



Our Vision

Red Wing thrives as a vibrant, creative river town that values its natural environment, welcomes all people, and unlocks opportunity for everyone.

Our Mission

We strive to create a sustainable, healthy, accessible, resilient, and equitable community where every person feels at home.

Meeting Announcement and Agenda Sustainability Commission Special Meeting City Council Chambers, 315 West 4th Street, Red Wing, MN & Virtually Thursday, July 17, 2025, at 5:30 PM

This meeting will be held in the City Hall Council Chambers and virtually via Webex at the same time. Members of the public can join this meeting either in person at City Hall or virtually. To join this meeting via Webex, [click this link](#). To join via telephone, please dial (415) 655-0001. Enter access code 2557 042 6056 and password 2025 when prompted.

1. Call to Order

2. Red Wing Sustainability Vision & Mission Statement

A sustainable community meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs.

3. Roll Call

4. Approval of Agenda

5. Approval of Minutes

5.A. Motion to Approve April 22, 2025, Workshop Minutes.

6. Public Comment

We now invite anyone to share their thoughts on a topic that is not on the agenda. We welcome all opinions and ideas. We appreciate you stating your name at the lectern, and please remember that personal attacks may be ruled out of order. You will have up to three minutes to comment, and we appreciate your time in coming tonight.

7. Election of Officers

7.A. Election of Chairperson

The election of the Chair will begin with the Liaison asking for nominations (nominations do not need a second) and then close the nominations. The Liaison will list the nominees, and each will be offered time to share their thoughts on becoming Chair. Other Commission members can provide additional discussion in this regard. At the need of the discussion, the Liaison will perform a roll call vote on the first candidate nominated, followed by a roll call vote on the second candidate, etc. The Liaison will read the results

and announce the new Chair if one nominee receives a majority of votes. If the vote does not result in one nominee getting a majority, a second round of voting will occur.

7.B. Election of Vice Chairperson

7.C. Election of Pro Tem

8. Communication Items

8.A. Finance Report

8.B. City Council Liaison Report

8.C. Subcommittee Reports

9. Motions & General Business

9.A. Jay McCleary Award - Consider Nominations

10. Announcements

10.A. Topics for Future Agendas

10.B. Next Meeting Date: August 26, 2025 (Workshop)

11. Adjournment

Accommodations for signing interpreter, Braille, large print, etc. can be made. Call City Hall at 385.3600 seven days prior to the need. Hearing assistance devices are available during meetings.

**Red Wing Sustainability Commission
Workshop
Community Development Building
April 22, 2025**

Members Present: Chair Kristen Bandurski; Commissioners Mark Berman, Hugh Brown, Maddie Brown, Joshua Meyer, Shawn Carney, and Dan Evanson

Members Absent: Commissioner Jay Hill (unexcused absence)

Others Present: Brandy Howe, Staff Liaison; Kim Beise, Council Liaison; Michelle Leise, Community Engagement Facilitator; Gary Iocco, Mayor

1. Roll Call

Chair Bandurski convened the workshop at 5:31 p.m. Roll call was conducted. Chair Bandurski and Commissioners M. Brown, Carney, Berman, Meyer, Evanson, and H. Brown were in attendance along with Council Liaison Beise, Community Engagement Facilitator Leise, Mayor Iocco, and Staff Liaison Howe.

Commissioner Evanson introduced himself, described his background and interest in sustainability. He stated that he looks forward to making a difference in the community.

2. Communication Items

A. City Council Liaison Report.

Council Liaison Beise stated that he looks forward to working with the Sustainability Commission once again. He commented that the pollinator lawn demonstration project and the ADA raised bed project, both in Featherstone Park, might qualify for a State sustainability award. Chair Bandurski reviewed the award criteria, and the submission deadline was clarified. It was suggested to ask former Sustainability Commission member Mike Johnson if he would be willing to assist with drafting the submission. Chair Bandurski asked Sustainability Commission members who would be willing to continue the legacy by helping to maintain the plantings to contact Staff Liaison Howe. Maintenance needs were discussed. Council Liaison Beise suggested asking community garden participants to assist as well.

