

Community Sustainability Survey

Preliminary Results

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WISCONSIN INITIATIVE ON
CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS



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The Survey Purpose and Method

This survey was developed to assess the work of Wisconsin local governments currently engaged with established sustainability programs. This report summarizes areas where emphasis has been placed as well as topics where actions have not been taken.

We developed a list of local governments that were involved in one or more programs that focused on sustainability, for example, Green Tier Legacy Communities, Energy Independent Communities, and Eco-Municipalities. A total of 153 local governments including counties, cities, villages, towns, and tribes were identified.

Our engagement with the identified local governments, consisted of development and distribution of a survey questionnaire that had 14 sections. Each section was designed as a matrix question with a list of sub-questions for each section. There was a total of about 220 sub-questions.

The questionnaire was sent in September of 2022, with one reminder email following a few weeks later.

Survey Results - General

The survey received an overall response rate of 52.94% with 81 local governments responding. The highest number of respondents on any single question was 64 respondents.

Table 1 displays the types and number of local governments that responded to our survey. Local governments which are categorized as “City” represented the highest number of respondents.

Though included, no tribal governments responded. Based upon discussions with this audience, the platform may have been a barrier. Tribal participants indicated they tried to participate but could not get the Qualtrics link to open on their computers.

Table 1: Local Government Types

	Number Sent the Survey	Number of Respondents	Percent of LG Type Responding	Percent of Total Respondents
Tribes	7	0	0	0
Town	13	6	46.15%	7.41%
Village	26	12	46.15%	14.81%
City	70	37	52.86%	45.68%
County	37	26	70.27%	32.10%
Total	153	81	--	52.94%

Key Results – Top Ten and Bottom Ten

In this section of the report, we have chosen to separate the most common areas of action, from those that have had none to minimal actions. This ranking is raw data that represents actual actions undertaken by the local governments and does not necessarily indicate priorities or disinterest in topics.

Top Ten Actions

Most local governments that responded to this survey have undertaken actions in these areas:

- 86%** - Include requirements in comprehensive and/or other plans for intergovernmental coordination
- 82%** - Establish minimum shoreland setback standards along lakes and rivers
- 80%** - Zoning code includes mixed use districts
- 71%** - Develop and promote programs that dispose of household hazardous, medical, & electronic waste
- 67%** - Produce/distribute route maps, signage or a web site for bicycle and pedestrian paths and trails
- 66%** - Identify key green infrastructure areas during plan development and/or implement a plan to acquire and protect key green infrastructure areas
- 61%** - Include ecological provisions in the comprehensive plan that explicitly aim to minimize open space fragmentation and/or establish a growth area with expansion criteria
- 58%** - Develop a regular street sweeping program to reduce total suspended solids
- 57%** - Mandatory residential curbside recycling pickup that covers paper, metal cans, glass and plastic bottles
- 57%** - Implement strategies that help increase fresh food access in the community, in areas with food insecurity including access by EBT and WIC participants

Bottom Ten Actions

Most local governments that responded to this survey have not taken actions in these areas:

- 0%** - Ban idling (more than 5 minutes) community-wide
- 0%** - Create a local food production district
- 0%** - Ordinances in place to reduce the usage of phone books as well as single-use shopping bags, Styrofoam food containers and other disposable packaging
- 0%** - Require large employers seeking rezoning to provide a TDM plan that would reduce trips by 20 percent over business as usual
- 0%** - Require large employers seeking rezoning to provide subsidized transit
- 1.82%** - Conduct annual survey of students' mode of transport to school
- 1.82%** - Conduct annual survey of students' mode of transport to school
- 1.82%** - Document that the local school bus fleet has optimized routes, start times, boundaries, vehicle efficiency and fuels, driver actions to cut costs including idling reduction, and shifting students from the bus to walking, biking and city transit
- 1.85%** - Conduct a Community Food System Assessment
- 1.92%** - Require an environmental justice assessment for any new municipal policies or infrastructure projects

Key Results by Category

This section provides key results of the practices from each category that received 50% and higher responses. If a category did not receive any results higher than 50%, the highest response below 50% was included.

Comprehensive Planning

- Include requirements in comprehensive and/or other plans for **intergovernmental coordination** (such as addressing regional land use and watershed/wellhead impacts, infrastructure, transportation, economic development and city/regional services) (86%)
- Identify key **green infrastructure** areas during plan development and/or implement a plan to acquire and protect key green infrastructure areas (66%)
- Include **ecological provisions** in the comprehensive plan that explicitly aim to minimize open space fragmentation and/or establish a growth area with expansion criteria (61%)
- Develop a **Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan (NHMP)** (52%)
- Add **health policies** in 1 or more of the local government plans, such as the comprehensive plan, long-range transportation plan, bicycle/pedestrian plan and open spaces recreation plan (embedded or stand-alone chapter) or develop a comprehensive, community wide wellness plan (53%)

Community Sustainability

- Planning with a Purpose: Conduct a community visioning and planning initiative that **engages a diverse set of community members** & stakeholders and uses a sustainability, resilience, or environmental justice framework (38%)

Energy

- **Install a public sector/ municipally owned renewable energy** technology, such as solar electric (PV), wind, biomass, solar hot water/air, micro-hydro (46%)

Climate Adaptation and Resilience

- **Protect water supply and wastewater treatment facilities** to reduce physical damage and sustain their function during extreme weather events (48%)

Health

- **Provide recreation programs** for youth, adults, senior citizens and disabled persons (53%)
- Adopt an ordinance, including conditional use permits, on **noise abatement** for various zoning districts (51%)

