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## January 2020 News

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## There is no time left for debate.

Stillwater must join the world community in moving swiftly to curb greenhouse gases. 2020 is a pivotal year for change. Joining together, we can make Stillwater green, sustainable, and resilient.

## How can you help?

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# 10 WAYS TO FIGHT CLIMATE CHANGE

1. Eliminate Food Waste
2. Eat Plant-Based
3. Use Clean Energy
4. Participate in the Democratic Process
5. Divest of Fossil Fuels
6. Improve Insulation
7. Use LED Lighting
8. Rethink Transportation
9. Recycle
10. Buy Less

[WWW.SUSTAINABLESTILLWATERMN.ORG](http://WWW.SUSTAINABLESTILLWATERMN.ORG)





## Welcome to New Board Member Joanna Esther Schneider

Joanna was appointed by unanimous vote at the 1/8/20 Board of Directors meeting. She is a product development engineer and sustainability coordinator at 3M. Like us, she shares a deep love and appreciation for our natural environment and is looking to make a positive impact on the community. She has also worked for the Department of Defense and the Department of Energy. As a busy mom and a distinguished professional, she brings a fresh, new perspective to our Board.

***We are so grateful to have her!***

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## Stillwater Area Green Business Directory & Awards Planned

With Stillwater slated to become a biking destination for the Twin Cities with the May 2020 opening of the St. Croix Loop Trail, health-conscious tourists will flock into our city looking for businesses where they can feel good spending their money.

***Let's make sure they find green, sustainable businesses here.***

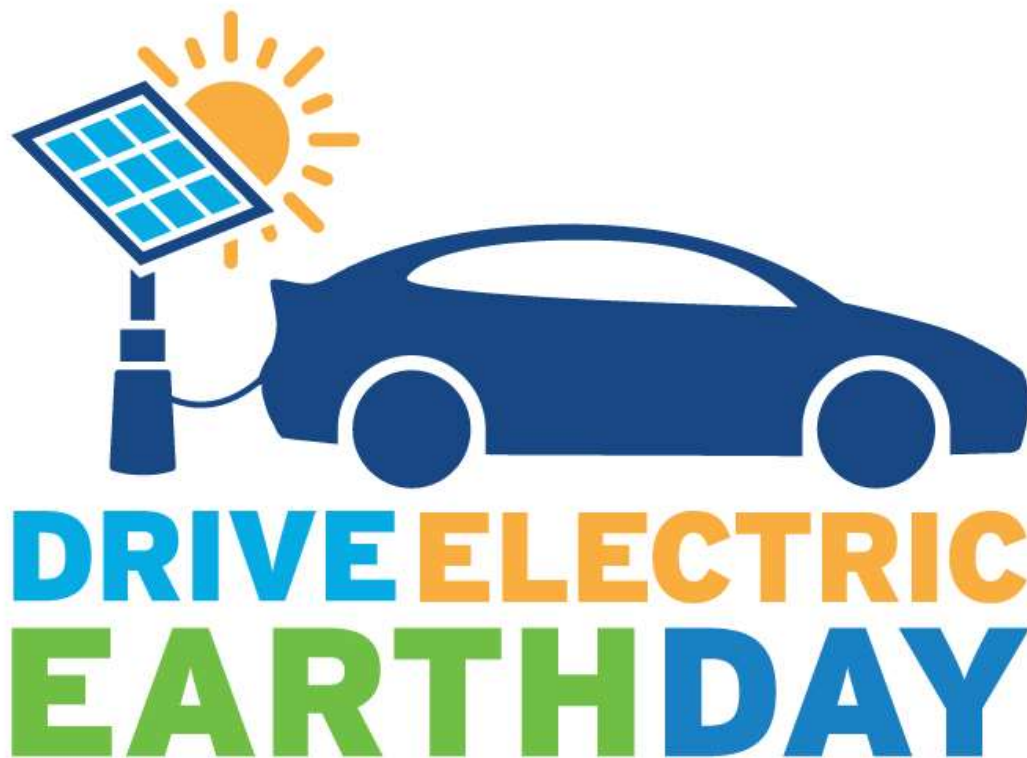
Working with local government and the Greater Stillwater Chamber of Commerce (we are now members), Sustainable Stillwater MN is organizing and applying for grants to create Stillwater's first green business directory and awards. Businesses that are certified as sustainable by [GreenAmerica.org](https://www.greenamerica.org) and other certifying organizations will be eligible for the directory and awards, and will be a part of the extensive buzz we will be creating. Lots more exciting details to come as we build this project.

Is your business ready? Visit [GreenAmerica.org/gbn/](https://www.greenamerica.org/gbn/) to see what businesses in 42 categories need to do to be sustainable. Update your



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and Awards project.