B. City Liaison Report.

There was no report.

3. Workshop Items

A. Commission Training.

Community Engagement Facilitator Leise expressed appreciation to Sustainability Commission members for their service to the community. She stated that videos are being developed that will assist with Board and Commission training in the future.

Ms. Leise provided a primer on the basics of Robert's Rules of Order. She discussed the purposes of using Robert's Rules of Order to manage meetings.

- 1) Ensures that everyone has an opportunity to speak.
- 2) Ensures that all members and the public know what is being discussed and voted on.
- 3) Helps keep the meeting on track.

Ms. Leise reviewed the roles and responsibilities of the meeting chair. Chair Bandurski commented that she has already served as the Sustainability Commission Chair for two consecutive years.

Ms. Leise detailed the process of making, seconding, discussing, re-stating, and voting on motions. She also provided examples of improper meeting behaviors, such as side conversations and phone use during meetings. Ways to manage differing opinions were also discussed. It was clarified that, while the meeting chair can make motions and participate in discussions, the meeting chair should not dominate the discussion. Remote meeting attendance was discussed, and it was clarified that remote meeting participants may not vote on motions. The process of amending a motion (friendly amendment) was reviewed. The process of either withdrawing a motion or voting down the motion and then making a new motion was discussed. Voice votes and roll call votes were discussed. It was noted that secret ballots are never conducted, as public government meetings need to maintain transparency. The option to abstain from a vote, in order to avoid a conflict of interest, was discussed.

Chair Bandurski and Council Liaison Beise encouraged members to consider serving as the Sustainability Commission Chair.

B. Sustainability Commission Flyer.

Chair Bandurski discussed an opportunity to promote the Sustainability Commission during a recent performance at the Sheldon Theatre.

Commissioner Berman provided additional information regarding the tabling event and discussed the flyer. The use of a QR code was discussed. Chair Bandurski suggested that Sustainability Commission members review the draft flyer content, with further discussion and action during the next voting meeting. It was noted that the flyer includes a Spanish language translation. Potential uses for the flyer were discussed. It was suggested to reduce the size of the flyer to one-half page.

It was clarified that the number of Sustainability Commission members has been changed to seven. Mayor Iocco discussed recruiting challenges.

C. Jay McCleary Sustainability Award.

Chair Bandurski provided background information regarding the award, the nomination process, and the selection criteria. She stated that in the past a subcommittee has been formed to review the nominations.

It was suggested to update the nomination deadline and promote the nomination process. Council Liaison Beise stated that in the past nomination forms were mailed or dropped off at City Hall. An online process was also suggested.

Past nominations were discussed. It was suggested to promote the nomination of businesses or organizations along with individuals. It was suggested to forward the nomination form to the Chamber and other local organizations. Other promotional mechanisms were discussed.

It was noted that past award presentations have been made during Earth Week. A nomination deadline for the 2025 award was discussed and June 30 was suggested, with the subcommittee to provide a recommendation during the July Sustainability Commission meeting.

Commissioners Berman and H. Brown volunteered to serve on the subcommittee along with Chair Bandurski. It was suggested that the subcommittee review past nominations. It was noted that this will be the fifth annual Jay McCleary Sustainability Award. Options for presenting the award during a Sustainability Commission meeting and/or during a City Council meeting public comment period were discussed. The award plaque was discussed. Staff Liaison Howe indicated that she will compile the nominations and forward them to the subcommittee.

D. Pollinator Lawn Ordinance.

Chair Bandurski stated that the Sustainability Commission has been asked to provide a recommendation relating to pollinator lawns and the maximum height of lawn grass. She also referenced No Mow May, noting that the City is not currently participating in or promoting this initiative. She also suggested drafting a definition of a pollinator lawn.

Council Liaison Beise referenced the current City policy. He discussed resident concerns about longer grass and pollinator lawns and the challenges faced by City staff to enforce policies when complaints are received. He suggested consideration of signage designating these lawns along with discussion of boulevard plantings.