Transportation

- **Produce/distribute route maps**, signage or a web site for bicycle and pedestrian paths and trails (67%)

Green Business Development

- Conduct or participate in a **buy local campaign** for community members and local businesses (32%)

Local Food

- Implement strategies that help **increase fresh food access** in the community, in areas with food insecurity including access by EBT and WIC participants (57%)
- A **community or school garden**, orchard or forest (56%)
- Have a **local farmer's market** or co-op buying club (50%)

Local Government Administration

- Implement a **wellness program** for employees of the local government unit (54%)

Natural Resource Management

- Certification as **Tree City USA** (49%)

Waste Management

- Develop and promote programs that dispose of **household hazardous, medical, and electronic waste** (71%)
- Mandatory **residential curbside recycling** pickup that covers paper, metal cans, glass and plastic bottles (57%)

Water Management

- Develop a regular **street sweeping program** to reduce total suspended solids (58%)
- Adopt and implement guidelines or design standards/incentives for at least one of the following **stormwater infiltration/reuse practices**: Rain gardens/infiltration practices ; Rainwater harvesting practices ; Green alleys or green parking lots ; Pervious/permeable pavement or pavers ; Green roofs / green walls ; Tree trenches / tree boxes ; Incorporate compost and/or native plants into landscape design (52%)

Zoning and Development

- Establish **minimum shoreland setback standards** along lakes and rivers (82%)
- Zoning code includes **mixed use districts** (80%)
- Adopt zoning ordinances that allow for **infill housing development** (51%)

Survey Results by Category

Comprehensive Plans

The following results are from a matrix question that began: “As a local government unit we engage in the following practices surrounding comprehensive planning...”:

Types of Plans

	Yes		No		Do Not Know		Not Applicable		Number of Respondents
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	
Develop a Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan (NHMP)	33	52.38	17	26.98	11	17.46	2	3.17	63
Create and implement a Sustainability Plan	22	34.92	32	50.79	6	9.52	2	3.17	63
Create and implement an Energy Action Plan	9	14.29	40	63.49	10	15.87	3	4.76	63
Create and implement a climate change action plan (CAP)	8	12.70	44	69.84	6	9.52	4	6.35	63
Create a food systems plan	2	3.17	36	57.14	16	25.40	8	12.70	63

Climate and Hazard Mitigation Topics

	Yes		No		Do Not Know		Not Applicable		Number of Respondents
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	
Implement hazard mitigation projects to address identified risks in the hazard mitigation plan (e.g., flood mitigation, tree planting for heat reduction)	28	44.44	20	31.75	10	15.87	5	7.94	63
Include transportation recommendations such as becoming an EV-ready city in a planning document	28	44.44	27	42.86	3	4.76	4	6.35	63
Integrate hazard mitigation considerations and investments into community infrastructure plans	27	42.86	17	26.98	16	25.40	2	3.17	63
Adopt climate mitigation and/or energy independence goals and objectives in the comprehensive plan or in a separate policy document	26	41.27	28	44.44	6	9.52	2	3.17	63
Include climate projections in NHMP	10	15.87	27	42.86	17	29.98	8	12.70	63

Social Topics

	Yes		No		Do Not Know		Not applicable		Number of Respondents
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	
Add health policies in 1 or more of the LG plans, such as the comprehensive plan, long-range transportation plan, bicycle/pedestrian plan and open spaces recreation plan (embedded or stand-alone chapter) or develop a comprehensive, community wide wellness plan	34	53.13	21	32.81	7	10.94	2	3.13	64
Incorporate environmental justice implications and opportunities in planning and zoning documents or in a community	16	25.40	35	55.56	6	9.52	5	7.94	63

Environmental Topics

	Yes		No		Do Not Know		Not applicable		Number of Respondents
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	
Identify key green infrastructure areas during plan development and/or implement a plan to acquire and protect key green infrastructure areas	42	65.63	11	17.19	7	10.94	3	4.69	64
Include ecological provisions in the comprehensive plan that explicitly aim to minimize open space fragmentation and/or establish a growth area with expansion criteria	38	61.29	17	27.42	5	8.06	1	1.61	62

Miscellaneous Topics

	Yes		No		Do Not Know		Not applicable		Number of Respondents
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	
Include requirements in comprehensive and/or other plans for intergovernmental coordination (such as addressing regional land use and watershed/wellhead impacts, infrastructure, transportation, economic development and city/regional services)	54	85.71	2	3.17	5	7.94	2	3.17	63

Site schools in the Comprehensive Plan for accessibility with existing or new bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure	25	39.06	18	28.13	11	17.19	9	14.06	64
Encourage the formation and/or support of Neighborhood Improvement Districts (NIDs), Neighborhood Development Corporations, or other similar types of neighborhood reinvestment and enhancement strategies in plans or policies	19	30.16	23	36.51	9	14.29	11	17.46	63

Community Sustainability

The following results are from a matrix question that began: “As a local government unit we engage in the following practices surrounding community sustainability...”:

	Yes		No		Do Not Know		Not applicable		Number of Respondents
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	
Planning with a Purpose: Conduct a community visioning and planning initiative that engages a diverse set of community members & stakeholders and uses a sustainability, resilience, or environmental justice framework	21	35.59	29	49.15	5	8.47	4	6.78	59
Establish an external sustainability team to include participation from community members, especially underserved and/or traditionally marginalized residents	14	23.73	34	57.63	8	13.56	3	5.08	59
Establish an internal sustainability team, made up of staff from different departments as relevant, to coordinate local government sustainability initiatives	14	23.73	37	62.71	4	6.78	4	6.78	59
Create a local sustainability action website/webpage and/or social media page	11	18.64	39	66.10	5	8.47	4	6.78	59
Public Education for Action: Conduct or support a broad sustainability education and action campaign, building on existing city & community relationships, networks & events	12	20.34	32	54.24	9	15.25	6	10.17	59

