

It is expected that a Quorum of the Personnel Committee, Board of Public Works, Plan Commission and Administration Committee will be attending this meeting: (although it is not expected that any official action of any of those bodies will be taken)

**CITY OF MENASHA  
SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE  
Menasha City Center  
100 Main Street  
Room 132  
April 27, 2023  
4:00 PM**

**AGENDA**

- A. CALL TO ORDER
- B. ROLL CALL
- C. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ANY MATTER OF CONCERN TO THE SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE  
(five (5) minute time limit for each person)
- D. MINUTES TO APPROVE
  - 1. Minutes of the March 23, 2023 Sustainability Committee Meeting
- E. COMMUNICATIONS
  - 1. Earth Day Press Release April 23, 2023
  - 2. Arbor Day Press Release April 28, 2023
- F. ACTION / DISCUSSION ITEMS
  - 1. Election of Chair / Vice Chair
  - 2. Planning & Communications
    - a. SCN and Website <http://scn-foxvalley.com/>
  - 3. Transportation
    - a. Bike Parking Survey
  - 4. Natural Resources
    - a. Natural Landscaping & Maintenance
    - b. Pollinator Week / No Mow May
  - 5. Energy
    - a. Comprehensive Energy Planning & Joint Energy Team
  - 6. Waste
    - a. 2023 Electronics Recycling Events May 6, 2023 and October 7, 2023
- G. Future Meeting Dates
  - 1. May 25, 2023
- H. ADJOURNMENT

"Menasha is committed to its diverse population. Our Non-English speaking population and those with disabilities are invited to contact the Menasha City Clerk at 967-3603 24-hours in advance of the meeting for the City to arrange special accommodations."

**CITY OF MENASHA**  
**SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE**  
**March 23, 2023**  
**Minutes**

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

Meeting Called to order at 4:03 PM by Austin Hammond

**B. ROLL CALL**

Attending: Kyle Coenen, Austin Hammond, Roger Kanitz, Kelsey Parry, Linda Stoll, Kathy Thunes

Also Attending: Mayor Donald Merkes

**C. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ANY MATTER OF CONCERN TO THE SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE**

Dan Evans 859 Lotus Trail

No mow May, impacts on neighborhood aesthetics, questions regarding significant positive impact on pollinators. Neighborhoods may have covenants regarding keeping of chickens.

**D. MINUTES TO APPROVE**

Motion by Kathy Thunes second by Linda Stoll to approve the minutes of 1-26-2003.

Motion Caries

**E. ACTION / DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**1. Planning & Communications**

**a. SCN and Website <http://scn-foxvalley.com>**

SCN meeting was poorly attended, survey to gauge interest 8 replies 62% stated group was relevant 50/50 for attending. Recommended second meeting in June to survey dates and interest in future attendance.

**b. Earth Day Celebration**

Stormwater educational signage to be installed for Earth Day and a press release sent out.

**c. Arbor Day Celebration**

New arborist Dylan W. has started and will be leading Arbor Day activities April 28. Arbor Day ceremony will include the City's 40<sup>th</sup> Tree City award and planting of trees at Barker Farm Park.

**2. Transportation**

**a. High Cliff Connection**

City passed a resolution in favor of applying for a TAP grant which would fund design and location of trail from Loop the Lake to High Cliff State Park. TAP grant request submitted to DOT.

**b. Bike Parking Survey**

Was recommended as part of our Bike Friendly Community designation. Students are interested need to complete mapping to get to students.

**3. Land Use**

**a. Urban Chickens**

Ordinance passed on the February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023 Common Council meeting. Rules and Fee schedule passed at the March 20<sup>th</sup> Common Council meeting. Ordinance effective date April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023. It was noted that there are neighborhoods within the City that may have private covenants that would prohibit the keeping of chickens. Covenants are enforced by other property owners within that subdivision, the City does not enforce covenants.

#### 4. Natural Resources

##### a. Natural Landscaping and Maintenance

Visual survey of the Banta Point site completed, plan to order plants from grant for planting in May-June.

Reviewed ECWRPC rain garden maintenance plan

May need fencing or other protective measures for native plants at City Center.

