



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 Regular Meeting City Council Chambers, 315 West 4th Street, Red Wing, MN & Virtually Tuesday, October 28, 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 2552 744 0121 and password 2025 when prompted.

1. Call to Order

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. 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.

4. Roll Call

5. Approval of Agenda

6. Approval of Minutes

6.A. Motion to Approve

1. May 29, 2025, Minutes
2. June 24, 2025, Minutes
3. July 17, 2025, Minutes
4. August 26, 2025, Minutes
5. September 25, 2025, Minutes

7. 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.

8. Communication Items

8.A. Finance Report

8.B. City Council Liaison Report

9. Motions & General Business

9.A. Motion to Approve Letter of Support for Organics Drop Site

9.B. Subcommittee Reports

10. Announcements

10.A. Topics for Future Agendas

10.B. Next Meeting Date: November 25, 2025

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
Regular Meeting
City Council Chambers
May 29, 2025**

Members Present: Chair Kristen Bandurski; Commissioners Mark Berman, Maddie Brown, and Dan Evanson

Members Absent: Commissioners Shawn Carney, Hugh Brown, and Joshua Meyer; Council Liaison Kim Beise

Others Present: Brandy Howe, Staff Liaison

1. Call to Order

Chair Bandurski called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Roll call was conducted. Commissioners Bandurski, Berman, M. Brown, and Evanson were in attendance.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Bandurski led the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Red Wing Sustainability Vision & Mission Statement

Chair Bandurski read the Sustainability Commission Vision & Mission Statement.

5. Approval of Agenda

A motion was made by Commissioner Berman, seconded by Commissioner M. Brown and unanimously carried, to approve the agenda as presented.

6. Approval of Minutes

A. Motion to Approve Minutes.

- 1. July 23, 2024, Regular Meeting Minutes.**
- 2. August 27, 2024, Workshop Minutes.**
- 3. September 24, 2024, Workshop Minutes.**
- 4. November 12, 2024, Workshop Minutes.**

A motion was made by Commissioner Berman, seconded by Commissioner M. Brown and unanimously carried, to approve the meeting and workshop minutes as drafted.

7. Election of Officers

Staff Liaison Howe reviewed the nomination and election process. The roles and responsibilities of the Chair, Vice Chair, and Pro Tem positions were discussed. Given the limited number of commissioners present, it was suggested to consider scheduling a special meeting to conduct the election.

8. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

9. Motions & General Business

A. Review the Rules and Policies and Vote on Two Segments of the Document: Section 9 – Order of Business and Section 11 - Public Comment.

Staff Liaison Howe provided background information regarding the Rules and Policies for City of Red Wing Boards, Commissions, and Committees. Language from Section 9 and Section 11 was reviewed. It was clarified that Boards and Commissions may request modifications to the order of business and the public comment procedure to meet their needs. The Statement of Intent was discussed. Potential modifications to the order of business were discussed. The public comment procedure was reviewed, and a three-minute time limit for public comments was discussed.

A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously carried to adopt the order of business for Sustainability Commission meetings as discussed.

A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously carried to remove the pledge of allegiance from the meeting agenda.

A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously carried to remove the Statement of Intent from the meeting agenda.

A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously carried to allow the Sustainability Commission the flexibility to add topical items to the meeting agenda.

A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously carried to adopt the public comment procedure as discussed.

10. Communication Items

A. Finance Report.

Staff Liaison Howe reviewed the Sustainability Commission budget. The possibility of encumbering funds from the 2024 budget toward 2025 projects was discussed. Potential expenses relating to the Jay McCleary Award were discussed.

B. Subcommittee Reports.

Commissioner Evanson provided a Bee City USA update. Discussions with Public Works staff relating to the No Mow May initiative and pollinator lawns were summarized, and Chair Bandurski provided additional information.

Educational information that has been posted to the Sustainability Commission page of the City's website regarding pollinator lawns and ways to support

pollinators was reviewed. A pollinator garden map was referenced. A potential City ordinance regulating pollinator lawns was discussed, and the process was reviewed. Management of resident concerns and a potential registration process for pollinator lawns was discussed. A list of definitions was reviewed.

Next steps were discussed. It was suggested to gather additional information, clarify definitions, research the best practices and policies utilized by other communities, further discuss potential policy language, and provide a recommendation in this regard. It was suggested to add this topic to the agenda for the next Sustainability Commission workshop.