## **Sustainable Stillwater MN Sponsors Drive Electric Earth Day - April 22, 2020**

Thinking of buying an EV? Why not? They are economical, reliable, and run cleaner than fossil fueled vehicles. [Here is what the Sierra Club has to say about EVs.](#)

You can see the newest EVs when dealerships and private EV owners show their vehicles, offer test drives of electric cars and bikes, and lots more at Sustainable Stillwater MN's Drive Electric Earth Day EV Car Show on April 22, Wednesday at the Water Street Inn parking lot and conference rooms.

*Fees collected from dealerships exhibiting at the show will help pay for the event, and for the city's first Dual Charging Station, Level 2, 240V for electric vehicles. The timing is right to begin building an EV charging infrastructure within Stillwater. This month, members of our Active Transportation team meet*

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**BIG THANKS to the Water Street Inn for donating their parking lot and new conference space for the event!**

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## **Bird City Expected to Be On Feb 4 City Council Agenda**

A resolution to designate Stillwater as a "Bird City" is expected to go before the City Council again next month for a vote. YOU are requested to join us at the City Council meeting, Feb. 4 - either the 4:40pm or the 7pm meeting. We will send out another bulletin with specifics before the meeting. A show of support from the community would be awesome!

Sustainable Stillwater's GreenStep Workgroup plans to host an event at Washington Square Park in Stillwater May 23, 2020 to usher in our new Bird City goals and achievements.

The next meeting of the Bird City workgroup is January 14, 6:30pm, Nature Interpretive Center, Sunfish Lake Park, Lake Elmo. Contact [doher4@comcast.net](mailto:doher4@comcast.net) for more information. (Photo by Carl Wegener)

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## Coming Up Next



### **GreenSteps Team Working Closely with City, County on Many Green Initiatives**

*Note from Ann Martin, GreenStep Team Co-Leader:* Our goal is to put sustainability and resiliency due to climate change front and center for the city. To do this, our volunteers are present at City Council meetings, and are often seen at the Parks, Planning, Traffic, and Parking Commission meetings too. Our ultimate goal is to make sure the city has an Environmental or Climate Crisis Commission or a "Sustainability Officer," which it does not have now.

Flooding is an issue that Stillwater faces now and even more in the near future. The City has a goal of establishing a Weather Safety Plan and we are working with them on that.

We also hope to help the city clarify what would be "Best Practices" for public and private tree planting so that we are ready to dig in and help.

Stillwater wants to be a Step 3 GreenStep City in 2020. To do so requires us to finish entering energy data into the B3 system by May 1 and to make progress on the above goals.

Join us at our next GreenSteps planning group January 15, 6:30pm at the Stillwater Library. All are welcome!



Our EV show downtown on Earth Day, 2020 needs volunteers and exhibitors. Are you an electric car or bike owner? Are you a business or nonprofit that works directly in the EV car or bike industry? Contact [ssmn.wendyg@gmail.com](mailto:ssmn.wendyg@gmail.com) or [kevintholenminn@gmail.com](mailto:kevintholenminn@gmail.com) for a spot in the show or to be including in our "steering" team.

Linda Countryman and Wendy Gorski, board members, will present SSMN's Transportation Study findings to the Stillwater Parking Commission on Thursday, January 16, 8:30 am at City Hall. Also at the meeting, Kevin Tholen of SSMN and Don Schuld of the Rotary will make requests of the city for installation of EV charging stations downtown.

## Meeting Calendar

>>> Our Board of Directors meetings take place every first Wednesday of the month from 6.30-8.00 pm and are open to the public at Community Thread, 2300 Orleans St. W. 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 the third Wednesday of the month 6:30pm – 8:00pm Stillwater Public Library, third floor. For updated details contact us at [sustainablestillwatermn@gmail.com](mailto:sustainablestillwatermn@gmail.com).

>>> The Active Transportation Workgroup meets on the fourth Monday of the month from 5:30 pm-7pm at the Stillwater Public Library. This team is helping to reduce our region's transportation carbon footprint and make our city a more walkable, bikeable, livable city for all of us without the tyranny of fossil-fueled vehicles. For information contact [ssmn.wendyg@gmail.com](mailto:ssmn.wendyg@gmail.com).

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





## **Amazon Will Donate A Portion of Your Purchases to Sustainable Stillwater MN**

Sustainable Stillwater MN is an approved nonprofit on Amazon's giving site, Amazon Smile. Amazon will send 0.5% of all your purchases to us. Select Sustainable Stillwater MN (include the "MN") as the charity of choice when you first sign in to [Smile.Amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com).

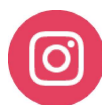
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Update your key interest areas so we can include you in mailings for meetings or actions. [Click to your profile here.](#)

These T-shirts are for sale! Visit our [Sustainable Swag store.](#)

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