Green Tier Legacy Communities Annual Report, 2014

City of Sheboygan, Wisconsin

February, 2015

City of Sheboygan Sustainability Goals----------

Sheboygan's sustainability goals, policies, and action steps are outlined in the 2014 City of Sheboygan Sustainability Plan. The plan can be found here: http://www.sheboyganwi.gov/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/Sustainability-Plan.pdf

Green Tier Strategy Options----------

A copy of the Wisconsin Legacy Communities Strategy Options is included in this document. This year, 2014, is Sheboygan's first year as a Green Tier Legacy Community so this document will serve as a baseline from which to improve. The baseline set for 2014 by the City is only 130 pints out of 325, or 40%. Sheboygan has many opportunities to become more sustainable, and achieving our 2015 goal of 170 points, or 52% will mark progress.

Summary of 2014 Actions----------

The following is an overview of sustainability measures the City of Sheboygan has undertaken in the year 2014. This being Sheboygan's inaugural annual report, some of the actions listed might have been initiated prior to 2014, but have continued into 2014 and are worth noting. These actions will not be listed in future Green Tier Annual Reports as from this year forward those reports will focus directly on that year's progress.

Sheboygan Police Department "Bike Rodeos"- The Sheboygan Police Department holds multiple "rodeos" per year where children can come and learn bicycle safety, skills, and maintenance. The events are free and prepare children to safely ride their bicycles around their homes, in the community, and wherever they go.

Walk and Bike to Work Week – for the past several years, Sheboygan County's Bike & Walk Week (BWW) has been an exciting week long celebration of biking and walking for transportation. Held in summer, the event offers incentives, challenges, and activities for those who leave the car behind and make their trips by bike or foot.

Grant Application for Beach Bioswales – The City recognizes the need for stormwater management, to reduce the runoff and erosion affecting the beaches at two city parks. Deland and King Park beaches are being washed away at the sites of two major outfalls. The City has requested a grant from the 2014 Great Lakes Shoreline Cities Green Infrastructure Grants to install infiltration swales, planted with native plants and beach grasses, to protect these Lake Michigan beaches.

NOMO Facilities- NOMO Sheboygan County is the local brand for the federally funded Nonmotorized Transportation Pilot Program (NMTPP). Sheboygan County was chosen to be one of four pilot communities eligible to receive up to $25 million per year to improve bicycle and pedestrian facilities. NOMO Sheboygan County makes bicycling and walking more convenient, safe, and appealing by investing in facilities and outreach initiatives. Some of the infrastructure projects include the installation of sidewalks and bike lanes on Eisner Avenue, a conversion of unused railroad into urban trails, traffic calming pilot project near Grant Elementary School, and sidewalk installation projects.

Electronic Distribution of Meeting Materials – The City of Sheboygan has begun using BoardDocs, a cloud-based solution to disseminate paperless meeting packets and information. The City's Common Council as well as other committees use BoardDocs to make meeting packets available online rather than printing them for each meeting. While not all committees currently use BoardDocs, the City plans to continue to transition more of them to an electronic format as time goes on.

Gateway Community Garden - Gateway Community Garden opened in 2013 as Sheboygan's first community garden. The Gateway Community Garden is located in one of Sheboygan's low to moderate income neighborhoods and provides residents with the opportunity to garden and grow food in their neighborhood. The garden is managed by the Gateway Neighborhood Association, and had no vacant plots in this year. The garden not only provides a place for neighbors to garden and grow food, but also beautifies an important entryway into Sheboygan's downtown.

Marine sanctuary proposal and partnerships – Sheboygan partnered with other coastal Lake Michigan Cities (Port Washington, Manitowoc, and Two Rivers) to apply for the area of western Lake Michigan off the coast of Wisconsin to become a National Marine Sanctuary, recognized by the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration. Being designated as a Marine Sanctuary would protect the marine life as well as historic shipwrecks in these waters. Lake Michigan is an integral part of how and why Sheboygan exists and thrives, and it is important to protect this asset.

Acquisition and Demolition of Vacant Downtown Department Store – The former Boston Store building occupies an entire city block, is located in the center of downtown Sheboygan and has been vacant since January of 2014. The City purchased the property and is demolishing the building which was not maintained well enough to repurpose. Through the demolition the City will gain open public space for a summer concert series downtown. The City has also created a vision for the development of the block which includes space for two mixed-use developments to enhance the walkability of downtown, while preserving a portion of the block for an outdoor plaza and concert venue adjacent to the John Michael Kohler Arts Center.

Street sweeping - Sheboygan lies on the coast of Lake Michigan and one way we protect our waterfront is to sweep the streets to prevent dirt and debris from being carried into the waterway by stormwater. Sheboygan sweeps the streets for 32 weeks (128 Days) per year, and in 2014 the City removed 912.75 tons of debris from the streets.

