

Meeting Minutes

Advisory Panel on Sustainability and Climate Resilience

June 9, 2026 3:30 P.M. – 4:30 P.M.

Facilities & Grounds Operation Center, 1819 E. Witzke Boulevard

Board members

Michelle Bachaus | Charlie Goff | John Adams | Ronald Jones | Tanner Van Stippen | Andrew Gilsdorf | Imogen Gillard | Steve Schrage |

Meeting Summary:

- Council members joined ASAP's June 9th meeting to gain clarity into what ASAP does, goals, priorities, and to discuss how to improve communications between the panel and council members.
- Council members in attendance were: Alderperson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5), Alderperson Vered Meltzer (District 2), Alderperson Denise Fenton (District 6), and Alderperson Alex Schultz (District 9).
- The communication pathways between ASAP and council need to be improved in order to strengthen coordination and collaboration on achieving goals.
 - Visibility of what ASAP is doing and accomplishing needs to be increased
- ASAP is a resource to the city council, city departments, and the mayor
 - The goal is to talk about ASAP more and improve communications of what the panel is doing, so that it can be used more effectively as a tool

Next Steps:

- Update the website so that it is up to date with current ASAP projects, goals, and initiatives
 - Kate Foley and Steve will work together on website updates
- Alderperson Van Zeeland has offered to be a go between person between ASAP and the council so that communication pathways can be better established
- ASAP meeting notes will be included as informational items for council members
- Create a document that outlines how ASAP gives and receives recommendations to the council - make this a more formal process
- Organize periodic report outs to council to keep them in the loop on where projects are at
- Make a plan for the Appleton Engaged Podcast - this would be a great opportunity to share what the panel is working on and promote any upcoming events or ways for the community to get involved

Summary of ASAP's Current Initiatives:

- Charlie Goff works on calculating CO2e emissions of city operations with a goal of putting a dollar amount to those emissions
 - Putting a dollar amount on emissions allows for goals to be better aligned with Appleton's strategic plan goals
 - Creating an EV transition plan for Appleton's fleet of municipal vehicles falls under the umbrella of Charlie's work
 - The EV transition plan was created by Imogen Gillard and looks at the financials of transitioning the city's current fleet to EVs and Hybrid vehicles over a 10yr span
- Ron Jones works on ecosystem sustainability with a goal of creating a more biologically diverse, ecosystem friendly city
 - Works on initiatives to help pollinators and native plantings
 - He is in the process of completing a vegetation survey of the parks system - looking at invasive species, land use, areas that could be converted to other uses. He has completed 23 parks and has entered the data into a GIS software
 - A goal with his work is to identify areas that don't need to be mowed as much which will save city money, reduce carbon output, and help the environment
 - Examples of completed projects: Prairie planting at Lundgaard Park (in collaboration with US Venture), native plant planting at Ellen Court Peace Park (funded by a private company)
 - Looking to identify more areas
 - There is opportunity here to work with volunteer groups/harness community interest to tackle more projects (Rootforce? Create a seed bank?)
- Michelle Bachaus leads the sustainable transportation initiative
 - **Upcoming events:**
 - Click [here](#) to sign up for:
 - Bike Rodeo: Wednesday June 17
 - Urban Riders: Wednesdays thru July 15
 - Potential date in the works for Council members and department heads to pair up with kids in the program and ride around the city
 - Smart Cycling at the Appleton Public Library - Adults age 16+ Thursday July 30 from 12pm-1pm
 - Projects Michelle has led include:
 - Bike Friendly Community Application - silver
 - Map suggestions for bike friendly routes and communication with ECWRPC
 - Buses - stops are easy access to bus, covered from sun and rain
 - Bike Share research
 - E-scooter project
 - Fox Cities Greenways is a local non-profit working on trails.
- John Adams and Evan Dujardin have been looking at biochar as an alternative use for biosolids (a wastewater product). The current use is land spreading.

- Exploring alternatives to land spreading biosolids due to potential PFAS regulations, disposal costs, and long-term sustainability concerns.
- Biosolids have low energy value and high lime content, making biochar production difficult; anaerobic digestion remains a more practical option.
- Yard and wood waste are stronger candidates for biochar production, offering opportunities to reduce waste management costs and create marketable products.
- Potential biochar uses include soil amendment, stormwater management, tree planting, roadway applications, and low-carbon concrete.
- Financial feasibility is critical; projects must demonstrate costs, payback, ROI, and potential funding opportunities.

Next ASAP Meeting:

July 14, 2026

3:30pm - 4:30pm

Facilities & Grounds Operation Center, 1819 E. Witzke Boulevard