

## Monthly Sustainable Marshfield Article.

Recent Sustainable Marshfield Committee meetings have had citizen visitors asking what is the purpose and history of our committee. Sustainability is defined as the capacity to equitably meet the human needs of the present without compromising future generations to meet their needs. Survival depends on preserving our ecosystem and natural resources. The demand for the services of the earth such as fresh air, clean water, adequate food, fossil sources of fuel are being stressed faster than can be replenished. This is the basis for eco communities.

The committee's background started in June, 2006 when a task force was formed to explore the concept of eco-municipalities. City officials, department managers, businesses representatives and concerned citizens participated in an involved process of researching the different aspects of sustainability and learned from other eco communities. Each City department provided an inventory of what was already being done and forecasted ideas of implementing sustainability into their practices. A resolution to become an eco-municipality was passed unanimously by the city Council in February of 2007.

The resolution is based on the objectives of the Natural Step which include: 1. Reduce dependence on fossil fuel and extracted metals and minerals. 2. Reduce dependence on chemicals and substance that can accumulate in Nature. 3. Reduce our dependence on activities that harm life-sustaining ecosystems. 4. Meet the hierarchy of present and future human needs fairly and efficiently.

Examples of SMC involvement include implementing energy audits results into energy savings, currently we are promoting incentives for solar energy to citizens and businesses, phosphorus free and integrated pest management ordinances, bike and pedestrian promotion, members partner with the Community Garden. The Green Living and Energy Fair will be held again March 23, 2013 to bring together the community in learning more about sustainability.

As citizens we can all make a difference by conserving water and energy, reduce consumption of plastics and harmful chemicals, garden, compost and mulch, buy local and eat in season, live healthier by biking/walking. Even small changes that waste less, pollute less will better provide for the future and help us all live sustainably.

"The Mission of the Sustainable Marshfield Committee is to provide guidance to the City Council in meeting the principles of sustainability in decision making, planning, policy making and municipal practices. The Sustainable Marshfield Committee promotes a community that respects natural resources, human health & development, equity, environmental protection & economic security now and for future generations."

Respectfully submitted by Sue Meyer