



# What does sustainability mean to you?

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## Overview

Throughout our public engagement for the city's first sustainability plan, we invited residents to define what sustainability meant to them.

We posed the question at events, stakeholder conversations, quick responses at our pop-up engagement booth, and within the survey.

We found the responses so rich, creative, thoughtful and detailed that we chose to include them in full here, as a complementary document to the final engagement report.

The responses are sorted in two categories: Those we collected during conversations and events, and those shared in the public survey.

**Pages 2-5: Conversations**

**Pages 6-24: Survey**

In the conversations and events, the responses were recorded by notetakers. In the survey, the responses reflect the participants' original language. In both cases they are only edited lightly for clarity and understanding.

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# Responses - conversations

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- Define sustainability as People - profit - planet
- Define sustainability as human systems, human values within the natural environment
- We use the UN Sustainable Development Goals
- Sustainability is what's worth preserving or maintaining
- WSU's definition of sustainability is Social: We must all share the planet that we live on and take care of the other inhabitants of this world. Economic: We must live within our means rather than placing the burden onto others. Environmental: We must care for the world around us.
- Go to the UN definition - don't want the planet to be in worse shape than when we left it - that's how to start a conversation with students
- A great definition is meeting the needs without compromising future generations' own needs - opens the conversation to push people to move and jump beyond that - we need to sustain and continue ourselves, but also want to have more hope and aspiration
- Not just prevent damage but keep more from occurring
- Sustainability is focused in different ways on different campuses. Ours (Nathan) is very operational focused. Less academic and student life.
- Strategy and planning on the operations side. Where does WSU need to be in 10-15 years in terms of infrastructure, operations, facilities, and the educational side.
- We want to be resilient and equitable and have no barriers to participation, be safe and secure and healthy, universal needs and wants to focus on, rather than politics
- To the SWCD, sustainability is really concrete - controlling erosion, water quality, nutrient management, various different aspects of farming - work a lot with the county on stormwater plan reviews, wetland issues
- Education is about finding a way to make sustainability meaningful to each person. People understand it intellectually but it doesn't affect them, so they don't care. You've got to make it mean something to them. Find a way to get them engaged. Because they want to. Finding that niche for each individual.
- Sustainability is part of the market practices, and a mission of the market is to promote sustainable agricultural practices so we're good stewards of the land, have the land for a long time and take care of it
- Sustainability from a food perspective - more on the sustainable side as far as food consumption goes - sustainable practices, even with livestock
- The Co-op defines sustainability as a triple bottom line - People - Profit - Planet. the planet that we're concerned with, always at the forefront. Also the people - making sure we're taking good care of people. Paying good wage. Sustainable, living wage. If we're running a bad business, that's not going to help any of us work toward sustainability for the planet or for people.

- Sustainability is about building science and energy use and water use. Behaviors and practices at the residential and business level.
- To me sustainability means lessening our impact on climate change, reducing our emissions, making the city more friendly to greener practices - riding bike, recycling, composting - everything we can do
- Sustainability - existing on the earth in the most harmonious way as we can.
- Sustainability means we're really looking to build resilience in our systems of people, plants, animals, so we are not anxious about everything.
- Lately I've been thinking about sustainability as a circular economy. Where there's virtually no waste. And you're creating local jobs, using less energy to create what you need.
- We want people to enjoy the environment - not just complain.
- For quite a few years in the circles I've run in, sustainability is a buzzword that people embrace but don't think about what it is.
- Sustainability on the surface and at its root is: sustain what you have. But I don't think any of us want to do that.
- We didn't use the word sustainability with Izaak Walton because we thought it imparted the wrong message. We don't want to sustain unsustainability. Degrading our water, our land, our air, CO2 in the atmosphere.
- We backed away from the term sustainability. It's a word that elicits a gut reaction in public and government arenas that implies some kind of environmental protection and policy.
- Sustainability definition evolved - sustaining a future condition where that future condition is in balance ecologically and environmentally.
- What do future conditions in balance look like? We have water quality that meets minimum fishable and drinkable standards. Co2 emissions at a level where they're not contributing to climate change. Where we have implemented measures to sequester carbon. All climate change dialogue seems to wrap around the topic of emission control.
- There's no such thing as sustainability. Perhaps improving. Things change over time, naturally or unnaturally. There are inevitable changes that take place. I like to try and minimize the bad ones.
- Things are in flux - we don't have to continue to keep things at current level - but we do need to define, what are we trying to measure and sustain? What's the goal and trajectory? What's the right amount of use in letting something sustain?
- Use is a big component - how are humans interacting with the natural environment, natural resources.
- I've always looked for a better word than sustainability and I've never found it. I teach a conservation class. It seems like students can get around this idea of sustainability - they're excited about the notion and are enthusiastic but it's hard to know what they're excited about.

