



# **CITY OF MONONA**

## **2017 GTLC ANNUAL REPORT**

**For participation in the Sustainability Component of the  
Green Tier Legacy Communities Charter**

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## Sustainability Mission Statement

The mission statement of the Sustainability Committee is to guide and assist Monona's government, residents, and businesses to become a community that meets the needs of its present population without compromising the needs of future generations.

*"Sustainability in everything we do."*

Monona became a member of the Green Tier Legacy Communities Sustainability Component in July of 2012, under which the City agreed to carry out sustainability initiatives in five categories. The following report serves as a record for projects implemented throughout 2017.

## 2017 Sustainability Projects

### Miscellaneous:

- **Continued Monona Library Eco-Action Tuesday Presentations** – These programs consistently have 20-30 community members in attendance, and are meant to educate and inform citizens on how they can live more sustainably. Programs range from performing household energy audits and energy efficient technologies, to canning, preserving, and fermenting fruits and vegetables from backyard gardens for winter.
- **Ongoing WVMO Radio Series and YouTube Videos** – Monona's Media Department has continued to produce content to raise sustainability awareness amongst citizens. Segments like Kids Naturally and videos detailing City procedures (City meetings, Public Works projects) allow community members to engage with their local government and learn about ongoing sustainability initiatives.
- **Upgraded Copy Machine** – The City Administration office purchased a new copy machine in 2017. The settings are defaulted to black and white, double sided printing.

### Build and Buy Green:

- **Purchase of WECC Sustainable Products Toolkit** – In 2017 Monona decided to pursue a sustainable purchasing policy, partnering with WECC for consultation services. Implementation of this plan will follow in 2018.
- **Urban Wood Program** – 27 trees had to be cut down in Woodland Park during the summer of 2017 due to oak wilt. However, the logs were repurposed and milled into boards for reuse at the River Front Concession Stand, and other City projects, such as benches. All other trees (besides ash) that require cutting are sent to Purple Cow Organics to be turned into mulch, woodchips, or compost.

### Transportation:

- **Purchase of an Electric Vehicle** – A partnership between Monona's Parks & Recreation and Police Departments pooled resources in order to purchase an electric vehicle. The vehicle serves as a way to promote sustainability initiatives at community events and to familiarize citizens with these technologies.
- **Energy Efficiency in Vehicles** – Monona's Public Works Department has downsized two of its vehicles, and has upgraded current vehicles with solar battery packs that allow for the vehicle to be turned off, but still have LED safety lights running.

### Land Use:

- **Bird City WI** – In 2017 Monona became a Bird City WI designee. The City government will continue to enhance the City's environment for birds, as well as educate the community on interactions between birds and people and the contributions birds make to a healthy ecosystem.
- **Urban Forestry Internship** – A new internship was created in order to focus in on maintaining Monona's tree cover and maintenance.

## Energy:

- **25 x 25 Plan Updates** – Energy data collected by the City indicates that Monona has increased the percentage of its renewable energy consumption; up to 16% of the total energy usage by the City is coming from Monona’s solar panels. While no new panels were installed on City properties in 2017, a dramatic decrease in the amount of electricity used, 229,000 kWh, accounts for this change.

## Water:

- **Continued Adopt a Storm Drain and Leaf Management Program** – Each year, Monona residents continue to protect our lakes by participating in these two programs. Public Works has the ability to get to each street every 12-14 business days with their leaf-vac trucks. Monona residents have adopted 63 storm drains.
- **Mitigating Inflow Infiltration** – Upgrading the lining in manholes prevents grout buildup and in-fluid infiltration, thus lessening the contamination of Monona’s water system.

## Waste:

- **Additional Recycling Bins in Parks** – In order to create more opportunities for residents to cut down on waste, Monona’s Parks Department has increased the number of recycling bins at park locations.
- **Reuse & Repurpose Drop-Off at Monona’s Senior Center** – Unwanted items can be brought in by community members to the Senior Center, where volunteers subsequently take them to thrift stores or proper disposal facilities.
- **Electronic Onboarding, Paychecks, and Billing** – In 2017, all City employees are (and henceforth will be) hired and paid electronically in order to reduce paper usage. Additionally, the City has promoted electronic billing to residents when paying for utilities and City services. Over 200 sheets are saved per month from payroll alone.
- **TRACS Program for Monona Police Department** – This software has been installed in all marked squad car laptops, and significantly reduces the paper required to process accident reports and issue citations.
- **Zero-Waste Events** – The Parks & Recreation Department has promised on developing zero-waste events within Monona. An example of their progress and commitment to this goal is their purchase of a portable hydration station in order to reduce and eventually eliminate the sale of plastic water bottles at special events.
- **Laptops for Council Members** – Laptops were purchased for council members in order to provide electronic packets for meetings, as opposed to printing off individual copies monthly. This program saves anywhere between 20-100 pages per council member, per meeting.
- **Better World Books Program** – Old books from the Monona Public Library are donated to the ‘Friends of the Library’ book sales, or other organizations that take old books to be distributed globally.

## Healthy Community Planning:

- **Working with the Legacy Communities Alliance for Health (LCAH)** – Monona participated in planning sessions with the LCAH. LCAH worked with the Library, Planning Department, Parks/Rec. Department, Public Works, and Senior Center. Ultimately the City chose 1 topic to continue working with the LCAH in Sustainable Transportation Planning and Active Living.

## Summary

2017 was the second year the City of Monona operated under the Sustainability Plan of 2015. The plan has greatly helped City staff recognize all the ways they can, and already are, acting sustainably. Small, incremental changes such as electronic billing and documentation, increasing public access to natural spaces, and lighting and mechanic upgrades are all initiatives that benefit the environment, our bottom line, and overall quality of life living and working in the City of Monona.

## **GTLC Sustainable Strategies Scoresheet**

A copy of the Legacy Communities Strategy Options Matrix (appendix 3 of the Legacy Communities Charter) is included, following this summary report. Monona achieved 43% of the GTLC objectives listed on the scoresheet, exceeding our goal of 40% for 2017. For 2018, Monona's target score will be to achieve 60% of the objectives listed on the scoresheet.

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