Energy

The following results are from a matrix question that began: “As a local government unit we engage in the following practices surrounding energy management...”:

Local Government Programs and Regulations

	Yes		No		Do Not Know		Not applicable		Number of Respondents
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	
Create or participate in a marketing/outreach/incentive program to promote/ achieve residential energy/ water use reduction and energy efficiency	23	38.33	23	38.33	12	20.00	2	3.33	60
Adopt wind energy and/or biomass ordinances that allow, enable or encourage appropriate renewable energy installations	22	36.67	30	50.00	4	6.67	4	6.67	60
Adopt PACE ordinance	12	20.00	22	36.67	21	35.00	5	8.33	60
Use PACE financing	12	20.00	22	36.67	22	36.67	4	6.67	60
Participate in a solar group buy program	12	20.00	38	63.33	9	15.00	1	1.67	60
Develop community wide programs that promote energy efficiency among homeowners, landlords, and businesses	11	18.33	34	56.67	11	18.33	3	5.00	60
Watt meters are available to the public	11	18.33	22	36.67	22	36.67	5	8.33	60
Integrate green building and EV charging best practices information and assistance into the building permit process	9	15.00	38	63.33	8	13.33	5	8.33	60
Achieve milestone reductions in GHG emissions, as specified in the community's science-based GHG reduction goals	6	10.00	42	70.00	7	11.67	4	6.67	60
Implement an energy rating/disclosure policy for residential and/or commercial buildings	3	5.00	41	68.33	8	13.33	7	11.67	60

Program Participation Topics

	Yes		No		Do Not Know		Not applicable		Number of Respondents
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	
Attain SolSmart designation	11	18.33	39	65.00	7	11.67	2	3.33	60
Part of State of Wisconsin Energy Independent (EI) Community	10	16.95	30	50.85	12	20.34	6	10.17	59

Energy Infrastructure Topics

	Yes		No		Do Not Know		Not applicable		Number of Respondents
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	
Install a public sector/ municipally owned renewable energy technology, such as solar electric (PV), wind, biomass, solar hot water/air, micro-hydro	28	46.67	26	43.33	3	5.00	2	3.33	60
Use LED/solar-powered lighting for a flashing sign or in a street, parking lot or park project	22	37.93	10	17.24	12	20.69	14	24.14	58
Stoplights are LED or functional equivalent	16	27.59	7	12.07	14	24.14	20	34.48	58
Streetlights operate at 75 lumens/Watt or higher	9	15.52	7	12.07	28	48.28	13	22.41	58

Partnering Topics

	Yes		No		Do Not Know		Not applicable		Number of Respondents
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	
Provide (or partner with other community organizations to provide) programs for low-income homeowners and/or renters and privately-owned affordable housing owners to make energy efficiency improvements to their properties	24	40.00	23	38.33	10	16.67	2	3.33	60
Work with local utility providers to ensure that energy and water bills include household energy and water use statistics over time	17	28.81	27	45.76	9	15.25	5	8.47	59

Climate Adaptation and Resilience

The following results are from a matrix question that began: “As a local government unit we engage in the following practices surrounding climate adaptation and community resilience...”:

	Yes		No		Do Not Know		Not applicable		Number of Respondents
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	
Protect public buildings and natural/constructed infrastructure to reduce physical damage and sustain their function during extreme weather events	28	48.28	16	27.59	11	18.97	3	5.17	58
Protect water supply and wastewater treatment facilities to reduce physical damage and sustain their function during extreme weather events	27	47.37	9	15.79	12	21.05	9	15.79	57
Prepare to maintain public health and safety during extreme weather and climate-change-related events, while also taking a preventive approach to reduce risk for community members	26	44.83	17	29.31	8	13.79	7	12.07	58
Integrate climate resilience into local government planning, policy, operations, and budgeting processes	16	27.59	31	53.45	7	12.07	4	6.90	58
Increase social connectedness through engagement, capacity building, public investment, and opportunities for economically vulnerable residents to improve their economic prosperity and resilience to climate change	16	27.59	28	48.28	9	15.52	5	8.62	58
Provide incentives, support programs, and/or educational resources for businesses, households, and landlords to make improvements to properties that reduce GHG emissions and/or improve household-level resiliency to climate change	11	18.97	32	55.17	10	17.24	5	8.62	58
Reduce the urban heat impacts of public buildings,	10	17.24	31	53.45	10	17.24	7	12.07	58

sites, and infrastructure and provide resiliency co-benefits									
Encourage private sector action and incentivize investment in preventive approaches that reduce risk and minimize impacts of extreme weather and the changing climate for human health and the built environment	9	15.79	31	54.39	13	22.81	4	7.02	57
Perform a climate vulnerability assessment	3	5.36	38	67.86	10	17.86	5	8.93	56

Health

The following results are from a matrix question that began: “As a local government unit we engage in the following practices surrounding healthy communities...”:

