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NEWSLETTER Oct-Dec 2021



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## Stillwater's Green Business Directory Now Has 50+ Members!

A year ago, there were less than a dozen members in our new Greater Stillwater Area Green Business Directory at [GreenStillwater.org](https://GreenStillwater.org). Now, with the addition of Lake and Company, a new downtown clothing store, we've surpassed 50 certified members!

[GreenStillwater.org](https://GreenStillwater.org) puts in one place a keyword-searchable directory of outstanding businesses that care about the future of our planet and contribute to the solution. Businesses qualify based on criteria from nationally recognized certification nonprofit, [GreenAmerica.org](https://GreenAmerica.org).

To help us reach consumers, the Greater Stillwater Area Chamber of Commerce has given us a Leadership in the Valley grant of marketing expertise to launch the Green Business Directory to consumers. Chamber member [Lighthouse Marketing.Media](#) of

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designed to put [greenstillwater.org](https://greenstillwater.org) in front of more shoppers.  
THANK YOU, CHAMBER FRIENDS!

## RECENT NEW MEMBERS at [GREENSTILLWATER.ORG](https://greenstillwater.org)



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Fine Art



## Join Our Board!

Worried about climate change, what it means to future generations, and want to do something on a local scale? The time is right to join our Board of Directors at Sustainable Stillwater MN. Join like-minded forward-thinking, friendly people who get things done. Board openings are available now.

**Apply Today at <https://www.sustainablestillwatermn.org/join>**



## Leading Our Community

Sustainable Stillwater MN members have a goal of monitoring every City Council meeting in order to provide input to the city to make it more sustainable. We could use your help keeping an eye on the ball in city government. Are you interested? Contact [linda@sustainablestillwatermn.org](mailto:linda@sustainablestillwatermn.org). We also recently joined the Greater Stillwater Area Chamber of Commerce to work with businesses to help them green up their operations. Sustainable Stillwater MN gave its first Coffee Talk to Chamber members on October 6, 2021 at the Water Street Inn -- and it was well-received with 30+ businesses attending. Seen here after the Coffee Talk are presenters (r to l) Roger Tomten, chair; Louise Watson, Natural Resources Workgroup lead; Linda Countryman, GreenStep Cities Workgroup lead; Kelsey Depew, Communications co-chair and Green Business Membership Manager; and Leslie Frick, Outreach Ambassador for the [Green Business Directory](#).





## Bike Friendly Community Racks Up Another Victory

Another victory for Sustainable Stillwater MN's Bicycle Friendly Community workgroup, which aims to encourage biking as a carbon-free form of transportation. The City with our help received a SHIP grant for new bike racks downtown — the Stillwater Public Works Department installed these on Nelson St., and Myrtle & Main Sts. This is just a start -- more bike parking is still needed. We have also applied to be designated a Bike-Friendly City from the [League of American Bicyclists](#). The application was submitted and is waiting for December review. Rick Heidick, team leader, says bike education for schools is also needed and some trails in the area still need connectivity. The team also plans to work with local businesses in 2022 to encourage them to be bike-friendly. To lend a hand, contact [Rick@sustainablestillwatermn.org](mailto:Rick@sustainablestillwatermn.org)

## Take Our Biking Survey

To help us gain a better understanding of local bicyclists' experiences in our community, we would greatly appreciate your

Bicycle Friendly America Program has given us to share.

<https://www.sustainablestillwatermn.org/post/attention-bicyclists-feedback-wanted> THANK YOU!



## First Bridge the Valley Bike Rally Was Phenomenal Success

Sustainable Stillwater MN and the Stillwater Sunrise Rotary collaborated for an exciting charity bicycle rally on August 15th. Organizers were targeting about 300 bicyclists as a “successful” first year event and they wound up with 490 registered riders. The overall response from bike rally participants was positive. Many riders commented about the very scenic routes around the St. Croix River, and they enjoyed the free ice cream cones (courtesy of Leo's) and entertainment on Chestnut St (courtesy of the Zephyr Theater). There were many local sponsors who supported us both monetarily and with "in kind" donations that contributed greatly to the success of the event. The Stillwater Sunrise Rotary club is planning next year's ride for Sunday, August 14th, and is hoping to build on our first year success.





