

Model Climate Ordinance **Review for City of La Crosse**

Bolton & Menk
January 12, 2026



MEET THE TEAM



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Community Planner



Purpose and Goals

1. Align zoning code updates with the Climate Action Plan.
2. Provide policy recommendations and model ordinances through research, community interviews, etc.

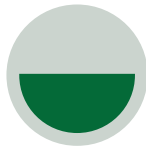


Project Steps



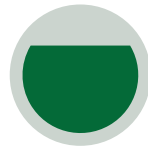
Identify and prioritize ordinance topics

January



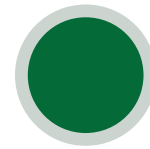
Model ordinance review and cataloguing

January-February



Peer city interviews

March



Final report and presentation

April-May



1. Identify and Prioritize Ordinance Topics



1. List provided from City, based on Climate Action Plan
2. Discussed list and priorities with Lewis on 12/23
3. Prioritized topics based on these factors:
 - Have existing model ordinances we can use for examples
 - Are likely to have a strong impact on GHG emissions and/or resilience
 - Are relatively feasible to implement
 - Align with zoning update and Climate Action Plan goals



1. Identify and Prioritize Ordinance Topics



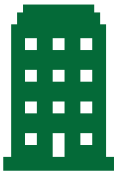
Proposed Priority Topics:



EV-ready ordinance and sustainable parking lots



Options for multi-modal development (transit, bike, walk) such as overlay districts



Checklist and incentives for sustainable new or remodeled large buildings (>30,000 sf)



Accessory commercial units and cottage food businesses



Tree preservation ordinance on private property



Food production activities on private property and community gardens

Question for Steering Committee: Do these make sense? What is missing?



2. Model ordinance review and cataloguing



Process

- 1. Gather model ordinances**
 1. Review authoritative sources from organizations such as GPI, ICMA
 2. Collect full ordinance text, citations, and URLs from strong model peer cities in WI, IA, MN
- 2. Select a “Base City” ordinance for each topic that offers:**
 1. Clear language and enforceability
 2. Proven implementation success
 3. Compatibility with La Crosse’s zoning framework
- 3. Analyze legal consistency with WI statutes and current La Crosse policy**
- 4. Build ordinance comparison table that includes:**
 1. Base ordinance details (city, section numbers, rationale)
 2. Required changes for Wis. Stat compliance
 3. Optional enhancements from other cities (plug-ins)

*Comments from
Steering Committee
on approach?*

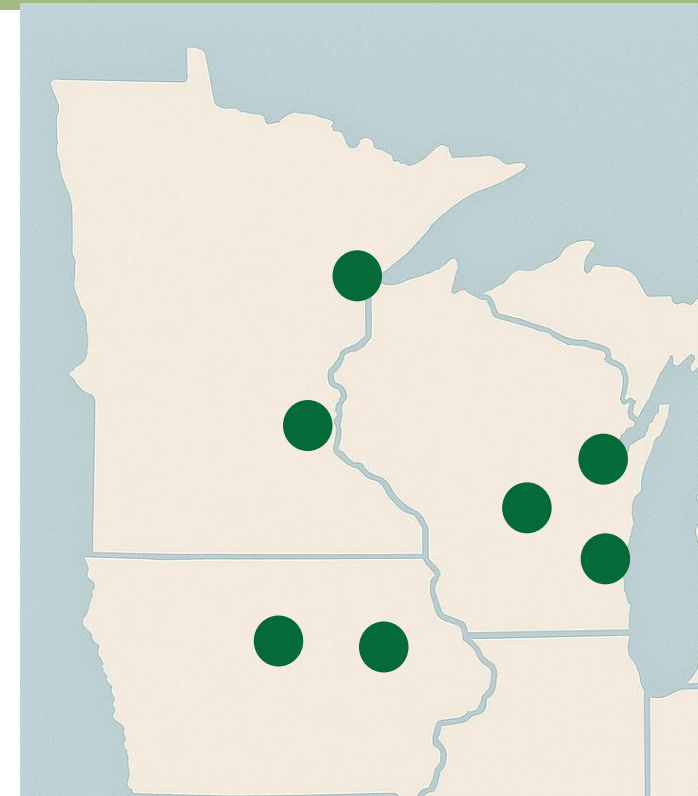


3. Peer City Interviews



Process

1. Select **5–10 Wisconsin, Iowa, and Minnesota cities** that have successfully adopted ordinances on priority topics and had strong models for adoption and identify appropriate staff contacts
2. Develop interview framework and questions
3. **Submit list of questions and peer cities for steering committee review and comment**
4. Schedule and conduct 30-45 minute virtual interviews with 1-3 city staff from peer cities.
5. Compile interview transcripts and notes and summarize for final report.



For illustrative purposes only

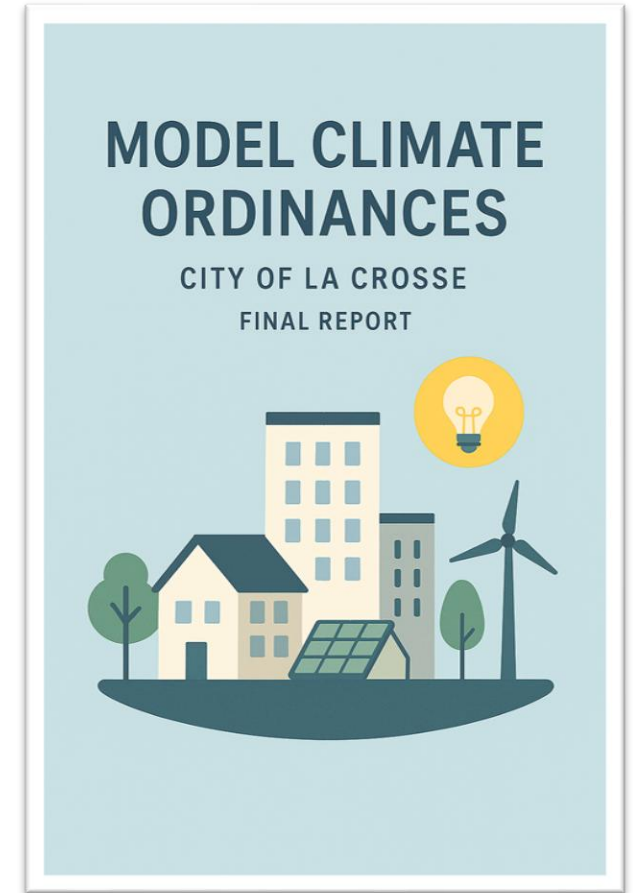


4. Final Report and Presentation



Process

1. Develop draft ordinance summary table and draft report with appendices (interview summaries)
- 2. Steering committee and La Crosse City staff review and comment**
3. Revise documents and prepare final presentation.
- 4. Finalize report and present at monthly steering committee meeting (May)**



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Thank You

Questions?



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