

# ***Sustainability Committee***

## **Sustainability**

We are all dependent on the environment in which we live. We all need clean air to breathe and a clean and plentiful supply of water to drink and to use. We all have a right to a safe living environment, where we have access to necessary goods and cost-effective services. We have the right to grow as individuals and the responsibility to sustain resources for future generations.

## **Town of Menasha Sustainability Committee Mission Statement:**

To help sustain our community for future generations by using all resources in the most responsible way at the right times and for the right reasons.

## **Sustainability must be balanced and includes three main focus areas :**

- 1 Environment – protecting the natural resources that we depend on for life (clean air, water, food)
- 2 Economy – providing cost effective goods and services
- 3 Society – meeting human needs fairly and efficiently

## **Real Outcomes of Sustainability**

- 1 Reduced carbon emissions and overall impact on the environment
- 2 Greater innovation and adaptability in community services and practices
- 3 More efficient utilization of natural resources
- 4 Increased resident awareness, participation and involvement in the community
- 5 Improvements to individual health, safety and wellbeing

## **Value to Resident and Society**

- 1 Greater resident satisfaction
- 2 Improved environmental performance
- 3 Increased quality of life and sense of community
- 4 Improved cost effectiveness and capital utilization

## **Sustainability Policy Key Guiding Principles**

- 1 Encourage active participation and effective input from all residents on issues of planning and sustainability
- 2 Encourage and provide for cooperative and open relationships between individuals, neighborhoods, communities, local and state governments and other organizations/agencies
- 3 Think Globally, Act Locally: to ensure implementation of sustainability goals and objectives, town leadership and staff will be guided by principles of sustainability in their actions and decisions

## **Sustainability Strategy**

- 1 Ensure sustainability factors are included in all planning and decision-making processes
- 2 Consistently measure and report on progress towards sustainability for continuous reevaluation and improvement
- 3 Focus on effective utilization of energy and raw materials
- 4 Ensure that the capability to meet all regulatory requirements and standards is not compromised

#### **2009 Sustainability Accomplishments**

- 2 Obtained Grants and Installed a 28 KW Solar Electric System
- 3 Creation of a Mission Statement and Logo for the Committee
- 4 Organization of and Participation in The Natural Step Study Circles
- 5 Participation in NNO

#### **2010 Sustainability Goals and Objectives**

- 1 Implement a sustainability strategy to guide actions and decision-making at the municipal level
- 2 Engage the greater community in specific actions that incorporate sustainability into their daily lives
- 3 Document and communicate the current carbon footprint of the Town and decide on goals for reducing that carbon footprint
- 4 Develop and implement a plan focused on reducing the carbon footprint and overall environmental impact of the Town's Municipal Complex
- 5 Responsible leadership within the committee; every committee member should work equally and actively towards the sustainability goals and objectives