health. They provide recreation opportunities, improve air and water quality, contribute to diverse and functioning ecosystems, and help manage stormwater and urban heat. Protecting and expanding green spaces enhances both ecological resilience and quality of life. By investing in urban forestry, habitat restoration, and equitable access to outdoor spaces, the City will ensure that all residents can enjoy the benefits of a healthy and connected natural environment.



DID YOU KNOW?

The City assumed partial ownership of Patrick Marsh in 2025 from the WI DNR and Groundswell Conservancy. The 275-acre natural area that includes wetland and prairie restoration landscapes will be managed as a city park that continues to protect native habitats while expanding access to outdoor recreation.



CLIMATE ACTION MEASURES



Goal PG1

EXPAND, CONSERVE, AND PROTECT NATURAL GREEN SPACE WITHIN SUN PRAIRIE BY DESIGNATING 5 GREEN SPACES AS CONSERVATION AREAS OR CONSERVANCY PARKS BY 2035 AND 20 BY 2050.

GHG REDUCTION	
COST ESTIMATE	\$\$
PRIORITY SCORE	2

STRATEGY

PG1.1
Preserve and acquire natural lands

LEAD DEPARTMENT

Parks, Recreation, & Forestry;
Community Development

IMPLEMENTATION YEAR

2026-2027

CLIMATE CONNECTION

Protecting and restoring natural lands increases carbon sequestration in soils and vegetation, prevents emissions from development-related land disturbance, and supports ecosystem resilience to climate impacts.

ACTION STEPS

PG1.1A: Identify priority City parks and properties on ecologically valuable lands.

PG1.1B: Update development review processes to include natural resource protection standards and require compliance during permitting.

PG1.1C: Adopt dark-sky lighting standards in 2026 to reduce light pollution, protect wildlife, and improve night-sky visibility in parks and natural areas.



CLIMATE ACTION MEASURES



Goal PG1

EXPAND, CONSERVE, AND PROTECT NATURAL GREEN SPACE WITHIN SUN PRAIRIE BY DESIGNATING 5 GREEN SPACES AS CONSERVATION AREAS OR CONSERVANCY PARKS BY 2035 AND 20 BY 2050.

GHG REDUCTION	
COST ESTIMATE	\$\$\$
PRIORITY SCORE	3

STRATEGY

PG1.2

Ensure accessibility and equity in parkland

LEAD DEPARTMENT

Parks, Recreation, & Forestry;
Community Development

IMPLEMENTATION YEAR

2027-2029

CLIMATE CONNECTION

Equitable park access encourages walking, biking, and outdoor activity, reducing vehicle miles traveled while promoting public health and community engagement in sustainability goals.

ACTION STEPS

PG1.2A: Use growth projections and demographic data to identify and acquire sites for new parks that preserve greenspace and serve growing neighborhoods.

PG1.2B: Conduct a citywide park access analysis to ensure residents of all abilities and income levels are served equitably, and develop access standards for inclusion in the next Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan.

PG1.2C: When siting or upgrading park facilities, evaluate transit and active transportation connections and seek to improve them.



CLIMATE ACTION MEASURES



Goal PG1

EXPAND, CONSERVE, AND PROTECT NATURAL GREEN SPACE WITHIN SUN PRAIRIE BY DESIGNATING 5 GREEN SPACES AS CONSERVATION AREAS OR CONSERVANCY PARKS BY 2035 AND 20 BY 2050.

GHG REDUCTION	
COST ESTIMATE	\$
PRIORITY SCORE	2

STRATEGY

PG1.3
Strengthen conservation leadership and partnerships

LEAD DEPARTMENT

Parks, Recreation, & Forestry

IMPLEMENTATION YEAR

2027

CLIMATE CONNECTION

Coordinated conservation programs amplify local carbon storage efforts, leverage regional funding for habitat restoration, and ensure long-term maintenance of natural carbon sinks.

ACTION STEPS

PG1.3A: Continue to partner with public, nonprofit, and private organizations to enhance conservation efforts across city parks, properties, and private properties.

PG1.3B: Adopt measurable goals for preserving wildlife habitat, wetlands, and buffer areas, and integrate them into park and land management plans.

PG1.3C: With the help of community volunteers, pursue Bird City Wisconsin certification by 2030, beginning with an assessment of current criteria and gaps.