Informational Videos – The Sheboygan Sustainable Task Force (SSTF) has begun making a series informational videos, available online, about various topics relating to sustainability in Sheboygan. In 2014, the SSTF produced a Recycling video and a Local Food Video to inform the public about sustainable practices, policies, and resources. The SSTF will continue to produce these videos in 2015.

Recycling Initiative – Mayor Mike Vandersteen has recognized the importance of recycling, and has instituted a new outreach initiative to encourage everyone in Sheboygan to recycle. This will not only encourage recycling, but will educate residents on recycling practices. The initiative is beginning with an updated recycling brochure and will grow into many more modes of outreach.

Free Transfer of Recyclables – The City has a new contract that allows the transfer of recyclable materials to a sorting center to get repurposed at no cost to the city. Advertising the city's access to free recycling will be included in the Mayor's recycling initiative.

Installation of LED Lighting Fixtures – The City has multiple pilot projects involving the installation of LED lighting fixtures including: LED lighting fixtures installed at Fountain Park and along Erie Avenue (15 in Park and 25 on Erie), LED fixtures along N. 14th Street (42 fixtures), LED fixtures along Highcliff Court (8 fixtures), LED fixtures along North Ave. West of Calumet Dr. (30 fixtures), Pilot Project for City owned LED fixtures on Taylor and KMD off ramps (38 fixtures).

New North Summit used Sustainable practices for its Annual Meeting at Blue Harbor Resort – 75.4% of event waste in 2013 was diverted from being landfilled through composting. 14.3% of the attendees carpooled saving an average of $20.21 per person in addition to reduced transportation emissions. 86.7% of the Taste Event at the conference was sources with locally owned businesses.

Prep for Emerald Ash Borer- with the Emerald Ash Borer being found in Sheboygan County in 2014, the City has begun developing a plan to deal with the approximately 5,000 street trees that may be affected by the disease. With assistance from the WI Dept. of Natural Resources, the City has completed an inventory of all the trees and has started remove the trees that seem to be the most stressed and dying.

Closeout of the Sheboygan River AOC cleanup – In 2013, after 21 years, the Sheboygan River was dredged and capped to works towards delisting the River as an Area of Concern. Between Federal, State, and Local dollars over $80M was invested to dredging and habitat restoration to improve the river. In 2014, the restriction on dredging was removed. The other eight restrictions should be lifted in the next 5 years or so based on restoration of the river over time.

City's Drop off Center: The City continues to promote the use of the drop off center for yard waste. All grass clippings, garden waste and leaves are collected and hauled off site to be decomposed for compost. The City then provides compost for residents at the Center and also uses the compost at our parks and greenspaces. We also closed branches and brush. These are chipped down and provided to residents for landscaping purposes. Waste oil is also collected at this facility.

Designation of City Sustainability Coordinator - David Biebel designated as the Sustainable coordinator for the City of Sheboygan

Local Food Fair – The City's Maywood Environmental Park holds an annual local food fair, to educate citizens about local food producers and opportunities. This fair brings together local food producers and CSAs from within 50 miles of Sheboygan to provide people with education and samples of local food.

Installation of an Outdoor Recycling Station at Maywood Environmental Park– (to be completed spring of 2015) The plan was created to install an educational kiosk and recycling station, to provide park visitors information about recycling, Wisconsin and Sheboygan recycling stats and Leave No Trace principles. This highly visible recycling station will have a positive impact educating people about recycling at home, in their school or business, and when they are away from home.

Tree Planting – On a yearly basis, the City Forestry Department allocates funding to replace trees to continue the Tree City USA designation.

Citizen Based Monitoring Programs – Held by the Maywood Environmental Park, these programs provide the opportunity for citizens and scientists to work together to monitor and evaluate natural resources. In 2014 volunteers worked with scientists to monitor birds, nest boxes, bats, frogs and toads in the restored natural habitats along the Sheboygan River

1000 Friends of Wisconsin & Legacy Communities - a Green Tier Charter

COWS center on wisconsin strategy
building a high road economy in Wisconsin and beyond.

