

# WASTE & RECYCLING

## VISION STATEMENT

*The City of Stevens Point will work toward continuously reducing the waste stream by promoting sustainable practices for all households and businesses.*

### **GOAL 1: Minimize waste creation by improving public understanding of source reduction as the most preferred method of waste management.**

Objective 1: Educate residents about the environmental impact of their purchasing decisions, encouraging them to consider packaging and material disposal during decision-making.

Action Step 1: Partner with UWSP, school systems, Portage County Solid Waste Department (PCSWD), and other organizations to educate about source reduction.

Objective 2: Explore merits of pay-as-you-throw or modified pay-as-you-throw material disposal programs.

Objective 3: Promote producer responsibility for the recycling of their discarded products.

Action Step 1: Inform community members about the impact of producer responsibility on solid waste and recycling.

Action Step 2: Partner with legislators to establish cradle-to-grave (producer responsibility) laws.

### **GOAL 2: Increase use of existing recycling and reuse options.**

Objective 1: Improve and expand City communication about waste reduction and recycling.

Action 1: Send current Portage County recycling and waste reduction information to all city households and businesses.

Action 2: Streamline and make user-friendly the FAQs on the City website.

Action 3: Publish waste versus recycling volumes to publicize progress.

Objective 2: Increase recycling/reuse of used furniture, clothing, and household items through thrift stores, Freecycle.org, etc.

- Action 1: Work with area thrift stores and church sales to increase the reuse of such items.
- Action 2: Work with Habitat for Humanity to include reused items in their homes.
- Action 3: Partner with UWSP to recycle/reuse items discarded by hall residents at the end of the year.

Objective 3: Continue to encourage recycling with easy-to-use practices.

- Action 1: Institute single-stream collection.
- Action 2: Provide assistance for aging/disabled residents.
- Action 3: Ensure the convenience of drop-off hours.
- Action 4: Develop a recycling directory for 211.
- Action 5: Enhance public understanding of proper disposal of hazardous materials.

Objective 4: Partner with Portage County Solid Waste Department to increase business recycling.

- Action 1: Develop a “Green Report Card” that businesses can use in marketing.
- Action 2: Develop and distribute a fact sheet on recycling benefits.

**GOAL 3: Develop new recycling and reuse options.**

Objective 1: Increase recycling/reuse of construction and deconstruction (C & D) materials.

- Action 1: Promote establishment of a Habitat for Humanity Re-Store or similar facility.
- Action 2: Promote Freecycle.org. and Portage County Solid Waste Department exchange site.
- Action 3: Seek recycling/reuse ideas from local builders.

Objective 2: Work with Association of Downtown Businesses (ADB) to provide convenient recycling options for downtown businesses, shoppers, and pedestrians.

Action 1: Provide recycling containers downtown next to waste barrels.

Action 2: Explore solid waste and recycling multi-business contracts for downtown.

Objective 3: Explore a Solid Waste to Energy program.

Objective 4: Encourage creative re-use of items (e.g., mattresses, clothing, food) that businesses might otherwise discard.

Objective 5: Continue to explore options for all plastic recycling including review of markets and infrastructure.

Objective 6: Explore best uses for glass.

#### **GOAL 4: Increase composting participation.**

Objective 1: Promote home, school, and community composting to Stevens Point residents.

Action 1: Work with UW-Extension Master Composters and PCSWD to educate the community about how to compost and its value.

Action 2: Continue to partner with the PCSWD for compost bin distribution.

Action 3: Partner with community gardens project to develop community composting.

Action 4: Pilot a school composting program in partnership with public schools.

Objective 2: Explore the feasibility of large-scale composting partnerships.

Objective 3: Develop a source-separated organics (SSO) program, with curbside pickup of food scraps, non-recyclable paper, etc.

#### **GOAL 5: Increase use of cloth or reusable shopping bags.**

Objective 1: Promote reusable bag programs.

Action 1: Create partnerships between Association of Downtown Businesses (ADB), other businesses, and the PCSWD.

Objective 2: Educate retailers and shoppers about advantages of reusable bags.

Action 1: Promote reusable bags directly to retail management.

Action 2: Develop a catchy mnemonic or tag line for easy remembering. (“It’s in the bag...”)

Action 3: Explore availability of *Dangers of Plastic Bags* presentation for community and school showings.

Objective 3: Explore possibilities for taxing or banning plastic bags.

**GOAL 6: Reduce the number of single-use water bottles purchased and disposed of within our community.**

Objective 1: Educate community about water bottle waste and high quality of city tap water.

Action 1: Revive the slogan: “City of Wonderful Water.”

Objective 2: Create alternatives to the purchase and use of single-use water bottles.

Action 1: Promote the sale of safe multi-use containers.

Action 2: Restaurants and appropriate retailers promote and provide means for customers to refill bottles with city water.

**GOAL 7: City governmental agencies will practice reduce, reuse, recycle.**

Objective 1: All city governmental agencies focus on reducing consumption of goods.

Action 1: Work with purchasing and other department heads to evaluate current department consumption and develop reduction action plans.

Objective 2: Encourage city governmental agencies to purchase post-consumer recycled and reusable products.

Action 1: Use cooperative purchasing agreements, whenever possible.