The distinction between a potential No Mow May policy and a potential pollinator lawn policy was discussed. It was suggested to review the current City ordinances and/or policies.

Chair Bandurski suggested developing criteria and a registration process. It was discussed that this might be a big commitment on the part of the Sustainability Commission.

It was discussed that the Sustainability Commission and City staff could work together in terms of enforcement. It was suggested to involve Master Gardeners in the process to help identify native plants.

Commissioner Evanson stated his understanding that the City Council is requesting a recommendation relating to lawn height and pollinator lawns. He spoke in support of green initiatives but suggested seeking clarity regarding what is being requested of the Sustainability Commission at this time.

It was suggested to form a subcommittee to request clarity, conduct research, and draft potential policy language for discussion during a future Sustainability Commission meeting. Chair Bandurski and Commissioners Berman and Meyer volunteered to serve on the subcommittee.

E. Event Calendar 2025.

Chair Bandurski reviewed a proposed 2025 event calendar. Sustainability Commission participation in past community events was discussed.

Commissioner H. Brown discussed a Friends of the Bluffs buckthorn removal program and asked the Sustainability Commission to consider supporting this program. Staff Liaison Howe suggested promoting this program via *City Beat*. It was stated this could potentially serve as a model program for other areas of the community.

Quorum considerations relating to volunteer activities were discussed.

Upcoming river clean-up activities were discussed. Chair Bandurski also discussed a tree giveaway in celebration of Earth Week.

F. Project Plan Brainstorm 2025.

Chair Bandurski asked Sustainability Commission members to suggest goals, projects, or themes for 2025.

There was discussion of another native prairie planting. Commissioner M. Brown referenced the five-year plan and suggested supporting and encouraging existing native plantings.

There was discussion of a potential summer solstice tour of Prairie Moon Nursery for the Sustainability Commission.

It was suggested to support or promote projects organized by other local groups.

Commissioners discussed biochar and other carbon sequestration and waste management processes. It was suggested to gather more information and consider developing a cost/benefit analysis for City staff and the City Council to review. It was decided to add this topic to a future meeting or workshop agenda and potentially form a subcommittee to work on this project.

The current committee structure and members were reviewed.

4. Announcements

A. Topics for Future Agendas.

Suggestions were offered for future agenda topics.

Mayor Iocco suggested consideration of adding a Student Advisory Member to the Sustainability Commission. Commission members spoke in support of this and referenced past student members. It was clarified that nonvoting student members can be added at this time. Mayor Iocco stated that he plans to ask the City Council to consider allowing voting student members to participate on Boards and Commissions.

B. Next Meeting Date: TBD.

Potential dates for the May meeting were discussed, and it was decided to schedule a special meeting on May 29 beginning at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall.

5. Adjournment

The workshop adjourned at 7:30 p.m.



Sustainability Commission Finance Report
As of July 17, 2025

2025 Approved Budget \$2,500.00

2025 Expenses
Bee City USA Application \$200.00

Total Expenses \$200.00

Remaining Balance **\$2,300.00**

From: noreply@civicplus.com
To: [Howe, Brandy](#)
Subject: Online Form Submittal: Jay McCleary Sustainability Award 2025
Date: Monday, June 30, 2025 12:26:33 PM

Jay McCleary Sustainability Award 2025

Your Information

Name	William Gehn
Email	william_gehn@hotmail.com
Phone Number	651-388-7541

Business, Organization, or Individual You Are Nominating

Name of the business, organization or individual you are nominating	Evan Brown
Email	evan.brown@ci.red-wing.mn.us
Phone Number	651-347-9084

