



Sustainability Commission Work Plan

March 2023-February 2024



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WORK PLAN EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Initiatives



ECOLOGICAL LAND STEWARDSHIP

- a) Review and revise City Codes related to native planting in residential areas.
- b) Continue hosting and supporting volunteer activities such as buckthorn busts, garlic mustard pulls, seed collections, tree plantings, and adopt a park in priority areas identified in the Natural Resources Prioritization and Management Plan.
- c) Outreach and educational materials on water conservation.



CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION: ENERGY (NATURAL GAS AND ELECTRICITY)

- d) Evaluate feasibility of solar on City facilities.
- e) Research barriers and benefits of completing residential weatherization projects.



CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION: TRANSPORTATION

- f) Support and promote bicycle connectivity and safety.
- g) Support and promote public transportation system.



ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

- h) Identify or create tools to better help workgroups integrate environmental justice into their initiatives.
- i) Invite speakers from local organizations to contribute perspectives and organize trainings.



SOLID WASTE/RECYCLING

- j) Assist with the promotion of more multi-family recycling.
- k) More Organics Program outreach.
- l) Assist with the study of garbage and recycling rates.



SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION RESPONSIBILITIES

- m) Serve as a resource for other commissions, boards, committees, and task forces.
- n) Engage with community and serve as a liaison for issues, ideas, and proposals, and provide appropriate feedback.
- o) Review sustainability proposals and make recommendations.
- p) Cultivate relationships with residents, community groups, businesses, institutions of higher learning, faith-based organizations, non-governmental organizations, etc.
- q) Develop 2023 Sustainability Commission work plan.
- r) Onboard three new commissioners in March 2023.
- s) Recruit three new sustainability commissioners in Q4 of 2023.
- t) Host summer sustainability celebration.
- u) Hold winter team building event (celebration of retiring commissioners and welcoming of new members).

Division H: Sustainability Commission

§ 2.86.01 Purpose

The purpose of the Sustainability Commission shall be to advise the City Council on policies and practices that relate to the sustainable use and management of environmental resources that include air, water, energy, land, and ecological resources, and waste. The Sustainability Commission will help to ensure that such resources will be sustained and continue to provide for a high quality of life for present and future generations of Bloomington.

§ 2.86.02 Duties and Responsibilities

The Commission shall:

- a) Collaborate with City staff to review, evaluate, develop, and advise the City Council on policies and practices regarding the sustainable use and management of environmental resources that include air, water, energy, land and ecological resources, and waste;
- b) Act as change agent, coordinator and educator for policies, procedures and proposals that relate to environmental sustainability;
- c) Engage with the Bloomington community and serve as a community liaison for issues, ideas, and proposals and provide appropriate feedback;
- d) Cultivate relationships with residents, community groups, businesses, institutions of higher learning, faith-based organizations, outside government bodies, and non-governmental institutions;
- e) Serve as a resource for other Bloomington commissions, boards, committees, and task forces on any issues related to sustainability;
- f) Adopt criteria and processes for making decisions about the use of resources and selection of sustainability projects;
- g) Review sustainability proposals and make recommendations; and
- h) Submit written annual work plans and progress reports to the City Council.

§ 2.86.03 Membership

The Sustainability Commission shall consist of 11 members, including at least two young adults. The majority of the members shall be technical experts in one or more of the areas of sustainability and one seat shall be reserved for a City Council member.