GREEN TIER

WISCONSIN DEPT. OF NATURAL RESOURCES

LEAGUE

			City of Sheboygan 2014 Baseline	City of Sheboygan 2015 Goal*
TRANSPORTATION		**TRANSPORTATION DEMAND MANAGEMENT:** **Transportation demand management strategies aim to reduce GHG emissions and VMT by influencing change in individual behavior. These strategies encourage walking, bicycling, and transit as modes of transportation within a community and seek to curb the number and length of trips by vehicle.**		
		Bicycle and Pedestrian Programs/Projects		
	2	Require bike parking for all new non-residential and multifamily uses.	0	1
	1	Set standards for placement and number (as function of intensity of use) for bike parking spaces.	0	0
	3	Commuter bike routes identified and cleared.	3	3
	5 to 10	League of American Bicyclists certification. (Bronze 5, Silver 7, Platinum 10)	0	0
	3	Funded and operating SRTS program (or functional equivalent) covering at least 10 percent of students.	3	3
	1	Conduct annual survey of students' mode of transport to school.	3	3
		Employer-Based Programs		
	5	Require large employers seeking rezoning to set a price signal (cash-out or charge).	0	0
	5	Require large employers seeking rezoning to provide subsidized transit.	0	0
	5	Require large employers seeking rezoning to provide a TDM plan that would reduce trips by 20 percent over business as usual.	0	0
		Traffic Volume		
	3	Track VMT or traffic counts and report on efforts at reduction (including those on this list).	2	3
	3	Eliminate parking minimums from non-residential districts.	0	0
	5	Set parking maximums at X per square feet for office and retail uses.	0	0
	5	Scheduled transit service at basic level (hour peak service within half-mile of 50 percent of addresses).	5	5
	10	Scheduled transit service at enhanced level (half-hour peak service within 75 percent of addresses).	10	10
		TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM MANAGEMENT **Transportation system management strategies aim to reduce GHG emissions and VMT by improving the overall performance of a transportation system. These strategies improve existing infrastructure, introduce new technology, and plan for the future of the system.**		
		Preservation and Improvement		
	3	Develop and fully fund comprehensive maintenance program for existing roads.	2	2
	1 to 5	Charge impact fees for new roads.	0	0
	5	Calculate lane-miles per capita for arterials and collectors, and show reductions	2	3
	5	Prepare a plan identifying disconnections in bike and pedestrian networks, prioritizing fixes and identifying potential funding sources for the most important projects.	4	5
	5	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.	5	5
	3	Identify four-lane roadways with fewer than 20,000 vehicles per day (AADT) and evalute them for "road diets" with bike lanes or on-street parking	3	3
		Electric Vehicles		
	1	Allow NEVs on appropriate roadways.	0	1
	2	Provide public charging stations	0	1
		Vehicle Idling		
	2	Ban idling (more than 5 minutes) with local government vehicles.	0	1
	5	Ban idling (more than 5 minutes) community-wide.	0	0
		ZONING AND DEVELOPMENT **Zoning and development strategies work toward improving the overall environmental, economic, and social health of a community by promoting mixed-use and infill development, walkable neighborhoods, and an overall sustainable lifestyle.**		
		Infill Development		

LAND USE	5	Identify priority areas for infill development, including those eligible for brownfields funding.	5	5
	1	Create land bank to acquire and assemble priority infill sites	1	1
	1	Develop an inventory of known contaminated properties for reuse planning, with possible GIS application	0	1
		Walkscore		
	10	Measure Walkscore at 10 random residential addresses per Census tract, compute average, and improve upon overall score	2	4
		Zoning		
	5	Adopt traditional neighborhood design ordinance (If population is less than 12,500)	n / a	n / a
	5	Zoning for office and retail districts permits floor-area ratio > 1, on average.	1	2
	8	Zoning for office and retail districts requires floor-area ratio > 1, on average.	0	0
	5	Zoning code includes mixed use districts	5	5
	8	Mixed-use language from Smart Code.	2	3
		NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT **Natural resource management strategies seek to conserve, preserve, protect and promote a community's greenspace, wildlife, wetlands and waterways for this and future generations by promoting pervious surfaces and adequate setbacks.**		
		Canopy		
	3	Adopt tree preservation ordinance per GTLC standards.	0	3
	4	Set a tree canopy goal and develop a management plan to achieve it	0	3
	2	Require trees to be planted in all new developments	2	2
	2	Certification as Tree City USA	2	2
		Vegetation Management		
	2	Public properties and rights of way mown or cleared only for safe sightlines and/or to remove invasive species.	0	1
	2	Create community policy and BMP guidelines on minimizing chemical use during vegetation management of public and private properties	0	1
		Water Protection		
	10	Establish 75-foot natural vegetation zone by surface water.	3	4
	5	Inventory wetlands and ensure no net annual loss.	0	1
ENERGY		**COMMUNITY ENERGY USE** **Community energy use strategies encourage energy efficiency and the use of renewable fuels to reduce total energy consumption throughout the community**		
		Community Energy Use Policies		
	6	Use PACE financing	0	0
	1	Watt meters available to the public	0	0
	10	Adopt Residential Energy Conservation Ordinance (time-of-sale certification and upgrades).	0	0
		Measuring Community Energy Use		
	4	Work with local utilities to calculate total electricity and natural gas consumption annually, beginning with the fifth year before entering the program.	0	0
	1	State of Wisconsin Energy Independent (EI) Community designation.	1	1
		MUNICIPAL ENERGY USE **Municipal energy use strategies encourage municipal employees to conserve energy, preserve the environment, and decrease greenhouse gas emissions from municipal facilities, services, and vehicle fleets.**		
		Government Energy Use Policies		
	5	Include transportation energy/emissions as criterion in RFPs for purchases of goods over $10,000.	0	1
	3	Develop list of lighting, HVAC and shell improvements to raise Energy Star Portfolio Manager or LEED EBO&M score	1	1
	3	Reduce motor fuels use for non-transit activities --	1	2
	6	Provide transit passes at 50 percent or more off the regular price and/or provide parking cash-out options for local government employees.	0	0
	5	Streetlights operate at 75 lumens/Watt or higher	4	4
	3	Stoplights are LED or functional equivalent	3	3
	5	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.	5	5
		Measuring Government Energy Use		