## GreenStep Cities Team to Focus on Climate Action Plan for Stillwater

As SSMN looks at actions needed to get Stillwater from Level Two to a Level Three **GreenStep City**, we are turning to measures that have the greatest impact on reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Input from our volunteers has also begun to focus on climate action and clean energy. The Board of Directors has endorsed GreenStep Team Leader Linda Countryman's proposal to push the city to create a Climate Action Plan, much like citizen activists in other surrounding cities have done. If you have the expertise or interest in joining us in this project, please get in touch urgently. Contact: [Linda@sustainablestillwatermn.org](mailto:Linda@sustainablestillwatermn.org)

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## ***So.....How Did Our Legislators Vote On Climate?***

Sustainable Stillwater MN values civic engagement and believe it's our duty to inform you about the status of legislation that could directly affect our environment and our ability to fight the worst effects of climate change.

Stillwater's state legislators from Minnesota Senate and House District 39 are Senator Karin Housley (R-39), House Rep. Bob Dettmer (R-39A), and House Rep. Shelly Christensen (D-39B). [\*\*Here is their voting record on some of the bills.\*\*](#)

In short, Rep. Shelly Christensen voted consistently in favor of climate, environment, and clean energy legislation. She voted YES on the Commerce and Energy Omnibus Bill, HF6, which takes steps toward securing Minnesota's transition to clean energy; she voted YES to allow the MPCA (Minnesota Pollution Control Agency) to create its Clean Cars Minnesota rule that will lead to more EVs available to Minnesotans and less air pollution; YES on House SF 972 which makes progress toward limiting Minnesota's greenhouse gas emissions and transitioning to a clean energy



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Act of 2021, HF 104, that allows Minnesota's existing energy efficiency programs to be enhanced to support new technologies and consumer choices while providing more jobs in the energy efficiency sector.

Rep. Dettmer and Sen. Housley voted against most climate and clean energy legislation. [Read the full story here.](#)

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**Stencilers Needed!**

need right now is for citizens to help reduce pollution from storm drains. To do that we can supply you with storm drain stencils that say *No Dumping—Drains to River*. Many streets have been re-paved, covering the stencils. Contact Louise at [louise@sustainablestillwatermn.org](mailto:louise@sustainablestillwatermn.org) to get stenciling help. **If you live in a neighborhood that drains to a local lake, you can also help by keeping leaf litter out of the drains by adopting a storm drain near you.** Simply go to <https://adopt-a-drain.org/> to find a storm drain near your home and follow the guidelines on the website. If there is no storm drain near your home, then simply keep your curb line clear of debris from your yard and trees. *(Above: Cameron and Rene Murray labeling a storm drain at Olive and Main Streets)*



## Rain Garden Update

The City built rain gardens a few years ago to protect our local water resources. Sustainable Stillwater MN members have adopted six rain gardens along Pine Street. Four of them help



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Croix River. If an outdoor project will fill your need for fresh air and service to your community, email Louise at [louise@sustainablestillwatermn.org](mailto:louise@sustainablestillwatermn.org) to find out where there is a rain garden in need of some of your energy nearby. Sustainable Stillwater MN will provide the yard waste bags, inform the nearest residents of your volunteering, and answer your questions.

Most rain gardens are near private homes and adopted by nearby residents. But those that aren't are in need of you.

The minimum level of effort we need is:

1. Spring and fall cleanup of dead leaves and debris.
2. Weeding out unwanted "opportunistic" plants monthly.
3. Cutting down the plants to winterize the garden by November.

Ruth Alliband (seen above) has done a great job of organizing rain garden groupings around the city and finding volunteers to work with her on improvements. Contact Louise to help: [louise@sustainablestillwatermn.org](mailto:louise@sustainablestillwatermn.org)

**\$ BIZRECYCLING® | Waste Reduction + Innovation Grant**

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**Businesses, Schools, Nonprofits:  
\$50K Grants - Apply Before November 1**

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businesses, nonprofits, schools, and colleges to implement projects that prevent the creation of waste, also known as “waste or source reduction.” Source reduction means reducing waste at the source and is the most environmentally preferred strategy. It can take many different forms, including reusing or donating items, buying in bulk, reducing packaging, reuse, and remanufacturing.

One-time grants of up to \$50,000 will be awarded to eligible businesses for expenses related to project planning, equipment, supplies, and capital improvements that result in significant reduction of the amount of solid waste the business creates. Applicants must contribute a 10% cash match of the total project cost. Applications are due November 1, 2021. More information at <https://bizinnovationgrant.com> (Note: Sustainable Stillwater MN is a BizRecycling business partner.)





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## Volunteers/Board Members Honored at Dessert Picnic

Thank you to everyone who attended our August 26 Volunteer Appreciation Event! We are so grateful to have you in our community. This was our first in-person get-together in over a year due to the pandemic. We also thanked Louise Watson and John Siekmeier who are founding members of the Board of Directors and have decided to resign from the Board to gain time needed to work on other projects. Louise will continue as Natural Resources Workgroup Lead.

