



AGENDA

Environmental Management Commission

REGULAR MEETING
January 9, 2023
7:00 PM
Oakdale City Council Chambers

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. ROLL CALL

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. November 21, 2022

5. ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT COMMISSION REVIEW

a. OLD BUSINESS

- i. 2023 Adopt-A-Drain schedule
- ii. Review of initial community engagement results for the Bike and Pedestrian Plan update project

b. NEW BUSINESS

- i. Election of Commission Chair and Vice Chair
- ii. Review of draft 2023 environmental communications strategy

6. OTHER

- i. Commissioner update(s)*
- ii. Council liaison update(s)*

7. ADJOURNMENT

*Items marked with an asterisk have no accompanying materials

**The next regular Environmental Management Commission meeting will be held
February 13, 2023 @ 7PM in the Council Chambers at Oakdale City Hall.**

**REGULAR MEETING
OAKDALE ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT COMMISSION
NOVEMBER 21, 2022**

CALL TO ORDER

The Oakdale Environmental Management Commission (EMC) held a meeting on Monday, November 21, 2022 at Oakdale City Hall, 1584 Hadley Avenue North, Oakdale, Minnesota. The meeting began at 7:00 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance.

CALL OF ROLL

On a call of roll, the following were present:

Chairperson: Keith Miller, Chairperson

Commissioners: Noah Gerding, Vice Chairperson
Bonnie Wilson
Connor Brown

Also Present: Kevin Zabel, City Council Liaison
Shannon Reidlinger, Sr. Community Development Specialist and City Staff Liaison

Quorum Present: YES NO

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER WILSON, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER BROWN, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF OCTOBER 17, 2022 AS WRITTEN.

**3 AYES
0 NAYS**

MOTION CARRIED

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT COMMISSION REVIEW

a. OLD BUSINESS

i. Draft 2023 EMC Work Plan approval

Chair Miller opened conversation about the draft 2023 EMC Work Plan with the stated goal of finalizing the document before it is presented to City Council in early 2023 for consideration. Ms. Reidlinger summarized changes made to the draft 2023 EMC Work Plan since the October 17, 2022 regular meeting of the EMC, including:

- Providing more detail on the educational components of the draft plan (as 'education' is a prevailing theme of the draft plan)
- Incorporating action items which highlight practical application of energy efficient best practices
- Incorporating action items to promote water conservation programs

She also encouraged the Commission to consider items missing from the draft plan, items needing to be removed, and themes that should be prioritized.

Chair Miller began discussion of the draft 2023 EMC Work Plan by reminding the Commission that the draft plan focuses on three main priorities: waste, energy efficiency, and water quality. He then opened the floor for comments on the first section of the draft plan (i.e. 'Electric Vehicle Priorities'). Chair Miller expressed support for coordinating a ride-and-drive event for electric vehicles (EVs) as a way to educate the community about purchasing opportunities. In addition, he suggested creating a guide to summarize the incentives available with the passage of the federal Inflation Reduction Act, and posting the guide on the City website or giving it away as a flyer at events.

Next, Chair Miller opened the floor for comments on the second section of the draft plan (i.e. 'Other Applicable 2040 Comprehensive Plan Priorities'). In response to Commissioner Wilson's question regarding whether the Commission should determine specific methods for communicating about energy efficiency best practices, Ms. Reidlinger explained that the EMC would have the opportunity to refine messaging of the Commission's work plan priorities while reviewing the draft 2023 EMC editorial calendar at its first regular meeting in 2023.