	Yes		No		Do Not Know		Not applicable		Number of Respondents
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%			
Provide recreation programs for youth, adults, senior citizens and disabled persons	31	52.54	11	18.64	8	13.56	9	15.25	59
Adopt an ordinance, including conditional use permits, on noise abatement for various zoning districts	30	50.85	15	25.42	10	16.95	4	6.78	59
Provide education and establish programming to encourage physical activity, especially by youth	25	42.37	14	23.73	13	22.03	7	11.86	59
Adopt an ordinance or policy that promotes tobacco-free and e-cigarette free parks and/or public events on local government-owned property	17	28.81	21	35.59	17	28.81	4	6.78	59
Adopt an ordinance or policy that requires tobacco-free and e-cigarette free apartments or places limitations on such structures	14	23.73	21	35.59	18	30.51	6	10.17	59
Establish a pedestrian safety task force	12	20.69	25	43.10	12	20.69	9	15.52	58
Encourage or partner with others, such as the Chamber of Commerce, etc., to advance workplace wellness programs within the community	12	20.34	21	35.59	18	30.51	8	13.56	59
Use by policy, ordinance or practice, Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design and active threat planning to make public spaces, such as recreational space, crime free	11	18.64	26	44.07	16	27.12	6	10.17	59

Establish and implement Harm Reduction strategies for alcohol outlet density and sexual oriented establishments (e.g. zoning limitations)	10	16.95	28	47.46	14	23.73	7	11.86	59
Establish a Health Impact Assessments policy, including when an assessment is required and its scope	9	15.79	27	47.37	17	29.82	4	7.02	57

Transportation

The following results are from a matrix question that began: “As a local government unit we engage in the following practices surrounding transportation...”:

Bike and Ped Topics

	Yes		No		Do Not Know		Not applicable		Number of Respondents
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	
Prepare a plan identifying disconnection in bike and pedestrian networks, prioritizing fixes and identifying potential funding sources for the most important projects	26	47.27	18	32.73	8	14.55	3	5.45	55
Identify and remedy street-trail gaps between city streets and off-road trails/bike trails to better facilitate walking and biking	24	45.28	16	30.19	6	11.32	7	13.21	53
Provide an on-street and/or off-street trail network connecting recreational areas in the community (e.g. safe routes to parks) and other trip generators, such as shopping malls, ensuring all neighborhoods are included in planning and implementation	23	41.28	15	27.27	9	16.36	8	14.55	55
Commuter bike routes identified and cleared	17	32.69	19	36.54	6	11.54	10	19.23	52
Encourage pedestrian and bicycle site connections from front door of businesses or apartments to a public sidewalk and/or bike lane ensuring connections to all neighborhoods	17	30.91	20	36.36	8	14.55	10	18.18	55
Set standards for placement and number (as function of intensity of use) for bike parking spaces	13	23.64	31	56.36	3	5.45	8	14.55	55
Be recognized as a Walk Friendly, Bicycle Friendly, or Age Friendly Community	12	21.82	27	49.09	9	16.36	7	12.73	55
Require bike parking for all new non-residential and multifamily uses	11	20.00	35	63.64	2	3.64	7	12.73	55
League of American Bicyclists certification	8	14.55	28	50.91	12	21.82	7	12.73	55

Transit and Shared Topics

	Yes		No		Do Not Know		Not applicable		Number of Respondents
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	
Prominently identify mobility options: transit; paratransit/ Dial-A-Ride; ridesharing/cab services; rental cars; bikes; airports	19	34.55	17	30.91	8	14.55	11	20.00	55
Establish an expanded public transit that serves commuters from all neighborhoods and major parks and recreation facilities, and has racks on vehicles for carrying bicycles	13	24.07	17	31.48	7	12.96	17	31.48	54
Scheduled transit service at basic level (hour peak service within half-mile of 50 percent of addresses)	10	18.18	34	61.82	5	9.09	6	10.91	55
Promote carpooling or ridesharing among community members, city employees, businesses, high schools and institutions of higher education	8	14.55	27	49.09	10	18.18	10	18.18	55
Scheduled transit service at enhanced level (half-hour peak service within 75 percent of addresses)	6	11.11	19	35.19	9	16.67	20	37.04	54
Provide transit passes at 50 percent or more off the regular price and/or provide parking cash-out options for local government employees	2	3.64	27	49.09	10	18.18	16	29.09	55
Require large employers seeking rezoning to provide subsidized transit	0	0	40	72.73	3	5.45	12	21.82	55

School-Related Transportation

	Yes		No		Do Not Know		Not applicable		Number of Respondents
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	
Funded and operating Safe Routes To School program (or functional equivalent) covering at least 10 percent of students	14	25.45	16	29.09	13	23.64	12	21.82	55
Document that the local school bus fleet has optimized routes, start times, boundaries, vehicle efficiency and fuels, driver actions to cut costs including idling reduction, and shifting students from the bus to walking, biking and city transit	1	1.82	19	34.55	17	30.91	18	32.73	55
Conduct annual survey of students' mode of transport to school	1	1.82	26	47.27	19	34.55	9	16.36	55

EV-Related Topics

	Yes		No		Do Not Know		Not applicable		Number of Respondents
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	
Provide public charging stations	17	30.91	30	54.55	4	7.27	4	7.27	55
Electric vehicles in local government fleets	11	20.00	34	61.82	5	9.09	5	9.09	55
Assess needs and develop a plan for deployment of public electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure	11	20.00	34	61.82	4	7.27	6	10.91	55
Create incentives and/or provide educational resources for existing commercial property owners to add EV infrastructure to existing parking facilities	8	14.55	34	61.82	6	10.91	7	12.73	55
Adopt policies that require EV infrastructure or EV-ready infrastructure in any new private development or significant redevelopment project	2	3.64	45	81.82	4	7.27	4	7.27	55