CLIMATE ACTION MEASURES



Goal PG2

INCREASE SUSTAINABLE LANDSCAPING PRACTICES WITHIN SUN PRAIRIE BY INCORPORATING LOW-MOW AREAS, NATURAL LAWNS, ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION, AND NATIVE SPECIES INTO 10% OF CITY MANAGED PROPERTIES BY 2050.

GHG REDUCTION	
COST ESTIMATE	\$\$
PRIORITY SCORE	3

STRATEGY

PG2.1
Transition municipal landscaping practices

LEAD DEPARTMENT

Parks, Recreation, & Forestry

IMPLEMENTATION YEAR

2026-2027

CLIMATE CONNECTION

Replacing high-maintenance turf and fossil-fuel-powered equipment with native plants and electric tools lowers fuel use, reduces fertilizer-related emissions, and enhances soil carbon storage.

ACTION STEPS

PG2.1A: Publish a preferred plants list and transition City landscaping areas to native plant species.

PG2.1B: Identify municipal greenspaces to enhance with native plants, low-mow species, and sustainable landscape techniques.

PG2.1C: Lead by example by adopting adaptive management strategies for pests, such as Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and/or Integrated Vegetation Management (IVM), in all parks and public works operations.



CLIMATE ACTION MEASURES



Goal PG2

INCREASE SUSTAINABLE LANDSCAPING PRACTICES WITHIN SUN PRAIRIE BY INCORPORATING LOW-MOW AREAS, NATURAL LAWNS, ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION, AND NATIVE SPECIES INTO 10% OF CITY MANAGED PROPERTIES BY 2050.

GHG REDUCTION	
COST ESTIMATE	\$
PRIORITY SCORE	2

STRATEGY

PG2.2
Support community adoption of sustainable landscaping

LEAD DEPARTMENT

Parks, Recreation, & Forestry

IMPLEMENTATION YEAR

2027-2028

CLIMATE CONNECTION

Encouraging residents to plant native species and reduce mowing helps lower household emissions, supports local biodiversity, and collectively increases carbon sequestration across the community.

ACTION STEPS

PG2.2A: Continue to seek grants and external funding sources to encourage the use of native plants on public and private properties.

PG2.2B: Continue community education and programming on pollinator-friendly yards and gardens.

PG2.2C: Work with local organizations and civic groups to continue to install and maintain native plants in public spaces and encourage neighborhood-scale projects, such as the “Slow Mow, Let it Grow” program.



CLIMATE ACTION MEASURES



Goal PG2

INCREASE SUSTAINABLE LANDSCAPING PRACTICES WITHIN SUN PRAIRIE BY INCORPORATING LOW-MOW AREAS, NATURAL LAWNS, ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION, AND NATIVE SPECIES INTO 10% OF CITY MANAGED PROPERTIES BY 2050.

GHG REDUCTION	
COST ESTIMATE	\$\$
PRIORITY SCORE	3

STRATEGY

PG2.3

Showcase sustainable landscaping practices

LEAD DEPARTMENT

Parks, Recreation, & Forestry

IMPLEMENTATION YEAR

2026-2028

CLIMATE CONNECTION

Demonstration gardens and public education foster widespread behavior change, multiplying the emissions benefits of sustainable landscape management through community adoption.

ACTION STEPS

PG2.3A: Work with community partners to create community demonstration gardens that highlights sustainable yard care and food production.

PG2.3B: Continue to host workshops and tours (e.g., pollinator gardens, native landscapes, chicken coops) to encourage adoption.

PG2.3C: Regularly publish maintenance guidelines and community success stories through City newsletters, website, and social media.



CLIMATE ACTION MEASURES



Goal PG3

ENHANCE THE HEALTH OF SUN PRAIRIE'S URBAN FOREST BY INCREASING THE NUMBER OF TREE SPECIES (100 TREE SPECIES BY 2035), INCREASING STOCKING DENSITY (15% INCREASE IN STOCKING DENSITY OF STREET TREES BY 2050), AND INCREASING AGE-CLASS DIVERSITY (INCREASING THE NUMBER OF PUBLICLY MANAGED MATURE TREES > 12" DBH BY 20% BY 2035).

