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## Summary of a Sustainable La Crosse

### March 2007:

- The La Crosse City Council endorses *The Natural Step* through a resolution, making La Crosse Wisconsin's 10<sup>th</sup> "Eco-Municipality"

### April 2007:

- Mary Rehwald, a *TNS* leader from the Chequamegon Bay area, speaks at Viterbo University
- *Country Home Magazine* ranks the City of La Crosse as the "4<sup>th</sup> Best Small Green City in the United States," as well as the "13<sup>th</sup> Greenest City in America"
- The City/County has an informational booth at the Earth Day Fair in Cameron Park

### June 2007:

- The La Crosse County Board endorses *The Natural Step* through a resolution and becomes an Eco-County. A Working Group of City/County staff begins meeting to collaborate on sustainability initiatives
- The first round of *TNS* Study Circles begins

### August 2007:

- The City & County Joint Oversight Committee on Sustainability first convenes to begin work on a Strategic Plan for Sustainability
- Hood Park's playground is constructed with recycled and eco-friendly materials from BigToys
- Sustainability e-newsletters begin being sent out weekly with varying topics (and continue to the present)

### September 2007:

- The Study Circle graduates celebrate with a local foods dinner at Hackberry's
- A UW-L student Study Circle begins

### October 2007:

- Fred Schnook, former Mayor of eco-municipality Ashland, speaks at the UW-L Cleary Center
- The second round of *TNS* Study Circles begins



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### **November 2007:**

- Organizational meetings begin for the community-based arm of *TNS*

### **December 2007:**

- The Staff Working Group announces four major initiatives:
  - Expansion of bio-fuel use
  - Development of environmentally preferred purchasing policy
  - Promotion of LEED standards for City/County projects
  - Facility information sharing, energy audits, conservation, and rebates

### **January 2008:**

- Viterbo University hosts a *Focus the Nation* event to raise awareness of global warming and sustainability issues

### **February 2008:**

- The Coulee Progressives hold an event at the Concordia Ballroom, and the City and County showcase an informational booth about local sustainability efforts
- *TNS* is presented to the Jaycees by County staff
- A League of Women Voters Study Circle begins

### **March 2008:**

- The County Board hosts Lisa MacKinnon for a presentation on sustainability and *The Natural Step*. Ms MacKinnon is co-founder and coordinator of the North American Eco-Municipality Network and has spoken throughout the United States and Europe

### **April 2008:**

- UW-L hosts many Earth Week events
- The City/County has an informational booth at the Earth Day Fair
- UW-L and the City of La Crosse host speakers Terry Gips and Dave Wanberg, experts on *TNS* and sustainable communities
- The County Collaboration Conference focuses on Energy Conservation, and welcomes lead speaker Terry Gips to speak on the topic
- The City of La Crosse is named the "2<sup>nd</sup> Best Small Green City in the United States," as well as the "12<sup>th</sup> Best Place to Live in America" by *Country Home Magazine*
- Two City Council members, two City employees, and one County employee attended the Eco-Municipalities gathering with speaker Karl Henrik-Robert in Madison



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**May 2008:**

- City Brewery and UW-Extension sells discarded barrels for reuse as rain barrels
- *TNS* is presented to the Towns Association by County staff
- *TNS* and City/County sustainability efforts are presented to West Salem High School students by City staff
- The 5<sup>th</sup> round of Study Circles begins

**June 2008:**

- The Joint Oversight Committee on Sustainability votes to bring Terry Gips and Dave Wanberg to La Crosse to conduct City/County workshops on *TNS* in July and August
- The City Council passes a Small Wind Systems ordinance, as well as a resolution endorsing the Governor's mission to generate 25% of Wisconsin's electricity and transportation fuels from renewable sources by 2025

**July 2008:**

- A construction contract awarded this month allows The City of La Crosse to begin construction of the new Transit Center. The Transit Center will have 82 housing units, commercial space, and hopefully a green roof
- Construction of a playground at Crowley Park could yield the most sustainable playground in the state. Bid specs required the following: ISO 9001:2000, ISO1400:2000 standards and IPEMA certification, along with copies of Landscape Structures' environmental policies for evaluation. The park will also feature a rain garden
- The County introduces a Sustainable Purchasing Policy to the Joint Oversight Committee for approval, and will present it to the County Board for adoption in August
- The City introduces a Bio-diesel Purchasing Recommendation to the Joint Oversight Committee on Sustainability, recommending the usage of B2 or B5 bio-diesel in City buses and vehicles
- The City/County Sustainable La Crosse website will go live at the end of the month
- The Household Hazardous Waste Facility and the La Crosse County Solid Waste Department's program for collecting and disposing of unused medication wins the Lloyd D. Gladfelter Award



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**General 2006:**

- In 2006, Gathering Waters Conservancy named the City of La Crosse "Policy Maker of the Year" for the Bluffland Protection Program
- The City passes an ordinance allowing neighborhood electric vehicles on City streets
- The County Landfill begins collection of E-waste

**General 2007:**

- La Crosse is named "The Best Tasting Water in Wisconsin" in 2007
- The League of American Bicyclists names La Crosse a bronze level "bicycle friendly community"
- The Household Hazardous Materials Facility begins collecting pharmaceuticals, and allowing the public to drop off items
- The Household Hazardous Waste Facility and the La Crosse County Solid Waste Department's program for collecting and disposing of unused medication receives the 2007 Innovation Award from the North American Hazardous Materials Management Association
- The City begins a Boulevard Restoration Program to replace paved surfaces with trees and other plants

**Continuous:**

- The Bluffland Protection Program, shared by the City of La Crosse and the Mississippi Valley Conservancy, has protected 1,877 acres of important lands
- The City of La Crosse has received the Arbor Day Foundation's "Tree City USA" award 18 years in a row
- The City of La Crosse also hosts an annual River Clean-up
- The City Buying Group purchases some eco-friendly products, and will purchase more if and when the products are price and performance comparable
- The County Landfill began tire recycling in 1988
- The County Landfill began a recycling hotline in 1991
- The County Landfill began shingle recycling in 1999
- The County began the Household Hazardous Materials Facility and collection in 2003, along with the Reuse Room