##### b. No Mow May

Discussion regarding previous data/statistics from Appleton No Mow May, 2022 Menasha proposal, aesthetic image, and other educational opportunities for pollinators other than No Mow May. Sustainability Committee could make a recommendation to Common Council at April meeting.

#### 5. Energy

##### a. Comprehensive Energy Planning and Joint Energy Team

Cooperative Grant with City, MJSD, NM fire, and MU will be announced in March. If successful will help the parties develop measurable goals for energy use.

##### b. Ald. Hammond & Mayor Merkes attended APPA conference in Washington, goals by APPA & WPPI have goals to reduce carbon emissions.

#### 6. Water

##### a. Stormwater Educational Signage

Plan for Earth Day 2023 installation.

#### 7. Waste

##### a. 2023 Electronics Recycling Events May 6, 2023 & October 7, 2023. Will be emailing reminders to business partners.

##### b. 2022 solid waste and recycling tonnages are both down for the year even though the number of pick up points are up.

#### 8. Health

No report

#### F. Future Meeting Dates

Next meeting April 27, 2023

Note this is Kathy Thunes last meeting, she has been on the Sustainability Committee/Board since 2010 inception. We thank her for her assistance in helping Menasha continue on a path of greater sustainability.

#### G. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Kyle Coenen second by Kelsey Parry to adjourn at 5:47 PM

Motion carries.



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact:

Austin Hammond  
4<sup>th</sup> District Alderperson, City of Menasha  
100 Main Street Suite 200  
Menasha, WI 54952  
Phone: 920-583-0554  
<http://www.menashawi.gov>  
[ahammond@menashawi.gov](mailto:ahammond@menashawi.gov)

## **CITY OF MENASHA CELEBRATES EARTH DAY BY EDUCATING ABOUT STORMWATER**

**MENASHA, WI – April 22, 2023.** To celebrate Earth Day this year, the City of Menasha Sustainability Committee wants to acknowledge the importance of our water and protecting it. Water has been a source of community, necessity, and economic prosperity in all stages of our history, beginning with the sovereign indigenous nations who first called Menasha home. To present day, Menasha's identity is built on its relationship with lakes and rivers intertwined with our neighborhoods. On this Earth Day we're learning about how we protect and improve our water quality with storm water facilities like rain gardens, ponds, wetlands, and underground storm water treatment structures.

Menasha is required through its Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System Permit with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to remove particulates and phosphorus from storm water runoff before that water reaches our lakes and rivers. Removal of these nutrients in storm water runoff is crucial, as their presence leads to algae blooms that negatively impact our local water bodies.

Now you can learn about how these treatment systems work with interpretive signage now installed at four locations throughout Menasha in celebration of Earth Day 2023. They can be viewed at the Rain Gardens in the Jefferson Park parking lot and Fire Station 36, Wet Ponds at the Provence Terrace Pond, Natural Wetlands at the Provence Terrace Boardwalk, and coming soon near the underground storm water treatment system at the Brin Building downtown.

Clean water improves recreational opportunities and the overall quality of life here in Menasha and beyond.

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact:

Donald Merkes  
Mayor, City of Menasha  
100 Main Street Suite 200  
Menasha, WI 54952  
Phone: 920-967-3608  
<http://www.menashawi.gov>  
[dmerkes@menashawi.gov](mailto:dmerkes@menashawi.gov)

## **Menasha Celebrates 40 Years as a Tree City USA**

MENASHA, WI – April 24, 2023. The City of Menasha has been putting the wisdom found in the saying, *“the best time to plant a tree was yesterday, and the next best time is right now”* into action for the past four decades. This year as part of the City of Menasha’s Arbor Day Ceremony, the City will celebrate its 40<sup>th</sup> year as a Tree City USA designee from the Arbor Day Foundation. Students from UWO-Fox Cities will work along-side the Parks, Recreation, & Forestry employees to plant 40 trees at Barker Farm Park to celebrate this milestone.

