



City of La Crosse, Wisconsin

City Hall
400 La Crosse Street
La Crosse, WI 54601

Meeting Agenda

Climate Action Plan Steering Committee

Monday, March 9, 2026

4:00 PM

Eagle Room

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

Roll Call

Approval of Minutes

Notices & Discussion

Agenda Items:

- 1 [26-0251](#) Request for funds to temporarily remove solar array on Fire Station No. 3 during roof replacement - Chief Schott
- 2 [26-0170](#) Request to Sponsor Prairie Springs Lecture Series Keynote - Andrew Ericson
- 3 [26-0018](#) Zoning for Climate Action Update
 - Attachments:* [Presentation \(Jan '26\)](#)
 - [Draft Community Interview Questionnaire \(Feb '26\)](#)
- 4 [26-0141](#) 2026 Earth Fair Vendor Participation Inquiry

Next Meeting / Agenda Item

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, with as much advance notice as possible.



City of La Crosse, Wisconsin

City Hall
400 La Crosse Street
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Text File

File Number: 26-0251

Agenda Date: 3/9/2026

Version: 1

Status: Agenda Ready

In Control: Climate Action Plan Steering Committee

File Type: Request

Agenda Number: 1



City of La Crosse, Wisconsin

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Text File

File Number: 26-0170

Agenda Date: 3/9/2026

Version: 1

Status: No Action Taken

In Control: Climate Action Plan Steering Committee

File Type: Request

Agenda Number: 2



City of La Crosse, Wisconsin

City Hall
400 La Crosse Street
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Text File

File Number: 26-0018

Agenda Date: 1/12/2026

Version: 1

Status: Agenda Ready

In Control: Climate Action Plan Steering Committee

File Type: Status Update

Agenda Number: 3

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

Bolton & Menk

January 12, 2026

MEET THE TEAM



**Leslie Brandt, PhD,
EnvSP**

**Sustainability and
Resilience Project
Manager**



Nathan Fuerst, AICP

**Senior Community
Planner**



Greelee Dahle

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



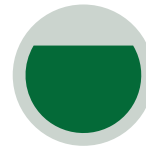
Identify and prioritize ordinance topics

January



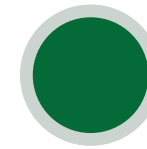
Model ordinance review and cataloguing

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



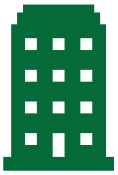
1. Identify and Prioritize Ordinance Topics



Proposed Priority Topics:



EV-ready ordinance and sustainable parking lots



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



Tree preservation ordinance on private property



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



Accessory commercial units and cottage food businesses



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)

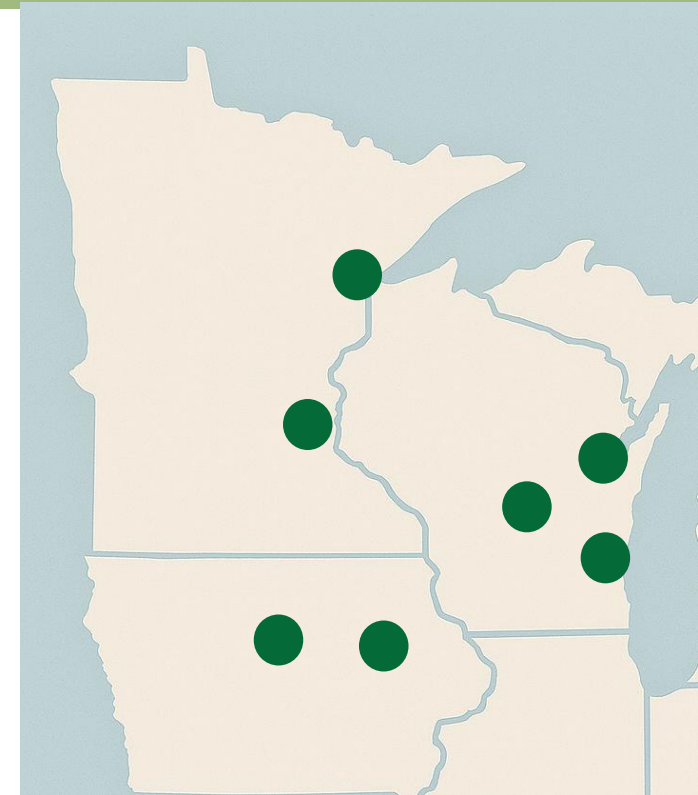
*Comments from
Steering Committee
on approach?*

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.