(Ord. [2017-15](#), passed 5-22-2017; Ord. [2018-19](#), passed 7-9-2018; Ord. [2019-31](#), passed 8-5-2019)

ROSTER

(March 2023 through Feb 2024)

Name	Bio	Appoint.	Term Exp	District
Andy Scott	Andy Scott grew up in Richfield and has been a Bloomington resident for 10 years. He has a degree in Design from MCAD and has been working as a landscape designer since 2017. He is the proprietor of a small landscape company that specializes in native plant communities, habitat gardening, pollinator-friendly practices and residential stormwater management. As an engaged member of the South Loop community, Andy is passionate about continuing to improve Bloomington's natural areas/resources by supporting efforts from the City and its residents.	T1: 3/15/22	T1: 2/28/25	3
Angie Begosh	Angie Begosh has a Ph.D. in zoology from Oklahoma State University, where she researched how land use affects pollinator communities. Her career includes work as an extension educator in Kentucky, Iowa, Idaho, and New Mexico focusing on natural resources and agriculture education, a salmon habitat restoration grants coordinator in Washington state, and a field technician and contract ecologist in Minnesota. Her volunteer work in Bloomington involves monitoring a bluebird trail, surveying invasive weeds for Three Rivers Park District, and starting prairie plant seeds for Dakota County parks. She is passionate about preserving and enhancing green space in Bloomington and making quality urban habitats accessible to everybody.	T1: 3/15/22	T1: 2/28/25	1
Beth Stegora	Beth Stegora received her Doctorate in the medical field from the University of Southern California. She is interested in the effects of climate change on the physical and mental health of humans and all living creatures. She joined the Sustainability Commission to help protect the precious natural resources that Bloomington has to offer so future generations may be able to experience clean air and water.	T1: 3/1/22	T1: 2/28/25	3
David Drummond	Dave Drummond has a Ph.D. (Environmental Health) from the U of M School of Public Health. He performed the first campus-wide sustainability study for the UW-Madison including a facilities-based carbon footprint. He also served as their Director of Environment, Health and Safety. As a new member of the Commission, he is learning and participating in its activities and hopes to share his expertise where it will be helpful.	T1: 2/24/20 T2: 3/1/23	T1: 2/28/23 T2: 2/28/26	2

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Deanna White	After earning a bachelor's degree in Political Science, Deanna White worked on political campaigns for several years before transitioning to the nonprofit world. Deanna spent eight years working for the Sierra Club and two years working with the Brandon Valley Area Chamber of Commerce before moving to the Twin Cities in 2008 to work for Clean Water Action. After living in Sioux Falls, Las Vegas, and Washington DC, she has a broad perspective on community solutions to sustainability challenges.	T1: 2/13/18	T1: 2/28/21	4
		T2: 3/1/21	T2: 2/28/24	
Sarah Cobb		T1: 2/28/21 (Serve remaining term)	T1: 2/28/24	3
Stephanie Auen	Stephanie Auen has a degree in Electrical Engineering from North Dakota State University. She began her career working in solar energy at a Bloomington-based solar manufacturer. She later transitioned into the construction world where she now works exclusively on the planning and design of large-scale solar projects across the country. Through the Sustainability Commission, Stephanie aims to use her passion for environmentally-friendly living to help Bloomington be a leader in sustainable practices.	T1: 3/1/21	T1: 2/28/23	2
		T2: 3/1/23	T2: 2/28/26	
Tony Comer		T1: 3/1/23	T1: 2/28/26	4
One City Councilmember Seat				
Dwayne Lowman	Dwayne Lowman was born and raised in Bloomington near Effa play lot. He and his wife Kellie enjoy camping up north and walking the parks and trails. Dwayne has a bachelor's degree in Political Science and Urban Studies, concentrating in Public Administration and Community Economic Development from Augsburg University. When reflecting on why he joined the Sustainability Commission, he said, "There are many reasons why I am committed to Bloomington's long-term ecological, social, and economic resilience. Chief among those many reasons has to be those voices that are marginalized or drowned out by obstacles seen and unseen. I trust that I will have the humility to pass on a better Bloomington than what I have found."	T1: 1/23/17	T1: 1/9/18	1
		T2: 1/9/18	T2: 12/31/18	
		T3: 1/2019	T3: 2/2020	
		T4: 3/2020	T4: 2/2021	
		T5: 3/2021	T5: 2/2022	
		T6: 1/3/2022	T6: 1/2/2022	