GHG REDUCTION	
COST ESTIMATE	\$
PRIORITY SCORE	1

STRATEGY

PG3.1
Strengthen tree protection and planning policies

LEAD DEPARTMENT

Parks, Recreation, & Forestry;
Community Development

IMPLEMENTATION YEAR

2026-2029

CLIMATE CONNECTION

Tree preservation ordinances prevent carbon loss from unnecessary removals and ensure the long-term storage of carbon within the city's existing canopy.

ACTION STEPS

PG3.1A: Develop and adopt a tree preservation ordinance to guide development impacts.

PG3.1B: Require tree surveys and protection measures for publicly and privately managed trees prior to issuing construction permits.

PG3.1C: Maintain and regularly update the City's acceptable street tree species list and provide guidance on plantings.

DID YOU KNOW?

Sun Prairie has been
recognized as a
Tree City USA
for over 25 years.



CLIMATE ACTION MEASURES



Goal PG3

ENHANCE THE HEALTH OF SUN PRAIRIE'S URBAN FOREST BY INCREASING THE NUMBER OF TREE SPECIES (100 TREE SPECIES BY 2035), INCREASING STOCKING DENSITY (15% INCREASE IN STOCKING DENSITY OF STREET TREES BY 2050), AND INCREASING AGE-CLASS DIVERSITY (INCREASING THE NUMBER OF PUBLICLY MANAGED MATURE TREES > 12" DBH BY 20% BY 2035).

GHG REDUCTION	
COST ESTIMATE	\$\$
PRIORITY SCORE	1

STRATEGY

PG3.2
Expand urban tree canopy and diversity

LEAD DEPARTMENT

Parks, Recreation, & Forestry

IMPLEMENTATION YEAR

2026-2029

CLIMATE CONNECTION

Expanding and diversifying the urban forest increases carbon sequestration, reduces building energy demand through shade and cooling, and strengthens resilience to climate stressors.

ACTION STEPS

PG3.2A: Strive to follow the "20-10-5 Rule" (no more than 20% of one family, 10% of one genus, 5% of one species) for all planted, prioritizing the health of the urban forest.

PG3.2B: Continue and expand the Resident Terrace Tree Planting Program and cost-sharing initiatives.

PG3.2C: Launch private property planting incentives, such as wholesale tree sales, group buys, or utility bill credits.

PG3.2D: Increase shade tree coverage along Main Street and priority corridors to improve walkability.



CLIMATE ACTION MEASURES



Goal PG3

ENHANCE THE HEALTH OF SUN PRAIRIE'S URBAN FOREST BY INCREASING THE NUMBER OF TREE SPECIES (100 TREE SPECIES BY 2035), INCREASING STOCKING DENSITY (15% INCREASE IN STOCKING DENSITY OF STREET TREES BY 2050), AND INCREASING AGE-CLASS DIVERSITY (INCREASING THE NUMBER OF PUBLICLY MANAGED MATURE TREES > 12" DBH BY 20% BY 2035).

GHG REDUCTION	
COST ESTIMATE	\$\$
PRIORITY SCORE	3

STRATEGY

PG3.3
Elevate Sun Prairie as a leader in urban forestry

LEAD DEPARTMENT

Parks, Recreation, & Forestry

IMPLEMENTATION YEAR

2027-2028

CLIMATE CONNECTION

Showcasing local tree diversity and tracking canopy growth demonstrates measurable carbon storage progress and inspires continued investment in nature-based climate solutions.

ACTION STEPS

PG3.3A: Apply for ArbNet accreditation to establish an official arboretum in a designated location within Sun Prairie.

PG3.3B: Develop a "bike path arboretum" in City parks, highlighting tree diversity.

PG3.3C: Regularly update the tree inventory map and monitor progress in tree growth through tree counts and diameter growth. Aim to re-census every 5 years.





GETTING INVOLVED



GETTING INVOLVED



SUN PRAIRIE'S success in meeting its climate and sustainability goals depends on the collective effort of residents, businesses, and community partners. Every action, whether large or small, contributes to a more resilient, equitable, and thriving city. This CAP provides a roadmap for reducing emissions and improving community well-being, but its real impact will come from the choices people make each day in their homes, workplaces, and neighborhoods.



DID YOU KNOW?

Sun Prairie offers a natural lawn registration process for residents, allowing them to replace turf grass lawns with native grasses and plant species.

GETTING INVOLVED

For Residents

Residents can take meaningful steps to reduce their environmental impact and support the City's goals.

