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SUSTAINABLE STILLWATER MN

Striving for a Green, Sustainable, and Resilient City

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER Jan-Mar 2022

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GreenStep Team Welcomes Tim Gladhill

With this month's departure of Graham Tait (see final story below), the city's liaison to our GreenStep team, GreenStep members are honored to

meeting and the replacement of the current climate ordinance. SSMN has expressed an interest in working closer with Sustainable Stillwater MN to make the city more sustainable.

Among the first sustainable measures during his tenure will be a study of how more facets of the [Complete Streets program](#) can be integrated into local ordinances. This will aid in completing the requirements to reach Level 3 in the [GreenStep Cities list of goals](#) in 2022. SSMN is also continuing to work behind the scenes on a Climate Action Plan to be a part of the city's annual planning meeting in July.

SSMN has also added a new team, "Energy and Climate," led by Spencer Middleton, and "Community Cleanup," led by Sofie Cohen. We'll have more info this spring!

The "Natural Resource" workgroup, managed by Louise Watson, will break into separate groups:

- Bluebird Recovery Program for 2022 is being planned by Janet Kortuem.
- Rain Garden Maintenance will begin in March led by Ruth Alliband.
- Storm drain stenciling starts up in April with the return of Cameron Murray for areas draining into the river. SAHS ECC students and other volunteers will hold work parties in areas draining into lakes and wetlands.
- Caitlin Bergh will start up monthly "What's That Plant" events in early May as weather permits.



Stillwater Looks Favorably on a Climate Action Plan for the Next City Budget

and [PaleBlueDot's Ted Redmond](#), teamed up on Dec 7, 2021 to present the case for a climate action plan to the Stillwater City Council. We all must act urgently to avert the worst of climate change, reduce our carbon emissions, and pursue new clean energy and economic opportunities, Sustainable Stillwater's Linda Countryman argued. We asked the City Council to vote on an application for a grant from the MPCA to get seed money for the climate action plan, but unfortunately, they declined. The reasoning was that the city has too many other projects on Community Development Director Tim Gladhill's plate. Mayor Ted Kozlowski said at the meeting that he's excited to work with Sustainable Stillwater MN on a climate action plan because we have "reached a tipping point" on climate, and said the plan "needs to happen, just not right now."

Gladhill said they would consider putting a climate action plan into the 2023 budget at their July planning meeting.



[We Become Minnesota's 33rd](#)

Thank you Rick! All the efforts of Rick Heidick of Sustainable Stillwater MN's Bicycle Friendly Community Workgroup, with cooperation from volunteers and city officials, have paid off! The League of American Bicyclists has certified Stillwater as a bronze-level Bicycle Friendly Community, making us the 33rd Minnesota's community to receive this distinction.

What does this mean for our fair city? Something for everyone. More business for the business community. Tourism helps our economy. More bike amenities and services. Publicity on the League's [website](#). SSMN is committed to working with the city and county for more trailheads, more off-road trails, designated bike routes on city streets, and more bike parking racks, more bicycle education (for youth, adults, and motorists), and more bike lanes markings and connectivity.

Browns Creek Trail and the Loop Trail are shining star attractions for our city. The winter Fat Tire race and the summer Bridge the Valley Bike Rally are now expected to be annual events. By enhancing the culture of bicycling in Stillwater, especially with a focus on safety and inclusion, the “livability” of Stillwater will grow, and Stillwater will continue to be attractive to residents and visitors alike. ***See the City Council, Rick, and volunteers at the presentation at City Hall Dec. 21 on [video here](#).***

A shoutout to all those who helped put this together: CITY LEADERS: Mike Polehna, Jason Grode, Shawn Sanders, Tom McCarty. Brad Junker, Tim Gladhill. WORKGROUP: Nancy Lyner, Mike Lyner, Mark Trumper, Kris Bowditch. [BikeMN](#): Dorian Grilley, Natalie Gille. Thank you!!

