

Village of Cottage Grove, Wisconsin

Memorandum

DATE: October 12th, 2021
TO: HONORABLE PRESIDENT AND VILLAGE BOARD MEMBERS
FROM: AD-HOC SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE
SUBJECT: FY 2022 BUDGET MEMO

Summary of FY 2020-2021 Events:

As a result of the Village Board ranking sustainability and climate change as the 3rd highest priority of the Village, the 5 member Ad-Hoc Sustainability was created in March 2020. Furthermore, in September of 2020, the Village Board approved resolution 2020-11, mandating the Village; 1) not exceed its current 2019 kWh consumption of 1,200,000kWh, 2) reduce the net annual electrical consumption of the Village by 50% by 2030, 3) transition the Village owned vehicles (excluding heavy machinery to electric vehicles by 2030, 4) support additional outreach efforts to help the residents of Cottage Grove transition to sustainable practices.

As a result of these goals, the Ad-Hoc Sustainability committee hosted a #cleanupthegrove event following Earth Day (Sat, April 24th) that village staff lay out gloves and garbage bags at the local parks for residents to collect trash that had accumulated over the winter. Village staff collected the trash the following word day for proper disposal.

We have organized a group-buy of rain barrels that saw over 80 rain barrels purchased by Village residents at a reduced price to help offset water usage.

We have partnered with the Dane County Climate Office's two approved solar group buy programs, MadiSUN and Legacy Solar Co-op, to expand their eligibility to Cottage Grove residents.

We have continued discussions with Alliant Energy to potentially build a large solar farm near Village property.

We have analyzed and generated a report recommending the size and savings of placing solar panels on the roof of the municipal services building.

FY 2022 Budget Recommendations:

To continue the Village's transition to renewable energy practices and expand our outreach to more Village residents, the Ad-Hoc Sustainability committee recommends the following line items be added to the FY 2022 budget.

1. Construction of an 88-125kW solar panel system on the roof of the municipal services building

As already recommended and approved by the Village Board, we recommend that a solar array ranging from 88-125kW be installed on the municipal services building. The proposed solar array cost ranges from \$143,000-310,000 after Focus on Energy and Solar for Good rebates. This installation would reduce our annual electrical consumption by at least ~110,000 kWh which is ~9% of our 2019 annual electrical consumption (based on the 88kW system). The payback period for this installation (88kW system) is ~13.6 years with the solar array, with a life-expectancy of 30 years, saving the Village is excess of \$240,000 over that 30-year period.

2. Upgrade of the municipal services building to be EV-ready

Alongside the installation of the municipal services building solar array, we recommend that the municipal services building be upgraded to include: a single more efficient metering system, installation of dedicated 240V electrical lines for EV-charging and four level 2 EV charging stations installed in anticipation of both the police and public works vehicles transitioning to electric in the coming years. The estimated cost of both the purchase and installation is \$16,000. This will effectively prepare our Village for the transition to electric vehicles and maximize our use of the new solar array.

3. Dedicated funding for three Sustainability Events (Earth Day/#cleanupthegrove/Rain Barrel Pickup, Tour de Cottage Grove and Solar Group Buy/Sustainability Tent at Marketplace Dayz)

The Ad-Hoc Sustainability committee have targeted these three events for the 2022 year that will promote the general sustainability of the Village (#cleanupthegrove, rain barrel program), the expansion and use our bicycle paths and bicycle lanes around the Village (Tour de Cottage Grove) and the advertisement and outreach to residents about the advantages of sustainable products/methods around the house and the solar group buy options (Sustainability Tent at Marketplace Dayz/Dane County Trash Lab). Money for these events will be used to purchase flyers, signs, buy advertisements (e.g. Herald-Independent), provide necessary equipment for the event and to prizes/swag for children. We recommend a total cost of \$1,000 for these events.

4. Preparing the new parking lot at Clark and Grove Street as EV-ready

We recommend installing dedicated electrical lines during construction of the parking lot to allow the parking lot to accept EV-charging stations in the future without additional construction costs.

5. Installation of two 300 square foot rain gardens in Village-owned avenues or medians.

Rain gardens are the installation of native plant and flower species. They retain rainwater and let it slowly percolate into the ground, as to not inundate the drainage system after a heavy rain and to prevent flooding. They also minimize the burden on the water treatment facilities, as they filter out contaminants. They also provide natural beauty and attract pollinators. The Ad-Hoc Sustainability committee recommends the installation of two rain gardens in public space (one from a professional rain garden landscaper, who we could learn from, and one that we install ourselves after we learn the appropriate methods). The combined cost of these two installations would be \$6,000.

6. Making Cottage Grove a bike friendly community through the purchase and installation of Bicycle docking stations and joining the Wisconsin Bike Federation.

Public access to relatively low-cost bicycles will help to minimize polluting traffic on our roadways and increase foot traffic to local establishments. The one-time cost of purchasing a dock is \$1,600 with an annual maintenance cost of \$1,000 per dock (note 1 bike/dock). We recommend allocating \$20,000 for this service. Additional sponsorships by local companies will also be obtained to reduce the annual service fee. Docks are planned to be placed around the new hotel, Bakken park, Doudrins Distillery and 1855 Saloon/Glacial Drumlin trailhead.

Joining the Wisconsin Bike Federation will cost \$500 and facilitate an educational advocacy session and safety signs/pamphlets that will be spread across Cottage Grove.

Ad-Hoc Sustainability Committee:

Nicholas J. Hess (Chair)

Catie Malcheski

Ryan Minor

Heidi Murphy (Village Trustee/Committee Secretary)

John Williams (Village President)