- Save energy at home by switching to LED lighting, upgrading insulation, and choosing efficient electric appliances and heat pumps.
- Explore renewable energy options through community solar programs or rooftop solar installations.
- Choose sustainable transportation by walking, biking, carpooling, or using public transit when possible.
- Reduce waste through recycling, composting, and using reusable products.
- Support nature in your neighborhood by planting native trees and pollinator-friendly gardens, or registering your low-mow lawn.

Residents are also encouraged to stay engaged by attending community meetings, volunteering with local environmental groups, and sharing information with friends and neighbors.

For Businesses and Institutions

Local businesses, schools, and organizations are key partners in reducing emissions and advancing sustainability.

- Improve efficiency by conducting energy audits, upgrading lighting and HVAC systems, and investing in renewable energy.
- Encourage sustainable commuting by providing bike racks, EV charging, or commuter incentives.
- Reduce waste by purchasing recycled-content materials and minimizing packaging.
- Engage employees and students in sustainability initiatives and green teams.
- Collaborate with the City on innovative projects related to clean energy, resource conservation, or green infrastructure.

By integrating sustainability into operations, local institutions can strengthen their bottom line while supporting a healthier and more competitive local economy.



DID YOU KNOW?

Focus on Energy offers free programs and rebates to help homes and businesses reduce energy consumption.





GETTING INVOLVED

For Community Partners

Nonprofit organizations, neighborhood associations, and civic groups play an important role in connecting climate action to community well-being.

- Host events and workshops that promote sustainability, energy awareness, and environmental education.
- Collaborate on local projects that expand access to clean energy, affordable housing, or green spaces.
- Engage residents who are underrepresented in citywide planning to ensure equitable participation and benefits.

Through collaboration, Sun Prairie's partners can help ensure that the transition to a sustainable future benefits everyone.

For Everyone

Climate action is a shared responsibility and an opportunity to shape the future together. Every contribution, from installing solar panels and joining a cleanup event to planting a tree or helping a neighbor weatherize their home, brings Sun Prairie closer to its goals.

Residents are encouraged to follow City updates, participate in public engagement opportunities, and track progress through annual sustainability reports. By working together, the community can turn this plan into lasting progress and make Sun Prairie a model for local climate leadership in Wisconsin.

GETTING INVOLVED

FIVE WAYS TO START TODAY

1

GET AN ENERGY CHECK-UP

Schedule a home or business energy assessment through Focus on Energy or Sun Prairie Utilities.

2

CHOOSE CLEANER TRANSPORTATION

Walk, bike, carpool, take transit, or explore an EV with local rebate options.

3

JOIN A COMMUNITY PROJECT

Volunteer for clean-up days, tree planting, or local sustainability programs with Sustain Dane.

4

CUT WASTE

Recycle properly, compost food scraps, and switch to reusable bags, bottles, and containers.

5

STAY CONNECTED

Follow City sustainability updates and upcoming events at cityofsunprairie.com/Sustainability.



GETTING INVOLVED

Resources

The following resources provide information, incentives, and opportunities for residents, businesses, and community organizations to take climate action. These programs offer guidance on energy efficiency, renewable energy, sustainable transportation, waste reduction, and community engagement.

CITY AND UTILITY RESOURCES

City of Sun Prairie Sustainability and Climate Initiatives: Learn about ongoing sustainability projects, City programs, and progress updates.

Sun Prairie Utilities (SPU): Find information on energy efficiency rebates, electric vehicle charging programs, and renewable energy opportunities.

Sun Prairie Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Department: Explore volunteer opportunities, community tree planting programs, and park stewardship initiatives.

STATE AND FEDERAL PROGRAMS

Focus on Energy: Wisconsin's statewide program for residential and business incentives on energy efficiency and renewable energy projects.

U.S. Department of Energy: Home Energy Rebates: Information on available rebates and tax credits for home electrification and efficiency upgrades.

EPA ENERGY STAR for Business and Local Governments: Tools and resources for improving building energy performance.

COUNTY AND REGIONAL PARTNERS

Dane County Office of Energy and Climate Change (OECC): Provides regional guidance, data, and resources for communities working toward net-zero emissions.

Sustain Dane: A nonprofit organization supporting sustainability education, green business practices, and local action.

RENEW Wisconsin: Offers programs and policy updates related to renewable energy, EVs, and clean energy job growth.