Road-Related Topics

	Yes		No		Do Not Know		Not applicable		Number of Respondents
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%			
Produce/distribute route maps, signage or a web site for bicycle and pedestrian paths and trails	36	66.67	10	18.52	4	7.41	4	7.41	54
Develop and fully fund comprehensive maintenance program for existing roads	27	49.09	11	20.00	12	21.82	5	9.09	55
Implement traffic calming policy/measures, including lane conversions (road diets), roundabouts, low-speed streets, shared space and depaving, in at least one street redevelopment project	23	41.82	11	20.00	7	12.73	14	25.45	55
Any proposal to add lanes to a two-lane roadway shall be evaluated for a center turn lane, the preferred option over an expansion to four lanes	11	20.00	15	27.27	16	29.09	13	23.64	55
Track VMT or traffic counts and report on efforts at reduction	8	14.81	34	62.96	7	12.96	5	9.26	54
Implement a Complete Streets policy	8	14.55	25	45.45	11	20.00	11	20.00	55
Charge impact fees for new roads	8	14.55	25	45.45	12	21.82	10	18.18	55
Identify four-lane roadways with fewer than 20,000 vehicles per day (AADT) and evaluate them for "road diets" with bike lanes or on-street parking	7	12.73	16	29.09	16	29.09	16	29.09	55
Calculate lane-miles per capita for arterials and collectors, and show reductions	6	11.11	24	44.44	16	29.63	8	14.81	54

Miscellaneous Topics

	Yes		No		Do Not Know		Not applicable		Number of Respondents
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	
Calculate and track annual government fleet use of motor fuels, in gallons of petroleum and biofuels	24	43.64	15	27.27	9	16.36	7	12.73	55
Set parking maximums for office and retail uses	10	18.18	34	61.82	5	9.09	6	10.91	55
Ban idling (more than 5 minutes) with local government vehicles	6	10.91	34	61.82	10	18.18	5	9.09	55
Right-size/down-size the city fleet with the most fuel-efficient vehicles that are of an optimal size and capacity for their intended functions	6	10.91	28	50.91	12	21.82	9	16.36	55
Eliminate parking minimums from non-residential districts	3	5.54	37	67.27	6	10.91	9	16.36	55
Ban idling (more than 5 minutes) community-wide	0	0	39	70.91	8	14.55	8	14.55	55
Require large employers seeking rezoning to provide a TDM plan that would reduce trips by 20 percent over business as usual	0	0	39	70.91	4	7.27	12	21.82	55

Green Business Development

The following results are from a matrix question that began: “As a local government unit we engage in the following practices surrounding green business development...”:

	Yes		No		Do Not Know		Not applicable		Number of Respondents
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	
Conduct or participate in a buy local campaign for community members and local businesses	17	31.48	19	35.19	8	14.81	10	18.52	54
Promote sustainable tourism in your local government unit, and green tourism resources to tourism and hospitality businesses in/around the local government unit	16	29.09	22	40.00	10	18.18	7	12.73	55
Create or participate in a marketing/outreach program to connect businesses with assistance providers, including utilities, who provide personalized energy, waste or sustainability audits and assistance	11	20.00	26	47.27	9	16.36	9	16.36	55
Lower the environmental footprint of a brownfield or a remediation/ redevelopment project beyond regulatory requirements	10	18.18	21	38.18	12	21.82	12	21.82	55
Grow new/emerging green businesses and green jobs through targeted assistance and new workforce development	7	12.73	25	45.45	13	23.64	10	18.18	55
Promote green businesses that are recognized under a local, regional or national program	8	14.55	30	54.55	6	10.91	11	20.00	55
Strengthen value-added businesses utilizing local "waste" material	5	9.09	32	58.18	9	16.36	9	16.36	55

Local Food

The following results are from a matrix question that began: “As a local government unit we engage in the following practices surrounding local food systems...”:

	Yes		No		Do Not Know		Not applicable		Number of Respondents
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	
Implement strategies that help increase fresh food access in the community, in areas with food insecurity including access by EBT and WIC participants	30	56.60	12	22.64	3	5.66	8	15.09	53
A community or school garden, orchard or forest	30	55.56	9	16.67	6	11.11	9	16.67	54
Have a local farmer's market or co-op buying club	27	50.00	9	16.67	6	11.11	12	22.22	54
Create an agriculture and/or forest protection district	19	35.19	22	40.74	8	14.81	5	9.26	54
Create a community farmland preservation plan and/or promote farmland preservation programs	18	33.33	23	42.59	6	11.11	7	12.96	54
Facilitate creation of home/community gardens, chicken & bee keeping, and incorporation of food growing areas/access in multifamily residential developments	16	29.63	22	40.74	6	11.11	10	18.52	54
Have an urban agriculture business or a community-supported agriculture (CSA) arrangement between farmers and community members/employees	10	18.52	19	35.19	11	20.37	14	25.93	54
Measurably increase sales of local/organic/humane/equitable food in markets, retail food co-ops, rural grocery stores, urban convenience stores, food carts/trucks, hotels and restaurants	4	7.41	26	48.15	13	24.07	11	20.37	54

Implement performance standards for minor and major agricultural retail	4	7.41	34	62.96	8	14.81	8	14.81	54
Measurably increase purchasing of local/organic /humane/equitable foods by schools, hospitals, nursing homes and event centers	3	5.56	26	48.15	12	22.22	13	24.07	54
Promote the Healthy Corners Initiative	2	3.70	28	51.85	14	25.93	10	18.52	54
Conduct a Community Food System Assessment	1	1.85	27	50.00	16	29.63	10	18.52	54
Create a local food production district	0	0	39	72.22	8	14.81	7	12.96	54