*“Communities such as Menasha help the Arbor Day Foundation, create synergy that comes from arborists, utilities, college campuses, and others working together to plant trees and improve tree care,”* Don Merkes, Menasha Mayor stated. *“Partnerships like the one we have with UWO—Fox Cities and Menasha Utilities amplify the value of trees to our community, including: crime reduction, mental health benefits, increased retail sales, higher property values, and improving storm water quality.”*

Under the leadership of Mayor Ciske, Menasha received its first Tree City USA designation in 1983, with UWO-Fox Cities and Menasha Utilities receiving their first designations in 2012. The City received awards from the Wisconsin Urban Forestry Council in 2009, 2014, and 2020 recognizing our commitment to urban forestry in Menasha.

Since our 2010 EAB plan, the City has added nearly 2,000 trees to its urban forest while at the same time removing over 250 ash trees susceptible to emerald ash borer and increasing the diversity of our tree species in the City.

You can learn more about Menasha’s urban forest at:  
<https://pg-cloud.com/Wisconsin/?scenario=menashatrees>

The public is invited to join the ceremony on Friday April 28, 2023 at 9AM, Barker Farm Park, 2170 Plank Road, Menasha.

###



## MEMORANDUM

TO: Sustainability Committee

DATE: 24 April 2023

FROM: Ald. Hammond

RE: Pollinators Week Proclamation & Low Mow May

### Background

The City of Menasha Sustainability Committee wants to raise awareness of the importance of protecting our pollinators within our community. It is of great concern to us that pollinators are on the decline due to the use of pesticides. This year the City of Menasha will recognize June 19-25 as Pollinator Week. As stated in the proclamation: *"pollination plays a vital role in the health of our national forests, and grasslands, which provide forage, fish and wildlife, timber, water, mineral resources, and recreational opportunities as well as enhanced economic development opportunities for communities."*

In addition to the proclamation of pollinator week, The City of Menasha Sustainability Committee would like to encourage residents to participate in a "Low Mow May". This is a conservation initiative that encourages people to mow less often for the month of May to create habitat and provide resources for bees and other early-season pollinators. This is particularly important in urban areas where floral resources are often limited. Participation in Low Mow May is in accordance with our cities enforcement of Section 8-1-6 and 8-1-7 (b): *"The Common Council finds that lawns, grasses and weeds on lots or parcels of land which exceed eight (8) inches in length adversely affect the public health and safety of the public in a safety hazard in that debris can be hidden in the grass, interferes with the public convenience and adversely affects property values of other land within the City. For that reason, any lawn, grass or weed on a lot or other parcel of land which exceeds eight (8) inches in length is hereby declared to be a public nuisance, except for property located in a designated floodplain area and/or wetland area."* Residents would need to maintain their laws at 8" or less but allow the lawn to grow taller than they normally would.

City of Menasha participants can order or download signs at:

<https://beecityusa.org/no-mow-may/>

By encouraging residents to reduce their use of herbicides and pesticides and allowing their lawn to grow slightly taller the community would achieve many of the benefits of "No Mow May" without the perceived aesthetic issues noted by some residents. "Low Mow May" is a good transitional step. That will offer Menasha residents an opportunity to help pollinators in our city and express their advocacy for a more sustainable way of life with their lawn.

# Pollinator Week



**June 19-25, 2023**

**WHEREAS**, pollinator species such as birds and insects including thousands of species of bees are essential partners of farmers and ranchers in producing much of our food supply; and

**WHEREAS**, pollination plays a vital role in the health of our national forests and grasslands, which provide forage, fish and wildlife, timber, water, mineral resources, and recreational opportunities as well as enhanced economic development opportunities for communities; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Menasha manages parks, public landscaping, and other public lands including greenways and wildlife habitats that are dependent on pollinators.

**WHEREAS**, pollinators provide significant environmental benefits that are necessary for maintaining healthy, diverse ecosystems in towns and cities; and

**WHEREAS**, pollination plays a vital role for the trees and plants of our community, enhancing our quality of life, and creating recreational and economic development opportunities.

**NOW, THEREFORE, IT BE PROCLAIMED**, that I Donald Merkes, Mayor of the City of Menasha, do hereby proclaim June 19-25, 2023 to be:

## ***Pollinator Week***

in the City of Menasha

and encourage citizens to avoid unnecessary use of pesticides and to nurture habitats that promote the vitality of pollinators and restoration of their populations.