Two Young Adult Seats

Faith Drevlow	Faith Drevlow is currently working at ERM as a Biologist/Sustainability Consultant, where she works to protect the environment from potential harm. She is also a recent graduate of the University of Minnesota, where she earned her B.S. in Environmental Geography. Additionally, she is an active member of the Minnesota GIS/LIS Consortium’s Professional Development Committee, where she leads networking events and coordinates with other committees to help further professional development. She was a founding member of the Peabody Conservatory Environmentalist Club, creating a project that aimed to improve recycling at Johns Hopkins University’s Peabody Conservatory. Faith is passionate about sustainability and looks forward to making real changes in her community to fight climate change.	T1: 9/1/21	T1: 8/31/22	Youth
Owen Loken	Owen Loken is a student at Jefferson High School. Owen was sent in early summer of 2022 to take part in the 73rd session of Minnesota Boys State. Owen is thankful for the opportunity to be part of the Commission and will work tirelessly to make the most of this position. Owen will take the saying that his parents say often “Think globally act locally” to heart when serving on Bloomington’s Sustainability Commission.	T1: 9/1/22	T1: 8/31/23	Youth

T1= Term 1, T2= Term 2

Commission Leadership

	2017	2018	2019	3/2020- 2/2021	3/2021- 2/2022	3/2022- 2/2023	3/2023- 2/2024
Chair	<i>T Sandry</i>	<i>T Sandry</i>	<i>T Sandry</i>	<i>T Sandry</i>	<i>T Sandry</i>	<i>D White</i>	<i>TBD</i>
V ice Chair	<i>S Flagg</i>	<i>S Flagg</i>	<i>S Flagg</i>	<i>J Strommen</i>	<i>D Drummond</i>	<i>S Thronson</i>	<i>TBD</i>

Retiring Commissioner

The following sustainability commissioner will complete their second consecutive term on February 28, 2022. We thank them for their years of service.

Name	Bio	Appoint.	Term Exp	District
Tim Sandry	Tim Sandry has spent most of his career as project manager, executive in the Information Technology space — primarily working with others to get things done on time and on budget to meet the “clients.” Tim utilizes those skills in his Commissioner role. In this case the client is the earth and its inhabitants.	T1: 1/23/17 T2: 2/24/20	T1: 2/24/20 T2: 2/28/23	2

City Staff Support

Staff Liaison

Emma Struss, Sustainability Coordinator







Staff Lead

Ellen Biales, Deputy Director of Public Works

Staff-Appointed Commission Secretary

Kim Larson, Office Coordinator

MARCH 2022-FEBRUARY 2023 WORK PLAN COMPLETION SUMMARY

Initiatives	STATUS
 ECOLOGICAL LAND STEWARDSHIP	
a) Continue to support the Earth Corps Club at Jefferson High School with Unity Garden	<i>Ongoing</i>
b) Assist staff in adopting criteria and processes for making decisions about the use of resources and selection of natural resource projects for City-owned park land	<i>Complete</i>
c) Support staff as needed with restoration projects on City-owned property (controlled burns, plantings, etc.)	<i>Complete</i>
 CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION: ENERGY (NATURAL GAS AND ELECTRICITY)	
d) Staff continue to benchmark the energy and water use of City facilities	<i>Complete</i>
e) Evaluate opportunities for renewable energy at City facilities	<i>In progress</i>
f) Launch the Large Building Benchmarking Program	<i>Complete</i>
g) Launch the Time of Sale Energy Disclosure Program	<i>Complete</i>
h) Promote residential energy programs such as Home Energy Squad, Energy Assistance Program, and the Weatherization Assistance Program	<i>Complete</i>
i) Host three residential energy resource workshops	<i>Complete</i>
j) Increase capacity to capitalize on climate change mitigation strategies by providing more direct community engagement and support (e.g. Home Energy Squad follow-through; Energy Assistance Program applications; Air Sealing & Insulation Program)	<i>Complete</i>
 CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION: TRANSPORTATION	
k) Set quantitative transportation goals	<i>In progress</i>
 ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE	
l) Review racial equity impact assessments for sustainability initiatives	<i>Ongoing</i>
m) Complete outreach and community engagement with an emphasis on translating materials	<i>Ongoing</i>
n) Environmental impacts mapping	<i>In progress</i>
o) Community-based social marketing training	<i>Complete</i>
 SOLID WASTE	
p) Launch Bulky Item Management Program	<i>Complete</i>
q) Launch Curbside Organics Recycling Program	<i>Complete</i>
r) Continued education on organics recycling and promotion of organics recycling drop off locations	<i>Complete</i>
 MULTIPLE AREAS OF SUSTAINABILITY	
s) Sustainable building and site design ordinance research & development	<i>In progress</i>