The pollinator lawn demonstration project and potential future plantings in Featherstone Park were discussed.

C. City Council Liaison Report.

Council Liaison Beise was not in attendance.

11. Adjournment

The meeting and workshop schedule were reviewed, and scheduling challenges were discussed. Future agenda topics were referenced. The meeting adjourned at 7:06 p.m.

**Red Wing Sustainability Commission
Workshop
Community Development Building
June 24, 2025**

Members Present: Chair Kristen Bandurski; Commissioners Maddie Brown, Dan Evanson, Mark Berman (arrived at 5:37 p.m.), and Hugh Brown (arrived at 5:40 p.m.)

Members Absent: Commissioner Joshua Meyer (unexcused absence) and Commissioner Shawn Carney (unexcused absence)

Others Present: Brandy Howe, Staff Liaison; Kim Beise, Council Liaison (left at 6:58 p.m.); David Anderson; Maura Curry; Wendy Johnson; Tilton Davis

1. Roll Call

The workshop was convened at 5:35 p.m. Workshop attendees introduced themselves.

2. Communication Items

A. City Council Liaison Report.

Council Liaison Beise stated that Mayor Iocco is exploring the possibility of appointing a voting student liaison to some of the City's commissions.

B. Subcommittee Reports.

The committee structure was discussed.

3. Workshop Items

A. Jay McCleary Sustainability Award.

The award was discussed.

B. Bee City USA.

This item was discussed following discussion of Item 2B.

Chair Bandurski referenced a recent meeting of members of Resilient Red Wing during which the Bee City initiative was discussed. Maura Curry discussed continued care of the pollinator project at Featherstone Park and provided handouts.

A potential pollinator ordinance was discussed. Chair Bandurski commented that the Public Works Department receives complaints about residents who allow their lawn heights to exceed the City's current standards, especially early in the season to help support pollinators. She discussed the No Mow May campaign and referenced current research that calls into question the effectiveness of these efforts. She summarized a discussion with Public Works staff regarding a potential policy that would allow residents with intentional pollinator spaces to register with the City and enter into an agreement.

Chair Bandurski provided examples of other communities that have adopted similar policies. Language from State legislation was referenced. The next steps in the process were reviewed, including the need for public education. Fences and a potential lot survey were discussed.

Event Calendar.

Potential Sustainability Commission participation in upcoming events was discussed, including the Red Wing Farmers Market, River City Days, and the Downtown Trunk or Treat activity. Consideration of a pollinator lawn and garden tour during River City Days was suggested.

4. Announcements

A. Topics for Future Agendas.

Suggestions for future agenda topics were offered, including the Sustainability Commission budget, upcoming events, a tree planting in Featherstone Park, and the Jay McCleary Sustainability Award.

B. Next Meeting Date.

July 17 was discussed as a potential next meeting date. Email communication Sustainability Commission members and calendar invites were discussed.

5. Adjournment

The workshop adjourned at 7:07 p.m.

**Red Wing Sustainability Commission
Special Meeting
City Council Chambers
July 17, 2025**

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

Members Absent: Commissioner Joshua Meyer (unexcused)

Others Present: Brandy Howe, Staff Liaison; Kim Beise, Council Liaison

1. Roll Call

Chair Bandurski called the workshop to order at 5:33 p.m.

2. Red Wing Sustainability Vision & Mission Statement

Chair Bandurski read the Sustainability Commission Vision & Mission Statement.

3. Roll Call

Roll call was conducted. Chair Bandurski and Commissioners H. Brown, Evanson, Berman, Carney, and M. Brown were in attendance along with Staff Liaison Howe and Council Liaison Beise.

4. Approval of Agenda

A motion was made by Commissioner H. Brown, seconded by Commissioner Maddie Brown and unanimously carried, to remove the 2024 Jay McCleary Sustainability Award nominees from Item 9.A.

A motion was made by Chair Bandurski, seconded by Commissioner H. Brown and unanimously carried, to approve the agenda with the removal of 2024 nominees.

5. Approval of Minutes

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

A motion was made by Commissioner H. Brown, seconded by Commissioner Evanson and unanimously carried, to amend the April 22, 2025, Sustainability Commission Workshop Minutes to reflect that Jay Hill is no longer a member of the Sustainability Commission.