Local Government Administration

The following results are from a matrix question that began: “As a local government unit we engage in the following practices surrounding local government administration...”:

	Yes		No		Do Not Know		Not applicable		Number of Respondents
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	
Implement a wellness program for employees of the local government unit	28	53.85	16	30.77	4	7.69	4	7.69	52
Efficiently use your existing fleet of city vehicles by encouraging trip bundling, video conferencing, carpooling, vehicle sharing and incentives/technology	21	40.38	17	32.69	7	13.46	7	13.46	52
Ensure diversity on volunteer boards and commissions using the existing demographic makeup of the community as a target	17	32.69	18	34.62	12	23.08	5	9.62	52
Staff, municipal commission/council members, and/or volunteer board members attend regular diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) training as part of their service/employment	16	30.77	25	48.08	8	15.38	3	5.77	52
Pass a policy or resolution affirming the community’s commitment to equity as a key component of sustainability and the municipality’s mission, work, or actions	12	23.08	23	44.23	13	52.00	4	7.69	52
Require energy efficient, Dark-Sky compliant new or replacement outdoor lighting fixtures on city-owned and facilities	9	17.31	28	53.85	9	17.31	6	11.54	52
Train relevant municipal staff (e.g., public works, grounds and building maintenance) in principles of sustainability	9	17.31	25	48.08	14	26.92	4	7.69	52

Commit to achieving a science based GHG reduction goal for emissions resulting from all municipal operations	8	15.38	27	51.92	12	23.08	5	9.62	52
Complete EPA Energy Star Portfolio Manager spreadsheet for government energy use (Or score existing buildings with LEED EBO&M)	6	11.54	26	50.00	15	28.85	5	9.62	52
Establish a policy requiring that all major remodeling projects on municipal buildings result in the building receiving an ENERGY STAR score that is five points higher than the building's pre-remodel score	5	9.62	32	61.54	12	23.08	3	5.77	52
Develop or adopt a municipal sustainable purchasing policy that eliminates toxics, increases the use of recycled content, and builds or supports the low-carbon circular economy	4	7.69	32	61.54	12	23.08	4	7.69	52
All new and renovated municipal buildings must meet LEED Silver or greater	3	5.77	33	63.46	12	23.08	4	7.69	52
Municipal electricity purchases are at least 5 percentage points higher in renewable content than the statewide renewable portfolio standard requires (Calculation may include self-generated power and purchased offsets)	2	3.85	27	51.92	17	32.69	6	11.54	52
Adopt a resolution that promotes Health in All Policies at the community level (e.g., HEAL Resolution)	2	3.85	34	65.38	10	19.23	6	11.54	52
Include transportation energy/emissions as criterion in RFPs for purchases of goods over \$10,000	2	3.85	32	61.54	12	23.08	6	11.54	52

Establish policies requiring that all new municipal buildings achieve an ENERGY STAR score of 75 or higher	2	3.85	34	65.38	12	23.08	4	7.69	52
Incorporate energy use intensity (EUI) targets into the contracting process for all significant municipal construction projects	1	1.96	32	62.75	14	27.45	4	7.84	51
Require an environmental justice assessment for any new municipal policies or infrastructure projects	1	1.92	36	69.23	11	21.15	4	7.69	52

Natural Resource Management

The following results are from a matrix question that began: “As a local government unit we engage in the following practices surrounding natural resource management...”:

	Yes		No		Do Not Know		Not applicable		Number of Respondents
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	
Certification as Tree City USA	24	48.98	9	18.37	5	10.20	11	22.45	49
Require trees to be planted in all new developments	20	40.82	20	40.82	3	6.12	6	12.24	49
Public properties and rights of way mown or cleared only for safe sightlines and/or to remove invasive species	20	40.82	16	32.65	8	16.33	5	10.20	49
Set a tree canopy goal and develop a management plan to achieve it	19	38.78	15	30.61	8	16.33	7	14.29	49
Have community tree canopy mapped	19	38.78	12	24.29	9	18.37	9	18.37	49
Certification as Bird City Wisconsin Community	18	36.73	12	24.49	9	18.37	10	20.41	49
Have a Master Naturalist; ISA Certified Arborist or WDNR Community Tree Management Institute (CTMI) graduate on staff	17	34.69	22	44.90	4	8.16	6	12.24	49
Adopt tree preservation ordinance	16	32.65	24	48.98	6	12.24	3	6.12	49
Develop a program to involve community members in hands-on land restoration, invasive species management, and stewardship projects	16	32.65	15	30.61	12	24.49	6	12.24	49
Support and protect wildlife through habitat rehabilitation, preservation and recognition programs	16	32.65	17	34.69	13	36.53	3	6.12	49

Preserve environmentally sensitive, community-valued land by placing a conservation easement on city lands, and by encouraging/funding private landowners to place land in conservation easements	9	18.75	21	43.75	9	18.75	9	18.75	48
Conduct a Natural Resource Inventory or Assessment (NRI or NRA); incorporate protection of priority natural systems or resources such as groundwater through the subdivision or development process	7	14.29	24	48.98	16	32.65	2	4.08	49
Create community policy and BMP guidelines on minimizing chemical use during vegetation management of public and private properties	6	12.24	22	44.90	15	30.61	6	12.24	49
Provide incentives for protection of green infrastructure, sensitive areas, important wildlife habitat, or for the restoration or rehabilitation of wetlands or other degraded habitats such as credit towards open space or set-aside requirements	6	12.24	29	59.18	7	14.29	7	14.29	49
For cities outside or on the fringe of metropolitan areas, conduct a build-out analysis, fiscal impact study, or adopt an urban growth boundary and a consistent capital improvement plan that provides long-term protection of natural resources and natural systems, and agricultural practices outside the boundary	5	10.20	15	30.61	7	14.29	22	44.90	49

