

# SUSTAINABLE STILLWATER



## Welcome!

Hi and welcome to our first news update! Time to introduce ourselves; Sustainable Stillwater Minnesota (SSMn) is an organisation entirely driven by volunteers. We bring people together who are passionate about a sustainable life. We lead and support initiatives that promote social, economic and environmental sustainability.

In this first issue of our news update, we emphasize that Stillwater is now a GreenStep City. This is great news as it is a clear sign that Stillwater wants to work towards a more sustainable future for us all.

We highlight two upcoming events; Raingarden maintenance and Bike to School.

Furthermore, we want to make you reflect on how you can make your lawn and yard a haven for our - oh so important - pollinators.

We hope you enjoy this news update and would be happy to receive your feedback at [sustainablestillwatermn@gmail.com](mailto:sustainablestillwatermn@gmail.com)

Welcome to join our movement towards a more sustainable future for Stillwater.

There are many ways to [get involved](#) or you can follow us on [Facebook](#)!

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## Stillwater is a GreenStep city!

challenge, assistance and recognition program to help cities achieve their sustainability and quality-of-life goals. It is based upon 29 best practices, focusing on cost savings and energy use reduction, and encouraging civic innovation.

>>> Take a look at [the actions Stillwater has planned](#) in different areas, such as land use, transportation and environmental management.

>>> Read more on [our blog](#) about our first meeting with city representatives and about B3 Benchmarking.



## Events

### Raingarden maintenance;

**Saturday May 4<sup>th</sup> - 9.00 am at Staples Park**

Bring a rake, shovel, clippers/shears, broom and gloves and join us for our annual raingarden maintenance event.

Raingardens are important! They act as a water filter and keep our rivers cleaner and healthier!



### Bike to school! May 8<sup>th</sup>

Bike to School Day is a national event that encourages bicycling or walking to school. Students reap the health, community and academic benefits of a little bit of exercise before school while having fun riding bicycles with their peers.



Stillwater Lilly Lake, Rutherford, and Anderson schools participate and Sustainable Stillwater Mn organises and leads the event, thanks to our motivated volunteers!

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activity. [More info on the Facebook event page](#) or sign up at [sustainablestillwatermn@gmail.com](mailto:sustainablestillwatermn@gmail.com)

## We **love** our earth

### Plastic Pollution

Plastic accumulating in our oceans and on our beaches has become a global crisis. Billions of pounds of plastic can be found in swirling convergences.

At current rates plastic is expected to outweigh all the fish in the sea by 2050... Plastics pollution has a direct and deadly effect on wildlife.

Thousands of seabirds and sea turtles, seals and other marine mammals are killed each year after ingesting plastic or getting entangled in it.



We can take action by **avoiding single use plastics in our everyday life**; bring your own, reusable bags to the grocery store, drink your coffee out of a mug and sort your household waste and reuse or recycle.

More info [here](#) or watch [this video](#) from a diver's shocking sight in the

### Earth Day 2019

Earth Day was a global event that took place April 22nd, but Earth Day is everyday for SSMn and many other organizations.



We currently have five active workgroups:

1. Energy
2. Active Transportation
3. Natural Resources
4. Business Engagement in Waste Management
5. GreenStep (assisting the City of Stillwater)

Each Workgroup has multiple interests and projects. Altogether SSMn, with the community, are:

- developing partnerships in energy conservation and achieving clean energy over the next 10 years.

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## Change your lawn and help our pollinators

The snow had melted and spring is in the air - but before you start fertilizing your lawn - [check out this article](#). There are some great ideas to turn your yard into a habitat for bees and butterflies.



Reduce the time you spend on lawn maintenance, reduce your water use and no need for expensive and potentially harmful pesticides!

- Improving water quality in lakes, streams and the St. Croix River by clearing storm drains, installing and maintaining raingardens and decreasing use of salt for de-icing

SSMn seeks continued and ever-increasing participation in its endeavors. We welcome new volunteers! Check out [our website](#) to find out how you can get involved!

## Did you know?

>>> We work **together with local businesses** to develop their sustainability approach and actions. For example supporting them in switching to recyclable kitchenware . Do you own a local business in Stillwater? Please help us out by taking [this short survey](#).

>>> 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.

>>> Lakeview hospital has received the **TOP 25 Environmental Excellence Award** for their distinguished work in pursuing environmental excellence. Based on a rigorous scoring system, this award honors success in a range of sustainability programs including Leadership, Waste, Chemicals, Greening the Operating Room, Food, Environmentally Preferable Purchasing, Energy, Water, Climate, and Green

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>>> Lakeview Hospital is starting a food garden on their campus and needs **volunteer gardeners** throughout the growing season to maintain the garden and collect the fresh produce for their kitchen. This project is in cooperation with the Stillwater School District. To sign up, email [sustainablestillwatermn@gmail.com](mailto:sustainablestillwatermn@gmail.com).

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**Donate**

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