Why are you recommending this business, organization, or individual?	In the 10 years that I have known Evan, working together on the Sustainability Commission for about 5 years, and afterwards, I have seen his admirable efforts, and the effective results he has achieved, in advancing sustainable practices in Red Wing.
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In what activities has the business, organization or individual been involved with that demonstrates a commitment to sustainability and environmental stewardship?	<p>Evan created a legacy of 40+ years of improved air quality & cost savings in the city, by recognizing the potential, and working to bring the Green Fund into reality.</p> <p>Evan was a member of the Red Wing Sustainability Commission in its formative years. Evan then transitioned to the City Council, where he also served as Council Liason to the Sustainability Commission for at least 5 years. He has worked effectively behind the scenes, and visibly in City Council sessions, to enable Red Wing to install the first public EV DC Fast Charger in the entire southeast MN region in 2018. Most notably, his work to create the "Green Fund" paid dividends, when the City Council approved creation of this new "Green Fund" in mid-2022. This "Green Fund" is taking the city's electrical energy savings, generated by the city's solar arrays, and investing those savings into sustainable practices and projects. The importance of this "Green Fund" implementation is significant, yet may be under-appreciated/unknown. Since the life of these solar arrays is at least 40 years, this represents a significant revenue stream. One of the initial impactful projects funded by the "Green Fund" was</p>
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the purchase and deployment of the city's first electric vehicle, a Chevy Bolt EUV, being used by the Building Inspection Department since early March 2023. (Due to the EV's success, a 2nd Bolt EV has since been purchased by the city.). The Green Fund was planned to supply more than \$75,000 annually to sustainability projects, some of which may be enabling reduced-cost rain barrels to residents, demonstrating pollinator-friendly lawn conversions, and transitioning City-owned equipment & vehicles to electric power. Since 2023, public EV charging stations have been installed at City Hall and Old West Main Street, The resulting cost savings and cleaner air benefit all residents for decades into the future.

Email not displaying correctly? [View it in your browser.](#)

From: noreply@civicplus.com
To: [Howe, Brandy](#)
Subject: Online Form Submittal: Jay McCleary Sustainability Award 2025
Date: Tuesday, April 29, 2025 9:23:43 PM

Jay McCleary Sustainability Award 2025

Your Information

Name	Kristin Bray
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Email	kdbray@rwps.org
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Phone Number	6513854600
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Business, Organization, or Individual You Are Nominating

Name of the business, organization or individual you are nominating	Red Wing High School Sustainability Club
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Email	mrkiefer@rwps.org
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Phone Number	6513804600
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Why are you recommending this business, organization, or individual?	The RWHS Sustainability Club has been around for a handful of years but this year's group has really been enthusiastic about their mission and making RWHS and Red Wing better, healthier and more sustainable communities. These young leaders are so passionate and work collaboratively with each other to create change and educate others. I think they deserve this award because their work makes a difference but goes unrecognized. I would love for our communities of RWHS and Red Wing to hear of the great things they are up to and hopefully hop on board with them!
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In what activities has the business, organization or individual been involved with that demonstrates a commitment to sustainability and environmental stewardship?	This year our Sustainability Club has put a strong focus on the recycling programs at RWHS by educating our custodial teams and students/staff. They've taught us about how to sort the recycling and labeled our bins to make it easier. They have spread awareness about recycling via education at staff meetings, hanging signs and buttons they've made. The group has had several days of trash clean-up around town throughout the nice weather months as well. Students have worked hard to learn about areas of RWHS that could be more sustainable, such as the lunchroom, and are working with the appropriate staff to try to implement important changes. It's really awesome to hear and see the energy of these teens and know that they are making changes now that will ripple for years to come at RWHS. It's also exciting to know that they will go their own ways once
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they graduate and make even more changes in our world!

