

**Sustainability Advisory Committee 2026 Work Plan**  
**Approved by City Council March 10, 2026**



**ANNUAL PROJECTS**

<b>Project</b>	<b>Specific Actions of SAC</b>	<b>Anticipated Outcome, Product or Result</b>	<b>Idea Source</b>	<b>Leader</b>	<b>Partners</b>	<b>Dates</b>
<b>Comprehensive Plan</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Research and recommend policies, ideas, and goals pertaining to sustainability and resilience.</li> <li>Review draft contents and provide feedback.</li> </ul>	Update 10-year plan.	State law, City of Eau Claire Strategic Plan, REAP	Planning	Consultant, community stakeholders	2026 - 2027
<b>Support Energy Future Collaborative with Xcel Energy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide support on relevant activities within the work plan.</li> </ul>	Implement City & Xcel's mutual work plan that achieves shared objectives of REAP.	REAP, Energy Future Collaborative MOU and 2026-2030 City and Xcel Energy work plan	Planning, City Manager	City, Xcel Energy	2026 - 2030
<b>Navigator Energy Efficiency / Renewables Program</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review Cohort 1 case studies and promote Cohort 2 process.</li> <li>Develop educational materials on energy efficiency solutions, technologies, and programs for disadvantaged residents.</li> </ul>	Improve affordable housing living conditions, reduce bills and carbon emissions while considering IRA, Focus on Energy, and utility funds.	Sustainability Chapter 15-6 #7 Incentives, 15-20 #3, REAP pathways/policies recommendations	Planning	Elevate, Focus on Energy, Xcel, Eau Claire Energy Cooperative, others TBD	2022-2026
<b>Promote Reductions in Greenhouse Gases for New &amp; Existing Commercial, Industrial, &amp; Municipal Buildings</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide recommendations to City Council and staff on priority focus areas for emissions or energy reduction strategies.</li> <li>Promote the Net Zero Energy Guide.</li> <li>Work with staff to promote benchmarking of municipal buildings.</li> </ul>	Increased use of Net Zero Energy Guide and Xcel & Focus on Energy greenhouse gas / energy reduction programs, such as Energy Design Assistance, Energy Efficient Buildings, and Bill Savings Program.	REAP	Planning	Focus on Energy, Xcel, Eau Claire Energy Cooperative, others TBD	2026

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<b>Artificial Intelligence (AI) Data Center Policy Development</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review and provide potential policy options for responsible data center development.</li> </ul>	Assist City Council on development of data center policy.	City Council, Strategic Plan	City Council	City Manager, Community Development	2026
<b>Flooding Resilience</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review floodplain information materials, provide feedback, and assist with outreach to be prepared for more frequent extreme weather due to climate change.</li> </ul>	Increased community awareness and Community Rating System (CRS) point total via updated website, brochures, and procedures.	Multi Hazard Mitigation Plan, Community Rating System (CRS), Comprehensive Plan	Planning	Risk Management, Engineering, DNR	2026
<b>Water Supply Service Area, Stewardship, &amp; Conservation Plan</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review draft contents and attend public input sessions to provide feedback.</li> </ul>	Adoption of Water Supply Service Area, Stewardship, & Conservation Plan.	Update to existing plan, City Council	Utilities	City Council, City Manager, Planning	2026
<b>Community Garden Planning</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Map and promote existing assets.</li> <li>Support staff with outreach and identifying gaps in community agriculture.</li> <li>Create informational materials and seek grants.</li> </ul>	Increase awareness and consumption of community food resources.	REAP B12 Strategy & Comprehensive Plan page 15-7.	Community Services	Planning, community stakeholders	2025-2026
<b>Promote Establishment of Natural Planting Areas</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Design and distribute native lawn / natural planting area signage.</li> <li>Select and distribute seed packets and information on establishment.</li> <li>Partner with local organizations (library, etc.) to promote awareness.</li> </ul>	Increased interest and establishment of native lawns, natural planting areas, and drought resistant landscaping on private and public property.	Century Code Update (75% native requirement), Chapter 8.28 update, REAP	Planning, Community Services	Neighborhood Services, Engineering, Library, Master Gardeners	2026

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<b>Review Herbicide, Pesticide, And Fertilizer Use On City Owned Public Lands Including Parks</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review chemical use on city lands (types, quantities, locations).</li> <li>Research eco-friendly alternatives.</li> <li>Collaborate with appropriate commissions, staff, marginalized groups, and community stakeholders to recommend reductions or elimination where possible.</li> </ul>	Report to City Council with actionable recommendations to reduce herbicide, pesticide, and fertilizer use on public lands.	REAP, Health Chapter of the Comprehensive Plan	Community Services, Engineering	Waterways and Parks Commission	2026
<b>Sustainable Waste Updates</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Suggest and review potential changes to the City's composting and yard waste ordinances.</li> <li>Provide feedback on any next steps regarding the Trash Study.</li> </ul>	Updated and approved waste ordinances.	City Council, REAP	City Council	City Manager, Health Department	2026
<b>Update 8.20 tree ordinance and species list</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide research/review of draft ordinance and policies.</li> </ul>	Updated and approved ordinance.	Council	Forestry	Planning, CV Biodiversity Partnership (CVBP)	2026
<b>Microtransit Evaluation &amp; Input</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Participate in stakeholder meetings and public surveys to inform the future of microtransit.</li> </ul>	Explore updated bus routes, incorporating both fixed route and microtransit services.	Transit Development Plan	Transit, Transit Commission	Planning	2026

ONGOING EFFORTS						
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<b>Sustainability Advice</b>	At times, staff or Council may seek SAC's assistance on an item.	Council can make sustainability informed decisions.	City Council, Statement on the Role of Advisory Committees (12/13/16)	Administration	City Council	
<b>Sustainability Awards</b>	Facilitate the annual Sustainable Eau Claire Awards.	Recognize sustainability accomplishments and stir others to action.	Sustainability Chapter Annual program, REAP	SAC	Planners, Media	