

**Sustainability Committee**  
*Regular Meeting Notice and Agenda*

Village of Cross Plains  
2417 Brewery Road, Cross Plains, WI 53528  
(608) 798-3241

**Monday, May 11, 2020**  
**6:00 pm**

Due to COVID-19, this will be a virtual meeting. Interested parties may participate by logging into the conference room or teleconference line. The log in information is as follows:

**Join Zoom Meeting Link:**  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82884819163>

**Phone Number:**  
+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

**Meeting ID:**  
828 8481 9163

I. Call to Order, Roll Call, and Agenda Review

II. Public Comment – This is an opportunity for anyone to address the Sustainability Committee. *Please observe the time limit of 3 minutes.* While the Sustainability Committee encourages input from residents, it may not discuss or act on any issue that is not duly noticed on the agenda.

III. General Business

1. Committee Member Report Outs.
  - a. Group Buy Program through Legacy Solar Co-op
  - b. Committee recruitment and potential appointments
2. Discussion and Possible Approval of the April 21, 2020 Sustainability Committee Minutes
3. Discussion of Full Survey Results and Next Steps
4. Wrap up and Next Steps

IV. Adjournment

This meeting notice constitutes an official meeting of the above referenced group and was posted in accordance with all applicable laws related Open Meetings Law. It is possible that members of and possibly a quorum of members of other governmental bodies of the municipality may be in attendance at the above stated meeting to gather information. No action will be taken by any governmental body at the above stated meeting other than the governmental body specifically referred to above in this notice. Upon reasonable notice, efforts will be made to accommodate the needs of disabled individuals. For additional information or to request this service, contact the Village Hall at (608) 798-3241 or [bchang@cross-plains.wi.us](mailto:bchang@cross-plains.wi.us).

# **Sustainability Committee**

## *Meeting Minutes*

**Village of Cross Plains**  
2417 Brewery Road, PO Box 97  
Cross Plains, WI 53528  
(608) 798-3241

**Tuesday, April 21, 2020**  
**6:00 pm**

This meeting was conducted virtually.

### I. Call to Order and Roll Call

*The meeting of the Cross Plains Sustainability Committee was called to order at 6:02 pm.*

*Present: Committee members Melissa Gavin, John Burandt, Steve Douglas, Kevin Thusius and Michael Pomykalski.*

*Also present: Village Administrator/Clerk Bill Chang.*

- II. Public Comment – This is an opportunity for anyone to address the Village Board on any issue NOT on the current agenda. *Please observe the time limit of 3 minutes.* While the Village Board encourages input from residents, it may not discuss or act on any issue that is not duly noticed on the agenda.

*There were no comments.*

### III. General Business

1. Committee Member Report Outs.

*Burandt attended the second meeting held by the Town of Vermont regarding Focus on Energy. It was held virtually and hard to follow.*

*Gavin reported that Dane County has completed its Climate Action Plan.*

*Chang reported that Jewell Associates Engineers will be presenting on flood mitigation at the next Village Board meeting.*

2. Discussion and possible approval of the March 9, 2020 Sustainability Committee Minutes.

*A motion was made by Trustee Thusius, seconded by Burandt, and unanimously carried by the Sustainability Committee, to approve the March 9, 2020 Sustainability Committee Minutes.*

3. Review and Discussion of Survey Results.

*The committee discussed the current survey results. The handwritten surveys will be transcribed to Survey Monkey for further analysis at the next meeting.*

4. Review and Discussion of Solar Farm Memo.

*Gavin will complete the memo and send it to the Village Board for its May meeting.*

#### IV. Adjournment

*A motion was made by Douglas, seconded by Pomykalski, and unanimously carried by the Sustainability Committee, to adjourn. Meeting ended at 7:55 pm.*

Pursuant to law, written notice of this meeting was given to the public and posted on the public bulletin boards in accordance with the Open Meetings Law.