Chair Miller noted that there used to be an Energy Efficiency Fair at Skyview Middle School, but that the fair hadn't been held for a few years; he wondered whether it would be possible to host an Energy Fair at the Oakdale Discovery Center in 2023. He explained that an Energy Fair could be a way to promote energy efficiency programs and connect residents directly to resource providers like Xcel Energy and the Citizens Utility Board. Commissioner Wilson recommended expanding the concept into a more generalized Environmental Fair and inviting the Oakdale Tree Board in order to promote sustainable programs and resources more broadly. She also suggested that the fair could be a way to provide education about water conservation, including grant funding for water quality improvement projects. Commissioner Gerding expressed enthusiasm for a more inclusive Environmental Fair that provides education on a number of themes prioritized in the draft 2023 EMC Work Plan. In response to Commissioner Gerding's question regarding whether other local organizations might be willing to share their experience with energy efficient solutions, Ms. Reidlinger emphasized that businesses like HOM Furniture, the Animal Emergency Referral Center, and others may have stories to share about installing rooftop solar panel systems and participating in Washington County's BizRecycling program. Chair Miller emphasized the importance of continuing to promote the Grow Solar Twin Cities solar group buy program through the 2023 EMC editorial calendar.

Commissioner Gerding explained that he is working with the Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District to implement water conservation projects at his home, and recommended that the Commission provide education about lawn alternatives to the community. Commissioner Wilson noted that similar programs like No Mow May could be promoted as well. Chair Miller recollected that all three watershed districts with territory in Oakdale have presented to the EMC in the past, and suggested that representatives from the districts either present to the Commission again in 2023 or participate in the proposed Environmental Fair to share information about grant funding available for water quality projects. In response to Commissioner Gerding's question regarding whether community designation programs exist for water conservation and water quality improvement, Ms. Reidlinger agreed to research program availability. Commissioner Gerding speculated that a designation program might help the City determine the baseline quality of its water bodies; in reply, Ms. Reidlinger explained that the GreenSteps Cities program might offer insight into the type of data that should be collected to determine a water quality baseline measurement. Chair Miller suggested that baseline water quality data may be collected by the watershed districts in Oakdale already, and recalled reading a past report about local water body quality ratings based on water testing and other parameters. He mentioned that the report likely covered lakes and rivers but not ponds, and that Oakdale has many ponds – so it would be helpful to know information about the quality of water in local ponds as well.

Finally, Chair Miller opened the floor for comments on the third section of the draft plan (i.e. 'GreenStep Cities Best Practice Priorities'). He mentioned that the City would be concluding its update of the Bike and Pedestrian Plan in early 2023, and highlighted the importance of having an updated Plan so that people have walking and bicycling access to community facilities like the new Metro Transit Gold Line. He also stated need to update the city's sustainability metrics through the GreenStep Cities program in order to show progress towards Oakdale's environmental resiliency goals and maintain Step Five designation.

After fielding commentary from commissioners on the draft 2023 EMC Work Plan, Chair Miller called for the Commission to support finalizing the edited draft plan.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER GERDING, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER BROWN, TO SUPPORT THE 2023 EMC WORK PLAN WITH THE AMENDMENTS DISCUSSED AT THE NOVEMBER 21, 2022 REGULAR MEETING OF THE EMC.

**3 AYES
0 NAYS**

MOTION CARRIED

- ii. **Electric Vehicle Suitability Assessment update**

Chair Miller reminded the Commission that the City of Oakdale is a participant in Xcel Energy's Fleet Electrification Advisory Program, and that conducting an Electric Vehicle Suitability Assessment (EVSA) is a primary component of participating in the program. He shared that the EVSA has been authorized by the City Council and City Administrator.

Ms. Reidlinger stated that data collection for the EVSA is scheduled to conclude in early December. She shared that initial results from the assessment indicate that six fleet vehicles participating in the study may be ideal candidates to transition to an electric alternative, but cautioned that additional data collection may change those conclusions. She clarified that once data collection concludes, the assessment provider – Sawatch Labs – will analyze the findings using its proprietary software and will provide a final report to City staff and to City Council. She emphasized that the goal of the assessment is to provide information about the economic viability, charging infrastructure requirements, and environmental impact of incorporating electric vehicles into the City's fleet. In response to Commissioner Gerding's question regarding which City departments were included in the assessment, Ms. Reidlinger explained that fleet vehicles from several departments (including Public Works, Community Development, Fire, and Police) are participating in the assessment.

b. OTHER ITEMS

i. Monthly review of the 2022 EMC Editorial Calendar

The EMC reviewed the themes and dates relevant to the 2022 environmental communications strategy for the months of November and December 2022, and January 2023. Chair Miller noted that America Recycles Day is in November, and that the City operated a pumpkin collection event the week following Halloween. He also highlighted the many social media posts made in October for the Bike and Pedestrian Plan update project.