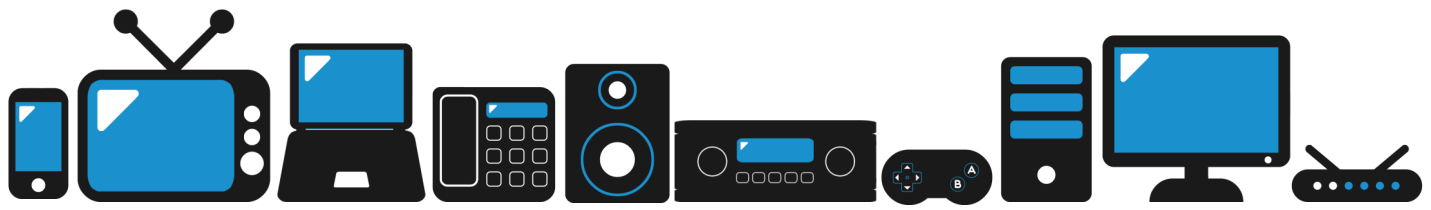


Dated this 19th day of June, 2023

A handwritten signature in blue ink, likely belonging to Donald Merkes, the Mayor of Menasha.

Donald Merkes, Mayor





# ELECTRONICS RECYCLING EVENT

**SATURDAY, MAY 6TH, 2023 8:00AM - 12:00PM**

**MENASHA CITY PUBLIC WORKS – 455 BALDWIN ST. MENASHA, WI**

## FREE TO RECYCLE ELECTRONICS

Please remove all batteries and bulbs from your electronics prior to the event

**Computer Towers**  
**Tablets/eReaders**  
**Satellite Boxes**  
**Christmas Lights**

**Cords/Wire**  
**Cell Phones**  
**Power Supplies**  
**VCRs/DVD Players**

**Laptops**  
**Routers**  
**Telephones**  
**iPods**

**Audio Equipment**  
**Desktop Printers**  
**Video Gaming Devices**  
**Most Small Electronics**

We unfortunately do not accept smoke detectors, thermostats, or thermometers

## ELECTRONICS WITH RECYCLING CHARGES

We accept cash, debit card, credit card, or check. Checks can be made out to 'Recycle That Stuff'

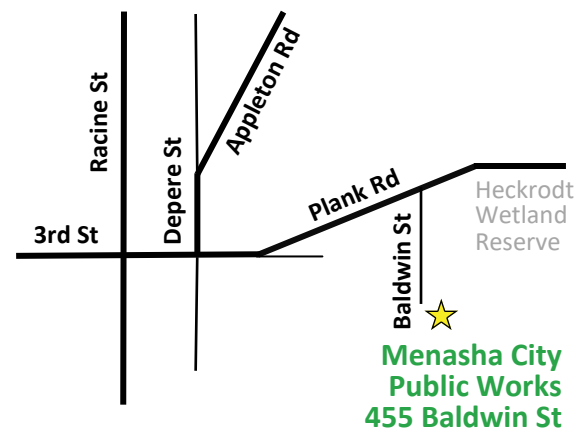
<b>Flat and Tube Computer Monitors</b>	<b>\$20 ea</b>	<b>Large Copiers/Printers</b>	<b>\$15 ea</b>
<b>Flat and Tube TVs (29" and under)</b>	<b>\$20 ea</b>	<b>Microwaves</b>	<b>\$15 ea</b>
<b>Flat and Tube TVs (30" - 49")</b>	<b>\$40 ea</b>	<b>Dehumidifiers</b>	<b>\$20 ea</b>
<b>Flat and Tube TVs (50" - 60")</b>	<b>\$60 ea</b>	<b>Dorm-Size Refrigerators*</b>	<b>\$20 ea</b>
<b>Wood Console or Projection TVs</b>	<b>\$60 ea</b>	<b>Window Air Conditioners*</b>	<b>\$20 ea</b>

\*We unfortunately do not accept full-size refrigerators, full-size freezers, or central air conditioning units

## For your safety and ours, please:

- ✓ Wipe down all materials prior to the event
- ✓ Stay in your vehicle at the event, we will unload
- ✓ No batteries or light bulbs

**Event Questions? 920.955.3760**



**RecycleThatStuff.com**  
Resource Solutions



**Event is held rain or shine!**