- Doing this work since the 1970s. I long ago tried to use the word sustainability. People didn't connect to it very well. Didn't seem to be a need for it in '70s and '80s. It was, "use it as you need to and use it up."
- Sustainability needs to be framed around a quality of life issue.
- Definition of sustainability - my brain jumps to water quality and environmental quality. But that's just long term. Be sustainable. That means without degrading the environment long-term. Think about it in the environmental aspect.
- Weren't even sure if we used the word sustainability or not (Sustainable Ag program at Southeast), and if we were going to exclude people by using it. Maybe we have.
- How can we reclaim the word? Everyone has definitions. The ag community, it makes people think hobby farmer, they don't know the reality. Or the city people who argue against it.
- Sustainability - the whole term comes in after years and years talking about environmentalism, going green - the things we've been doing for 30 years.
- The issue is not preserving nature or protecting wilderness, but realizing we're facing an existential threat because our civilization can't keep doing what it's doing if we want to sustain our future for our children and our children's children.
- Come from a global background - I think about sustainability as a way to leave things better than you found them if at all possible. To empower other people to do the same. A lot of educating ourselves and others about improving lifestyles.
- Defining sustainability- I always gravitate toward healthy ecology as a fundamental component. Also think about having a really connected and resilient community. That sense of connection and relationship among people. And having economic opportunity. Especially in small towns, rural communities making sure part of our health ecology is generating economic opportunity for folks.
- I was a young engineer when the first Earth Day came out. First generation of environmentally concerned engineers. Think globally, act locally. I don't think that's changed. Sustainability is - our society has needs. No matter how you look at it, we've got figure out how to satisfy those needs without compromising future generations' ability to satisfy their needs.
- Before Earth Day, before EPA, the industrial revolution looked at rivers and airs and oceans - every place being somewhere to dump stuff. The consequences were never taken into account. Sustainability - think in terms of profits, activities, society, and environment - have to balance those things.
- How do you define sustainability: On a global and local scale where processes and or actions that can satisfy current needs without compromising the ability of future generations to do the same.
- Sustainability is resource use without loss or degradation
- Sustainability - meeting our current needs without using too much therefore taking away from what is needed for the future.
- Sustainability means meeting the needs of the community, which includes animals and plants, while also planning a healthy future for the generations to come.
- Sustainability is the ability to coexist on the planet with minimal resource extraction

- Sustainability is meeting our own needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.
- Sustainability is consumption of natural resources at a level that ensures that generations to follow have access to the same level of natural resources
- Sustainability is - the textbook definition. The ability to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.
- I see sustainability as just and responsible practices that meet the community and environment's needs in the present without compromising the needs and abilities of future generations. It requires both systems thinking and ecological thinking that triangulate ecological value, economic value, and socially just practice. Our economic practices all too often undermine the mental and physical well-being of our communities and our environments. We need to start embracing practices that acknowledge, respect, and uphold the complexity of our life-bearing systems. Finally, I'd say that sustainability is rooted in what Robin Wall Kimmerer calls reciprocity, "All flourishing is mutual." We must establish better give and take with human and non-human others: take only what is given, use it well, be grateful for the gift, reciprocate the gift.
- Sustainability is resource use without loss or degradation
- Sustainability is a term approached from lots of angles. Economic sustainability. Environmental sustainability
- Sustainability is a way to keep on moving forward without taking, taking, taking - conserve what we have without wasting too much. Minimize waste of energy and materials.
- Sustainability is low-impact. Trying to live the lowest impact on the world around you and using the least amount. Conservation.
- Like to think about it as a circle. Lots of. Bring something to the world, how can we complete it in a circular format.
- At Riverway we teach about sustainability, climate change, engaging students in nature and activities ... We sustain more than our environment. We sustain the mind, body and spirit of children. Looking at them as a whole person. We're sustaining the next generation to have healthy habits and be able to deal with their emotions in productive ways. It's all tied together.
- A sustainable community where everyone is welcome and we assume the best of people until they prove us wrong.
- A place where we focus on low-impact outdoor experiences
- Resource use without loss or degradation
- Sustainability means meeting the needs of the community, which includes animals and plants, while also planning a healthy future for the generations to come.
- The ability to coexist on the planet with minimal resource extraction
- Meeting our own needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

- Consumption of natural resources at a level that ensures that generations to follow have access to the same level of natural resources
- Textbook definition. The ability to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.
- We define sustainability as meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.
- Triple Bottom Line - People - Planet - Profits
- We use the UN Sustainable Development goals
- What's worth preserving or maintaining
- Controlling everything we're able to control - erosion, water quality, nutrient management, various different aspects of farming. Really it's about maintaining the land for future generations.
- Existing on the earth in the most harmonious way as we can.
- Build resilience in our systems of people, plants, and animals, so we are not anxious about everything.
- A circular economy. Where there's virtually no waste.
- On the surface and at its root is sustain what you have. But I don't think any of us want to do that. So I stopped using the word. Maybe it's trying to create a future condition where the future condition is in balance ecologically and environmentally.
- There's no such thing as sustainability. We just can't do it. There are inevitable changes that take place. I like to try and minimize the bad ones.
- Just long-term. Don't degrade the environment long-term.
- Sustainability is something we have now that you want your kids and grandkids to enjoy. Like nobody swimming at Lake Winona.
- The topics, and sustainability in general, trend towards the aesthetic or quality of life solutions rather than lasting, long-term, broad solutions. Renewable energy was discussed but are there other incentives, methods, or regulations that can encourage conservation, reduced energy or waste production.
- Sustainability means having renewable resources. It means trying to use the least amount of waste as possible.
- Sustainability also means having enough food for people to buy or have; the City of Winona should help ensure this.
- Sustainability means having a business or farm that is self-sustaining. This means working with the land instead of against it.
- Sustainability also means having enough food, money, and healthcare to keep a community going while not having to rely on outside sources.
- One important aspect of sustainability is long-term thinking.
- Sustainability should be mutually beneficial for humans and the planet.
- Sustainability means thinking efficiently and green innovation.
- Students learn about sustainability in high school.
- Sustainability is making sure the resources we have today last for future generations. Doing your part for the planet and future. Living responsibly – education, smart use of resources.