In response to Commissioner Wilson's question regarding whether there is a shareable video about Washington County's food scraps drop-off program, Ms. Reidlinger reminded the Commission that a video highlighting current and former EMC Commissioners who participate in the program was created in 2021.

ii. Commissioner update(s)

Chair Miller shared that the EMC has three vacancies, and encouraged community members to apply to be a Commissioner so that the Commission may better support the goals of its 2023 EMC Work Plan.

Commissioner Gerding plugged grant funding opportunities for water quality improvement projects through the Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District, and shared his experience with conducting infiltration testing and creating a site map for incorporating rain gardens and erosion control methodologies in his yard.

He emphasized that the watershed district provides excellent resources to residents and business owners who are interested in completing water quality improvement projects on their own property. Chair Miller noted that the other two watershed districts with territory in Oakdale have similar grant funding programs available.

iii. Council liaison update(s)

City Council Member Zabel shared that the City Council is wrapping up work on the 2023 City budget, and that the budget would be finalized after the Truth in Taxation hearing is held on December 13, 2022. He encouraged all residents to attend the Truth in Taxation hearing to understand how tax dollars are apportioned in the City budget.

City Council Member Zabel also noted that the City continues to field a number of development inquiries and proposals, including at Oakdale Marketplace. He highlighted construction work underway at 4th St. and Helmo Avenue, and in the Willowbrooke neighborhood. He also recognized the official groundbreaking of the Gold Line BRT project and explained that site prep work would begin shortly for the Helmo/Bielenberg overpass.

NEXT MEETING DATE

Chair Miller reminded the Commission that the next meeting of the EMC will be Monday, January 9, 2023 in the City Council Chambers.

ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER WILSON, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER BROWN, TO ADJOURN THE NOVEMBER 21, 2022 REGULAR MEETING OF THE OAKDALE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION AT 7:42 P.M.

**3 AYES
0 NAYS**

MOTION CARRIED

Meeting Adjourned

Respectfully submitted,

Shannon Reidlinger
Sr. Community Development Specialist

TO: Environmental Management Commission
FROM: Shannon Reidlinger
DATE: January 4, 2023
SUBJ: 2023 Adopt-A-Drain schedule

The purpose of this memorandum is to inform the Environmental Management Commission (EMC) of the schedule for clearing the three drains near Walton Park adopted through the Adopt-A-Drain program.

Due to the location of the drains as well as the seasonal nature of organic waste buildup (such as leaves, other tree waste, grass, and brush), the Commission elected during the October 18, 2021 EMC meeting to modify the drain clearing schedule during winter months. In 2023, commissioners are assigned to clear the drains of debris based on the following schedule:

- **March:** Wilson
- **April:** Gerding
- **May:** Brown
- **June:** Miller
- **July:** Wilson
- **August:** Gerding
- **September:** Brown
- **October:** Miller
- **November:** Wilson
- **December:** Gerding

The following map depicts the location of the three adopted drains (circled in red).



TO: Environmental Management Commission
FROM: Shannon Reidlinger
DATE: January 4, 2023
SUBJ: Review of initial community engagement results for the Bike and Pedestrian Plan update project

The purpose of this memorandum is to summarize community engagement work completed for, and next steps of, the city's updated Bike and Pedestrian Plan (the "Plan").

