



# City of La Crosse, Wisconsin

City Hall  
400 La Crosse Street  
La Crosse, WI 54601

## Meeting Minutes

### Climate Action Plan Steering Committee

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Monday, May 13, 2024

4:30 PM

Eagle Room

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This meeting will also be conducted through video conferencing.

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://cityoflacrosse-org.zoom.us/j/89556262687?pwd=TmzYMQRWEj7sOuWitzv04sLbpMOYp5.1>

Meeting ID: 895 5626 2687 Passcode: 102161

Join by Phone: +1-507-473-4847

#### Call to Order

Mindel called the meeting to order at 4:32 pm.

#### Roll Call

**Present:** 7 - Dorothy Lenard, Casey Meehan, Mackenzie Mindel, Natalie Heneghan, Andrew Ericson, Ronald Cosby II, Stephanie Hanna

**Absent:** 1 - Adam Jacobson

#### Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Lenard, seconded by Meehan, that the Minutes be APPROVED . The motion carried by voice vote.

#### Notices & Discussion

*Staff announced grant awards and gave overview: Bloomberg Philanthropies' Youth Climate Action Fund, WI PSC's Energy Innovation Grants, and AARP's Community Challenge Grant. Heneghan announced kickoff for Renew the Block on June 1st at 10 am at Logan Middle School.*

#### Agenda Items:

- 1 [24-0512](#) Discussion and direction on implementation plan

Attachments: [CAP Implementation Plan](#)

*Staff provided update on plan implementation and requested guidance on revising actions. Not much notable progress, but put together funding requests. Staff recommended keeping the implementation plan the same. For increasing bus frequency, the MTU is continuing their marketing, increasing accessibility, and making*

*minor adjustments to routes. For converting commercial fleets to EVs, the City can lead by example, sharing findings of fleet studies with City departments, UWL, and the County. The City received a grant to do home energy audits. Commercial buildings can get audits through Xcel Energy since the City participates in Partners in Energy. Staff hasn't had luck connecting with MREA on a solar group buy, but are using Energy Sage as a resource and will model a program on Ann Arbor's. The Parks Dept. is applying for an urban forestry grant should have their urban forestry plan complete by June. The committee supported green infrastructure by contributing to Renew the Block. The comprehensive plan was updated and the bicycle and pedestrian master plan is almost complete. Discussions on eliminating parking minimums are ongoing. Staff has contracted for assistance with outreach and grant services.*

*Kaitlyn Wiehe said the dumpster diversion was a success and diverted eighteen thousand pounds of materials. Mindel requested staff share the implementation matrix. Meehan asked for more direction on why CIP requests didn't make it into consideration.*

*Staff also shared update on CIP requests, that the committee will need to find other funding sources. The funding may have been considered to fit more in the operating budget request than capital budget request.*

*For working groups, staff will ask research question each month to provide some guidance. Hanna will join working group 2 and Jacobson will join working group 1. Committee members may add, remove, or edit actions in the implementation plan to suit their needs.*

**2**      [24-0662](#)

**Proposal for Program Assistance**

*Staff needs help to fulfill requirements for grants and programs, and has reached out to WisCorps about getting an AmeriCorps member in the fall and an intern for the summer. Any help from committee members would be appreciated as well--back up, research, accountability, etc.*

*Mindel agrees that building capacity is necessary to implement the plan. Hanna and Mindel offered to help with YCAF.*

**3**      [24-0663](#)

**Discussion on Grant Applications**

**Attachments:**      [Community Change Grant Program](#)  
                                 [Carbon Reduction Program](#)

*Staff gave overview of Community Change Grant and Carbon Reduction Program Grant. The former is for \$10 million minimum and has a broad criteria. It is granted on a rolling basis ending in November. The mayor has in mind a brownfield clean up and Habitat for Humanity is interested in partnering to pursue this. Technical assistance is available. The latter grant is a State grant for transportation projects, including on and off-street bike and walking facilities. There was no objection to pursuing those.*

**4**      [24-0067](#)

**Outreach & Engagement Update**

*City partnered with Sustainability Institute to host a small business workshop focused on building energy efficiency and renewable energy with about 11 participants. Nicholas will work with Redmond and team to promote Youth Climate Action Fund.*

*Bright Action is going to be focusing on a challenge with school district and City employees. Bright Action participation increased due to Viterbo and Green Goose Chase participation. Mindel offered to speak to organizations about the Climate Action Plan.*

**5**      [24-0664](#)

Discussion and Action on Proposal to add Employee Commuting Survey to the GHG Inventory.

**Attachments:**      [Proposal Addendum E-mail](#)

*Staff provided overview. The information in the survey could help with guiding the parking cash-out program. The GHG inventory has data on community vehicle miles traveled. Mindel asked about how to increase participation.*

**A motion was made by Ericson, seconded by Meehan, that this Proposal be APPROVED . The motion carried by voice vote.**

### **Next Meeting / Agenda Items**

*The next meeting will be 6/10. Agenda items may include updates on grants and working groups, and target audiences for home energy audits (low income households in Justice40 census tracts and EPA disadvantaged census blocks).*

### **Adjournment**

**Mindel adjourned the meeting at 5:19 pm.**

*Notice is further given that members of other governmental bodies may be present at the above scheduled meeting to gather information about a subject over which they have decision-making responsibility.*

#### **NOTICE TO PERSONS WITH A DISABILITY**

*Requests from persons with a disability who need assistance to participate in this meeting should call the City Clerk's office at (608) 789-7510 or send an email to [ADAcityclerk@cityoflacrosse.org](mailto:ADAcityclerk@cityoflacrosse.org), with as much advance notice as possible.*