This certification is a key accomplishment in one of our three pillars of focus -- building a healthy and connected community. ***Below (left to right: Public Works Director Shawn Sanders, Mayor Ted Kozlowski, City Manager Tom McCarty, Councilman Mike Polehna, Rick Heidick of Sustainable Stillwater MN.***

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THE LEAGUE
OF AMERICAN BICYCLISTS
since 1880

is pleased to designate

Stillwater, MN

as a

**BICYCLE FRIENDLY
COMMUNITY**

in recognition of your outstanding efforts to encourage bicycling in your community

2021 - 2025 » BRONZE


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The State Recognizes SSMN's Green Business Directory To Guide Other Cities

Sustainable Stillwater MN's [Green Business Directory](#) was in the state spotlight for a [live webinar](#) on December 15, 2021. Minnesota's GreenStep Cities showcased the Greater Stillwater Area Green Business Directory and


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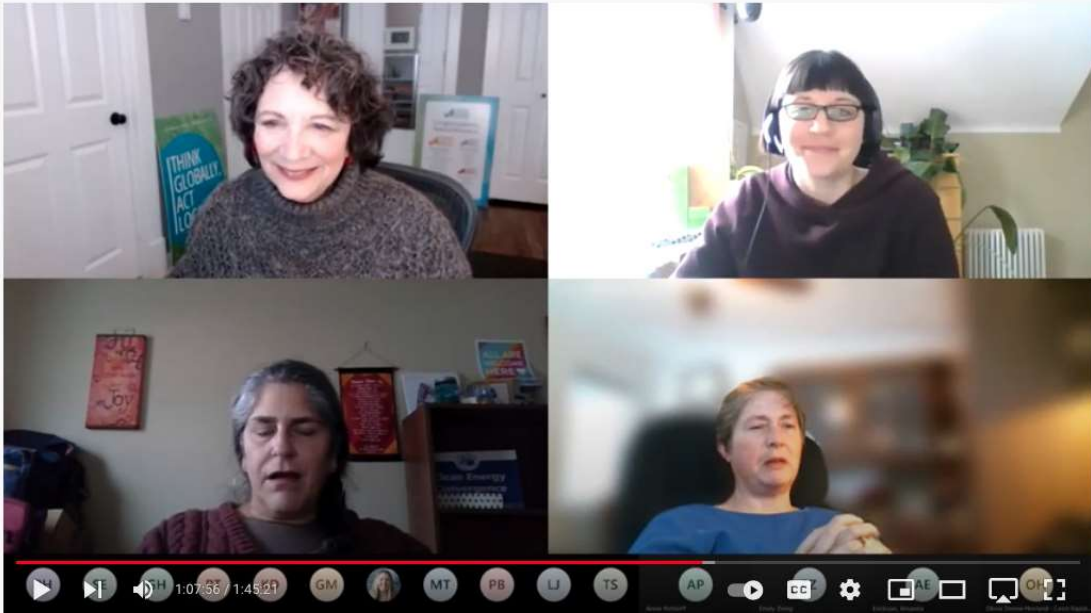
our guide yet for businesses to patronize? [GreenStillwater.org](https://www.greenstillwater.org). We are up to 60 businesses with full-disclosure report cards!

Green Business Team lead Wendy Gorski provided a 20-minute presentation covering the project on the Zoom event. The Green Business Directory at [GreenStillwater.org](https://www.greenstillwater.org) took two years of planning and development.

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's [GreenStep Cities](#) program, which hosted the event, is a voluntary challenge, assistance, and recognition program to help cities achieve their sustainability and quality-of-life goals.

SSMN's presentation in the [video](#) starts at the 50:00 minute mark.






Engaging Green Businesses in Your Community

9 views • Dec 15, 2021

1 ...



Minnesota GreenStep Cities
12 subscribers

A workshop held on December 15, 2021 to learn more how to promote, engage, and assist green businesses in your community.

[SUBSCRIBE](#)

[Visit the Directory](#)



SUSTAINABILITY WORKBOOK

GET YOURS THIS MONTH! New Citizen's Sustainability Workbook Mailed To Donors

A handbook for living a greener, more sustainable life -- our recommendations on how you can walk the walk, not just talk the talk -- is a must-have for our volunteers and followers. The printed (recycled paper) "Sustainability Workbook," will help you make better choices: saving money on energy, reducing waste, and recycling almost everything. The book is dedicated to Matt Dynan, our board member who passed away last year. Matt was passionate about educating families on energy use in the home and created our first home energy workgroup. The booklet was authored by Kelsey Depew, SSMN Board member and acting secretary. All recent donors will receive a free copy by mail this month as a thank you gift. Be the first to get one free -- there is still time to qualify. You can always donate in honor of a loved one or your favorite program.