Background

Oakdale's bike and pedestrian system provides an affordable transportation option with recreation and health benefits. To better connect people and where they live to the region's growing multimodal transportation network, Oakdale's 2040 Comprehensive Plan calls for updating the 1995 Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan (Chapter Three, Goal Four, Policy One). The City contracted with Toole Design in 2019 to undertake a Bike and Pedestrian Plan update project; due to the pandemic, project work was halted in 2020 with the project only partially complete. Project work relaunched in the spring of 2022. To date, the project team has completed the following:

- Level of traffic stress analysis
- Bus stop inventory
- Gold Line transit station travel shed maps
- Review of existing bicycle, pedestrian, and transit policies and programs
- Map of destinations
- Map of existing bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure
- Community Engagement Plan activities described below (presented to City Council at the July 26, 2022 workshop)

Summary of community engagement completed to date

The purpose of community engagement is to enable Oakdale residents and business owners to identify key themes that will guide recommendations in the updated Bike and Pedestrian Plan. The goals of community engagement are to provide an open and transparent process, create spaces for listening, generate inclusive public engagement opportunities, and encourage walking and biking in Oakdale. To date, community feedback has been collected by:

- Conducting a Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats (SWOT) analysis with Oakdale's advisory bodies, including:
 - The Environmental Management Commission (August 15, 2022)
 - The Planning Commission (September 1, 2022)
 - The Economic Development Commission (September 7, 2022)
 - Parks and Recreation Commission (September 20, 2022)
- Hosting one open house on October 19, 2022 with 16 community participants
- Hosting one pop-up workshop at the Farmers Market on September 28, 2022 with 50 community participants

- Hosting one pop-up workshop at the Oakdale branch of the library on October 24, 2022 with 9 community participants
- Conducting an online questionnaire and WikiMap (with results from the 2019 questionnaire/WikiMap and 2022 questionnaire/WikiMap jointly analyzed)
- Conducting two focus groups with 42 sophomores, juniors, and seniors from Tartan High School on December 9, 2022
- Conducting one virtual focus group with eight members of the Oakdale 50+ Wellness Group and participants of the Oakdale Community Walk on January 4, 2023

Draft goals and strategies

By uncovering the issues and ideas from community members with both active and passive interest in bicycling and walking through soliciting public feedback, recommendations included in the Plan will better reflect the community's values and priorities. The results of community engagement activities inform the draft goals and strategies used to guide delivery of the Plan.

Based on community feedback, the following draft goals and strategies are recommended for the Oakdale Bike and Pedestrian Plan; prioritization is not implied. The draft outline will be refined based on input from City staff, the Environmental Management Commission, and the City Council. After the draft outline is agreed upon, content (including detailed action steps) will be developed under each goal and strategy.

- **Goal A: Expand the extent of the pedestrian and bicycle network**
 - Strategy 1: Build and improve linear facilities
 - Strategy 2: Build and improve crossings
 - Strategy 3: Prioritize projects that connect important travel destinations
- **Goal B: Maintain the Existing Pedestrian and Bicycle Network**
 - Strategy 4: Improve maintenance of crosswalk markings
 - Strategy 5: Improve winter maintenance of walking and bicycling facilities
 - Strategy 6: Improve routine maintenance of path and sidewalk pavement
- **Goal C: Encourage active travel and inform the community about walking and bicycling options**
 - Strategy 7: Expand destinations within easy walking and bicycling distance of residential areas
 - Strategy 8: Promote the existing walking and bicycling network
 - Strategy 9: Increase community awareness of safety issues

TO: Environmental Management Commission
FROM: Shannon Reidlinger
DATE: January 4, 2023
SUBJ: Election of Commission Chair and Vice Chair

Background

Chapter Six of the City Code of Ordinances states that the Environmental Management Commission (EMC) shall elect from its membership a Chair and Vice Chair annually at its first meeting of the year. According to Article III, section 3.2 of the Commission's bylaws, the Chair shall preside at all Commission meetings and be recognized as the head of the Commission for all ceremonial purposes. In case of the Chair's absence or temporary disability, the Vice Chair shall act as Chair during the continuance of absence. Neither the City Code of Ordinances nor EMC bylaws specify term limits with regards to serving in these positions. Therefore, all Commission members are eligible to serve in 2023.