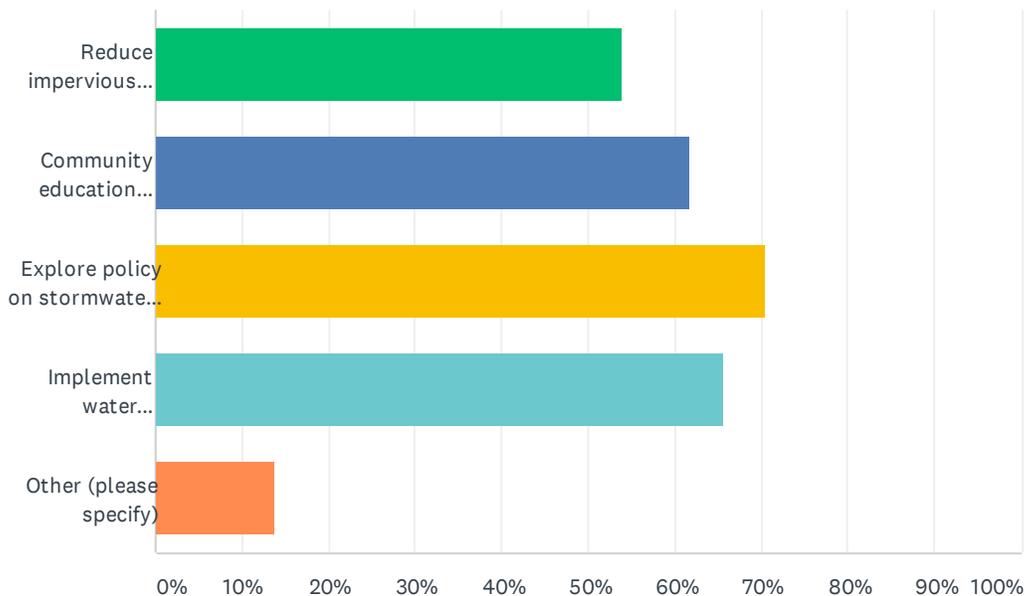
Respectfully submitted,

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Bill Chang  
Village Administrator/Clerk

Q1 Stormwater runoff pollutes our water resources including Black Earth Creek and increases the risk of flooding as we saw in August 2018. What should the Village do to further reduce stormwater runoff? (Check all that apply)

Answered: 102 Skipped: 2



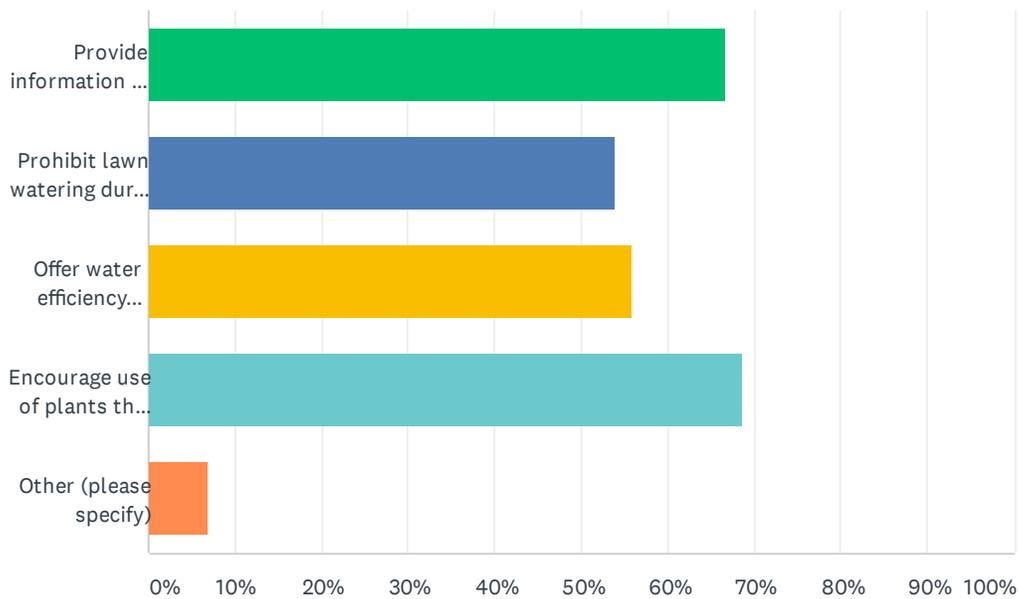
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Reduce impervious surfaces in the Village	53.92%	55
Community education (examples: stormwater management, how to build a rain garden, lawn and garden care, etc.)	61.76%	63
Explore policy on stormwater runoff that would meet the demands for current and future weather events	70.59%	72
Implement water management methods that restore or mimic the natural water cycle	65.69%	67
Other (please specify)	13.73%	14
Total Respondents: 102		

## Village of Cross Plains Sustainability Survey

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	explore making retaining ponds	4/22/2020 5:24 PM
2	develop wider area of wet land in many locations	4/22/2020 5:09 PM
3	careful consideration of future home and business development that would exacerbate run off problem.	4/22/2020 4:57 PM
4	Make sure new developments have enough water retention ponds and water plans.	4/22/2020 4:52 PM
5	cut spraying of lawncare and yards for whole (something) so run off is not contaminated.	4/22/2020 4:50 PM
6	Ban spraying (fertilizer & pesticides) on all property! Village and private so run off is not contaminated.	4/22/2020 4:43 PM
7	Require new developments to have o or better impact on water run off.	4/22/2020 4:25 PM
8	Help educate homeowners along Brewery Creek reduce runoff (eg. prairie plants along creek reduce erosion) Can the DNR help with this education survey problems along creek?	4/22/2020 4:20 PM
9	Enforce the rules of NOT letting yard clippings go in the street	4/22/2020 4:17 PM
10	The Majority off the flood water in 2018 come from 18" of rain north of the village not from within the village	4/22/2020 4:05 PM
11	Stormwater utility	3/25/2020 6:50 AM
12	Have all new developments treat more then 100% of their water. IE, not only be responsible for their runoff but also improve the area. IE - 120% of their water treated. 100% of their development and 20% more to help the area.	3/24/2020 12:32 PM
13	leaf pickup curbside - every community has this.	3/16/2020 10:43 PM
14	Larger storm drains Holding, retention, ponds along the creeks north and east of the village Reduce or limit or eliminate new impervious surfaces in the village	3/10/2020 9:21 AM