[Click Here to Sustain Us With a Tax-Deductible Donation](#)

Hey! Wanna Serve on Our Board?

Board of Directors. If you have a little time to spare, this is a great opportunity for you to maximize your impact to green up our world, do important work, and make new friends.

Expertise in finance, communications, law, environment, sustainability, business, or nonprofit management is a plus! Board members spend a few hours each month attending meetings (on Zoom) and working on projects they choose. We welcome you!

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



Volunteers Thanked for Environmental Work

Eighty-three volunteers were thanked for their services and assistance over the past three years at the 2021 SSMN Natural Resources Workgroup Volunteer Thank You event on December 7 at the Sally Manzara Interpretive Nature Center in Lake Elmo. 2021 was our most active volunteer year to date with over 60 collaborators -- even pizza was

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Volunteers helped with the Bluebird Recovery Program, the What's That Plant? educational event, stormwater protection, open space evaluations, garlic mustard pulls, bird collision prevention, rubbish and litter cleanups, and Public Lands Day events with the MN Extension Master Naturalists. The Lily Lake Park buckthorn removal workday on December 3 drew Friends of Lily Lake, city employees, and other SSMN volunteers.

Team leader Louise Watson thanked volunteers with pep talks and refreshments and disclosed plans for 2022.

Also present were rain garden maintenance coordinator Ruth Alliband, and Washington Conservation District Educator Angie Hong. Thank you Ruth for your rain garden passion! Thank you Angie Hong for this [GREAT STORY ABOUT US in the Stillwater Gazette](#).

COMING EVENTS

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EARTH FEST 2022



SUNDAY
APRIL 24
2-5 PM

"THE EARTH IS WHAT WE ALL HAVE IN COMMON." - WENDELL BERRY

PART OF THE EARTH MONTH EVENT SERIES - AN EVENT TO:
 CELEBRATE OUR PAST/CURRENT/FUTURE SUSTAINABILITY EFFORTS
 AND INSPIRE ONGOING CLIMATE ACTION

ALL ARE WELCOME TO THIS FREE EVENT!

GLEN PARK - RIVER FALLS, WI
 (RFHS COMMONS WEATHER BACK-UP)



EVENT CHAIRS:

EARTH FEST 2022:

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 TOM WESTERHAUS
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EARTH MONTH:

MIKE NOREEN & GWEN CONKLIN
mnoreen@rfcity.org
conkligj@gmail.com

JOIN (OR LEAD) A COMMITTEE!

- MARKETING / PROMOTION
- FOOD
- SUSTAINABILITY FAIR
- ENTERTAINMENT
- ACTIVITIES
- FACILITIES / SAFETY
- PLEDGE COMMITMENT

TENTATIVE LINEUP:

- LIVE MUSIC PERFORMANCE
- SUSTAINABILITY FAIR
(EXHIBITS, DEMONSTRATIONS, ADVOCACY)
- AREA FOOD VENDORS
(SUSTAINABLE UTENSILS/PAPER GOODS)
- ACTIVITIES/KID GAMES
- CHOIR PERFORMANCES
- RECOGNITION OF COVID-19 "HEROES & HEROINES"
- SUSTAINABLE "GIVEAWAYS" AND DRAWINGS
- POETRY READING
- SUSTAINABILITY PLEDGE/COMMITMENT BOOTH

We're Available!

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!

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.

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

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

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

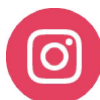


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For the last two years, Graham has been a great help to Sustainable Stillwater MN, participating as our liaison with City Hall on a variety of Greenstep-related issues. He also recently took on responsibility for Bird City projects and spearheaded habitat restoration at Brown's Creek Park. Graham is moving back to New York where he grew up. Thank you Graham for all your help, advice, and work with us. You will be sorely missed.

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