

# Envision 2050

*Utilities and Community Facilities*

*Chapter Overview*

Sustainable • Collaborative • Equitable • Forward Thinking • Respect



# Recommendations and Policies

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- Guides future development of utilities and community facilities in La Crosse County
- Does NOT include in-depth analysis of local utilities or community facilities
- Discusses issues of regional importance such as:
  - Ground water
  - Transmission line corridors
  - Equitable distribution of public services

General  
Utilities and  
Community  
Facilities  
Policy

- To provide for the sustainability of future countywide development by ensuring capacity for urban and rural uses and densities, La Crosse County will:



1. 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;



2. Promote the sustainable development of utilities and community facilities to protect environmental resources;



3. Work to develop and implement the recommendations of adopted plans related to sewer, water, power, and recreational facility development;



4. Identify programs, funding, and partnering to develop renewable energy resources and distribution capabilities;



5. Direct public investments in new or expanded community facilities toward meeting the long-range needs of the county overall.

# Recommendations

(numbered for reference only)



1.

Encourage the municipalities of La Crosse County to provide for the public recreation needs of all segments of the population.



a. Facilitate continued utilization of the La Crosse County Outdoor Recreation Plan (2019).



b. Ensure recreation and park space is made available as a required part of urban density development.



c. Encourage combining school and recreation facilities to provide mutual benefits of service, safety, convenience and economy.



d. Incorporate scenic areas and viewsheds in La Crosse County into a system of protected open spaces, scenic trails and parks.










e. Promote frequent and diverse educational opportunities that appeal to a widespread population.



f. Promote a variety of cultural and entertainment options, convention opportunities, and tourism attractants.

# Recommendations

(numbered for reference only)

-   2. Protect groundwater resources, distribution systems, recharge areas, and wellheads from contamination, degradation, and overdevelopment.
  -   a. Identify ways to prevent further groundwater contamination, identify appropriate locations for new wells, and make more efficient and economical use of existing wells.
  -  b. Encourage wellhead protection ordinances for municipal wells within the county.
  -  c. Encourage monitoring of wells for contamination.
  -  d. Encourage personal accountability in water usage by promoting conservation fixtures in new construction, development of rain gardens, and preservation of groundwater recharge areas such as wetlands.

# Recommendations

(numbered for reference only)



3.

Work with La Crosse County's Solid Waste Policy Board to implement the recommendations of the Solid Waste Management Plan. The plan seeks to strengthen service relationships and properly manage solid waste disposal within the region.



a.

Ensure that landfill areas are zoned properly and ensure appropriate buffer areas of either industrial uses or green spaces.



b.

Ensure that there will be a sufficient growth plan for landfill areas or determine an alternative solution if the current area is not desired for growth.

# Recommendations

(numbered for reference only)



4.

Continue to maintain the nonproliferation of additional water treatment facilities but recognize that connection to an existing treatment facility is not always cost-effective or environmentally sound and that there may be instances where a small sewage treatment facility is the most effective solution.



5.

Require site plans and density guidelines (dwelling units per acre) before approval of municipal sewer extensions to residential subdivisions. Promote incorporation of adequate open space with pervious surface areas to help control stormwater in an environmentally sound and natural manner.



6.

Recommend the municipalities of La Crosse County seek equitable and acceptable ways to distribute the costs and benefits of public services and facilities between the private and public sectors.



7.

Implement a public engagement process to include early and continuous public involvement when siting new public facilities. New facilities shall conform to local siting requirements and if they are projected to generate substantial travel demand, every effort will be made to site facilities along or near major transportation and public transit corridors.



# Recommendations

(numbered for reference only)

8



8.

Ensure adequate utility and communication infrastructure throughout the region. Work with local and state entities to monitor existing supplies and forecast future demand to provide sufficient delivery for a variety of consumers. Protect residents from major line development through the county that does not benefit La Crosse County users.



9.

Encourage major energy consumers to participate in renewable energy programs through the State of Wisconsin and participating utility companies. Promote participation in programs available for development and implementation of solar, wind, hydro, biogas, or other renewable resources.



10.

Encourage participation of agricultural operations in energy-conserving programs.



11.

Encourage all public buildings to meet or exceed the Energy Efficiency and Renewables standards (LEED – Like)



12.

Adjust or amend county ordinances, where needed, to encourage development of solar and wind energy sources.

# Recommendations

(numbered for reference only)



12. Adjust or amend county ordinances, where needed, to encourage development of solar and wind energy sources.



13. Follow the steps outlined through the US Environmental Protection Agency to ensure La Crosse County becomes a more sustainable "Green Community."



14. Support electrical grid growth and stabilization throughout the region.



15. Encourage the continued use of Xcel's refuse-derived fuel power plant and ensure that enough waste is being provided to meet minimum contract demands.



16. Support Next Generation 911 in the conversion from previously used tabular data obtained from telephone companies for addressing to the use of spatial data.



17. Provide support for existing, and promote new, family resource and childcare facilities.





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