## Q2 The average Cross Plains household uses 120 gallons of water each day. Should the Village do any of the following to help households and businesses reduce water usage? (Check all that apply)

Answered: 102 Skipped: 2

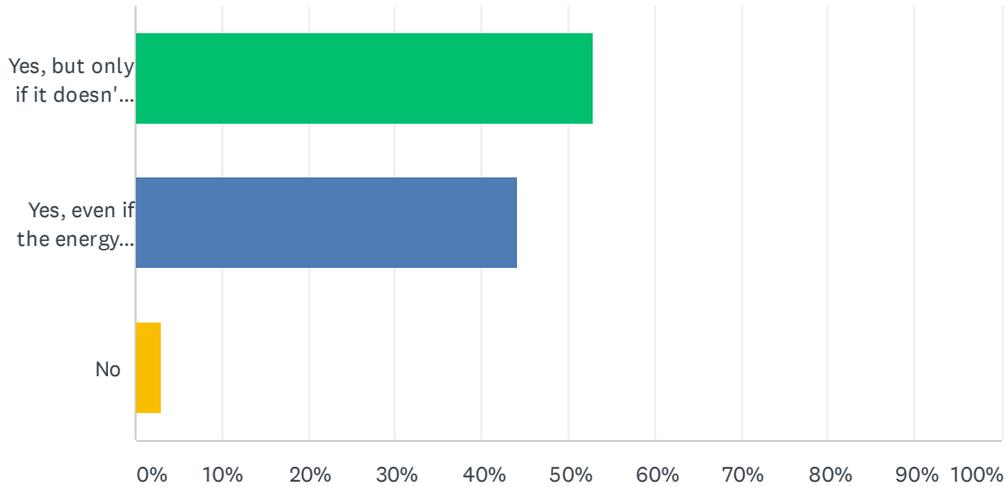


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Provide information on indoor and outdoor water efficiency	66.67% 68
Prohibit lawn watering during extended dry weather	53.92% 55
Offer water efficiency audits	55.88% 57
Encourage use of plants that are drought-tolerant, native species for residential and business landscaping	68.63% 70
Other (please specify)	6.86% 7
Total Respondents: 102	

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	encourage tree planting, especially along main street	4/22/2020 4:50 PM
2	Don't use our tax dollars for your bogus programs	4/22/2020 4:05 PM
3	Price water so that it does not get cheaper per gallon the more you use	3/25/2020 6:50 AM
4	The Village should take efforts only if they stay within the current water operating budget.	3/17/2020 7:26 PM
5	I think bringing attention to, or having local sales of plants, in town or locally would be helpful. Also this could be a community project to add think kind of landscaping around the village	3/16/2020 1:55 PM
6	subsidize the cost of plants, grasses, used in landscaping	3/10/2020 9:21 AM
7	Clover based yards.	3/4/2020 6:33 PM

Q3 The Village used 1,090,310 kWh of electricity and 38,198 therms of natural gas last year for municipal operations, at a cost of about \$187,000. Should the Village implement strategies and technologies to reduce electricity and natural gas usage? (Check only one)

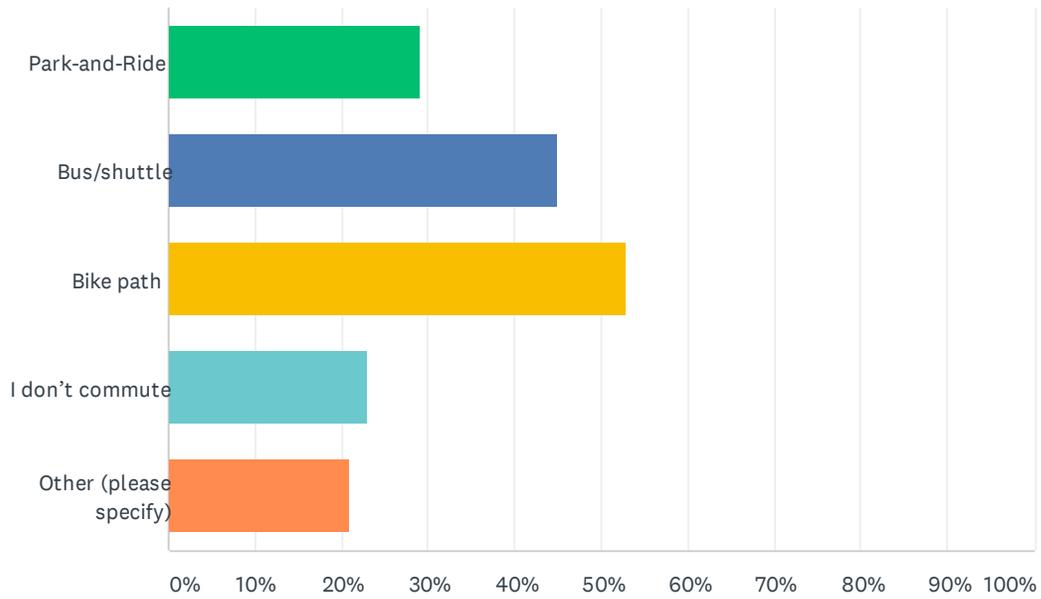
Answered: 104 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes, but only if it doesn't cost anything or the new technology pays for itself in energy savings.	52.88%	55
Yes, even if the energy savings may not cover the cost of the new technology. I am willing to pay more in taxes to help us reduce our carbon footprint.	44.23%	46
No	2.88%	3
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>104</b>