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# Responses - survey

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- Creating systems that do little to no harm to the environment while still being affordable and accessible to all.
- To live in a way that is maintainable, and for now and the future.
- Living consciously in your environment
- I like to think of generations beyond me as deserving a good life, just like I have. Sustainability means that we sacrifice what we need to now, to be sure the kids that aren't even born yet have a chance at breathing clean air, not facing huge water bills, and able to enjoy the trails and wildlife just as I get to.
- Doing things to preserve resources for future generations.
- Having enough resources for you and your family
- systems that can continue long term without destroying the environment for future generations
- It means walking and biking as much as possible. It means recycling and composting.
- Not living in Pittsburgh, where the river smells like gasoline
- Able to live here in 50 yrs
- It means being able to see my little sister and baby brother grow up into a clean and functional society
- Being self-sufficient and sharing abundance.
- Being good stewards of the resources given to us, assuring those resources are just as available and accessible for future generations, or even more available and accessible!
- Growing our own food, conserving energy, recycling, driving less, consuming less.
- Choosing things throughout daily life that are responsible for this generation and the generations to come.
- Clean and healthy natural resources.
- Can be used over long period of time, without negative impact
- Being good caretakers of our environment
- Maintaining/improving our community for future generations to enjoy.
- Air quality - assume it is a part of "natural" resources. Air, water, clean land - create our habitat. We must keep our "earth nest" habitable.
- being stable to maintain everyday life
- Only using resources we can replace. Reducing our carbon footprint
- We have been so lax and ignoring the problems for way too long. We need to, not just try to fix, but educate and get everyone on board thinking about this.
- Living within our means.
- Reducing the use of terminal resources
- Living with the natural environment without doing harm.
- Maintaining natural beauty and accessibility!

- wildlife conservation, composting (!!!), land stewardship, energy efficiency
- Being able to live comfortably in a safe environment.
- Taking the steps to ensure that the planet we live on is a safe, healthy, and clean place for all to live, not just us in our small community while we're on earth.
- Practices that preserve resources for use by the many for generations to come. It's the opposite of a few wealthy individuals/businesses making short-term gains at the cost of the larger local community.
- To live in tune with the earth's resources to maintain a relationship of equality for future generations
- To me, sustainability means the use of our limited resources in a way that will ensure generations to come will also be able to utilize and appreciate them.
- Providing a clean environment for my family to grow and flourish with others.
- Achieving balance in all aspects - environmental protection/ecological integrity, economic viability, social equality - in managing our natural resources and our social-economic well-being.
- Living in a way that ensures a future for everyone.
- maintaining a high quality life for the next generation.
- Ensuring we preserve the environment and natural resources at a level equal to or above current levels for future generations.
- preserving what we have and sustaining it for future generations
- Sustainability means making changes now so that what we love is there in the future.
- I have been concerned and supportive of any efforts to preserve our environment and quality of lives. Focusing on single use bags and recycling has been key. Wastefulness must be drastically reduced....food, water, energy, and the like. Try to use natural remedies before chemicals to control weeds, or eradicate pests.
- Preparing for the future
- Being able to survive with what we have.
- Have important conversations to ensure thoughtful planning is being done to keep the community of Winona the healthiest possible in all core areas.
- Sustainability is a key aspect to quality of life in Winona
- No shortages
- Care and respect for all people
- Be available and healthy for generations.
- Maintaining vital resources and using them safely while being able to replenish wisely.
- Being able to maintain without going without.
- Sustainability means to leave the world better off for those who come after.
- compassionate and mindful relationship to resources and community, balancing the in and out flow and investing in the future of our planet
- Stability
- Making a small ecological footprint while educating Winonans about the issues and how it's in their interest to be involved



