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### City committee explores departmental energy conservation

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MARQUETTE - Members of Marquette's Sustainability Committee are looking at ways to make the city more green.

The recently formed committee's primary task is to review city operations and seek ways the city can reduce its environmental impact on the community.

The group was also directed to establish short-term and long-term goals for the city and to find ways in which the city can partner with the business community and residents to reduce energy consumption and preserve the natural environment.

Member Carl Lindquist said the committee is looking at international and national programs on sustainability and identifying aspects of those programs that would work in Marquette.

"We don't want a cookie-cutter approach. We want to build this from the ground up for Marquette," he said.

Lindquist mentioned energy conservation, water quality and sustainable economics as key areas the group will likely study.

Lindquist, who is also director of the Superior Watershed Partnership, said the committee's goals tie in well to the goals of the partnership.

"We've been working with Marquette for many years on making it a model community for Great Lakes protection and this is a perfect fit to take that to the next level," he said.

City Planner/Zoning Administrator Dennis Stachewicz Jr. said city departments have been looking for ways to reduce energy consumption for several years.

"For instance, in our planning department here we've gone to digital communication with the planning commission in the form of agenda packets and whatnot for probably over two years now," he said.

The committee is established through 2018 and has representation from the city's planning commission, parks and recreation committee and public works advisory committee, Northern Michigan University, Marquette Board of Light and Power, Michigan Department of Natural Resources, SWP and a city resident with a strong background in environmental stewardship.

### Article Photos



Marquette Board of Light and Power lineman Sean Seibert stands in a bucket lift as he replaces old traffic light bulbs with new LED lights at the corner of Washington and Third streets in Marquette in January 2008. The new lights have an extended life of 10 years and are more energy efficient. (Journal file photo)

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