## Q4 Which of the following, if any, would you use to commute to Middleton/Madison?

Answered: 100 Skipped: 4



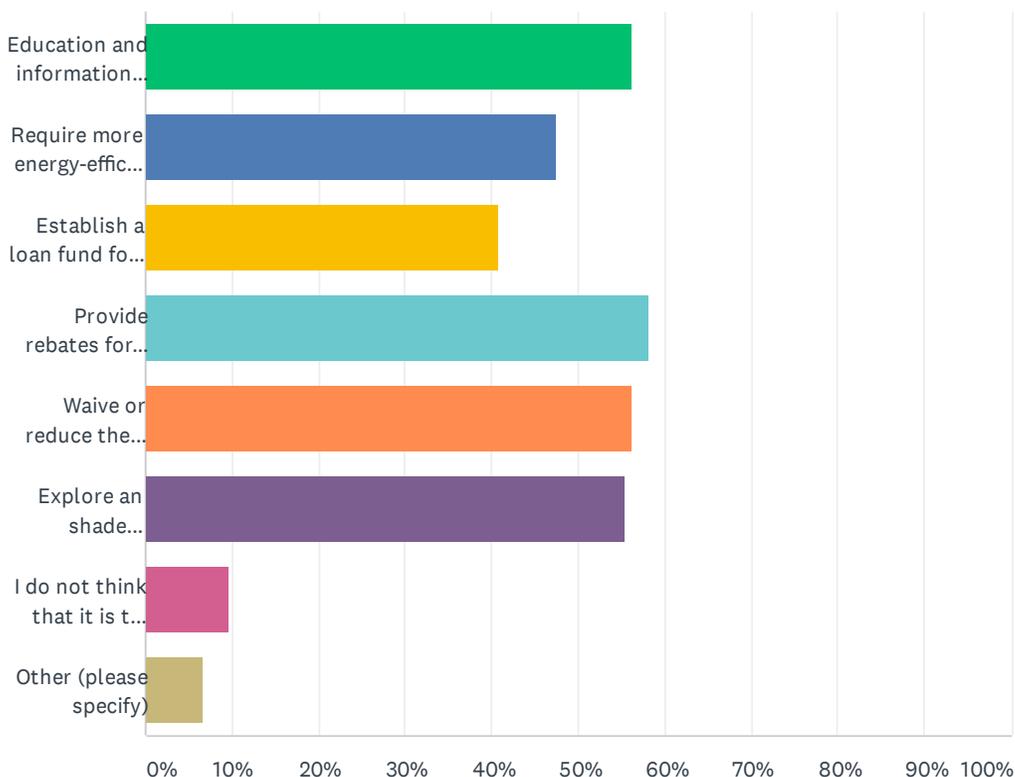
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Park-and-Ride	29.00%	29
Bus/shuttle	45.00%	45
Bike path	53.00%	53
I don't commute	23.00%	23
Other (please specify)	21.00%	21
Total Respondents: 100		

## Village of Cross Plains Sustainability Survey

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Extend bus system to cross plains	4/22/2020 5:13 PM
2	Anything to help get cars with only one passenger off the road.	4/22/2020 5:03 PM
3	TRain	4/22/2020 5:01 PM
4	Commuter rail, carpooling/sharing	4/22/2020 4:50 PM
5	commuter rail, carpooling or ride sharing	4/22/2020 4:43 PM
6	Commuter rail	3/29/2020 12:19 PM
7	I do shop in Middleton and would use a bus or bike. Also a commuter train.	3/26/2020 11:41 AM
8	ATV-UTV	3/24/2020 12:32 PM
9	none	3/20/2020 7:49 PM
10	I don't commute. Keep in mind that we have a bus system to take kids to school daily and this is not used to the maximum efficiency. People will not give up their personal freedoms of cars. Until you can train our youth to use that bus system there is no sense of wasting tax dollars on a system for adults to will be way underused if at all.	3/18/2020 11:56 AM
11	None	3/17/2020 7:26 PM
12	it would be ideal to have an express bus to the Middleton area at least but CP would be great too. There are many people west of CP that work downtown. Also, my husband currently drives to Penny Klein park off Airport Rd in Middleton to catch the bike trail. It would be ideal to have that trail extended.	3/16/2020 1:55 PM
13	Train	3/15/2020 8:52 PM
14	When Hwy 14 is resurfaced a bike path should be included along the corridor like the one along hwy 12.	3/10/2020 9:21 AM
15	I carpool now.	3/4/2020 6:33 PM
16	Rail	3/3/2020 12:02 AM
17	Train if available	3/2/2020 10:07 PM
18	Train	3/2/2020 2:29 PM
19	I will continue to use my hybrid to commute - my schedule is too varied to rely on another method.	3/2/2020 12:16 PM
20	Train	2/26/2020 8:58 AM
21	Unfortunately my commute does not go to middleton or madison	2/18/2020 7:15 PM