A motion was made by Commissioner M. Brown, seconded by Chair Bandurski and unanimously carried, to approve the workshop minutes as amended.

6. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

7. Election of Officers

A. Election of Chairperson

Staff Liaison Howe reviewed the election process and opened nominations for the position of Chairperson. Commissioner Evanson was nominated to serve as Chairperson and declined the nomination. Commissioner Berman was nominated to serve as Chairperson and declined the nomination. Commissioner Maddie Brown was nominated as Chairperson and declined due to a potential conflict. Commissioner H. Brown nominated himself to serve as Chairperson.

A motion was made by Commissioner Bandurski, seconded by Commissioner Carney and unanimously carried, to elect Commissioner H. Brown as Chairperson of the Sustainability Commission for 2025 by a unanimous ballot.

B. Election of Vice Chairperson

Staff Liaison Howe opened nominations for the position of Vice Chairperson. Commissioner Berman nominated himself to serve as Chairperson.

A motion was made by Commissioner Bandurski, seconded by Commissioner Mark Berman and unanimously carried, to elect Commissioner Berman as the Vice Chairperson of the Sustainability Commissioner for 2025 by a unanimous ballot.

C. Election of Pro Tem

Staff Liaison Howe opened nominations for the position of Pro Tem. Commissioner Bandurski nominated herself to serve as Pro Tem.

A motion was made by Commissioner M. Brown, seconded by Commissioner H. Brown and unanimously carried, to elect Commissioner Bandurski as the Pro Tem of the Sustainability Commission for 2025 by a unanimous ballot.

8. Communication Items

A. Finance Report

Staff Liaison Howe reviewed the finance report.

Commissioner Bandurski raised the topic of funding for the Sustainability Commission's presence at River City Days. Commissioners H. Brown, M. Brown, Carney, and Evanson reported that they were unavailable to assist during River City Days. Staff Liaison Howe and Commissioner Bandurski volunteered to represent the commission from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, August 2. Commissioner Bandurski offered to order prizes with a \$200 budget and check with Resilient Red Wing for educational handouts and prizes. Staff Liaison Howe agreed to inquire about City printing.

A motion was made by Commissioner M. Brown, seconded by Commissioner Bandurski and unanimously carried, to authorize the purchase of prizes for River City Days for a budget of up to \$200.

Commissioner M. Brown expressed a desire to purchase two trees for Featherstone Park to replace dead trees that did not survive. She suggested checking with Sargent's Nursery to see if there is a discount and considering Outback Nursery in Hastings. Shawn Blaney or Pat Ramaker of the Public Works Department will be consulted. Commissioner M. Brown asked for a \$500 budget. Commissioner Berman suggested that using 20% of the commission's budget is steep and inquired if grants or Public Works trees might be available. Tree height was discussed. Fruit and pollinator-friendly species were also discussed. A note was made that bare root trees are only available in the spring.

A motion was made by Commissioner Bandurski, seconded by H. Brown and unanimously carried, to allocate up to \$500 for the purchase of two trees. Commissioners Bandurski and Berman stated that they will work with Public Works on installation. Commissioner M. Brown stated that she will work with Resilient Red Wing on species selection.

B. City Council Liaison Report

City Council Liaison Beise reported that a GreenStep Cities certificate has been received from the League of Minnesota Cities. He also reported that the City Council discussed rule changes for commissions and tabled further discussion on the topic until August 11.

Commissioner Bandurski proposed wildflower planting for a new trail instead of sod.

C. Subcommittee Report

Commissioners Berman and Bandurski will talk to Public Works about lawn and pollinator issues and bring any input from them back to the full commission for further discussion.

9. Communication Items

A. Jay McCleary Award – Consider Nominations

The award subcommittee, Commissioners Bandurski, Berman, and H. Brown, met and came to the consensus to recommend the Red Wing High School Sustainability Club as the recipient of the 2025 Jay McCleary Sustainability Award. Discussion occurred on how the award recipient selection dovetails with encouraging youth involvement in sustainability.

A motion was made by Commissioner Bandurski, seconded by Commissioner Berman and unanimously carried, to award the 2025 Jay McCleary Sustainability Award to the Red Wing High School Sustainability Club.

A motion was made by Commissioner Bandurski, seconded by Commissioner Carney and unanimously carried, to utilize the same budget as the previous year's award and coordinate the creation of the plaque with local business Creative Hand.

