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Sustainable Stillwater Mn is a 501c3 nonprofit organization seeking to inspire and create a sustainable future in and around Stillwater.

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## Did you see us at the Lumberjack Days Parade?

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## GreenStep Plans 2020 Projects



Minnesota  
GreenStep Cities

The City of Stillwater's GreenStep Coordinator Graham Tait now meets regularly with our GreenStep Workgroup of Sheila Maybanks, Ann Martin, and others who keep tabs on the city's progress as a [GreenStep City!](#)

GreenStep is a Minnesota effort to help cities become more livable and sustainable.

Stillwater officials' goals for next year include increasing reuse and recycling policies to Stillwater, adopting a

GreenStep plans in 2021 will include a makeover for downtown so that it's more pedestrian-friendly and livable in alignment with Minnesota's [Complete Streets policy](#).

Want to help us? Write us at [sustainablestillwatermn@gmail.com](mailto:sustainablestillwatermn@gmail.com).

To see Stillwater's ongoing progress in reaching GreenStep goals, click [here](#).

***Stillwater will soon have a sign like this one below thanks to Ann and Sheila's efforts.***



## Weigh in on Stillwater's Transportation Future

Would you like to have a truck bypass route for downtown, less noise and pollution, wider sidewalks, better crosswalks, public transit and more? You may not want all of them, but we need to know what you DO want. This survey determines our transportation priorities for 2020. Take a moment to tell us what you think online in our [5-minute survey](#).

<https://tinyurl.com/SSMN2019Survey>

Don't delay! We must gather 1,000 responses by the end of August. Rick Heidick, long-time leader of SSMN's Bike to School events, is seen interviewing two visitors below.





## Single-Use Plastic Bans *Banned!!*

Did you know that cities in Minnesota are not allowed to ban single-use plastics, even in towns like ours with a protected river? In 2017, the Minnesota legislature [passed a ban](#) on any attempts by Minnesota cities to prohibit plastic bags. Fortunately, in 2019, a bill was introduced to repeal that "ban on bans" but the bill was [still in committee](#) when the session ended. What will happen in the next session? You can bet Sustainable Stillwater will be on top of this issue.



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Cigarette butts on downtown Stillwater sidewalks have become a problem outside bars and restaurants and wherever people gather outside. Many of these discarded butts end up going down our storm drains into the river. What harm are they to the river? Each one has a microplastic fiber filter that contains toxic chemicals. These butts and the toxins enter the environment and are often mistaken for food by birds, fish, and other creatures.

But there is hope! Thanks to the effort of Sustainable Stillwater, [Keep America Beautiful](#) is giving our city free cigarette disposal containers, paid for by Philip Morris. And a new ordinance requiring downtown establishments to keep their sidewalks and grounds clean of butts is being added to the city code. If your business or establishment would like one of these free cigarette disposal units, let us know by sending an email to [sustainablestillwatermn@gmail.com](mailto:sustainablestillwatermn@gmail.com).

Cameron and Renee Murray, who live in a downtown condo, have regularly picked up butts and sidewalk trash on Sunday mornings. Thank you to establishments that put cig butt wastebins on their sidewalks, but more effort is needed. Cameron has asked the City Council for a new ordinance requiring businesses to keep the areas outside their establishments clean of butts. The Council approved!

So to help the businesses, the Murrys are stenciling storm drains downtown with a warning: "No Dumping, Drains to River." We applaud their efforts - these folks exemplify civic pride and a can-do attitude. SSMN is fortunate to have Cameron and Renee as new members. Our Natural Resources Team will work with them this fall to organize storm drain stenciling on the rest of downtown and in Stillwater neighborhoods.



Care to join our stenciling parties? Contact us at [sustainablestillwatermn@gmail.com](mailto:sustainablestillwatermn@gmail.com).

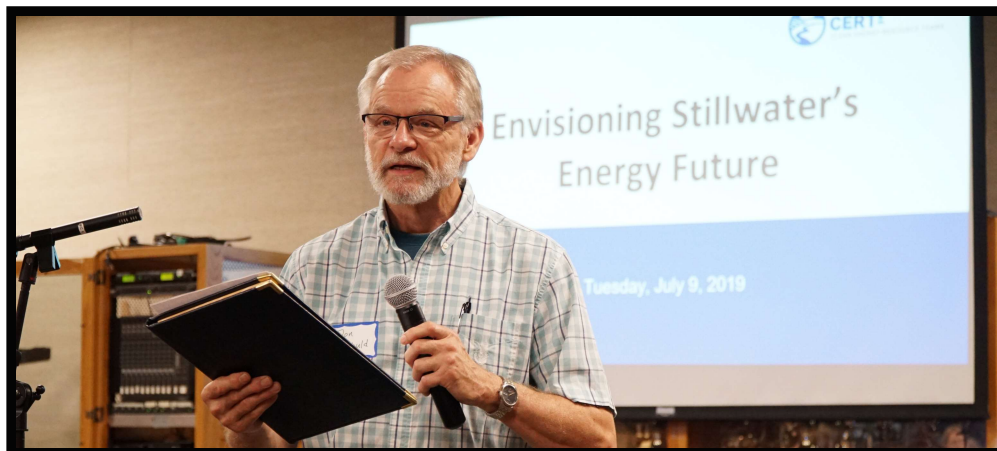




Cameron and Renee Murray, *Storm Drain Troopers*

## Stillwater's Energy Future

Workshop Draws Mayor Kozlowski, State Representative Christensen



With no leadership coming from Washington, small towns like Stillwater are brainstorming about how to cut carbon emissions on their own. Hosted by Sustainable Stillwater's Energy Workgroup, chaired by Don Schuld, the "Vision for Stillwater's Energy Future" workshop (July 9, 2019) drew some 30 enthusiastic people to Trinity Lutheran Church. The session was facilitated by Diane McKeown, [Metro CERTS](#). She began with the question, "Where do you want to see your community go?" Some of the answers were surprising and inspired. ("Green





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>>> **The Energy Working Group** meets Wednesday, August 14, 6pm – 8pm, Conference Room on the third floor of Stillwater Public Library,

>>> Our **Board meetings** take place every first Wednesday of the month and are open to the public. We meet at Community Thread, 2300 Orleans St. W, from 6.30-8.00 pm.

>>> The **GreenStep Team** meets Wednesday, August 21, 6:30pm – 8:00pm on the third floor of the Stillwater Public Library.

## Donate to Sustainable Stillwater MN

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Your SSMN Communications Team: Kelsey Depew (left) and Wendy Gorski (right). Both of us have a background in media, but Kelsey is also an environmental scientist, shown here finding an exotic mushroom, and our resident superstar:

Youtube Channel <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQGjClk9tsJxP188mIAQZw>

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**Our email address is:**  
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