

# Natural Resource Programming at Dane County Extension

Michelle Probst, Natural Resource Educator



### Education

BS, Soil & Land Management, UW-Stevens Point  
MS, Agronomy, Kansas State University

### Work Experience

Watershed Project Coordinator, Iowa Conservation District

Agriculture Runoff Specialist, WI DNR

### Extension Experience

Regional Natural Resource Educator in SE Wisconsin

Natural Resource Educator in Dane County

## Current Programming--Assessing Needs

### 2020 Dane County Climate Action Plan

Southern Wisconsin will continue to get hotter and wetter. The number of days each summer that the high temperature is above 90 °F is historically 10 to 15 days a year. In 2050 that range will be 30 to 40 days each summer.



## Direct Education

People need to be given tangible action steps, so they feel connected to the issue of climate change and motivated to change

## Wisconsin Composting Stewards



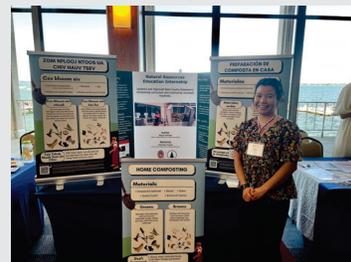
### Strategies to reduce food waste

- 1/3 of food in the US is waste
- Landfills are the third largest producer of methane emissions

### Action everyone can do

- Encourage at-home food waste reduction/composting
- Work within community on food waste diversion

## Wisconsin Composting Stewards



### Developing Outreach Materials

- Updated website: <https://dane.extension.wisc.edu/natural-resources/composting/>
- Developed table top displays to teach about composting (pictured here)
- Quick compost guides

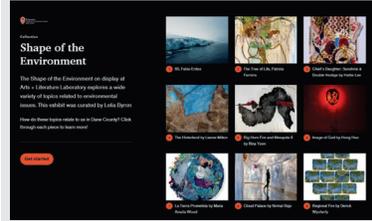
## Activism, Art & Climate Change--Teen Night



- Teens learned about climate change, engaged in environmental themed art activities, connected with local organizations
- 30 teens, majority in 11-12<sup>th</sup> grade, about half involved with By Youth For Youth

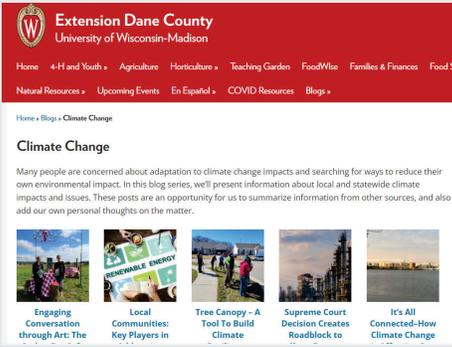


## Activism, Art & Climate Change--Teen Night



- Event was centered around the exhibit on display at Art Lit Lab The Shape of The Environment
- Developed a resource for participants to learn more about the issues discussed in the exhibit, and how they relate to Dane County

## Dane County Extension Climate Change Blog



- Articles posted monthly
- Educators from all areas have been providing content

## Natural Resource Programming

How can we take the next step to help facilitate systems change?

*Collaborate with colleagues!*

## Stoughton Sustainability Committee

### Make up of Committee

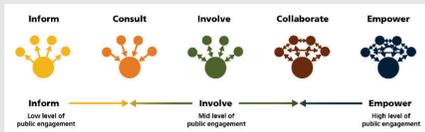
- Citizen and City Council members

### Charge

- Develop a Sustainability Plan for Stoughton that includes goals and methods of measuring success

### Valued public input

- How do we gather meaningful public input to help inform the plan?



**City of Stoughton Wisconsin**

Join us for a **SUSTAINABILITY COMMUNITY DIALOGUE**

Did you know that the City of Stoughton is preparing a Sustainability Plan?

Join our community dialogue & help us create a vision for a sustainable future!

Learn about the city's past sustainability achievements

Discuss our Sustainability Plan focus areas: Energy, Transportation, Water, Solid Waste, Land Use & Development & Community Engagement & Education

Show your ideas for making Stoughton more sustainable

Wednesday Sept. 21, 2022  
5:30-7:30pm  
Chorus Public House  
154 W. Main Street  
Pizza and light refreshments provided

REGISTER AT: <https://stoughtonwisconsin.org/sustainability/forums>

SCAN TO REGISTER MORE

To request an interpreter for this event, please contact: [Planning@stoughtonwisconsin.org](mailto:Planning@stoughtonwisconsin.org) or 708.754.3700

STOUGHTON WISCONSIN

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OUR COLLABORATIVE ROLE

## Public Engagement

- 1 Community dialogue
- 2 Community survey
- 3 Targeted focus groups & interviews
- 4 Informational outreach activities
- 5 Analysis and reporting
- 6 Community input on report
- 7 Education

Thank you!

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