COMMUNITY AND ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Sun Prairie Neighborhood Navigators Program: Connects residents with local services, volunteer opportunities, and community networks.

Sun Prairie Public Library: Offers sustainability-related workshops, book lists, and local resource guides.

Sun Prairie Chamber of Commerce: Connects local businesses with sustainability partnerships and economic development initiatives.

NEED MORE INFORMATION?

For questions about this plan or to get involved in sustainability initiatives, contact:
City of Sun Prairie Sustainability Staff at sustainability@cityofsunprairie.com





TRACKING PROGRESS





TRACKING PROGRESS

EFFECTIVE CLIMATE ACTION depends on clear measurement and consistent evaluation. Tracking progress allows the City and community to understand how local actions are contributing to greenhouse gas reductions, resource conservation, and resilience goals. Regular monitoring will also help identify which strategies are working well, where adjustments are needed, and how Sun Prairie can continue to lead by example across the region.

Meeting the Targets

Achieving Sun Prairie's science-based goal of a 63% reduction in emissions by 2035 and net zero by 2050 requires steady progress across all sectors. The City will monitor implementation through measurable indicators, including greenhouse gas emissions, energy use, transportation trends, and resource recovery rates.

Progress reports will summarize achievements, challenges, and key metrics. These updates will inform City decision-making, guide funding priorities, and ensure transparency for the community. Greenhouse gas inventories will be updated periodically to verify progress toward the targets and provide the data needed to recalibrate strategies when necessary.

By evaluating progress regularly, the City can maintain accountability and adapt its approach as technologies advance and community needs evolve. This process ensures that Sun Prairie remains on track to meet its long-term goals while delivering visible benefits such as cleaner air, lower energy costs, and stronger local resilience.

TRACKING PROGRESS

Updating the CAP

Our climate action plan is a living document and captures a moment in time. The plan outlines key goals and strategies that can ebb and flow based on shifting priorities and needs due to current events at the local, state, or federal level. For example, the federal funding landscape we are currently experiencing has impacted our ability to make sustainability advancements. While not specifically addressed in this document, the City is aware of the proliferation of data centers throughout the state. We need to be prepared to respond to the environmental impacts of significant projects and land use decisions such as these. On a local level we can anticipate shifts as well, such as the April 7, 2026 referendum asking voters if they support a single, permanent \$3.95 million increase to the City's property tax levy. Approval would result in an investment for public safety staff wages, and the continuation of many existing services.

Other updates to this document may include revisions to targets, refinement of strategies, and the addition of new actions based on technological advancements or shifts in local priorities. Public input will continue to play a central role, ensuring that updates reflect the values, needs, and lived experiences of Sun Prairie residents.

Regular updates will keep the plan aligned with state and regional climate initiatives and maintain Sun Prairie's position as a leader in sustainability. Through this process, the CAP will continue to guide practical, measurable progress toward a low-carbon, resilient future for the entire community.

The path to a sustainable and resilient future will be built through continued collaboration, innovation, and shared responsibility. As Sun Prairie implements this Climate Action Plan, the City, its partners, and community members each play a role in achieving lasting change. By working together and tracking progress along the way, Sun Prairie can reach its ambitious goals and continue to set the standard for climate leadership in the region. The actions taken today will shape a healthier, more equitable, and more vibrant community for generations to come.

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ACRONYMS

TERM	ACRONYMS
ABAU	Adjusted Business-as-Usual
APU	Auxiliary Power Unit
BAU	Business-as-Usual
BRT	Bus Rapid Transit
CAFE	Corporate Average Fuel Economy
CAP	Climate Action Plan
CEP	Wisconsin Clean Energy Plan
CIMCRC	Critical Infrastructure Microgrid and Community Resilience Center
CO ₂ e	Carbon Dioxide Equivalent
DBH	Diameter at Breast Height
DOE	U.S. Department of Energy
EPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
EV	Electric Vehicle
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
GPC	Global Protocol for Community-Scale Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventories
HVAC	Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning
ICLEI	International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (Local Governments for Sustainability)
IPM	Integrated Pest Management