Election Process: Commission Chair

The following is the process for the election of Commission Chair. Ballots for voting will be distributed.

1. Nominate candidates for the Chair position. Nominations do not require a "second", but other members may "second" the nomination to show support.

"Motion to nominate Commissioner _____ for the position of Chair."

2. When there are no new nominations to be made, a commissioner should make a motion that nominations close. The motion to close requires a "second".

"Motion to close nominations for the position of Chair."

3. Election using the ballot provided. Commissioners write in their choice from those nominated and pass the ballots to staff for tabulating.

4. Staff will announce results.

5. Election of Chair requires a motion and a "second".

"Motion to elect Commissioner _____ for the position of Chair of the Environmental Management Commission for a period of one (1) calendar year, commencing with the January 9, 2023 meeting."

Election Process: Commission Vice Chair

The following is the process for the election of Commission Vice Chair. Ballots for voting will be distributed.

1. Nominate candidates for the Vice Chair position. Nominations do not require a "second", but other members may "second" the nomination to show support.

"Motion to nominate Commissioner _____ for the position of Chair."

2. When there are no new nominations to be made, a commissioner should make a motion that nominations close. The motion to close requires a "second".

"Motion to close nominations for the position of Vice Chair."

3. Election using the ballot provided. Commissioners write in their choice from those nominated and pass the ballots to staff for tabulating.

4. Staff will announce results.

5. Election of Chair requires a motion and a "second".

"Motion to elect Commissioner _____ for the position of Vice Chair of the Environmental Management Commission for a period of one (1) calendar year, commencing with the January 9, 2023 meeting."

Assumption of the roles of Chair and Vice Chair may commence immediately following the vote.

TO: Environmental Management Commission
FROM: Shannon Reidlinger
DATE: January 4, 2023
SUBJ: Review of 2023 environmental communications strategy

This memorandum invites discussion of the 2023 environmental communications strategy. In order to refine the strategy, the EMC is encouraged to consider:

- Modifying or completely changing the theme for a given month
- Identifying specific messages and/or content to convey in a given month
- Identifying specific channels by which to convey a message and/or content in a given month
- Identifying opportunities for direct and indirect Commissioner engagement
- Identifying partner organizations to share and/or directly provide educational content and resources

Policy overview

It is the City's policy to foster environmental resiliency, adaptation, and mitigation among the community. Coordinating timely communication about programs and information is an important consideration in achieving the City's environmental management priorities. Implementing an environmental communications strategy will ensure residents, business owners and their employees, developers, and other audiences in Oakdale receive the information and resources they need to make environmentally sustainable decisions.

Consequently, staff has prepared a draft 2023 environmental communications strategy. Aligning with 2040 Comprehensive Plan priorities and the 2023 EMC Work Plan, the goal of the environmental communications strategy is to increase awareness of and education about energy efficiency, water conservation, waste reduction, and recycling.

Annual editorial calendar

The 2023 environmental communications strategy shall be implemented using an annual editorial calendar. The editorial calendar provides an opportunity to focus on relevant themes at key times throughout the year. These themes may be ongoing in nature (i.e. increasing energy efficiency and recycling, conserving water, reducing waste, etc.) or specific to a date or program (i.e. an electric vehicle Ride and Drive event, a Washington County Recycling Grant project, the Adopt-a-Drain program, etc.).