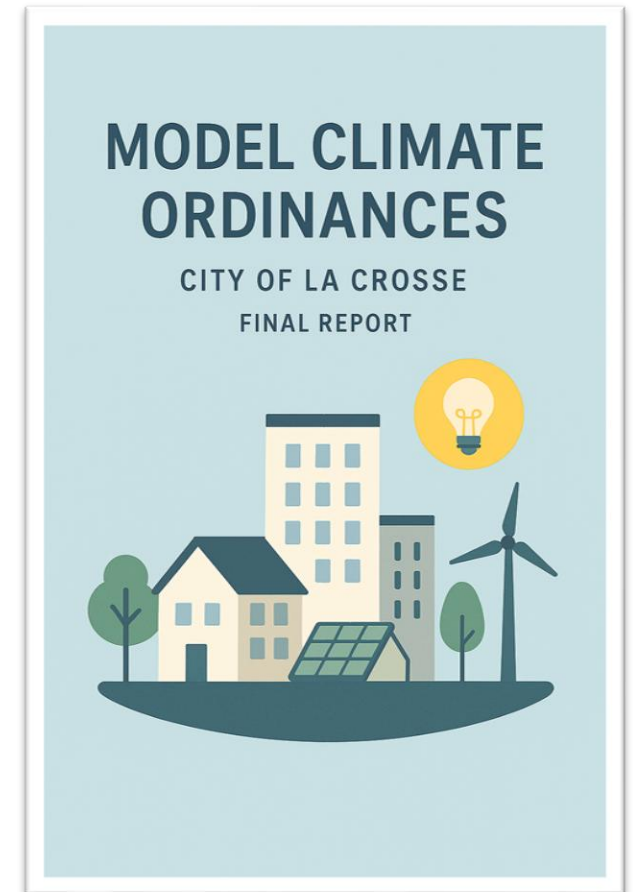
For illustrative purposes only

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)**



For illustrative purposes only

Thank You

Questions?



Leslie Brandt, PhD, EnvSP

Sustainability and Resilience Project Manager

Bolton & Menk

Model Ordinances for Sustainability

Community Interviews Questionnaire

The City of La Crosse is currently in the process of updating its zoning code and is interested in incorporating recommendations from its climate action plan into this update. The City has identified six topic areas of interest and wishes to identify model ordinances that can be applied to its code update. Your community was selected as a model for the following topic(s): (pick the ones that apply):

1. EV charging and sustainable parking lots
2. Sustainability incentives for large buildings
3. Tree preservation on private property
4. Multi-modal transportation-oriented development
5. Accessory commercial units
6. Community gardens and use of private property for food/native plantings

The purpose of this interview is to understand how your local government has implemented these ordinances to support climate action goals and sustainability planning efforts within your community.

Introduction

- 1) What is the name of the community you work for?
- 2) What is your name and role/job title?
- 3) How long have you worked in this community?

General Questions

Ordinance development questions

- 4) What prompted the development of this ordinance/these ordinances?
- 5) What examples, frameworks, or experts did you consult in developing this ordinance/these ordinances?
- 6) How were other City departments and/or commissions involved in the ordinance development/update?
- 7) What enabling conditions made it possible to pass this ordinance/update (e.g., strong support from a commission, technical support, grant funding)?

Ordinance implementation questions

- 8) How long has this ordinance/updated ordinance been in effect?
- 9) Please describe specific examples of how this ordinance has furthered sustainability goals in your community.
- 10) Have you found success in applying the ordinance to new development, re-development, or city initiatives? If yes, please describe how you implemented the ordinance.
- 11) What challenges have you faced in implementing and/or enforcing this ordinance/these ordinances?

Lessons learned

- 12) What would you recommend to other communities looking to develop and implement a similar ordinance?
- 13) If you had to do this all over again, what would you do differently?
- 14) Anything else you'd like to share?

Other questions

Additional questions may be addressed regarding details of specific ordinances as needed.



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Text File

File Number: 26-0141

Agenda Date:

Version: 1

Status: No Action Taken

In Control: Climate Action Plan Steering Committee

File Type: General Item

Agenda Number: 4