

2020 Energy & Environment

Sustainability was identified as an area of opportunity in the 2019-2022 Strategic Plan and in the 2040 Comprehensive Plan. The Energy & Environment Committee researches and recommends ways to advance sustainability goals in the City to the City Council, City Manager, and other City boards and commissions.

At the start of the process the Energy and Environment Committee, Xcel Energy and the Center for the Energy and Environment (CEE) worked to create a new Energy Action Team (EAT) to work on the Energy Action plan, which represented many different stakeholders within Wayzata.

The EAT created an energy vision statement, "Wayzata is a forward-thinking community on the forefront of sustainability. We will lead by example to reduce our energy use through conservation and increase access to renewable energy sources for all residents, businesses, and institutions. Our community and its members will thrive and become more resilient through promoting values of energy stewardship and supporting everyone in our community in our work".

Members

Kathleen Jones

Amy Steiner Stielow

KC Chermak

Polly Anderson

Chrissie Olson

Alessandra Bajetti (Student)

Jeff Buchanan – Council Member

Staff Liaisons

Nick Kieser

Emily Goellner

2020 Overview

2020 Focus Items:

Focus Item	Status
Start Tracking Energy and Water Consumption	City is doing B3 benchmarking of City Hall and starting process for benchmarking Public Works building. Water tracking is not yet done.
Propose Partners in Energy Program to Council	Done
Research/Propose GreenStep Cities Program	Done. Program steps were researched and Diana McKeown from the Great Plains Institute gave presentation to the committee in August 2020. Decided to look into it after Energy Action plan implemented.
Create Website Page with Information about the Committee	Done
Research programs/Initiatives/Grants for City Implementation	Hennepin County Opportunity Grant was pursued for stormwater pond by the Section Foreman House next to Lake Minnetonka. Had conversations and site visit with Hennepin County. Decided to apply again in 2021.
Research Renewable Energy Options for City Facilities	Being completed through the Energy Action Plan
Create Annual Report and Future Work Plan	Done

Other Key Accomplishments

Partners in Energy program

- Application to apply approved by City Council on 2/4/2020
- Kick-off event held 3/9/2020 at City Hall
- 13 members of the Energy Action team were recruited, selected, and put forward to City Council to work on developing an energy action plan for the city
- Energy Action team met 4 times throughout the spring and summer
- Xcel Energy presented energy action plan to the Committee on 10/27/2020 with expected 18 month implementation.

Energy benchmarking

- Have data for City Hall
- Toured public works facility on 10/8/2020 to see how building works in terms of energy operations.

EV Event

- Event originally planned for 6/11/2020 in partnership with Fresh Energy, was postponed until 2021 due to COVID.
- Video on electric vehicles was put on Energy and Environment Committee website.

City Council Referrals

- Plastic Bag Ban. Item was brought to Energy and Environment committee by City Council for committee to research ordinance to limit plastic bag and straw use and bring forward recommendation. Had been brought up by resident in a public forum. Committee decided to hold off for now, given other priorities.
- Community garden. Item was brought to the committee by a City Council member. Committee decided to hold off on project and focus on energy action plan. There didn't seem to be a lot of community need for the community garden. The city has one community garden site run by St. Bart's School.
- Zoning Task Force - Committee member KC Chermak joined the zoning task force to represent the committee

Hennepin County Opportunity Grant

- Several sites were researched, including erosion project on the runoff pond east of the Hotel Landing. Decided on storm water pond by the Section Foreman House next to Lake Minnetonka with focus on pollutant removal and incorporation of native grasses.
- Site visit with Hennepin County project manager, and Chair of Park and Trails Board to determine which project to apply for and discuss the application, on 8/12/2020
- Committee Chair Polly Andersen and member Amy Stielow working on application. Decided to wait until 2021

Hennepin County Residential Recycling Grant

- Council and Committee member Jeff Buchanan researching the grant.

Green Step Cities

- Diana McKeown from Great Plains Institute gave presentation to committee on the program, 8/25/2020
- Committee decided to research further after implementation of energy action plan

2021 Committee Work Plan

January

- Welcome new committee member
- Designate tasks for each member to work towards on the Partners in Energy Plan
- Start to develop a contact list of faith organizations and identify organizations to create relationships with for the EAP

February

- Start to conduct a residential energy savings campaign
- Support city with website: Work with PiE to determine what to add to E & E city website and how to promote it; Create resources webpage for building owners and developers on city website
- Continue with contact lists

March

- Launch renewable energy campaign and distribute communications and materials
- Continue work on website and contact lists

April

- Start planning Electric Vehicle (EV) event
- Research recognition programs for the accomplishments of Wayzata's energy initiatives, such as:
 - GreenSteps
 - Cities LEED for Cities and Communities
 - SolSmart
- Determine best way to communicate City successes
- Start multi-family building outreach

May

- Continue EV event planning

- Review ways to recognize City successes
- Identify and recruit volunteers, Chamber of Commerce staff, and energy action team members to distribute materials to business owners.
- Continue multi-family building outreach for energy saving opportunities

June

- Continue EV event planning
- Continue multi-family building outreach for energy saving opportunities
- Determine any participation on any City success programs

July

- Promote renewable energy opportunities and free assessments for businesses
- Conduct outreach to under-resourced households
- Conduct a renewable energy outreach campaign
- Create an annual recognition process that aligns or collaborates with other Wayzata building recognitions through the City or Chamber of Commerce; Specify requirements, partners, other city departments to be involved, and how businesses benefit from recognition.
- Recognize city successes
- Develop and launch a Home Energy Squad sign-up campaign by offering city-sponsored visits for half the cost of normal visit. (Anytime, but target 100 visits by January 2022)

August

- Promote renewable energy opportunities and free assessments for businesses
- Conduct outreach to under-resourced households
- Conduct a renewable energy outreach campaign
- Help support PiE to create and deliver utility bill inserts and social media outreach targeting residents to sign up for online billing and learn how to navigate energy information in the platform.
- Chosen volunteers begins multi-family one-on-one outreach

September

- Promote renewable energy opportunities and free assessments for businesses
- Conduct outreach to under-resourced households
- Conduct a renewable energy outreach campaign
- Support PiE on administering home energy surveys to collect questions, topics of interest and timing preferences for virtual or in-person 30-minute energy workshops.

October

- Expand electric vehicle access and education
- Create a green recognition program
- Conduct outreach to faith organizations
- Identify social service organizations, under-resourced areas of the community, and other partnerships that can help distribute information on free energy resources for energy burdened households.

November

- Expand electric vehicle access and education
- Create a green recognition program
- Conduct outreach to faith organizations
- Help PiE plan energy workshops for Q1 2022
- Work on plan for 2022.

December

- Expand electric vehicle access and education
- Create a green recognition program
- Conduct outreach to faith organizations
- Support PiE in creation of communications language and outreach plan to faith organizations who own buildings, asking them to consider an energy audit and explore money-saving and sustainable energy opportunities.