The editorial calendar takes the following into consideration:

- **Objective.** Establishing the primary goal of the environmental communications strategy ensures messaging facilitate the priorities of the EMC, including:
 - Becoming an EV-ready community
 - Promoting energy efficiency
 - Connecting low-income residents to weatherization and energy efficiency resources
 - Promoting renewable energy
 - Reducing waste
 - Increasing recycling

- Promoting water conservation
- Educating the community about the Bike and Pedestrian Plan update project

Public outreach and communication of these topics will fulfill one of the following objectives:

1. RAISE AWARENESS by conveying public service announcements
 2. INFORM by communicating environmental information, tips, and reminders
 3. PROMOTE relevant events and programs
- **Resources.** Communication materials intended for Oakdale businesses and residents may be provided by community partners including:
 - [Washington County Environmental Services](#)
 - [Adopt-a-Drain](#)
 - [Xcel Energy residential](#)
 - [Xcel Energy business](#)
 - [GreenSteps Cities](#)
 - [Center for Energy & Environment](#)
 - [Recycling Association of Minnesota](#)
 - [United State Environmental Protection Agency](#)
 - [Minnesota Pollution Control Agency](#)
 - [Bicycle Alliance of Minnesota](#)
 - [Washington Conservation District](#)
 - [East Metro Water Resource Education Program](#)
 - [Blue Thumb](#)
 - [Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District](#)
 - [Community Action Partnership of Ramsey & Washington Counties](#)
 - **Channels.** Environmental content intended for Oakdale businesses and residents may be communicated through the following channels:
 - City of Oakdale social media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube, NextDoor)
 - City newsletter “Oakdale Update”
 - City website
 - Printed collateral
 - Electronic message boards
 - City building lobbies
 - Direct mail
 - Cross-promotion with partner organizations
 - **Calendar.** Content is scheduled on an annualized basis in a relevant and timely manner according to the following draft editorial calendar:

Draft 2023 EMC Editorial Calendar

January: Energy Efficiency

Dates related to monthly topic	Resources related to monthly topic	Commission/community engagement
<p><i>National Cut Your Energy Costs Day – Jan 10</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Home energy audit with Home Energy Squad • Xcel Energy rebates and home services • Citizens Utility Board (CUB) resources and bill clinics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Energy and weatherization assistance • Commercial energy efficiency resources (Clean Energy Project Builder, PACE, Trillion BTU) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Commission:</i> Conduct a home energy audit and share experience via website/social media • <i>Staff:</i> Promote virtual CUB energy bill consultations (Jan 13, 17, 26, 30)

February: Transition to Spring

Dates related to monthly topic	Resources related to monthly topic	Commission/community engagement
<p><i>National Battery Day – Feb 18</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spring cleaning – Environmental Center (batteries, recycling, Free Product Room) • Outdoor salt use 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Commission:</i> Share pictures of drop-off or pick-up at Environmental Center • <i>Staff:</i> Coordinate a community battery drop-off at City Hall

March: Reuse and Recycle

Dates related to monthly topic	Resources related to monthly topic	Commission/community engagement
<p><i>Global Recycling Day – Mar 18</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rain barrels and rain gardens <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Watershed District water quality improvement grants • Environmental Center (reuse room, food scraps drop-off program) • BizRecycling 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Commission:</i> Share pictures of rain barrels or rain gardens in action • <i>Staff:</i> Promote the County’s rain barrel and backyard compost bin sale
<p><i>World Water Day – Mar 22</i></p>		
<p><i>National Groundwater Awareness Week – first full week</i></p>		

April: Environmental Stewardship

Dates related to monthly topic	Resources related to monthly topic	Commission/community engagement
<p><i>Earth Day – Apr 22</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adopt-A-Park 	