### Q5 As it pertains to energy usage in homes, which of the following should the Village provide? (Check all that apply)

Answered: 103 Skipped: 1



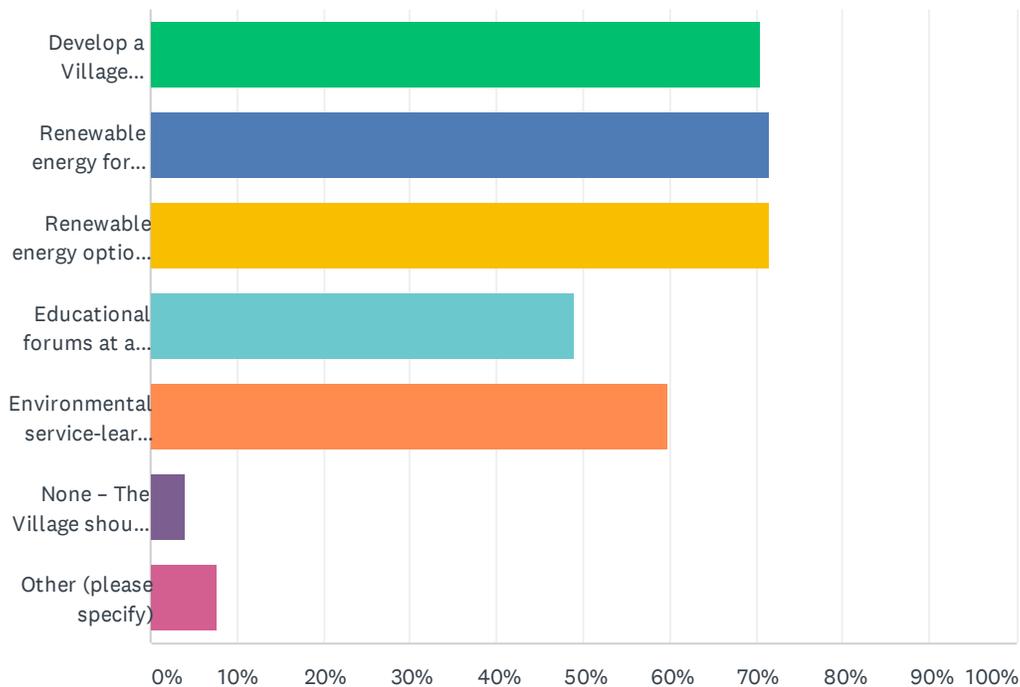
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Education and information about energy efficiency and conservation	56.31%	58
Require more energy-efficient building construction standards than current code requires	47.57%	49
Establish a loan fund for residents and businesses for energy efficiency upgrades	40.78%	42
Provide rebates for Focus on Energy Home Energy audits	58.25%	60
Waive or reduce the building permit fee if installing a renewable energy system	56.31%	58
Explore an shade tree/urban forest program to reduce cooling costs	55.34%	57
I do not think that it is the role of the Village to be involved in these	9.71%	10
Other (please specify)	6.80%	7
Total Respondents: 103		

## Village of Cross Plains Sustainability Survey

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Plant trees on main street and new developments	4/22/2020 4:43 PM
2	Please plant more trees	3/28/2020 9:22 AM
3	MG&E and Focus on Energy both have programs to do this.	3/18/2020 11:56 AM
4	The Village should take efforts only if there are current expenses that could be reduced by the efforts.	3/17/2020 7:26 PM
5	Advocate the implementation of nuclear power, explaining how modern nuclear fission reactors are designed so that (a) they cannot melt down, and (b) can use recycled fuel from older fission reactors, diminishing the disposal problem. Beyond this immediately available technology, advocate development of nuclear fission reactors, which use nonradioactive fuel, generate no nuclear waste, and will last as long as planet Earth.	3/15/2020 8:52 PM
6	Provide information about permitting process for addition of passive solar and active wind energy generation systems within the village.	3/10/2020 9:21 AM
7	The Village needs more trees. Especially in newer neighborhoods.	3/8/2020 1:48 PM

