

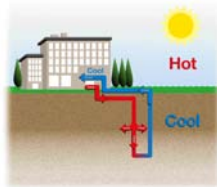
Sustainable Weston

Since 2007, the Village of Weston has made a conscious effort on creating a community that is environmentally conscious. The Sustainable Weston campaign has five areas of concentration created to help taxpayers engage in conservation efforts: energy reduction (including the reduction of green house gas emissions), ground & surface water protection, recycling, wetland & woodland preservation, and controlling urban sprawl.

Energy: Conservation & Alternatives

As funding from the State of Wisconsin decreases, the reduction in the use of energy remains the number one conservation issue facing local governments.

Since 2007, the Village has taken several steps to reduce energy use in the community and encourage conservation. The Village Planning Commission has adopted ordinances that allow for the use of alternative energy sources such as **geothermal** and **wind power** that have been employed by several businesses. In 2008, the Village of Weston upgraded its Public Safety Building (at a cost of \$90,000) to create an energy efficient, climate controlled environment.



Later that year, the Village went “**paperless**” in its meeting function and through the use of electronic agendas, scanning of documents, e-mails, an interactive website and social media has exponentially reduced its use of paper in the workplace – to the tune of \$30,000 in savings. The Village public works staff also has converted current equipment to create energy efficiency and reduce the use of vehicles in the collection of yard waste, snowplowing, and road maintenance.



The Village of Weston has also engaged in an aggressive retrofitting of streets throughout the community **to create a sidewalk, bike/ pedestrian path and bicycle lane network** that links neighborhoods with schools, parks, and shopping districts – including a \$2 million dollar pedestrian bridge over State Highway 29 – that will allow access to a YMCA and major medical complex. In 2011-2012, the Village will add over 7 miles of bike/ pedestrian facilities to the community.

Weston is a **dark skies community** relying on a low level lighting strategy that prohibits any business from extending light above 1 candle foot beyond the property line during evening hours. This strategy requires energy efficient light fixtures and low level bulbs that are targeted downward.

Ground & Surface Water Protection

The Village of Weston is Marathon County's leader in protecting groundwater aquifers and quality surface waters such as the Eau Claire River and the Bull Junior Creek – and as such has received a **Water Star Award** from the University of Wisconsin-Extension. Through the establishment of a storm water utility the Village has reduced the suspended solids discharge to rivers and streams through capital improvement, site plan review, street sweeping and taxpayer education.



The Village of Weston has established four wellhead protection areas designed to protect groundwater that provides drinking water to the community. Each well head protection district prohibits discharge activity in a large area surrounding Weston's municipal wells.

Sustainable Weston

Recycling: Statewide Leadership

The Village of Weston, with its current population of approximately 14,868, is one of the top recycling communities in the state in Total Recyclables, Banned Items, and Recycling Pounds per Capita, for a municipality of our size for the seventh year in a row! The 2010 rankings are based on communities within the population range of 12,000 -15,000. Currently, the average person in the Village recycles 287.10 pounds of material (not including yard waste) annually, which equates to **over 1900 tons kept out of the landfill**. The Village partners with Veolia Environmental Services to offer a six-day a week drop off site for cardboard, plastic, tin and paper.



The Village also hosts a yard waste facility that allows taxpayers to drop off grass clippings, leaves, etc. 24 hours a day. The Village in turn creates compost out

of the material at its Material Handling Facility and uses the product on municipal projects. The Material Handling Facility also **recycles 5,000 – 8,000 yards of asphalt and cement** per year that is reused on road projects.

Wetlands & Woodlands

The Village of Weston is approximately thirty percent wetlands that serve as nature's filter for the Eau Claire River, Bull Junior Creek, Cedar Creek and ultimately the Wisconsin River. Working closely with the US Army Corps of Engineers and the WDNR, the Village has established Wetland Protection District that limits building, protects wetlands species, and mitigates wetland loss due to development.



The neighborhood woodlands initiative is a cooperative venture between residential developers and the Village to preserve as many

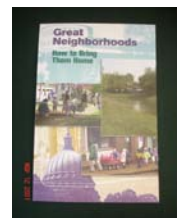
trees as possible in the establishment of new housing options. The Village also has a proactive urban forestry program aimed at preserving mature trees and eradicating pests such as the Gypsy Moth, Linden Borer and the Green Ash Borer. Weston's effort in 2006 led the way for the establishment of the countywide gypsy moth coordinator. Since 2003, the Village has **planted over 900 trees** throughout the community and in 2011 was awarded the **Tree City USA Designation**.



Urban Sprawl Control: Discipline Through Planning

The Village of Weston has adopted a Comprehensive Plan aimed at controlling growth and preserving agricultural lands. Adopted in 2006, this twenty-year future land use plan clearly delineates business & industrial districts and minimizes the impact of growth south of Highway 29. Also in 2006, the Village of Weston and the Town of Weston established an extraterritorial zoning ordinance that limits sprawl in the northeast corner of the Village and helps to preserve the rural nature of the township.

In the fall of 2007, the Village partnered with the environmental group, 1,000 Friends of Wisconsin, to take an in-depth look at how the centers & edges of Weston will be developed to create "Great Neighborhoods" – a program designed to create sustainable residential areas.



The Village has designed a "traditional neighborhood ordinance" to promote more efficient land use in a suburban setting. The ordinance encourages high density residential, efficient mixed uses of land, and walk-ability that harkens back to the location of lifestyle business near neighborhoods.

The Village of Weston has been designated a Green Tier Legacy Community by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.