- Growing food
- Preserving resources, both locally and worldwide
- A safe and renewable future
- Being able to live a safe and secure life for me and for future generations yet to come
- Using all materials available around you to thrive
- Ability to have a community & lifestyle that is balanced and healthy to provide jobs, enjoy outdoors, make improvements and not destroy nature
- To live here in a beautiful and affordable town and keep it going for our future generations to enjoy and want to stay & raise their families in. To maintain its beauty & create and preserve jobs here that will make us and our children want to stay here and raise their families.
- Resources that can be maintained at their current level without depletion for future generations.
- Live simply so that others may simply live
- Being able to maintain a support a community without destroying the environment or taxing the people into poverty.
- I feel it is the ability to provide things for present and other generations to come, at very little cost or harm to the environment, but to help the environment around us. We want to see our community grow in its beauty, not become a concrete jungle. We have a large demographic that doesn't take advantage, nor care much for the natural beauty of this area. They seek low income living and affordable/easily accessible things. Recreational activities are considered expensive hobbies (considered racist to some), and don't gear towards our low income communities. All inclusive doesn't mean that all are included. It means all those who can afford it are included.
- Solar or wind energy, recycling, local food growers, bicycle and walking paths, etc
- Reducing our use of one time materials, creating opportunities that do not deplete our resources
- Keeping water in our special area clean and cool. Also, why are frac mines outlawed but we are allowing a beautiful valley (County Road 17) be clear cut and completely destroyed for ANOTHER senior living facility?? So the city can annex it to raise the city's tax base, that's why. Let's protect what we have left of this beautiful area (Driftless) and stop letting the hypocrisy of political leaders go unchallenged. I wish more people knew what constant development, tilling, paving, converting was doing to our beautiful trout streams alone. Erosion and runoff are an actual threat to our region. But yeah, let's build bike lanes and wind turbines so we can feel good about ourselves.
- No wasteful spending of tax money
- That we leave a livable world to future generations
- A thoughtful, measured, informed method of understanding and acting on how one natural resource connects to all other natural resources, with consideration for the whole ecosystem (plants, animals, water, and air), not just human beings.
- Sustainability is leaving something as good, or better, than when you found it.

- For my children or other future generations to have a safe and healthy environment to enjoy, without sacrificing our current generation as well.
- What does it mean to the county? I'm not clear on that. To me it is having the available and viable 21st century businesses for a solid tax base to support increasing migration from cities, and sustain food, shelter, water, waste.
- Actions that are protecting the environment now, but also for future generations.
- Maintaining or improving what we have now to keep it around for future generations
- Making decisions that allow sustained life by not harming the environment and the resources necessary to support life
- Preserving and caring for our resources now, so that future generations will not have to struggle for basic needs.
- Winona is a safe place for all people, especially children.
- Our ability to live depends on our natural environment and if we destroy that we cannot live healthy lives.
- That we are good stewards of our environment, so that future generations thrive.
- Living in a way that leaves minimal impact on the earth and preserves the integrity of the earth for those that come after us.
- Recycling, buying only necessary food
- Developing energy, food, water, etc programs for the future
- A process that can be maintained indefinitely without failure or constant additional interventions
- Respecting the Earth to reduce the human impact on its glorious beauty
- The ability to use and reuse our resources-natural and otherwise
- Future better for granddaughters
- Sustainability means a lot to me. Protecting our Earth is something everyone should want to do. We need to work now so we/our children have better lives in the future. Protecting our natural resources should be our top priorities.
- That we have what we have now but try to improve and regain some of our losses
- The ability to provide essential needs with minimal reliance on others
- Happy
- Having a plan for the future and carrying it out.
- Good community focuses on improving infrastructure, protects natural resources for a healthy environment, proactive plans for economic growth that benefit residents, draws in good business and people. Good healthcare and education for all income levels.
- Keeping in mind the future impact of whatever you do today. Making sure what we have today can still be enjoyed by future generations.
- Leaving things the way that I found them or better. Not contributing to the climate disaster, global food insecurity, or poverty.
- Maintaining and growing our community in a way that is both economically and environmentally equitable and responsible
- A better future.

- Saving the planet.
- Not destroying what we have
- Earth's biosphere and humans to co-exist
- To be able to maintain into the future the choices I make in my lifestyle. This means financially as well as how it impacts the environment around me.
- That we leave our future generations a healthier, cleaner, safer environment
- Protecting resources and actively preparing for future generations.
- To maintain a high quality of life and maintain the lifestyle that i currently have
- Creating a community that can thrive indefinitely. Being able to change and adapt as the world changes around us. Ensuring that everyone is able to thrive and adapt to changes in the world around us.
- Stopping climate change. Reducing carbon footprints. Reducing waste going to the landfill. Recycling and reusing more.
- Being able to use and enjoy our resources in the community/environment while leaving as small of a footprint as possible.
- Everything my grandchildren need will be available to them
- Increased independence and preservation of our shared resources.
- Sustainable - being able to survive and thrive with little harm or detriment to the planet because of our survival actions.
- doing what you can to reduce your overall footprint
- Unto the seventh generation
- Living in a way that leaves as small of a footprint as possible.
- Growth without harm. Rethinking outdated ways of living.
- Trying to do the right thing
- Living WITH and PRESERVING the natural environment, not USING UP the natural environment. (Water, natural resources, habitat for bees/butterflies, waste management, etc.)
- Generations after me will have clean resources
- Taking individual and collective responsibility to care for our homes, our neighborhoods, city, and world in a way that is regenerative and equitable for all.
- Doing our part to preserve energy when possible, cleaning up our community, supporting initiatives for sustainability with our actions and financial resources.
- It is a sense of community in which everyone seeks to serve the other.
- Long-term planning that has ecological benefits, rather than development that generates short-term profits. Planning that prioritizes design, aesthetics, and long-term efficiency rather than hit and run development.
- Being conscious of our purchasing, use of energy, and overall carbon footprint.
- Making sure Winona is a place where our family can grow and be healthy.
- A better future for young families
- So we can all enjoy our beautiful city for many many more years
- Consuming resources in a responsible way.
- Comes with clean energy, little waste and lots of care
- Reducing waste while using products

