

VALUES, IDENTIFIED IN BAYFIELD'S 2001 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN:

Diversity, Equity, Identity, Stability, Opportunity, Community, Sustainability, History, Balance, Stewardship
Compassion, Personal Enrichment, Happiness, Safety

SUSTAINABILITY IN BAYFIELD, WISCONSIN

Local actions and alliances create global impact

The Cities of Ashland and Washburn, and the Town of Bayfield have acted to declare themselves “eco-municipalities.” Concerns for our economy, the environment and the well-being of our citizens have led Bayfield residents to join its neighbors and to produce its own resolution for sustainability.

At the grassroots, Bayfield is already demonstrating commitment to the principles in its resolution.

- Our new wastewater treatment facility is the cleanest plant on all of Lake Superior.
- Citizens active in a group called “Sustainable Bayfield” have, with the Chamber of Commerce, begun to “green” the annual Apple Festival and are working to develop a reuse/recycle location at the dump.
- Members of a sustainability Study Circle published an “Earth Care” booklet of practical tips to reduce damaging environmental impact.
- At this writing, 14 businesses have been certified by the State of Wisconsin’s “Travel Green” ecotourism certification. An additional 10-12 are anticipated to be certified in the next 6 months.
- The Apostle Islands National Lakeshore was declared *the nation’s most sustainable national park* by National Geographic Traveler Magazine.
- The Apostle Islands National Lakeshore has introduced the use of biodiesel fuel.

Supporting language from Bayfield’s 2001 Comprehensive Plan

Hundreds of hours went into creation of a Comprehensive Plan for Bayfield. It is important to refer to this document, as it represents a consensus of opinion. Here is some (not all) of the VISION and POLICY language in the Comprehensive Plan.

- An economically strong and well-integrated city, fostering local businesses and business initiatives, regional cooperation and clean industry
- A resilient, diverse, and self-sufficient local economy that meets the needs of residents and builds on the unique characteristics of the community
- A place with a widely-held ethic of stewardship that strongly *encourages individuals, institutions and corporations to take full responsibility for the economic, environmental and social consequences of their actions*, balancing private and individual rights with nature and the public good
- An environmentally-aware community with distinctive open spaces and natural features, protected habitats, parks and areas for outdoor recreation
- Well-known for its participatory approach to planning and community decision-making
- Expansion of choice and opportunity for all persons, recognizing a special responsibility for the needs of the disadvantaged and elderly

A Vision of Bayfield in the Year 2020

The 2020 VISION that Bayfield created in 2001 is now only thirteen years distant. Here is a partial glimpse of that vision.

...Bayfield did not want to create more jobs at the expense of its natural assets. It recognized that financial capital could not grow without strict respect for social and natural capital as well. Part of the solution was an effort to attract information, technology-based businesses by meeting their diverse needs, as well as creating a context for businesses to cooperate in an approach to essential services and resources, thereby providing relief from high property taxes....Value-added agricultural and forest products have emerged as a prominent part of the economy. Home-based businesses are encouraged...Bayfield has also become a center for ecotourism...

Another meaningful step

Adopting a sustainability resolution for Bayfield is a step that

- reinforces the vision in the Comprehensive Plan,
- links Bayfield to surrounding communities which strengthens the whole,
- supports existing grassroots activity,
- and seeks to foster everyday decisions which meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

Signing this resolution provides the City with an opportunity to join other communities on the Bay – who have already signed similar resolutions – to work together to create a regional eco-municipality.

If our goal is to create sustainable communities it must be done on a regional basis. Our tiny community will never be self-sufficient or sustainable on its own. Working together as a region with commitment to sustainable principles (derived from the Swedish *Natural Step*) will not only help us protect the Earth, but provides the conditions needed for a vibrant economy that meets the needs of our citizens *right here at home*.

– This letter and the following RESOLUTION have been crafted by *Sustainable Bayfield* following many discussions with Bayfield residents and referring to similar documents from Ashland, Washburn and the Town of Bayfield, as well as the Bayfield Comprehensive Plan.

A Resolution: A Commitment to Sustainability in the City of Bayfield

WHEREAS, The City of Bayfield acknowledges that the people of Bayfield, Wisconsin desire to create a stable, sustainable future and acknowledge that such a future is not certain.

We recognize that it will take the goodwill and determined work of individuals and communities around the world to achieve this goal. We wish be part of this international network and declare sustainability to be a goal of this City.

We wish to integrate our economy, environment, society and governance in ways that foster vibrant social and economic conditions, and a healthy ecosystem. To that end, we commit ourselves to creating the conditions necessary for a sustainable future. By seeking innovative and flexible solutions to the challenges that confront us, by sharing our knowledge, and by coordinating our actions, we strive to:

1. Reduce and eventually eliminate our contribution to the progressive buildup of materials (and their associated wastes) that are extracted from the Earth's crust.
2. Reduce and eventually eliminate our contribution to the progressive buildup of synthetic materials produced by human society.
3. Reduce and eventually eliminate our contribution to the ongoing physical degradation of the Earth.
4. Reduce and eventually eliminate our contribution to conditions that undermine people's ability to meet their basic needs.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Bayfield declares its commitment to sustainability as outlined above.

Adopted this 13th day of December in the year 2006 and signed.

Larry MacDonald, Mayor

Joe Lievois - Councilor from District 1

Tom McMullin - Councilor from District 2

Eric Fredenberg - Councilor from District 3

Mark Musolf - Councilor from District 4

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution duly and legally adopted by the CITY OF BAYFIELD at a regular meeting held on the 13th day of December in the year 2006.

Billie Hoopman, Clerk