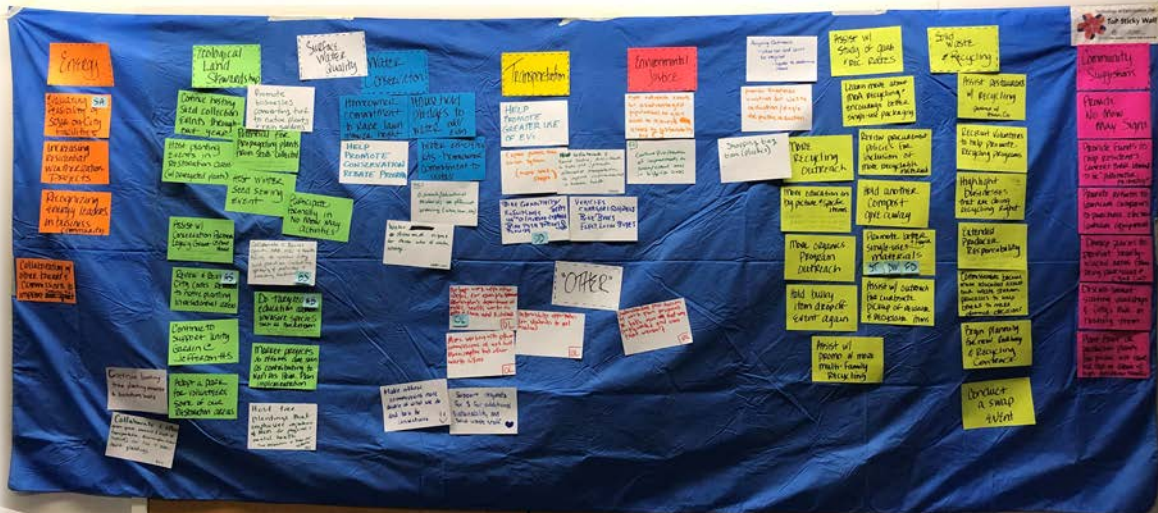
SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION RESPONSIBILITIES

- t) Serve as a resource for other commissions, boards, committees, and task forces Ongoing
- u) Engage with community and serve as a liaison for issues, ideas, and proposals, and provide appropriate feedback Ongoing
- v) Review sustainability proposals and make recommendations Ongoing
- w) Cultivate relationships with residents, community groups, businesses, institutions of higher learning, faith-based organizations, non-governmental organizations, etc. Ongoing
- x) Develop 2023 Sustainability Commission work plan In progress
- y) Onboard three new commissioners in March 2022 Complete
- z) Recruit three new sustainability commissioners in Q4 of 2022 Complete
- aa) Host Summer Sustainability Celebration Complete
- bb) Hold February team building event (celebration of retiring commissioners and welcoming of new members) Complete

WORK PLAN DEVELOPMENT

Process

The Sustainability Commission developed this work plan during their monthly meetings from November 2022-February 2023.



WORK PLAN FOCUS AREAS

Ecological Land Stewardship

Informal Work Group

- Andy Scott
- Beth Stegora
- Angie Begosh
- Stephanie Auen
- Faith Drevlow

INITIATIVES

Review and revise City Codes related to native planting in residential areas.