- Sustainability is conscious actions to ensure that the resources that provide goods to you can also provide goods or at least neutral outcomes to the people in direct relation to the good.
- Sustainability means that we're self-sufficient and able to sustain our communities by focusing on reusing and recycling materials while utilizing natural resources in an environmentally positive way.
- Developing our economy in harmony with biological systems such that it (the economy) can provide opportunities for advancement for historically disenfranchised communities. At the same time, sustainability means providing opportunities for healthy economic activities and lifestyles for current and future generations of human, animal and native plant species in our community.
- 自然经济社会的统一发展，又不损害后代人的长远利益 *Rough translation: "The unified development of natural economy and society does not harm the long-term interests of future generations")*
- Sustainability means buying local or thrifting. We also have compost buckets, used to have chickens as pets (which was good for soil) and we go to a lot of garage sales/find things on the curb. Additionally, farmers markets.
- Being able to meet our needs and being able to maintain it for future generations.
- Sustainability to me means protecting my future children from the damaging poor decisions we are making today.
- Sustainability means being able to reuse or repurpose a product and/or use a product for an extended period of time in which the benefits outweigh the negative effects.
- Sustainability means being mindful about the energy I consume and waste I produce and trying to find alternatives to reduce the amount I have for both.
- Equitable distribution of resources to all
- The quality of life is getting better and better
- Making sure that earth is staying clean and beautiful to help us live a quality life.
- Finding healthy ways to help conserve our planet
- Making sure the community is doing its part to help protect and preserve the planet and its resources.
- Ability to serve the needs of the present while preserving enough resources for future generations
- Sustainability is being able to provide what resources are needed without compromising the future while always making strides to be more green supporting
- Not consuming resources faster than they can be renewed and not producing waste faster than it can be absorbed so that future generations can enjoy a clean and bountiful environment.
- To preserve resources and live with limiting the amount of waste you produce
- Utilizing our natural resources but do it so that there will be the same amount if not more resources for future generations to use
- It means a better future

- Sustainable development is of great significance to my family and future generations. Only a good environment can lead to a better life.
- Environment and water resources are indispensable to us. How significant is this? There is no way to graduate from, which is that there are too many benefits related to life and health
- It means a better future
- A better life
- Set an example for the next generation
- Protecting water sources and air quality is the responsibility of all mankind and future generations
- The basic definition of sustainability comes to mind, ensuring that our current use of resources and impact on the Earth does not compromise the needs of future generations. To me it means meeting our current needs while practicing greener options to ensure the quality of life for future generations is not compromised. It means reducing waste, repurposing and recycling.
- Meeting the needs of today without compromising our ability to meet the needs of tomorrow.
- Sustainability to me means being able to provide the current community their needs and wants whilst not jeopardizing the planet and its resources for our children.
- It means that using our current resources in such a way that those resources are able to last for many generations to come.
- It means living with the world around you in mind. Not abusing resources and appreciating what nature offers. Living sustainably means living a life that will leave the Earth in a condition suitable for my great grandchildren.
- Making choices that allow me to thrive in the present without jeopardizing things for the future generations
- Sustainability means being able to provide the same or even better environment for future generations
- Being able to have or do something over and over without the worry of future effects
- Being able to maintain
- To protect for future generations
- Fairness to future generations
- The practice of using natural resources in a way that doesn't compromise future generations use of them
- Providing for needs in a way that minimizes resources needed and protects the environment for the future
- Using resources wisely, while both re-purposing and increasing our resources via non-harmful ways.
- Making choices (food, travel, product usage, waste, etc) that are efficient and have low impact and/or multiple use
- Reuse and reduce waste! Teaching my kids about the importance of recycling!
- Living in a way that gives back to others and the land more than you take.
- Consumption does not result in eliminated or polluted resources