For cities within metropolitan areas, incorporate woodland best management practices addressing protection of wooded areas into zoning or development review	4	7.84	14	27.45	8	15.69	25	49.02	51
Adopt a conservation design policy; use a conservation design tool for pre-design meetings with developers and for negotiating development agreements in cities with undeveloped natural resource areas	3	6.12	25	51.02	11	22.45	10	20.41	49

Waste Management

The following results are from a matrix question that began: “As a local government unit we engage in the following practices surrounding waste management and reduction...”:

	Yes		No		Do Not Know		Not applicable		Number of Respondents
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	
Develop and promote programs that dispose of household hazardous, medical, and electronic waste	35	71.43	3	6.12	5	10.20	6	12.24	49
Mandatory residential curbside recycling pickup that covers paper, metal cans, glass and plastic bottles	28	57.14	7	14.29	5	10.20	9	18.37	49
Use public education and outreach to promote recycling, backyard composting, product re-use and waste reduction	22	44.90	15	30.61	6	12.24	6	12.24	49
Establish partnerships to reduce waste pharmaceuticals generated in the community and to efficiently collect remaining wastes to prevent their abuse and entry into solid waste or wastewater	21	42.86	13	26.53	9	18.37	6	12.24	49
Community waste stream monitored at least annually. Waste reduction plan prepared and updated annually	19	38.78	13	26.53	8	16.33	9	18.37	49
Develop a municipal collection program that encourages the diversion of food discards, yard materials, and other organics from landfills to composting or anaerobic digestion with energy recovery	17	34.69	18	36.73	5	10.20	9	18.37	49
Construction/deconstruction waste recycling ordinance	9	18.37	21	42.86	11	22.45	8	16.33	49

Implement municipal ordinances requiring manufacturer takeback for fluorescent bulbs, thermostats and other mercury-containing devices	5	10.20	22	44.90	11	22.45	11	22.45	49
Use anaerobic digesters to process organic waste and produce energy	5	10.20	26	53.06	10	20.41	8	16.33	49
Waste and materials management plan based on "zero-waste" principles, with specific goals, prepared and updated annually	5	10.20	21	42.86	14	28.57	9	18.37	49
Pay-as-you-throw system implemented by municipality or required of private waste haulers	1	2.04	25	51.02	13	26.53	10	20.41	49
Ordinances in place to reduce the usage of phone books as well as single-use shopping bags, Styrofoam food containers and other disposable packaging	0	0	29	59.18	8	16.33	12	24.49	49

Water Management

The following results are from a matrix question that began: “As a local government unit we engage in the following practices surrounding water management...”:

	Yes		No		Do Not Know		Not applicable		Number of Respondents
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	
Develop a regular street sweeping program to reduce total suspended solids	26	57.78	0	0	8	17.78	11	24.44	45
Adopt and implement guidelines or design standards/incentives for at least one of the following stormwater infiltration/reuse practices: Rain gardens/infiltration practices ; Rainwater harvesting practices ; Green alleys or green parking lots ; Pervious/permeable pavement or pavers ; Green roofs / green walls ; Tree trenches / tree boxes ; Incorporate compost and/or native plants into landscape design	23	52.27	10	22.73	8	18.18	3	6.82	44
Track water and sewer use annually, and develop plan for reductions	21	44.68	6	12.77	9	19.15	11	23.40	47
Inventory wetlands and ensure no net annual loss	17	36.17	19	40.43	9	19.15	2	4.26	47
Upgrade water and wastewater utility equipment (e.g., variable frequency drive motors) to achieve energy efficiency based on total life cycle, triple bottom line costs (e.g. maintenance and replacement strategies in asset management plans)	16	35.56	2	4.44	16	35.56	11	24.44	45

Establish 75-foot natural vegetation zone by surface water	16	34.78	19	41.30	9	19.57	2	4.35	46
Financial assistance for sewer lateral replacements	12	26.67	9	20.00	14	31.11	10	22.22	45
Work with commercial or light industrial businesses to develop stormwater pollution plans	12	26.67	14	31.11	11	24.44	8	17.78	45
Conduct an energy assessment for municipal water and wastewater facilities and develop a plan to increase energy efficiency	11	24.44	8	17.78	15	33.33	11	24.44	45
Conduct seawall inspections in coastal & waterfront communities	10	22.73	2	4.55	4	9.09	28	63.64	44
Stormwater utility fees offer credits for best management practices such as rain barrels, rain gardens, and pervious paving	9	20.00	13	28.89	9	20.00	14	34.11	45
Inventory all paved surfaces (e.g., by GIS mapping), and develop a plan for reduction	8	17.78	15	33.33	13	28.89	9	20.00	45
Infiltration and inflow reduction by 10%	7	15.91	7	15.91	23	52.27	7	15.91	44
Replace concrete channels with re-meandered and naturalized creeks, wetlands, or swales	5	11.11	14	31.11	10	22.22	16	35.56	45
Use block rates and flat rates to encourage water conservation among residential, commercial, and industrial users	5	11.11	11	24.44	16	35.56	13	28.89	45
Develop and implement asset management plans that set targets for the sustainable maintenance, operation and renewal of water and wastewater infrastructure	5	11.11	12	26.67	21	46.67	7	15.56	45
Develop a system for identifying culverts that obstruct fish migration and install fish friendly culverts where needed	4	8.89	12	26.67	17	37.78	12	26.67	45