Description: Review and revise City Codes related to native planting in residential areas.

Project Lead: Andy Scott

Staff Contact: Ellen Biales, Deputy Director of Public Works

Continue hosting and supporting volunteer activities such as buckthorn busts, garlic mustard pulls, seed collections, tree plantings, and adopt a park in priority areas identified in the Natural Resources Prioritization and Management Plan.

Description: Continue hosting and supporting volunteer activities such as buckthorn busts, garlic mustard pulls, seed collections, tree plantings, and adopt a park in priority areas identified in the Natural Resources Prioritization and Management Plan.

Project Lead: Angie Begosh

Staff Contact: Ellen Biales, Deputy Director of Public Works

Outreach and educational materials on water conservation

Description: Outreach and educational materials on water conservation.

Project Lead: Angie Begosh and Beth Stegora

Staff Contact: Ellen Biales, Deputy Director of Public Works



Climate Change Mitigation: Energy (Natural Gas & Electricity)

Informal Work Group

- David Drummond
- Owen Loken
- Stephanie Auen

INITIATIVES

Evaluate feasibility of solar on City facilities.

Description: Determine locations that are well suited for solar energy production on City-owned land. Estimate upfront investment requirements and payback timelines.

Project Lead: Stephanie Auen

Staff Contact: Emma Struss, Sustainability Coordinator

Research barriers of completing residential energy efficiency projects.

Description: Identify why residents are not moving forward with Time of Sale Energy Disclosure and Home Energy Squad recommendations through a survey and conversations with residents.

Project Lead: Owen Loken

Staff Contact: Emma Struss, Sustainability Coordinator



Climate Change Mitigation: Transportation

Informal Work Group

- David Drummond
- Dwayne Lowman
- Owen Loken

INITIATIVES

Support and promote bicycle connectivity and safety.

Description: Support and promote bicycle connectivity and safety.

Project Lead: David Drummond

Staff Contact: Emma Struss, Sustainability Coordinator

Support and promote public transportation system

Description: Support and promote public transportation system.

Project Lead: Owen Loken

Staff Contact: Emma Struss, Sustainability Coordinator



Environmental Justice

Informal Work Group

- Beth Stegora
- Deanna White
- Faith Drevlow

INITIATIVES

Identify or create tools to better help workgroups integrate environmental justice into their initiatives.

- Description:
- Get trained in on the City's Racial Equity Impact Assessment (REIA) and ensure the Commission is completing a REIA for its initiatives.
 - Identify additional tools that can help workgroups integrate environmental justice into Commission efforts.

Project Lead: Faith Drevlow

Staff Contact: Emma Struss, Sustainability Coordinator

Invite speakers from local organizations to contribute perspectives and organize trainings.

- Description:
- Support the selection of 3-4 speakers for Commission meetings.
 - Connect with local organizations to prepare for broader community engagement.

Project Lead: Beth Stegora

Staff Contact: Emma Struss, Sustainability Coordinator



Solid Waste

Informal Work Group

- Beth Stegora
- Deanna White
- Dwayne Lowman

INITIATIVES

Assist with the promotion of more multi-family recycling.

Description: Assist with the promotion of more multi-family recycling.

Project Lead: Deanna White

Staff Contact: Ellen Biales, Deputy Director of Public Works

More Organics Program Outreach

Description: More organics program outreach.

Project Lead: Beth Stegora

Staff Contact: Ellen Biales, Deputy Director of Public Works

Assist with the study of garbage and recycling rates

Description: Assist with the study of garbage and recycling rates.

Project Lead: Dwayne Lowman

Staff Contact: Ellen Biales, Deputy Director of Public Works



Sustainability Commission Responsibilities & Team Building

INITIATIVES

Sustainability support

Description: Serve as a resource for other commissions, boards, committees, and task forces.

Goal: Respond to requests and reach out as appropriate.

Staff Contact: Emma Struss, Sustainability Coordinator

Community engagement

Description: Engage with community and serve as a liaison for issues, ideas, and proposals, and provide appropriate feedback.