ACRONYMS

TERM	ACRONYMS
IVM	Integrated Vector Management
kBTU	Thousand British Thermal Units
LGO	Local Government Operations
MT CO ₂ e	Metric Tons of Carbon Dioxide Equivalent
OECC	Dane County Office of Energy & Climate Change
OSCE	Wisconsin Office of Sustainability and Clean Energy
PACE	Property Assessed Clean Energy
PSC	Wisconsin Public Service Commission
RCx	Retro-Commissioning
SBTi	Science Based Targets initiative
SPU	Sun Prairie Utilities
TIF	Tax Increment Financing
UW	University of Wisconsin
VBS	Value-Based Selection
WPPI	Wisconsin Public Power Incorporated

GLOSSARY

TERM	ACRONYMS
Active Transportation	Modes of travel that involve human-powered movement, such as walking, biking, and rolling (including wheelchairs, scooters, and other mobility devices).
Adaptive Management	A flexible, data-informed approach to land or pest management that adjusts practices based on outcomes and environmental conditions.
Air-Source Heat Pump (ASHP)	An efficient electric heating and cooling system that transfers heat between indoor and outdoor air.
Benchmarking	Measuring a building's energy use over time or against similar buildings to assess efficiency and identify opportunities for improvement.
Biogas	Renewable methane-rich gas produced from the anaerobic digestion of organic materials at wastewater facilities or landfills.
Carbon Dioxide Equivalent (CO₂e)	A standardized unit that expresses the global warming potential of different greenhouse gases in terms of the impact of carbon dioxide.
Carbon Neutrality	A condition in which greenhouse gas emissions are balanced by emissions reductions or removals, resulting in no net increase in atmospheric greenhouse gases.
Carbon Sequestration	The capture and long-term storage of atmospheric carbon in plants, soils, or other natural systems.
Circular Economy	An economic system that reduces waste and resource consumption by prioritizing reuse, repair, recycling, and product longevity.
Community Solar	A shared renewable energy system that allows multiple households or businesses to benefit from a single solar installation.



ACRONYMS

TERM	ACRONYMS
Complete Streets	A design approach that ensures roads are safe and accessible for all users, including pedestrians, cyclists, transit riders, and drivers.
Demand Control	Building systems that adjust energy use—such as HVAC or lighting—based on occupancy or conditions to reduce consumption.
Electrification	Replacing fossil fuel-powered equipment (such as gas furnaces or water heaters) with efficient electric alternatives powered increasingly by renewable energy.
Energy Efficiency	Using less energy to perform the same function through improved design, equipment, or operations.
ENERGY STAR Score	A 1–100 rating that compares a building’s energy performance to similar buildings nationwide.
Green Infrastructure	Natural or engineered systems—such as rain gardens, bioswales, and permeable pavement—that manage stormwater while providing ecological benefits.
Greenhouse Gas (GHG)	Gases such as carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrous oxide that trap heat in the atmosphere and contribute to climate change.
Ground-Source Heat Pump (GSHP)	A high-efficiency electric heating and cooling system that exchanges heat with the ground.
Heat Pump	An electric appliance that moves heat rather than generating it, providing heating and cooling more efficiently than combustion-based systems.
Inflow and Infiltration (I/I)	Excess water entering wastewater systems through cracks, leaks, or stormwater intrusion, reducing system efficiency.
Low-Mow / Natural Lawn	Landscaping practices that reduce mowing frequency and encourage native or low-maintenance plant species.



ACRONYMS

TERM	ACRONYMS
Mixed-Use Development	Development that combines housing, commercial uses, and services in walkable areas to reduce vehicle travel.
Net Zero Emissions	A condition in which greenhouse gas emissions are reduced to as close to zero as possible, with any remaining emissions balanced by permanent carbon removal.
Renewable Energy	Energy from naturally replenished sources such as solar, wind, geothermal, or hydropower.
Retro-Commissioning (RCx)	A process that optimizes the performance of existing building systems to improve efficiency and reduce energy use.
Smart Growth	Planning strategies that promote compact, connected development while preserving open space and reducing transportation emissions.
Stormwater Management	Systems and practices that control rainwater runoff to reduce flooding, improve water quality, and protect infrastructure.
Transit-Oriented Development (TOD)	Development designed to maximize access to public transit through higher density, walkability, and mixed uses.
Tree Canopy	The layer of leaves, branches, and stems that cover the ground when viewed from above, providing climate and ecological benefits.
Waste Diversion	Reducing materials sent to landfill through recycling, composting, reuse, and waste prevention.
Weatherization	Improving a home's insulation, air sealing, and energy performance to reduce heating and cooling demand.