Develop a water loss control plan with targets below the 15% required by the state and include a system-wide water audit implementation and time table	4	8.89	6	13.33	24	53.33	11	24.44	45
Wastewater biogas captured and used in operations	3	6.67	16	35.56	13	28.89	13	28.89	45
Join EPA's WaterSense Program for water utilities or the Groundwater Guardian Green Sites program and promote them to local business	3	6.67	14	31.11	17	37.78	11	24.44	45
All outdoor watering by local government, excluding parks and golf courses, from rain collection	2	4.44	24	53.33	9	20.00	10	22.22	45
Develop a water efficiency and conservation plan for municipal buildings	2	4.44	21	46.67	17	37.78	5	11.11	45
Set goals for increasing the recovery of resources from wastewater for energy generation (heat or electricity) and fertilizer	1	2.22	15	33.33	17	37.78	12	26.67	45
Explore partnership options with high-strength waste	1	2.22	18	40.00	15	33.33	11	24.44	45
Plan for replacing all toilets using > 1.6 gpf and annual progress sufficient to reach 90 percent replacement in 10 years	1	2.22	24	53.33	12	26.67	8	17.78	45

Zoning and Development

The following results are from a matrix question that began: “As a local government unit we engage in the following practices surrounding zoning and development...”:

	Yes		No		Do Not Know		Not applicable		Number of Respondents
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%			
Establish minimum shoreland setback standards along lakes and rivers.	36	81.82	3	6.82	2	4.55	3	6.82	44
Zoning code includes mixed use districts	35	79.55	4	9.09	3	6.82	2	4.55	44
Adopt zoning ordinances that allow for infill housing development	22	51.16	10	23.26	4	9.30	7	16.28	43
Adopt an historic preservation ordinance/regulations to encourage adaptive reuse	21	48.84	11	25.58	3	6.98	8	18.60	43
Require sidewalks in new residential areas and establish a policy for adding sidewalks, as appropriate, in areas built out without sidewalks	20	45.45	16	36.36	1	2.27	7	15.91	44
Conserve natural, cultural, historic resources by adopting or amending city codes and ordinances to support sustainable sites, including roadsides, and environmentally protective land use development	20	45.45	12	27.27	7	15.91	5	11.36	44
Adopt ordinances and programs to maintain a healthy housing stock (code enforcement, landlord licenses, volunteer program, truth-in housing disclosure before sale, etc.)	20	45.45	15	34.09	6	13.64	3	6.82	44

Establish a program to make housing more affordable	19	43.18	19	43.18	3	6.82	3	6.82	44
Identify priority areas for infill development, including those eligible for brownfields funding	17	38.64	13	29.55	7	15.91	7	15.91	44
Support placemaking at varying scale (neighborhood to major city facility) and permanence (temporary to permanent) through programming, financial support and removal of regulatory barriers to promote healthy living and social capital in the community	16	36.36	16	36.36	7	15.91	5	11.36	44
Plan for reuse of large-format retail buildings, or work with a local school, church or commercial building to either add-on space or repurpose space into new uses	13	29.55	17	38.64	4	9.09	10	22.73	44
Develop an inventory of known contaminated properties for reuse planning, with possible GIS application	13	29.55	18	40.91	9	20.45	4	9.09	44
Allow life cycle or adaptable housing options, such as "aging in place", accessory dwelling units, Universal or Inclusive Design, Dementia Friendly Communities, Age-Friendly Communities, etc	13	29.55	20	45.45	8	18.18	3	6.82	44
Adopt zoning language or approve a skinny street/development project that follows green street and/or walkable streets principles	11	25.00	23	52.27	4	9.09	6	13.64	44
Incorporate form-based zoning approaches into the zoning code, in those areas where a diverse mix of uses is desired	11	25.00	20	45.45	8	18.18	5	11.36	44

Adopt form-based codes or similar type design guidelines for healthy active living environments	8	18.18	28	63.64	7	15.91	1	2.27	44
Establish a program to address chronic homelessness, such as "permanent housing"	6	13.64	25	56.82	6	13.64	7	15.91	44
Create land bank to acquire and assemble priority infill sites	5	11.36	25	56.82	7	15.91	7	15.91	44
Create/modify a green residential remodeling assistance/financing program to assist homeowners in adding space or features such as EV charging, renewables to their existing homes	2	4.55	31	70.45	6	13.64	5	11.36	44

Sustainability Networks, Coalitions, and Organizations

The following results are from a matrix question that began: “What sustainability networks, coalitions and organizations is your local government involved in?...”:

	Yes		No		Do Not Know		Not applicable		Number of Respondents
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	
Green Tier Legacy Communities (GTLC)	11	26.83	30	73.17	0	0	0	0	41
Wisconsin Energy Independent Communities	9	21.95	32	78.05	0	0	0	0	41
Wisconsin Eco-Municipalities	4	10.00	36	90.00	0	0	0	0	40
ICLEI	2	5.00	37	92.50	1	2.50	0	0	40
LEED Certification for Cities and Communities	2	5.00	38	95.00	0	0	0	0	40
Wisconsin Initiative on Climate Change Impacts (WICCI)	2	5.00	38	95.00	0	0	0	0	40