## Q6 What options would you support to encourage greater sustainability in the Village? (Check all that apply)

Answered: 102 Skipped: 2



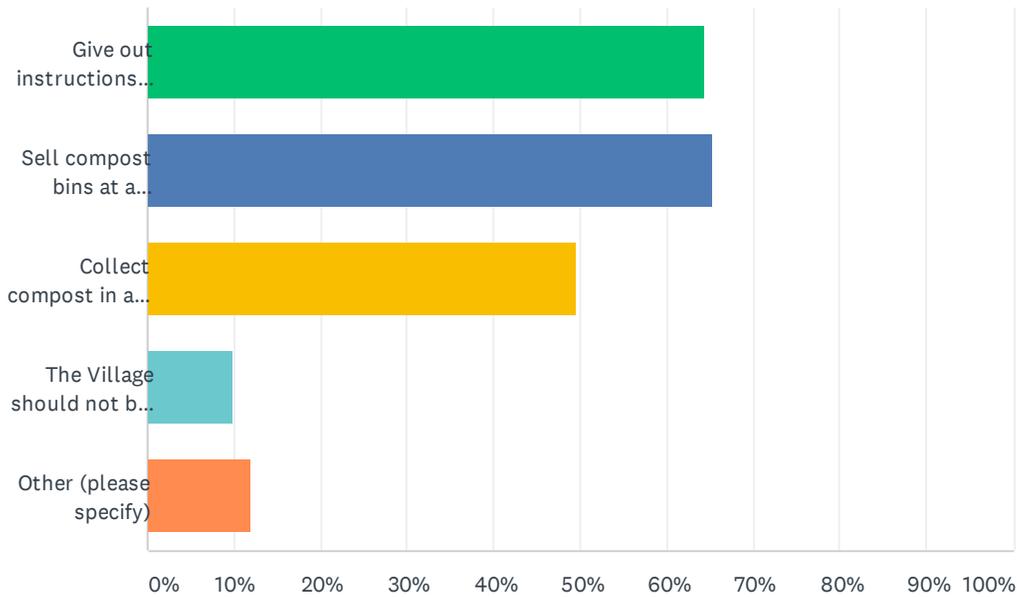
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Develop a Village sustainability action plan	70.59%	72
Renewable energy for Village operations	71.57%	73
Renewable energy options for homeowners	71.57%	73
Educational forums at a school or the library	49.02%	50
Environmental service-learning projects with the schools (students do service work)	59.80%	61
None – The Village should not take an active role in this effort	3.92%	4
Other (please specify)	7.84%	8
Total Respondents: 102		

## Village of Cross Plains Sustainability Survey

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	continue drop off of grass and leaves on bourbon rd. and continue brush pick up	4/22/2020 4:55 PM
2	Plan for these actions for future	4/22/2020 4:52 PM
3	put stop on projects like the planned shelter at the dog park...do we really need it?	4/22/2020 4:50 PM
4	stop unneeded projects in village. EX: new proposed shelter at dog park by creek.	4/22/2020 4:43 PM
5	Having separate buildings for every function of local government is very inefficient. Why do we need a separate building for each ?? : EMS, Fire, Public Works, Municipal, Police, etc..... The answer is we don't, long term facility planning needs to address that. At a minimum, Public works and the municipal buildings should and could be together. I don't see any reason EMS, Fire and Police can't share a facility. Communities our size don't have all these separate buildings and it's wasteful. Yes, work would need to be done and people would have to get along (which would also help in an emergency)	3/24/2020 12:32 PM
6	Focus on education of these efforts as well as implementing them for the village itself as long as cost is within existing budget or will pay for itself in a few years. Don't want to see long term tax increases for these efforts.	3/20/2020 7:49 PM
7	The Village should take efforts only if there are current expenses that could be reduced by the efforts.	3/17/2020 7:26 PM
8	Advocate the implementation of nuclear power, explaining how modern nuclear fission reactors are designed so that (a) they cannot melt down, and (b) can use recycled fuel from older fission reactors, diminishing the disposal problem. Beyond this immediately available technology, advocate development of nuclear fission reactors, which use nonradioactive fuel, generate no nuclear waste, and will last as long as planet Earth.	3/15/2020 8:52 PM

Q7 Food composting reduces the amount of trash collected by the Village.  
Should the Village do any of the following? (Check all that apply)

Answered: 101 Skipped: 3



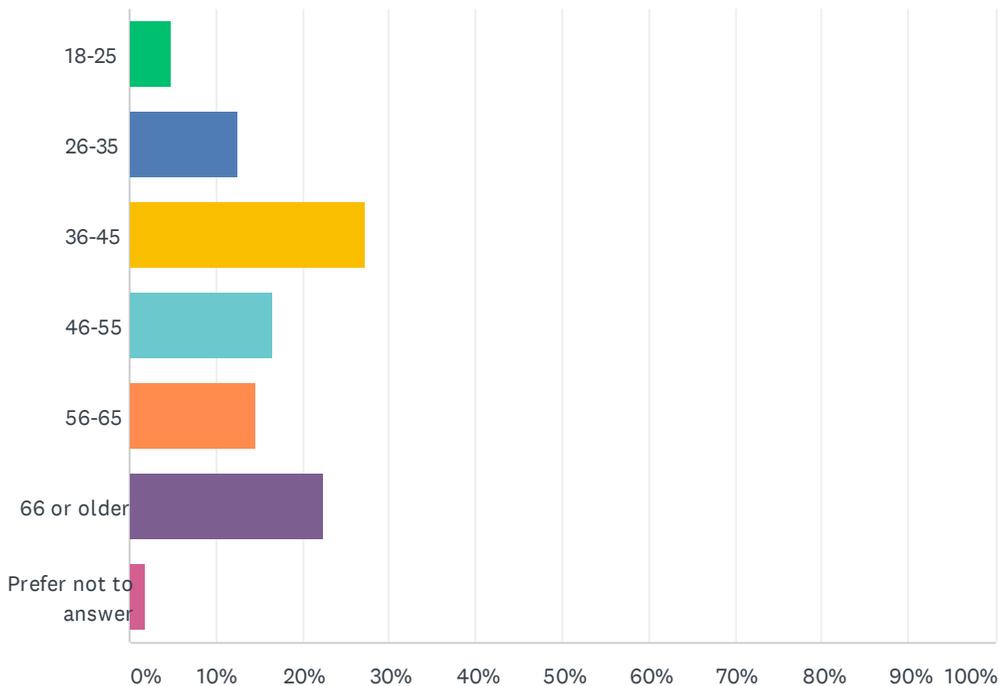
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Give out instructions on how to compost	64.36%	65
Sell compost bins at a discounted cost	65.35%	66
Collect compost in a separate container along with trash and recycling	49.50%	50
The Village should not be involved in this matter	9.90%	10
Other (please specify)	11.88%	12
Total Respondents: 101		

