



# 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, April 14, 2025

4:00 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 4:02 PM.

#### Roll Call

**Present:** 6 - Dorothy Lenard, Casey Meehan, Mackenzie Mindel, Natalie Heneghan, Andrew Ericson, Stephanie Hanna

**Excused:** 1 - Adam Jacobson

#### Approval of Minutes

Heneghan motioned to approve the minutes, Meehan second. The motion carried by a voice vote.

#### Notices and Discussion

*Ericson shared UWL's Arbor Day Celebration on 4/25 @ 12:30 PM, Morris Hall, Earthapalooza on 4/25 @ 3 PM, outside the Student Union lawn, Marsh Cleanup on 4/26 Leuth Park, Campus Thread Fashion Show on 4/30 @ 5 PM*

*Meehan shared the Earth Fair on 4/27 @ 11 AM, The Nature Place, 5th Annual Green Goose Chase on Sustainability Institute's website, and environmental film festival on 4/22 @ 5 PM, Rivoli Theatre.*

*Mindel shared that the Council approved a resolution to collect direct pay.*

*Staff shared that mayor signed contract with Baker Tilly; Community Foundation and Sustainability Institute are helping with Youth Climate Action Fund; submitted interest form for Great Lakes Thriving Communities Fund and the money has not been taken away.*

*Heneghan shared about La Crosse Housing Week on 4/28-5/3, including Room to*

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*Grow, featuring Heneghan and Ericson on 4/30 @ 10 AM, the Nature Place.*

**Agenda Items:**

- 1     [25-0427](#)     Youth Climate Action Fund Micro-Grant Application Review and Selection  
  
*Staff provided an overview of applications and review guidance. All applications met the budget criteria. Meehan suggested announcing awardees at the Earth Day event at the Rivoli Theatre, and at Earth Fair with past awardees. Sustainability Institute is hosting a ideation workshop on 5/7 to help applicants. The committee will need to pick at least 18 applications, across multiple meetings. Committee discussed how to address the applications that may require additional government approvals. Lenard commented on using paint that doesn't pollute stormwater runoff. Staff expressed concern about eligibility of some applicants in regard to geographic area served and direct benefits to individuals. The Committee directed staff to get clarification on approvals for Dunn and Mathu applications for future consideration.*  
  
**A motion was made by Ericson, seconded by Lenard, that the applications from Adams, Creason, Gauger, Piggush, and Thomson be APPROVED. The motion carried by voice vote.**
  
- 2     [25-0454](#)     Request to use funds for La Crosse Carbon Free Challenge reward swag  
  
*Staff requested money to order water bottles for the tri-campus carbon free challenge. WTC has donated water bottles. Staff broadened the request to set a not-to-exceed budget for other swag items. Meehan suggested focusing on experiences rather than stuff, such as park and trail passes. Lenard added Rivoli tickets as an idea. Staff added bus passes. Ericson stated that there are probably plenty of items to give away. Staff can get in-kind passes from other departments. Incentives could entices participation, but the challenge ends 4/18.*  
  
**A motion was made by Ericson, seconded by Lenard, that this request be DENIED. The motion carried by voice vote.**
  
- 3     [25-0170](#)     Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) for Cities Program Update  
  
**Attachments:**     [Presentation \(Feb 2025\)](#)  
                              [LEED for Cities v4.1 Guide](#)  
  
*Mindel and staff did not have updates, but offered to answer questions. Heneghan asked more about sidewalk painting that is safe for water. Ericson requested more information about land use and transportation. Mindel said USGBC provides a gap analysis once data is submitted. Staff mentioned using a wide range of solutions for housing development, including compliments of public amenities such as parks, trees, and infrastructure for alternative transportation. Mindel will send LEED for Cities guide. Gap analysis could also inform zoning code update.*
  
- 4     [25-0052](#)     Outreach & Engagement Update  
  
*Nicholas sent out newsletter prior Friday and staff is taking suggestions for content. Staff also requested workshop ideas, but did not give an indication for timing.*
  
- 5     [25-0295](#)     Climate Action Plan Implementation Update

**Attachments:**     [Slides](#)

*Staff listed peer cities in implementation plan documents. MTU board doesn't have much room for innovation, but there are still some opportunities for improvement, such as extending service to Southern Bluffs Elementary. The zoning code update could aid transit-oriented development. State DOT planning could be an opportunity for transit improvements on highways through the city. Staff provided update about EIGP project and solar group buy.*

## **Next Meeting / Agenda Items**

*The next meeting will be 5/12. Agenda items will include an overview of the Greenhouse Gas Inventory.*

## **Adjournment**

*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.*