The award will be presented at a future Sustainability Commission meeting, and Commissioner Bandurski stated that she will coordinate the award presentation. Commissioner Berman expressed that he wanted to work with the club's advisor to announce the award to the school.

10. Communication Items

A. Topics for Futures Agendas

Commissioners brought forward the following topics for future agendas:

- A pollinator lawn ordinance;
- A GreenStep Cities program presentation with a request to coordinate with the state on a speaker who can come in;
- The Gold Leaf Challenge;
- An update on the City's compost pilot program;
- Construction waste recycling;
- Buy nothing/reuse

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

It was identified that the next Sustainability Commission Workshop will be held on August 26.

11. Adjournment

The special meeting was adjourned at 7:08 p.m.

**Red Wing Sustainability Commission
Workshop
Community Development Building
August 26, 2025**

Members Present: Chair Hugh Brown; Dan Evanson, Mark Berman

Members Absent:

Excused: Kristen Bandurski, Maddie Brown, Kim Beise (Council Liaison)

Unexcused: Joshua Meyer, Shawn Carney

Others Present: Brandy Howe, Staff Liaison; Jeff Schneider, Deputy Director of Solid Waste

The workshop was convened at 5:36 p.m.

1. Roll Call

2. Communication Items

A. City Council Liaison Report

None

B. City Liaison Report

None

3. Workshop Items

A. Organics Feasibility Study (Presentation by Jeff Schneider)

Jeff Schneider gave a lengthy and informative presentation on the Organics Collection and Composting Feasibility Study and pilot program. Two collection methods were evaluated for a food scraps collection program: (1) curbside collection with a dedicated organics route and (2) curbside co-collection with durable compostable bags (DCB). The first method involves providing households with a separate organics cart with a dedicated organics route and truck. The second method uses DCBs to collect organics, which are placed in the household garbage cart and separated from the waste stream at the Waste Campus. A drop-off site was also made available for use by the general public at the Waste Campus.

A total of 32 households in one neighborhood participated in the pilot program with the DCBs. The rollout of the pilot program was smooth, and residents generally felt comfortable with its execution. The drop off site quite surprisingly collected more food scraps than the curbside collection pilot. Ultimately, the study found that the DCB program was as easy for participants as household recycling, but the overall cost to implement on a city-wide scale is cost prohibitive at this time. As an alternative, the Solid Waste Division may explore the installation of smart bins at strategic locations around the City where residents can drop off

organic waste. The smart bins would use sensors, data analytics, and mobile apps to boost collection and sorting efficiency. This method may be an interim step before a future curbside collection program could be implemented.

The Commission members thanked Jeff Schnedier for his informative presentation and all expressed interest in supporting the Solid Waste Division on its organics diversion goals. A subcommittee was formed (Mark Berman, Hugh Brown, and Dan Evans). They will meet in the coming weeks to evaluate the support that the Commission may be able to provide. One possible option is to prepare a resolution of support of the use of Green Funds to purchase one or more smart bins to continue the organics collection in Red Wing.

B. Pollinators / Native Plants

Mark Berman reported that Public Works is planning to amend the city code to make sure that it is aligned with state law. Public Works will provide a redlined version to the subcommittee for review when it is ready.

C. Subcommittee Reports.

- a. Tree replacement in Featherstone Park – Mark Berman reported that Public Works agreed to use its budget to pay for the trees, but the initial purchase would be by the Sustainability Commission.
- b. Planting of native plants along bike trail – Public Works directed the Sustainability Commission to talk to Zach Regnier, City Engineer, about this suggestion.

4. Announcements

A. Topics for Future Agendas

Organics composting.

B. Next Meeting Date

The regular meeting on September 23 has been rescheduled to September 25, 2025, as a workshop. The October workshop will be set as a Special Meeting in Council Chambers on October 28.

5. Adjournment

The workshop adjourned at 7:01 p.m.

**Red Wing Sustainability Commission
Workshop
Community Development Building
September 25, 2025**

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

Members Absent: Commissioner Joshua Meyer (unexcused absence)

Others Present: Brandy Howe, Staff Liaison; Kim Beise, Council Liaison

1. Roll Call

The workshop convened at 5:31 p.m.

