

This chapter is dedicated to the environmental landscape and the natural resources that this landscape encompasses. This chapter further serves to outline goals and objectives for the effective protection, preservation, conservation, and utilization of the natural resources of the community in terms of a regional context along with an evaluation of the physical aspects of the city such as soils information, topographical elements and physical barriers to development.

As Pine City develops, it is hoped that it will do so as a green and sustainable city which balances ecological, economic and social needs to ensure a clean, healthy and safe environment for all members of society and for future generations.

### Goals:

Regarding **Policy** — Pine City should adopt policies that call for energy efficiencies in buildings and commercial districts, for the production of less waste, cleaner transportation choices and amenities that will benefit the community's overall health.

Regarding **Environmental Education** — Pine City should promote resource conservation and appreciation through environmental education displays in parks and outdoor use areas such as City parks, schools, and at Pine Technical College.

Regarding **Local Foods** — Pine City should promote and support local food sources such as individual farms, markets, restaurants, grocers, and other food retailers committed to sustainable food and farms.

Regarding **Energy Conservation** — Pine City should lead by example in energy conservation and financial savings as a result. By 2020, the City should work to:

- ⇒ Meet 40% of the City's electricity needs using green and renewable power.
- ⇒ Cut carbon dioxide emissions by 40%.
- ⇒ Reduce peak energy load by 10%.
- ⇒ Adopt a comprehensive water reduction plan and reach a 20% reduction in per capita water use.
- ⇒ Retrofit City facilities, when possible, with energy efficient lighting to reduce kilowatt hours and energy costs.

Regarding **Air and Climate Protection**. — Pine City should lead by example to reduce citywide carbon dioxide emissions.

- ⇒ The City should sign on to the US Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement.
- ⇒ The City should work to develop an ordinance or policy to reduce idling on City vehicles.
- ⇒ The City should promote mass transit and multi-modal transit options.

Regarding **Waste Reduction and Recycling** — Recycling should be promoted within all City properties and public spaces. The City should work to:

- ⇒ Promote curbside recycling.
- ⇒ Develop a drop-off center for recyclable materials.
- ⇒ Develop and support waste reduction initiatives.

Regarding **Sustainable Development** — Development should be responsibly built within Pine City. To do this, the City should work to:

- ⇒ Incorporate sustainable design and construction into City-financed projects.
- ⇒ Preserve parks and green space.
- ⇒ Promote no net tree loss within City boundaries.
- ⇒ Encourage and support ride share, park-and-ride, park-and-pool and mass transit.

### Challenges

Energy efficiency programs oftentimes have larger upfront costs than current technologies and may be difficult for governments, businesses and individuals to transition in difficult economic times. However, by adopting a goal of moving toward sound ecological practices, Pine City can make headway toward these goals as pricing stabilizes, technology becomes more attainable and more partnerships can be made with businesses that can sustainably profit by offering better alternatives.

### Key Partners

Triple bottom line businesses (people, planet, profit), schools, energy providers, farmers' market, community garden, public works, transit providers, and Pine Technical College.