- Behaving in a way which considers the generations who will follow.
- adaptability to change, resiliency, gentleness to the earth and its other inhabitants, long-range thinking valued over short-term profit
- Only using what you need without making an impact.
- Replacing what we use and to ensure the supply of what we are using is available in the future.
- Preserving the world for future generations
- Having a community that provides a clean, healthy and fun environment for everyone!
- In my mind, we have a moral obligation to act in a way that is beneficial to the planet, us (present and future), and other species. Sustainability is what will allow us to continue on -- it is necessary. It means everything.
- I can maintain what I have without needing more.
- Making things that last. Not going for the cheaper quick fix option.
- Reducing our carbon footprint to preserve for our children and our children's children
- Means being able to provide the next generation with sustainability already in place. For that generation to live comfortably
- I was a sustainability minor in college, so the topic has always been important to me. I think it's important for the community to become more sustainable.
- Taking action to keep our earth full of nature and functioning at a rate that it will not be over exploited in the future.
- Not being wasteful. Living green and conscientiously. Being respectful to our resources and living in a way that future generations will not be negatively impacted
- utilizing the resources we have
- To me sustainability means living a lifestyle that encourages caring for the earth so that future generations can experience the same joys of nature as we can right now
- A brighter, more equal future!
- things that aren't damaging the earth, no single use products.
- Helping the planet by not being wasteful
- Making changes in our society that are better for the planet!
- My family living in a safe place. And to have a city protect our business and personal property.
- Ensuring the health and growth of people and community.
- Thinking in the long term
- Preparing for the future to prevent climate change
- Minimize energy usage, minimize landfill content, recycle, volunteering for environmental improvement projects.
- Maintain a strong economy, true society and natural environment.
- Future state of a healthy and productive environment.
- Just another chance for more government control and bigger government, which we do not support.
- Lest waist, more efficient home, more independent energy sourcing.

- Everyone has equal access to their needs.
- Living within our means...both resources and dollars. We are a wasteful society and there is no need for that, we can simplify a little to make the future better for all.
- Reducing consumption and increasing natural resource conservation
- The ability to know that my family can grow. Opportunities are available to multiple generations and focus on more change and allowing for opportunities.
- To be able to sustain the longevity of the Winona community. Winona should be able to provide all the necessities, such as medical, jobs, shopping, youth programs and entertainment without having to leave the community to do so.
- Having a bright future in our community
- Meeting the needs of everyone now and in the future
- Reduce waste. Recycle all that we can. Compost food waste. Choose products that align with those values.
- Having resources and employment that will be around for generations. The purpose of government is to do the things that one individual or company cannot, that will have a net benefit for the population the government serves.
- Growth
- Sustainability is increasing the efficiency of expended resources. Nothing can be 100% efficient, but there are high-value opportunities and pain-points that can be solved to improve our efficiency.
- The capacity to sustain and improve the quality of life for all life forms in the areas of economy, health, and society. Harmony in living together.
- Wise use of all natural resources
- Our household sustainability goals are to reduce waste; produce and consume local food; and to repurpose materials when possible. We get our electricity from solar & wind. We are trying to minimize chemical use on our property and are striving to maintain more opportunities for pollinators.
- People, planet, profits. As a family, we focus on minimizing our environmental impact.
- Reusing and recycling as much as possible
- Making and improving changes now to have better future for our children.
- having resources to live
- Maintaining and growing opportunities and resources to enjoy life fully
- Sustainability means a reduction of non-compostable and non-recyclable waste.
- To me, I often start with how I do \*not\* define sustainability, which can sometimes be used to justify business as usual. Rather, sustainability means as much about immediate equity and standards of living as it does ensuring the persistence into the future. Current data on food access and hunger, for instance, is unsustainable, to me. In addition to reimagining and reworking our current systems to be more equitable and just, we need to ensure these reworkings can stand up against increasing impacts of climate change and tumultuous political changes of power.
- It means taking responsibility for the consequences that my lifestyle has. It means growing my own garden, buying from local, organic farmers, and preserving our

own fruits, veg, meat, dairy, and wine. It means striving for a simple life that follows the patterns of nature. It means preserving and restoring the biodiversity of the land. It means protecting the surface and groundwater from pollution like agricultural chemicals and mining. It means solar panels, electric cars, and more public transportation. It means encouraging the decentralization of electric grid infrastructure and incentivizing homes and businesses to produce their own energy needs. It means a more walk-able and bike-able city. It means the right to repair, and robust recycling and waste programs. It means an economy that values people and the land. It means strong zoning laws that prohibit urban sprawl into the bluffland. And last but not least, it means a connected and engaged community that comes together to face challenges.

- It means cleaner air, cleaner water, a better future!
- In this civic context, positioning the town to be able to respond to the next crisis--and the next after that, since there will certainly be more--by building a level of functionality that does not deplete our resources or make it impossible for our people to thrive.
- A system focused on local foods and economy, putting stewardship of the land and local families ahead of corporate interest and profit. A community that can withstand the tides of the world because it is self-sustaining.
- It involves producing a steady state economy (as opposed to a growth economy) locally, regionally, globally that doesn't use more resources/energy than the earth can replenish in a given period and waste that can be managed by "natural" processes. Our economic system (growth) is the root of our difficulty.
- Being "green"--taking better care of our environment
- Assuring the best possible environmental opportunities for equitable future for all
- Sustainability is creating a future for both humans and our home planet. Knowing that the planet will continue without humanity. Humbleness in our place here. Respecting the fact that humanity cannot exist without a viable earth. Being humble to the fact that life is far larger than humankind yet having a loving, optimism for humanity. Having enough love and knowledge to know that if humankind is bent on self-destruction that evolution and the universe is so much larger than we (some of us) can imagine beyond our own self-importance. Knowing that this is an urgent(!) need for those that value human life and we actually have the future in our hands. ... Ending the exploitation of others to maintain our current state of being. Understanding conservatism to mean doing more with less. Abolishing capitalism, really. (you hoped for honest, intelligent answers, right?) In the end, sustainability should not (and will not) be subjective (as in, what does it mean to me). It will be a matter of life or death for the future of humanity. So, so heartbroken, personally, that most people do not understand this human conundrum and continue living life as if it is a normal thing without real circumstances.
- Recycling, protecting our future world!
- Being able to use the materials we have and try to make our footprint as small as possible.