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From: noreply@civicplus.com
To: [Howe, Brandy](#)
Subject: Online Form Submittal: Jay McCleary Sustainability Award 2025
Date: Monday, June 30, 2025 4:50:26 PM

Jay McCleary Sustainability Award 2025

Your Information

Name	Hugh Brown
Email	hugh@minnesotaturtle.com
Phone Number	5079901707

Business, Organization, or Individual You Are Nominating

Name of the business, organization or individual you are nominating	Joe Coyle / Ella Properties
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Email	jcoyle@startech-comp.com
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Phone Number	6129866572
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Why are you recommending this business, organization, or individual?	Joe has demonstrated a strong commitment to implementing and celebrating sustainability.
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In what activities has the business, organization or individual been involved with that demonstrates a commitment to sustainability and environmental stewardship?	Joe has recently made the following sustainably-focused improvements to Ella Property Management's multi-tenant commercial property on Old West Main Street: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Installed a large solar array, offsetting most of the building's power consumption- Converted the boulevard in front of the building to a pollinator garden- Commissioned a local artist to paint a mural of pollinators in the building's front lobby
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From: noreply@civicplus.com
To: [Hill, Melissa](#)
Subject: Online Form Submittal: Jay McCleary Sustainability Award 2024
Date: Wednesday, March 20, 2024 8:11:39 AM

Jay McCleary Sustainability Award 2024

Your Information

Name	Michael Johnson
Email	mr.johnson2300@gmail.com
Phone Number	(715) 207-1794

Business, Organization, or Individual You Are Nominating

Name of the business, organization or individual you are nominating	Carol A. Overland
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Email	overland@legalectric.org
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Phone Number	(612) 227-8638
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Why are you recommending this business, organization, or individual?	Carol Overland has developed and maintained a legal practice of visible and consistent advocacy of public interest and participation, representing individuals, groups, and extensive pro bono work on environmental and energy issues.
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In what activities has the business, organization or individual been involved with that demonstrates a commitment to sustainability and environmental stewardship?	<p>In area, projects ranging from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Representation of Florence Township when NSP applied to put nuclear waste near the Community Center and Wells Creek nearly 30 years ago; currently working on Xcel's current application for additional nuclear waste dry casks – it's premature as there's capacity for storage until 2033;• Representation of World Organization for Landowner Freedom on Arrowhead Transmission Project and helped achieve condition on permit limiting transfer capacity of line to prevent bulk power transfer of coal generation from Dakotas;• Representing landowners, residents groups, and pro bono work to reroute transmission lines and pipelines to less destructive routes, i.e., successful in avoiding route through Dorer Forest; calcareous fen near St. John's; DNR certified restored forest near Menahga; wetland near Medina; coal gasification in woods on the Range and rail access through Diamond Lake; wilderness area in Colorado; transmission across Delaware Bay and through Delaware in NIETC corridor; advocated against coal gasification plant in Delaware and proposed wind/gas combo approved by
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PSC. Opposition to project and not able to secure routing around school sport field; transmission through wetland and high magnetic field levels too close to homes; Mississippi wildlife area; across Wild & Scenic St. Crois; across Wild & Scenic Delaware Water Gap. Pending intrusion on historical site in Idaho; CO2 pipeline in Iowa and Minnesota