Goal: Respond to requests and reach out as appropriate.

Staff Contact: Emma Struss, Sustainability Coordinator

Review sustainability proposals and make recommendations

Description: As needed, review sustainability proposals and make recommendations during Sustainability Commission meetings.

Goal: Respond to requests and reach out as appropriate.

Staff Contact: Emma Struss, Sustainability Coordinator

Community relationship building

Description: Cultivate relationships with residents, community groups, businesses, institutions of higher learning, faith-based organizations, non-governmental organizations, etc.

Goal: Make connections and build relationships.

Staff Contact: Emma Struss, Sustainability Coordinator

Annual Work Plan

Description: Develop 2024 Sustainability Commission work plan.

Goal: Submit work plan to City Council for approval.

Staff Contact: Emma Struss, Sustainability Coordinator

Sustainability Commission onboarding

Description: In February 2023, City Council will appoint three new sustainability commissioners that will need onboarding support.

Goal: Onboard three new sustainability commissioners.

Staff Contact: Ellen Biales, Deputy Director of Public Works

Sustainability Commission recruitment

Description: Recruit three new sustainability commissioners in the fall of 2023.

Goal: Have applications from every zip code in Bloomington.

Staff Contact: Ellen Biales, Deputy Director of Public Works

Summer sustainability celebration

Description: An informal picnic to celebrate sustainability accomplishments.

Goal: Hold event.

Staff Contact: Ellen Biales, Deputy Director of Public Works

Team building event

Description: Celebration of retiring commissioners and welcoming of new members.

Goal: Hold event.

Staff Contact: Ellen Biales, Deputy Director of Public Works

BIKE RACK

During the planning process, sustainability commissioners proposed and discussed new initiatives. Commissioners voted on their priorities at the January 17, 2023 Sustainability Commission meeting and those are listed on previous pages as part of the work plan. The initiatives listed below have been placed on the bike rack for future consideration.

- Greater promotion of EV use
- Collaboration to highlight alternative transportation to improve environmental and human health
- Vehicle chargers at hotels, bike boxes, etc.
- Recognition of energy leaders in business community
- Collaboration with other boards/commissions to improve natural resources
- Collaboration to review City land practices including pesticides use and promote diversity
- Targeted education about invasive species
- Formal participation in No Mow May activities
- Continued support of JHS unity garden
- Promotion for businesses converting turf to native plants and rain gardens
- Assistance with Conservation Partners Legacy Grant at Pond House
- Collaboration with other green space owners for tree and non-turf plantings
- Marketing of projects so efforts are seen as contributing to Natural Resources Prioritization Plan implementation
- Promotion for better and fewer single-use materials
- Assistance to restaurants with recycling
- Recruitment of volunteers to help promote recycling programs
- Highlighting businesses that are doing recycling right
- Extended producer responsibility
- Commissioners becoming more educated about waste stream processes to help others to make informed decisions
- Plan for new garbage and recycling contract
- Conduct a swap event
- Hold bulky item drop-off event again
- Assistance with outreach for curbside pickup of reusable and recyclable items
- More education on big picture and specific items
- Hold another compost give-away
- Review of procurement policies for inclusion of more recyclable materials
- More recycling outreach
- Learn more about MOA recycling and encourage better single-use packaging
- Shopping bag ban (plastics)
- Provide financial incentives for waste reduction/single-use plastic reduction
- Work with other cities
- Work with other commissions outside of Bloomington

- Internship opportunities for students to get involved
- Understand past decisions of work plans
- Support of requests for money for additional sustainability and solid waste staff
- Make other commissions more aware of what we do and look for connections
- Provide funds to help residents convert their lawns to be pollinator friendly
- Provide rebates to lawncare companies to purchase electric lawncare equipment
- Develop policies to prevent heavily wooded areas from being purchased and clear cut
- Discuss smart salting workshops and City's role in hosting them
- Plant fruit/production plants for public use