- Learning what the land around us has to offer us and how to take care of it; helping to maintain and improve ecological diversity; helping residents learn to appreciate the natural resources in our locality and creating a culture of careful living in the areas of food, water, transportation, etc. that were mentioned above.
- Sustainability means providing necessities of life for the human population with the least impact on the environment and our non-human neighbors.
- Preserve natural resources, clean water and air. Make alternative energy and transportation affordable for all. Don't punish the poor ( majority) for not being able to afford alternative energies etc.
- Crating reasons for people to stay and move here
- Making careful choices with purchases (less plastic, more economic vehicles, consuming less); trying to get electric from renewable resources, managing our land in collaboration with the DNR.
- Raising my own food
- Self reliance and a reward system for having met or moving towards acceptable goals.
- Keeping the environment and economy and opportunity equal and healthy for all.
- Being aware of what we use and its impact on the human race and the environment.
- Sustainability is one of the most important concepts and has been for a long time. Making a negative impact on the environment will only hurt the economic growth in the future and cause more problems for future generations. Every dollar we spend on sustainability will save future generations both money and time dealing with preventable problems.
- Thoughts and work on our future, develop a plan today to help protect and manage what we have today
- Healthy community in balance and intelligently assessing the changing environment and planning for the future.
- Sustainability means to find long term, equitable changes to our lifestyles that improve our environment
- Having future generations to live comfortably.
- Doing what is best for the earth and yourself, within your own means!
- Making the world better or at least not worse for future generations
- Keeping the planet healthy and preserving resources for future generations
- Using resources without heavily impacting the environment.
- Being able to keep items working and available
- Being environmentally friendly.
- Ensuring a quality of life for future generations on a healthy planet.
- Not being wasteful, recycling what you are able, use public transportation or bike/walk
- Reusing what we can and helping in any way we can to keep this earth a healthy place for our kids.
- Preparing for the present and future

- Being able to use options that will be able to be used for years to come without negative consequences. This goes from decreasing plastic usage as well as using alternatives to one time usage materials.
- Care of our ecosystem
- Living off the land. Keeping equilibrium with what the land provides us.
- Working to ensure that the generations to come can enjoy all that Winona offers
- Taking measures to minimize our use of natural resources for the betterment of the environment and our future.
- Living in a way that allows humans and the earth to live together in harmony.
- Ability to maintain natural areas and resources so that our future generations have the same, or better, access to them.
- It means doing our part no matter how small to improve the world around us, so future generations will be better off.
- Taking care of ourselves and for future generations
- Using only your fair share. Use resources responsibly; they are limited.
- I'm not sure how to answer. This seems to be a new buzz word for liberals and environmentalists
- Living in a way that does not utilize resources faster than the Earth can renew them, and giving up non-renewables.
- Having what I want, when I need it. However, I don't ask for much having grown up in Winona. Winona has always had so much to offer, naturally. I think Winona is above and beyond other communities in terms of access to the natural and "free" parts of the city and surrounding areas.
- Recycling, gardening, buying locally, reducing our family and communities carbon footprint. Preserving and protecting our natural resources and areas.
- Caring about our community's environment and making sustainable options more accessible.
- Keeping our town liveable
- Sustainability means living symbiotically with our natural world rather than fighting against what nature wants from us, and fostering stewardship in every aspect of our community.
- Being able to keep up the town for the future
- Being taken care of an safe in the environment we live in
- It is very difficult for our town to grow outward because of not enough room to expand. This was/is a beautiful old river town that is beginning to be all concrete. Water will be a prize commodity and must be protected at all costs. Big companies are buying up a lot of the water resources and it will become very expensive/difficult to get. Not in all my years would I have believed we would be buying water in this area. Progress is one thing but looking ahead at the future ramifications of decisions made now need to be considered more closely. Think we need more affordable housing/complexes for seniors and take a look at what some of the foreign countries are doing for their seniors. We should not have homeless people in our area or families going hungry. Let us take care of our own first!