2. Communication Items

A. City Council Liaison Report.

Council Liaison Beise reviewed the 2026 budget planning process. He reported that the City Council recently voted to set the preliminary tax levy and budget. Downtown projects were discussed. Redevelopment of the former maltery site was discussed, and Staff Liaison Howe provided additional information.

3. Workshop Items

A. Organics Composting – Continued Discussion.

Chair H. Brown referenced past Sustainability Commission discussion of organics composting. He discussed the possibility of working with Solid Waste Campus staff to establish organics composting collection sites. Potential involvement by local restaurants and commercial businesses was discussed. It was noted that the subcommittee has not had an opportunity to meet for further discussion. Operational challenges for local businesses were noted.

Ways that the Sustainability Commission could support the project were discussed. Staff Liaison Howe reported that Deputy Public Works Director Jeff Schneider is very interested in working with the Sustainability Commission on this project. The possible use of the Green Fund toward the cost of collection boxes was discussed. It was suggested that local businesses might also be interested in sponsoring boxes. Examples of organics composting programs in other cities were provided. The question of whether the collection boxes would need locks was raised.

Council Liaison Beise discussed a past residential organics collection pilot project. Potential community drop site locations were suggested. Involvement by the Red Wing High School Sustainability Club was discussed. The benefits of organics composting were discussed. It was suggested to compile methane reduction statistics.

Potential next steps were discussed. It was suggested that the subcommittee schedule a meeting with Deputy Director Schneider for further discussion, reach out to Red Wing School District and Sustainability Club representatives, and gather additional information.

It was noted that the goal would be to compile and present recommendations to the City Council. It was agreed that well-defined strategies and evidence of community support would be beneficial.

B. Subcommittee Updates.

A tree replacement project in Featherstone Park was discussed. It was noted that volunteers are needed to help water the new trees. The tree species were reviewed.

A past rain garden project was discussed. Council Liaison Beise provided additional background information.

A trail project was discussed, and it was noted that design changes would not be feasible at this point in the project.

An update was provided regarding the process of drafting potential pollinator lawn regulations.

The organics composting subcommittee membership was discussed. Suggestions for subcommittee meeting locations were provided.

4. Announcements

A. Topics for Future Agendas.

Staff Liaison Howe reviewed the process of developing meeting agendas. It was suggested to invite members of the High School Sustainability Club to attend a future meeting.

Sustainability Commission member recruitment was discussed. It was suggested to verify the status of Commissioner Meyer, as he has missed several meetings.

B. Next Meeting Date: October 28, 2025.

5. Adjournment

The workshop adjourned at 6:29 p.m.



Sustainability Commission Finance Report
GL: 101-41330-53925

As of October 22, 2025

2025 Approved Budget \$2,500.00

2025 Expenses

Bee City USA Application	\$200.00
River City Days Givaways	\$112.10
Jay McCleary Award	\$55.00
Featherstone Trees	\$456.29

Total Expenses \$823.39

Remaining Balance **\$1,676.61**



October 28, 2025

Jeff Schneider, Deputy Director of Solid Waste
Red Wing Solid Waste Campus
1873 Bench Street
Red Wing, MN 55066

Re: Letter of Support for the 24/7 Organics Drop-Off Site Proposal

Dear Mr. Schneider,

The Red Wing Sustainability Commission is pleased to express its full support for the City of Red Wing Solid Waste Department's proposal to establish a 24-hour, seven-day-a-week drop-off site for organic waste. The Commission recognizes that providing greater access to organics recycling is an important step toward achieving waste reduction and sustainability goals.

Organic waste diversion is one of the most effective strategies for reducing the amount of material sent to landfills, lowering greenhouse gas emissions, and returning valuable nutrients to the soil. A conveniently located, round-the-clock drop-off site will make it easier for residents to participate in this program and reinforce Red Wing's leadership in environmental stewardship.

In support of this initiative, the Sustainability Commission commits to:

- Assisting the Solid Waste Department in identifying a suitable and accessible location for the collection box;
- Collaborating on the development and distribution of promotional materials to encourage community participation; and
- If necessary, contributing funding for 50% of the cost of the collection box, up to a maximum of \$_____.

We appreciate the Solid Waste Department's initiative in expanding Red Wing's organics collection options and look forward to partnering on this important project. Together, we can make meaningful progress toward the City's waste reduction and climate goals.

Sincerely,

Hugh Brown, Chair



Red Wing Sustainability Commission