## Village of Cross Plains Sustainability Survey

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Village should set up compost stations	4/22/2020 5:11 PM
2	It wouldnt be a bad idea to sell compost bins at a reduced cost. More people become more involved in composting left over foods. Changing our way of life takes time.	4/22/2020 5:08 PM
3	Advertise or create village compost.	4/22/2020 4:57 PM
4	consider fines for contaminators	4/22/2020 4:50 PM
5	consider fines for non compliance	4/22/2020 4:43 PM
6	Is there more to be done to reduce on-food waste- plastics/proper - recycling more efficiently?	4/22/2020 4:35 PM
7	Increase size of leaf/garden brush dump location - tough to use	4/22/2020 4:30 PM
8	seems to only work for large producers rest.	4/22/2020 4:25 PM
9	Find uses / sell compost so that storage costs are low	3/25/2020 6:50 AM
10	Have compost drop off site if it can't be picked up.	3/21/2020 6:58 PM
11	The Village should take efforts only if there are current expenses that could be reduced by the efforts.	3/17/2020 7:26 PM
12	I think in addition to this we could also have a much broader recycling program to allow for paper milk cartons, etc. to be accepted. Are there any battery or light bulb recycling bins in the village? Or have a recycling center where certain items can be brought in, even if 1 day a month or something.	3/16/2020 1:55 PM

## Q8 How old are you?

Answered: 103 Skipped: 1



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
18-25	4.85%	5
26-35	12.62%	13
36-45	27.18%	28
46-55	16.50%	17
56-65	14.56%	15
66 or older	22.33%	23
Prefer not to answer	1.94%	2
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>103</b>

**Q9 What other things should Cross Plains, as a municipality, do to reduce the impact on the environment?**

Answered: 51 Skipped: 53

## Village of Cross Plains Sustainability Survey

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	educate and promote political/associations that use scientific data to understand and correct the effects of climate change	4/22/2020 5:24 PM
2	Pick up leaves	4/22/2020 5:21 PM
3	Village should purchase a piece of equipment to suck up leaves out of the roads/curbs.	4/22/2020 5:19 PM
4	promote the community garden and add a compost station there	4/22/2020 5:14 PM
5	Bus system to/from Middleton/Madison	4/22/2020 5:13 PM
6	make sure our recyclables are going and how they are being recycled.	4/22/2020 5:11 PM
7	Education to climate change to get our minds working, is the path to get this job done. People need a reason to change their habits. The library is a good start for educational classes.	4/22/2020 5:08 PM
8	Push/Make HWY 14 ,4 lanes	4/22/2020 5:01 PM
9	I suggest an audit of public works. Are we spending wisely? Why do we have material to old pots parking lot. Then we have again. It does not make our village a clean place to live?	4/22/2020 4:55 PM
10	Try to educate residents about fertilizers and keep storm drains clean - good luck with this!	4/22/2020 4:52 PM
11	Ban home outdoor lighting that shines on larger areas. LIGHT POLLUTION. 2. turn off or reduce street light. 3 Change some rates for water	4/22/2020 4:50 PM
12	Ban outdoor lighting that shines on neighbor house and property (light pollution) and applies to street lights also. Reduce street lighting for village - SAvE \$. Charge all users same rates for water sewer because why should those who use more pay less per gallon?	4/22/2020 4:43 PM
13	SO glad our village is considering all of these options to improve our negative impact on the environment	4/22/2020 4:35 PM
14	Landscape and prairie restoration in public properties.	4/22/2020 4:31 PM
15	clean/sweep gutters more often.	4/22/2020 4:30 PM
16	Educate as to why the environment is important or at least how it impacts our lives.	4/22/2020 4:25 PM
17	Back to question #1 and Yard waste in the street....the police go up and down every street in town daily, maybe they could politely stop and remind the offending homeowner to sweep up the grass/leaves etc. because it all ends up in the storm sewer if they don't.	4/22/2020 4:17 PM
18	Reduction of storm water flooding road repairs	4/22/2020 4:13 PM
19	The Village needs to stop wasting money on studies and programs that have little to no benefit to the tax payers	4/22/2020 4:05 PM
20	Reduce light pollution	3/30/2020 1:48 PM
21	Reduce the number of street lights in residential areas.	3/26/2020 11:41 AM
22	Reinstate the Water Quality Corridor	3/25/2020 6:50 AM
23	Allow ATVs to use the streets. They get much better mileage then most cars and trucks. Efficient and also weigh much less so less wear and tear of the roads. There also are a new breed of electric ATVs and UTVs coming. Why don't we get ahead of something once.....	3/24/2020 12:32 PM
24	Do not allow ATVs on village streets!	3/24/2020 11:10 AM
25	Encourage farmers not to spread manure during flood watches.	3/21/2020 6:58 PM
26	Enforce standards and create larger fines for those that break them -- especially for building / housing projects (those using the dumpsters for that seem to ignore all the rules about recycling).	3/20/2020 7:49 PM
27	The Village should take efforts only if there are current expenses that could be reduced by the efforts.	3/17/2020 7:26 PM
28	As stated above, I think the recycling program needs to be expanded. The village is so small I don't mind dropping things off, although curbside pickup is probably easier. I think in general if	3/16/2020 1:55 PM