- Teaching my kids to live a more cohesive life with the environment and community
- Making sure we're not creating a dumpster fire for future generations.
- To not consume in an unsustainable manner-from food to clothing to everything
- Sustainability to me means ensuring that you are doing more for the environment around us than the harm you are causing to it.
- Taking care of our community so that we can all enjoy its resources for decades and centuries to come.
- Thinking ahead for not your life - but for the generations to come
- Thinking critically about all the actions we take and how we will be able to continue those actions or how they impact our place.
- Sustainability is of value to me because it provides strong foundations for the future generations to come. As the life expectancy in the US continues to increase as well as the population, it is important to establish proper infrastructure that will sustain and protect our environment and meet essential human health needs.
- Reusing items and making choices to benefit the environment
- Equal supply and demand, not more of one or the other. Balancing give with the take.
- To be able to maintain a healthy environment
- Mindful of the future of our community
- To not use up resources that cannot be replaced
- Keep our planet safe for future generations. Teaching our community to use and reuse. Growing our own food, living organic. Eating less meat and more protein based foods grown from the earth. Respecting our God given earth.
- To always be there as you expect it.
- Doing our best to reduce our waste. Using materials that are not single use.
- No plastic, everything 100% compostable or recyclable, no fossil fuels
- Using resources wisely for future generations
- Being around & prosperous for years to come
- Having products easily accessible for everyone.
- Being mindful of ways to extend the lifespan of our resources for future generations to come.
- Keeping Winona going forward
- Careful use and conservation of resources to help them last forever.
- Want the best future for like children's children
- To keep healthy with little maintenance.
- Usually Reduce, Reuse, Recycle!
- Future insurance
- Avoiding waste creation where possible, recycling when possible, patronizing locally owned businesses
- Longevity and better future for our kids and grand kids
- Being cognizant of our environment, reducing waste and pollution, and caring for the needs of others
- A way of life that has the ability to continue to survive

- It means that my family can support itself through the local economy without damaging the support for future generations. This includes sustainable and diverse employment.
- Minimum human impact on our planet/atmosphere... maximum preservation of our natural spaces and resources.
- To me sustainability means to leave less of a footprint for future generations. To leave a healthier, environmentally friendly life
- Leaving things better than we found them.
- Being able to live in our town without worry about all the bad things out there
- Ensuring that Winona sets itself up for success now and in the future - continually adapting and introducing new ways to the city work for its residents with the future of the city in mind. Preserving the natural areas in and around Winona, creating opportunity and support for small businesses, and doing things to reduce our impact on the climate (more use of solar, I more bike paths, etc.) are some of the big things I'd really like to see.
- Living in such a way that future generations can thrive.
- Making sure we don't harm our natural resources and if harms have to happen we mitigate them.
- A system in which, at the very minimum, we can manage to live without further damaging the environment, our health, our resources, and other life forms. The higher we can raise the bar of sustainability, the better, of course.
- Proactively responding to the trends scientists are reporting so we mitigate and minimize our impact to the environment while providing essential needs to all community neighbors.
- Consistency of needed supplies
- Live today without endangering the future
- I want us to be able to sustain our food, water, and energy resources without damaging the climate any further. I also want to maintain the beauty and other resources of the area.
- Not using more resources than we need and contributing as much as we can
- Having all things available in our community
- Protecting that which is critical for our survival.
- Making changes for the future generations
- That our resources in our community will be able to last for generations. That we continue to make improvements to our infrastructure on a timely basis. Each generation needs to do what is needed to (at a minimum) to keep Winona a great place to live and work.
- Having longevity for today, tomorrow & the distant future.
- Sustainability is important but there needs to be balance between what is desired and what is feasible. We need to be mindful of not sacrificing the present for the future.
- The ability to maintain and grow a healthy and happy populace
- High quality future existence

- Clean environment for our future generations
- To live without negatively impacting the environment
- Making Winona a desirable place to live for all income levels and stages of life without environmental changes for the worse over time.
- Being mindful of the choices we make in our activities, purchases, home improvements.
- Ensuring conservation mindset, taking care of our home, using less energy, recycling, reduce carbon footprint
- Preserving what we have and adapting process and systems in order to ensure in the long-term that resources are viable for all.
- Planning for a clean future
- It's well past time that we start aggressively finding solutions.
- Using only what you need. Limiting how much you use resources.
- Living our lives now in a way that won't make our children's future more difficult
- Focusing on the present but providing future generations with a future on our earth
- Saving the planet
- Manageable access to the resource you need to survive and live comfortably
- Recycling
- Taking care not to overuse assets
- The idea that what I do will affect future generations, my behavior needs to be such that my children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren could also live in a healthy way.
- It means being proactive in reducing human impact on the natural world. It means making changes to how humans interact with nature.
- Living within our mean and not wasting things
- Ongoing change and intervention to how we live, in a way that fosters the opportunity for our children to live and thrive in adulthood. Rinse and repeat.
- Trying to minimize our footprint; recycling, growing some of our food, finding ways to reduce what we throw away
- Protections of what we "have"!
- Treating the earth with respect, wanting to do everything we can to ensure its future
- Working towards putting out less than taking in
- It means that a community will be able to support itself. Using local resources, having a healthy environment, and providing goods and services to people
- Future thinking, planning for healthful, equitable futures for generations to come.
- Being able to leave a smaller imprint on our environment and climate.
- Commitment to environmentally friendly and safe ways to live and be healthy while ensuring the longevity of our world and natural resources.
- Making sure the community thrives, doesn't stagnate, moves ahead (rather than going backward) in quality of life (whatever that realistically means!).
- A community that gets better over time, that leaves the next generation in a better environment than the one previous
- Buying only what we need, reusing things as much as possible, not wasting any resources