National Park Week – the week of Earth Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adopt-A-Drain • Adopt-A-Wetland • Information about planting native species 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Commission:</i> Share pictures of cleaning adopted drains in Walton Park • <i>Staff:</i> Adopt a drain near City Hall
National Environmental Education Week – third full week		
Keep America Beautiful Month		
May: Bicycling and Walking		
Dates related to monthly topic	Resources related to monthly topic	Commission/community engagement
Bike to Work Day – May 20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oakdale Bike and Pedestrian Plan update project • Information about local trails and routes • Bicycle safety education 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Commission:</i> Share pictures of walking and bicycling along favorite routes and paths in Oakdale • <i>Staff:</i> Share pictures of walking and bicycling along favorite routes and paths in Oakdale
National Bike to Work Week – May 16 – 22		
National Bike Month		
June: Renewable Energy		
Dates related to monthly topic	Resources related to monthly topic	Commission/community engagement
World Environment Day – Jun 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Renewable energy programs via Xcel Energy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Windsource ○ Solar*Rewards (installed solar panels) ○ Solar*Rewards Community (community solar garden) • Grow Solar Twin Cities solar group buy program 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Commission/staff:</i> Host an Environmental Resource Fair at the Oakdale Discovery Center
July: Going Plastic-Free		
Dates related to monthly topic	Resources related to monthly topic	Commission/community engagement
Plastic Bag Free Day – Jul 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Washington County Environmental Center (reuse room, food scrap drop-off program) • Compost bins and reusable bags at the Farmers Market 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Commission:</i> Staff an informational table at the Farmers Market • <i>Staff:</i> Coordinate reusable bag giveaway at Farmers Market
Plastic Free July		

August: Water Conservation		
Dates related to monthly topic	Resources related to monthly topic	Commission/community engagement
<i>National Water Quality Month</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adopt-A-Drain • Adopt-A-Wetland • Rain barrels and rain gardens <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Watershed District water quality improvement grants 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Commission:</i> Conduct a consultation with a watershed district representative and share experience via website/social media • <i>Staff:</i> Coordinate a guest presentation by representatives from one or more watershed district during the regular meeting of the EMC in March
September: Electric Vehicles		
Dates related to monthly topic	Resources related to monthly topic	Commission/community engagement
<i>Zero Emissions Day – Sep 21</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EV-ready amendments to Oakdale’s Code of Ordinances • Drive Electric Minnesota • Shift2Electric • Touch-A-Truck 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Commission/staff:</i> Host EV ride-and-drive event
<i>Car Free Day – Sep 22</i>		
<i>National Drive Electric Week</i>		
October: Renewable Energy		
Dates related to monthly topic	Resources related to monthly topic	Commission/community engagement
<i>Energy Efficiency Day – Oct 5</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Home energy audit with Home Energy Squad • Xcel Energy rebates and home services • Citizens Utility Board (CUB) resources and bill clinics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Energy and weatherization assistance • Commercial energy efficiency resources (Clean Energy Project Builder, PACE, Trillion BTU) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Commission:</i> Conduct a home energy audit and share experience via website/social media • <i>Staff:</i> Promote virtual CUB energy bill consultations
<i>National LED Light Day – Oct 7</i>		
<i>National Solar Tour</i>		
<i>Energy Awareness Month</i>		
November: Reuse and Recycling		
Dates related to monthly topic	Resources related to monthly topic	Commission/community engagement
<i>America Recycles Day – Nov 15</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Washington County Environmental Center • BizRecycling 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Commission:</i> Share pictures of at-home composting opportunities

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food scraps drop-off program <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ EMC-specific composting video 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Staff:</i> Coordinate pumpkin drop-off
December: Low-Waste Holidays		
Dates related to monthly topic	Resources related to monthly topic	Commission/community engagement
<i>National Christmas Lights Day – Dec 1</i> <i>World Pollution Prevention Day – Dec 2</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christmas lights – energy efficiency and recycling • Tree recycling 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Commission:</i> Share personal tips and tricks for reducing waste during the holiday season • <i>Staff:</i> Coordinate Christmas tree drop-off

- **Commissioner engagement.** Commissioners may further facilitate implementation of the environmental communications strategy by:
 - Providing feedback on monthly themes and content
 - Sharing editorial calendar content to social media and through additional communication channels (email, neighborhood newsletter, etc.)
 - Supplementing editorial calendar content with pictures and/or video, and narrative copy
 - Volunteering for in-person events (i.e. compost pail give-away at the Farmers Market, Ride and Drive or Touch a Truck events, CUB clinics, Solar Power Hour information sessions, etc.) to share information and answer questions