



Envision 2050

Equity

12/2021

Purpose

The purpose of this Equity Element is to establish priorities and recommendations for how La Crosse County ensures that all community members feel welcome and are treated with equity.

General Equitable Practices

- Engage the local community members most affected in policy creation and program development.
- The overall vision, plan, and implementation includes local communities' assets, aspirations, potential, and preferences. They aim to keep current residents in the area and develop projects that promote people's health, wellbeing, and prosperity.
- Equitable Transportation practices integrate transit into walkable, livable, and affordable land use practices to enhance health living within low-income communities and communities of color.
- Equitable Economic Development practices require evidence that policies and programs work to prioritize community-based financial intelligence, sustainable wealth creation, and high-quality job opportunities that prevent unwanted displacement of residents and small businesses from low-income communities and communities of color.
- Equitable Housing practices give families of all income levels access to housing that costs no more than 30% of their household income.
- Equitable Sustainability practices combine smart growth, environmental justice, and equitable development approaches to design and build health, sustainable, and inclusive communities.
- **Welcome a diverse population and ensure that everyone feels they belong.**

Recommendations

Economic Development

1. Encourage economic expansion through equitable and diverse workforce development and “family wage” jobs.
2. Encourage an adequate supply of affordable housing for individuals of all income levels throughout La Crosse County and explore collaborative initiatives.
3. Encourage equitable strategies, practices, and policies to improve the quality of life for all residents in La Crosse County.

Utilities and Community Facilities

4. Implement a public engagement process that includes individuals most affected, diverse backgrounds especially race, ability, and age, to include early and continuous public involvement when siting new public facilities.
5. Encourage utility and facility resource sharing that fairly distributes and compensates all cities, villages, and towns for past, present, and future investments in public services.
6. Provide support for existing, and promote new, family resource and childcare facilities.

Recommendations

Housing

7. Promote a balance of affordable housing opportunities in all parts of the county.
8. Enhance the ability of populations with special needs or aging to stay in their homes.
9. Encourage integrated mixed-income and mixed-use neighborhood developments.

Cultural and Natural Resource

10. Explore diversity in La Crosse County and utilizing incentive programs and educational programming to encourage diverse populations for potential succession planning for our aging agricultural workforce.

Intergovernmental Cooperation

11. Increased equity, accountability, and responsiveness to regional and County-wide needs.
12. Encourage cooperative efforts between the City of La Crosse and surrounding communities to seek equitable ways to expand public transit service area.

Recommendations

Future Land Use

13. Encourage the preservation of cultural, historic, archaeological sites, and environmentally sensitive areas.
14. Encourage development which allows for shared services, culturally informed, and social interaction connections.
15. Use the Land Use and Development Policy Decision Framework to ensure sustainable development including social, cultural, economic, and environmental components.



Recommendations

Transportation

16. Continue to improve public transportation services and alternative transportation methods to meet the needs of all residents with heightened attention to the unique needs of residents who live with disabilities, low income, and are aging.
17. Manage development throughout the County to avoid negative transportation impacts.

Farmland Preservation

18. Collaborate with cultural groups to determine agricultural, food sovereignty, and food production needs to improve equity and sustainability.
19. Identify the distinct factors that contribute to improved quality of life especially with sustainability, equity, livability, and cultures of La Crosse County.



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Chapter Overview

To participate in the county's Comprehensive Plan process, please visit lacrossecounty.org/comprehensiveplan or follow La Crosse County on Facebook for regular updates.