## Village of Cross Plains Sustainability Survey

the Village can do the research/bring courses in to town, etc. it will increase sustainability.  
Thank you.

29	See above re advocacy of nuclear power	3/15/2020 8:52 PM
30	Have action plans / committee similar to Middleton to manage / mitigate flooding issues likely in the future to reduce or stop residential, business, and municipal (road) damage that happend in '18. Plan for the 1,000 year flood like it will happen next year.	3/15/2020 2:28 PM
31	You know how folks love a good pancake breakfast! Let's put on an annual pancake breakfast where our community can learn about sustainable practices. Some booth ideas may include hydroponic gardening, composting and recycling tutorials using items (plates, food, utensils, etc.) from the pancake breakfast, rainwater collection systems... The possibilities are exciting and absolutely current with today's ideals. Thank you for taking the time to set up this survey! I love knowing that my community is taking an active interest in these matters!	3/10/2020 10:22 AM
32	Convert all street lamps to most energy efficient options. Turn off street lamps except along hwy 14 and Cty P after 10:00. Plant trees in the park along the creek and do not put up any permanent or semi-permanent structures, shelters, pavillions in that area Increase the green space in the village Create a village garden area for village residents	3/10/2020 9:21 AM
33	Have you looked at specific companies that offer services, such as renewable energy, to see if you would be able to get a discount for village residents? In the past I worked for an organization that had a relationship with a solar company and one of the benefits of employment was a discount on solar panel installation. This could be a huge perk for village residents -- and a new customer base for companies too.	3/10/2020 9:19 AM
34	1. require new developments to offset water runoff from imperious surfaces. 2. consider larger scale water retention or flood barriers 3. offer rebates for solar installations on private homes 4. subsidize an electric car charging station as a bridge to encourage electric cars from Madison to travel west to recreational destinations 5. provide citizens with average water/electric usage metrics so they can compare their private usage with others	3/9/2020 9:26 PM
35	1) set a goal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions 2) support community solar 3) Transition to all electric vehicles for Village operations 4) continue, and expand efforts on edible landscaping	3/9/2020 3:17 PM
36	No building of homes on the top of hills. It will cost the village more than they will reap.	3/9/2020 1:04 PM
37	Be the change you want to see in others. Be a role model.	3/4/2020 6:33 PM
38	Help homeowners with realistic payback calculations. This is a technical matter which costs money for professional services. If the village helped on this matter, the homeowners will be more engaging.	3/4/2020 9:33 AM
39	No ATVs	3/3/2020 9:19 PM
40	Not allow ATVs/UTVs on our roads. Improve the infrastructure for walking and bicycling as a means of local transportation. Enforce speed limits to make those taking alternative methods of transport feel safer.	3/3/2020 2:22 PM
41	Maintain more bike paths and side walks to reduce in town trips	3/3/2020 1:19 PM
42	Education, awareness and the promotion and support for rain gardens in the community and in the schools	3/2/2020 10:07 PM
43	Reduce number of new housing developments.	3/2/2020 7:37 PM
44	Support pubic transportation extension from Madison to the village and beyond. Install electric car changing stations	3/2/2020 6:35 PM
45	At what point do we stop adding hundreds of new subdivisions take over wild and farm land? Do we have to continually build out all the available space in single family \$350-\$450,000 homes?	3/2/2020 3:04 PM
46	Offer reduced price trees to be planted by Cross Plains on the property owners lawn if they promise to water it for the first two years. (Duluth, MN has done something similar)	3/2/2020 1:11 PM
47	Native plants. Less impervious surfaces.	3/2/2020 12:47 PM
48	?	3/2/2020 12:12 PM

## Village of Cross Plains Sustainability Survey

49	Take advantage of the several grants available for these issues.	2/26/2020 4:10 PM
50	Create a Department of Sustainability that has teeth to implement plans.	2/26/2020 8:58 AM
51	New buildings and subdivisions need to have sufficient retention ponds to prevent runoff and flooding. The village should not use chemical pesticides anywhere and should provide information to homeowners to curb usage. Could the rooves of PI and the schools be leased for solar panel installations?	2/19/2020 9:12 PM