	5	Complete EPA Energy Star Portfolio Manager spreadsheet for government energy use. Or score existing buildings with LEED EBO&M.	0	2
	2	Calculate annual government fleet use of motor fuels, in gallons of petroleum and biofuels, beginning with the fifth year before entering the program.	0	1
	10	All new and renovated municipal buildings must meet LEED Silver or greater.	0	1
WATER		**WATER USE CONSERVATION** **Water Conservation strategy options set baselines and goals for water and energy performance in municipalities. They measure progress and promote water conservation by the government, business, and the community at-large.**		
		Water Conservation		
	6	Track water and sewer use annually, beginning with fifth year before entering program, and develop plan for reductions.	6	6
	4	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	1	2
	2	Join EPA's WaterSense Program for water utilities or the Groundwater Guardian Green Sites program and promote them to local business.	0	0
	6	Use block rates and flat rates to encourage water conservation among residential, commercial, and industrial users.	0	0
	1	Financial assistance for sewer lateral replacements.	1	1
	2 to 6	Upgrade water utility equipment (e.g., variable frequency drive motors) to achieve energy efficiency.	4	5
	3	Infiltration and inflow reduction by 10%	3	3
	5	Wastewater biogas captured and used in operations.	5	5
	5	Plan for replacing all toilets using > 1.6 gpf and annual progress sufficient to reach 90 percent replacement in 10 years.	2	3
		Local Government Use		
	2	Install waterless urinals in men's restrooms at municipal facilities (city hall, parks, etc.)	0	0
	3	All outdoor watering by local government, excluding parks and golf courses, from rain collection.	0	0
	4	Develop a water efficiency and conservation plan for municipal buildings	0	1
		STORMWATER MANAGEMENT **Stormwater Management strategy options encourage the use of best management practices to achieve a reduction in the amount of harmful pollutants introduced to our streams, rivers, and lakes.**		
	3	Develop a regular street sweeping program to reduce total suspended solids	3	3
	3	Stormwater utility fees offer credits for best management practices such as rain barrels, rain gardens, and pervious paving	0	0
	2	Inventory all paved surfaces (e.g., by GIS mapping), and develop a plan for reduction	1	2
	2	Work with commercial or light industrial businesses to develop stormwater pollution plans	2	2
		WATER AND DEVELOPMENT **Water and Development strategy options link water conservation and the preservation of land, wetlands, and wildlife habitat while promoting compact development, restoration and rehabilitation efforts, and long-term planning.**		
		Land Development		
	5	Identify key green infrastructure areas during plan development and/or implement a plan to acquire and protect key green infrastructure areas	5	5
		Waters, Wetlands, and Wildlife		
	1 to 6	Replace concrete channels with re-meandered and naturalized creeks, wetlands, or swales	0	0
	3	Develop a system for identifying culverts that obstruct fish migration and install fish friendly culverts where needed	1	1
	4	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	0	1
WASTE		**WASTE MANAGEMENT AND REDUCTION** **Waste Management and Reduction strategy options encourage municipalities and their citizens to divert organics and recyclables from landfills and properly dispose of hazardous materials in an effort to reduce waste in a community.**		
	3	Community waste stream monitored at least annually . Waste reduction plan prepared and updated annually	2	2
	4	Waste and materials management plan based on "zero-waste" principles, with specific goals, prepared and updated annually	0	0
	3	Construction/deconstruction waste recycling ordinance	3	3
	3	Mandatory residential curbside recycling pickup that covers paper, metal cans, glass and plastic bottles	1	3
	5	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	2	4
	3	Develop and promote programs that dispose of household hazardous, medical, and electronic waste	3	3
	4	Use anaerobic digesters to process organic waste and produce energy	4	4

	3	Implement municipal ordinances requiring manufacturer takeback for fluorescent bulbs, thermostats and other mercury-containing devices	**1**	**1**
	2	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**	**1**
	2	Pay-as-you-throw system implemented by municipality or required of private waste haulers	**0**	**0**
	1	Use public education and outreach to promote recycling, backyard composting, product re-use and waste reduction	**0**	**1**
	325		**130**	**170**
			40%	52%