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## Coming Events

**Oct 11:** We'll be giving a talk on Sustainable Stillwater MN at the AAUW meeting at the Stillwater Library on Oct 11 at 6:30pm, Margaret Rivers Room.

**Oct. 19:** Kelsey Depew, board communications co-chair, will give a

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Doutwell Landing in Oak Park Heights on October 19 at 2pm.  
Open to the public.

**Dec 15:** SSMN's Green Business Directory and Awards lead Wendy Gorski will participate in a Zoom Presentation to Minnesota's GreenStep Cities December 15, 2021, sponsored by [CERTs](#). Several innovative projects to encourage green businesses in local communities will also be on the agenda. To listen in, register [here](#).

*Would you like our experts to speak at your event about climate change, green business, natural resources, or bike-friendly communities? Get in touch with us at [sustainablestillwatermn@gmail.com](mailto:sustainablestillwatermn@gmail.com)!*



## Donations are Tax Deductible!

Cities with advocacy groups like Sustainable Stillwater MN are the most successful in achieving their goals. A sustainable community takes funding, volunteering, and advocacy. We welcome and appreciate your generous donations and gifts all year long. Please consider a gift to Sustainable Stillwater MN for our ongoing needs.

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## Volunteer and Paid Opportunities with SSMN

Work with us - make a difference!

**Volunteer Green Business/Student Liaison** needed to work with students and their advisors at SAHS and St. Croix Preparatory Academy. Help them tour and learn from sustainable businesses in the Green Business Directory. Occasional tours will start as soon as the COVID crisis ends, most likely during the first part of 2022. Encourage students and businesses by providing ideas, coordination, and followup with students. If you like to work with kids, this is an easy job for you! Contact [wendy@sustainablestillwatermn.org](mailto:wendy@sustainablestillwatermn.org).

**Volunteer Energy Workgroup Leader:** Are you an expert on energy conservation for residential and commercial spaces? We are looking for a champion to lead volunteers and the local community on energy issues and solutions. This ranges from education on home energy conservation to electric vehicle knowledge to leading the city in energy efficiency. Energy use is a large part of solving climate change. We need someone to lead the charge on this topic. Apply for the position [here](#).

**Volunteer Climate Change Writer:** The Communications

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write short articles about climate change topics monthly. The articles would be reviewed by the committee's co-leaders and be published on the SSMN blog, newsletter, and social media. The articles are to provide education on how climate change is affecting Minnesota using reputable resources. Duties: Write a 300-500 word article monthly about climate change. Send resume to Kelsey Depew, [Kelsey@sustainablestillwatermn.org](mailto:Kelsey@sustainablestillwatermn.org).

**Contract Social Media Creator:** Enjoy being on social media and able to write compelling posts for a young, eco-conscious audience? Online crusader needed to publicize award-winning green business members of Sustainable Stillwater MN's Greater Stillwater Area Green Business Directory at [GreenStillwater.org](http://GreenStillwater.org). These companies' compelling stories about being green and sustainable need a wider audience. With 51 green, sustainable companies now certified, on our way to 100, it's time to get the word out about our awards and our mission. **Duties:** Create posts for Facebook, Twitter, [GreenStillwater.org](http://GreenStillwater.org), and local media outlets about our green business members. Develop a following and a buzz in the community. **After one month try-out, this becomes a paid contractor position.** Contact Wendy Gorski, project lead, at [greenbiz@sustainablestillwatermn.org](mailto:greenbiz@sustainablestillwatermn.org)

## Zoom Meeting Calendar

>>> Our Board of Directors virtual online Zoom meetings take place every first Thursday of the month from 6.30-8.00 pm and are open to the public. For updated details or to get on the agenda contact Roger Tomten, chair, at [sustainablestillwatermn@gmail.com](mailto:sustainablestillwatermn@gmail.com).

>>> The GreenStep team meets in virtual online Zoom meetings on the first Monday of the month 6:30pm – 8:00pm. For updated details contact



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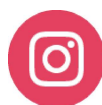
The Bike-Friendly Community team meets on Zoom every two weeks on Thursday mornings at 8am. To get in on the action, contact [rick@sustainablestillwatermn.org](mailto:rick@sustainablestillwatermn.org)

For all our events, see our Events calendar on our [Facebook page](#).

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## Subscribe to The Gazette

Once a month we contribute editorials to the [Stillwater Gazette](#). Support The Stillwater Gazette -- local journalism is essential for a sustainable community. If you miss an issue of The Stillwater Gazette, you can also find our editorials in the [archive online](#).

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The SSMN Newsletter is a quarterly publication. The editors are Wendy Gorski and Kelsey Depew.

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