- Working with landowners to secure favorable easements for transmission and pipelines and storage/laydown yards;
 - Protective road ordinances for 2 southern Minnesota townships.
 - Reached first and only buy-out agreements -- two families living near Bent Tree Wind Project bought out when noise studies proved repeated violations of Minnesota noise standard Minn. R. 7030.0400.
 - Representation and consultation with groups opposing polluting facilities, Mesaba Project coal gasification as above; Petitions for Contested Case for Rock Tenn, HERC, and Midtown incinerators spewing on local residents.
 - Pro bono work on environmental rulemakings, including PUC: small wind, transmission siting and need, EAW-EA-EIS rulemakings x2; MPCA: silica sand, CO2, Clean Power Plan.
 - Local issues include coordinating with MPCA for garbage burner informational meeting, Florence Twp. nuclear waste, ash mining and Water Tank Mounds, draft zoning ordinance limiting silica sand mining, wind zoning ordinance for Goodhue County, Zip Rail opposition.
 - Presentations on transmission siting, coal gasification, nuclear waste locally in Dodge County, Rochester and La Crosse, organized Community Wind conference in Northfield, multiple presentations Women's Political Alliance and League of Woman Voters in Mpls, Cannon Valley, and Northfield. Also San Luis Valley CO, PIELC conference in Eugene OR; Stop TANC Redding CA; No New Coal Plants conference in Houston TX; Midwest Sierra Club Environmental Committee Indianapolis, IN; Ratepayers United Denver CO; National Lawyers Guild. Multiple workshops at MREA Energy Fair; Windy River Energy Fair.
 - Media – KTTC - MPCA Clean Power Plan; WPR CapX 2020 transmission; WDIO Duluth Mesaba coal gasification plant; KTCA Newsmight on nuclear waste in Florence Twp. with NSP's Jim Alders; Nuclear waste policy in MN with David Morris, ILSR, and Senators Wellstone & Durenburger; KUED Salt Lake City documentary on Skull Valley nuclear waste; multiple interviews on KFAI re: Hiawatha and Arrowhead transmission, and Florence Twp. nuclear waste.
 - Press: Transmission Lies - GRIST: <https://grist.org/article/transmission-lies/>; Climate Hope: On the Front Lines of the Fight Against Coal – Ted Nace; Orion – Stopping coal in its tracks; small quote in TIME 10/9/2005; Worthington Daily Globe feature on Overland transmission work; Hope Magazine "Up Against the Mall".
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From: noreply@civicplus.com
To: [Hill, Melissa](#)
Subject: Online Form Submittal: Jay McCleary Sustainability Award 2024
Date: Monday, March 25, 2024 3:55:50 PM

Jay McCleary Sustainability Award 2024

Your Information

Name	Melissa Hill
Email	melissa.hill@ci.red-wing.mn.us
Phone Number	6307457600

Business, Organization, or Individual You Are Nominating

Name of the business, organization or individual you are nominating	Hank Bremmer
Email	ekstrandb@gmail.com
Phone Number	6513858208

Why are you recommending this business, organization, or individual?	Hank has played a crucial role in connecting people with locally produced food by inspiring people to grow their own and actually making safe places for them to do so. His efforts also directly provide people access to food grown locally and organically by other people.
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In what activities has the business, organization or individual been involved with that demonstrates a commitment to sustainability and environmental stewardship?	<p>Back in the early 2000s, the farmer's market was an unorganized group who sold produce in front of City Hall. Hank played a significant role in organizing the group into a structured 5013c, and creating the farmer's market that we know today; a group with membership, regular scheduling, marketing, etc. Through this work, he has made locally and healthfully grown produce far more accessible to Red Wing residents, and forged a direct connection from the farmer to the table.</p> <p>Furthermore, in 2009, Hank played a crucial role in the formation of Red Wing's first community garden. He got other community members inspired by the idea and brought it to the City. He worked to secure permission to create the first community garden site on Spring Creek Road, which has since been expanded three times. The program was so successful that a second community garden has since been added off of Featherstone. To date, 73 garden plots are rented out with no spots standing fallow. The garden spots are very affordable, are fenced, and have free water onsite. Numerous lower-income families and individuals rent out the spots, as well as people from</p>
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all walks of life. Hank arranges meet and greets so the gardeners can get to know one another and form a sense of community. Hank encourages only organically grown foods at the community gardens, teaching others what to grow for success, and how to grow it organically. He has made a profound difference in this novice gardener's life. I wish we could tally up the environmental savings Hank has directly created by reducing our local reliance on imported and shipped foods, reduction of packaging from purchased food products, and the trickle down effect each person gets throughout their lives by being connected personally to the soil. Once I had a community garden plot and worked the soil, I changed some habits at home, like installed rain barrels and started home composting. If we averaged all of the habits individuals have changed as a correlation to the community garden alone, Hank's impact has been huge.

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From: noreply@civicplus.com
To: [Hill, Melissa](#)
Subject: Online Form Submittal: Jay McCleary Sustainability Award 2024
Date: Wednesday, March 13, 2024 3:44:02 PM

Jay McCleary Sustainability Award 2024

Your Information

Name	Maddie Olson
Email	maddie.olson@redwingshoes.com
Phone Number	651-588-1255

Business, Organization, or Individual You Are Nominating

Name of the business, organization or individual you are nominating	Kristin Bandurski
Email	kristen.bandurski@redwingshoes.com
Phone Number	651-448-0875

Why are you recommending this business, organization, or individual?	Kristin has demonstrated exceptional dedication and leadership in advancing sustainability initiatives within both her professional and community roles. Kristin's efforts have not only contributed to the advancement of sustainable practices within her organization but have also extended to broader community initiatives, emphasizing her holistic approach to sustainability. Her consistent actions and unwavering advocacy for the planet serve as a commendable example for others to follow. This award would allow us to acknowledge and celebrate Kristin's outstanding contributions, while also inspiring others to follow her lead in championing environmental stewardship and making the world a better place for future generations.
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In what activities has the business, organization or individual been involved with that demonstrates a commitment to sustainability and environmental stewardship?	Kristin has exemplified her commitment to sustainability by transforming her passion into tangible action. From her role as the Sustainability Manager at Red Wing Shoe Company to her leadership as the chair of the Red Wing Sustainability Commission, along with her active involvement in Resilient Red Wing and collaboration with the Honoring Dakota Project, she has left an indelible mark. Her unwavering dedication to making a positive impact on our planet is evident through her consistent actions. Kristin is a true advocate for environmental stewardship, and her efforts serve as an inspiration to us all. It is with great admiration that I nominate her for this award, as she embodies the kind of leadership we should all strive to emulate in caring for
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our world.

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From: noreply@civicplus.com
To: [Hill, Melissa](#)
Subject: Online Form Submittal: Jay McCleary Sustainability Award 2024
Date: Monday, March 25, 2024 5:01:00 PM

Jay McCleary Sustainability Award 2024

Your Information

Name	Briggs Tople
Email	adm@goodhuecountymn.gov
Phone Number	651-385-3249

Business, Organization, or Individual You Are Nominating

Name of the business, organization or individual you are nominating	Linda Flanders
Email	linda.flanders@goodhuecountymn.gov
Phone Number	715-222-0920

Why are you recommending this business, organization, or individual?	I am recommending this individual for their proactive spirit in keeping our beloved Mississippi River clean. Her positive outlook and demeanor is a must while battling such large and complex issues involving sustainability. Not only has she been hard at work on the ground with others but her actions have designated her a true leader in the realm of local sustainability.
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In what activities has the business, organization or individual been involved with that demonstrates a commitment to sustainability and environmental stewardship?	Initially, the issue of the Mississippi River banks being filled with trash was brought to the attention of Goodhue County Commissioner Linda Flanders at a township meeting. From there Commissioner Flanders worked with a City of Red Wing Councilor to put together a local cleanup event in Sept. 2022 and picked up over 30 bags of garbage from the Mississippi River banks with over 60 volunteers. Over the next few months, Commissioner Flanders worked with County staff to organize a State-wide campaign to be held from April 15, 2023 to May 15, 2023. A communications kit was created to aid in the campaign dissemination including a website page, social media posts, press releases, flyers, and an announcement video. All the counties and cities along the Mississippi River were challenged via email, social media, and letters to organize a cleanup event and asked to submit how many volunteers helped and how much garbage they collected in March of 2023. Three counties organized events and participated in the challenge. They included Anoka, Dakota, and Ramsey County. In total, these
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counties had 313 volunteers, 174 bags of trash, an additional 2,387.5 lbs. of trash, and 53 bags of recyclables cleaned up. Dakota County was announced the winner with the most volunteers and trash collected. In August 2023, Commissioner Flanders presented the Dakota County Board of Commissioners with a certificate of achievement both from Goodhue County and from Governor Walz. In July of 2023, Commissioner Flanders was recognized as one of the winners of a NACo achievement award for this work. In 2024, Commissioner Flanders is gearing up for another cleanup challenge with even more local events being held by various groups including the City of Red Wing's Sustainability Commission, the Friends of the Bluff, Dakota Project, Prairie Island Indian Community, and more.

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