

The 24th Conference on the Small City & Regional Community

*Climate Change and Small Cities*

October 24-26, 2024  
Winona State University  
Winona, MN



## Thursday, October 24

4:00 pm to 5:00 pm

Registration

Kryzsko Ball Room

4:15 pm to 4:45 pm

WSU Sustainability Tour

Jeanne Franz

5:00 pm to 5:30 pm

Conference Inauguration

Kryzsko Ball Room

5:30 pm to 6:30 pm

**Keynote Address**

Kryzsko Ball Room

### **The Gold Leaf Challenge: Pathways for Communities to Take Local Climate Actions**

Kristin Morz & Lola Schoenrich– Co-Directors, Green Step Program

## Friday, October 25

8:30 am to 9:00 am

**Registration** (Breakfast)

Kryzsko Ball Room

9:00 am to 10:20 am

**Mayor Panel**

Kryzsko Ball Room

Moderator: Ed Miller, UW-Stevens Point

Panelist

1. Scott Sherman, Mayor of Winona, MN
2. Mitch Reynolds, Mayor of La Crosse, WI
3. Emily Durand, Mayor of Wabasha, MN
4. Jason Resseman, Mayor of Lanesboro, MN

## Friday, October 25

10:30 am to 11:50 am

**Session 1**

Kryzsko 247

**Workshop:** Shared perspectives on green infrastructure opportunities

Moderator: Nicole Ciulla, Winona State University

**Presenters:** Joanne Boettcher & Paula Kalinosky, Stormwater Research Liaison & Stormwater Manual Coordinator, MPCA

**Session 2**

Kryzsko 249

**Regular session:** *Climate Change Global Perspectives*

Moderator: Michael Scholz, Winona State University

**Presenters:**

1. Aaron Redman- Global Insights on Climate Education and Communication for Small Cities, Uni of Saskatchewan
2. Lynn J. Carlson- Simple mindful practices in everyday life, also present research from the Food Revolution Network’s 2024 film “Eating for Tomorrow”, Winona Area Public Schools
3. Linda D’Amico- Cedros Protected Forests and the Rights of Nature: Creating a Co-management Plan For Cloud Forests and Communities in Northwest Ecuador ,Winona State University
4. Michael Bowler-A Small Community in Bangladesh Hit By Extreme Heat, Flooding, Drought and Then Sea Level Rise! Winona State University

**Session 3**

Kryzsko 223

**Workshop:** Everyday Tenzo – Reclaiming the Sacred in Everyday Living.

**Organizer:** Rev. Paul (Kisho) Stern, Roshi- Co-Founder and Spiritual Director of Dharma River Zen Community

**12:00 pm to 1:00 pm**

Lunch Break (lunch provided)

Kryzsko Ball Room

**Friday, October 25**

**1:00 pm to 2:20 pm**

**Session 4**

Kryzsko 223

**Panel discussion:** Climate Change and farming in the Midwest

Moderator: Krishna Roka, Winona State University

Panelist:

- 1.Sandy Dietz– White Water Gardens Farm, Altura, MN
- 2.Harley Heyer– Dakota, MN
- 3.Pam Hartwell– LSP

## Session 5

Kryzsko 247

**Panel Discussion:** Affordable because it's sustainable: Northfield's Hillcrest Village affordable housing model

**Moderator**– Andi Sutton

### **Panelist**

1. Scott Wopata, Executive Director, Community Action Center
2. Andi Sutton, Executive Director, Southeast Regional Sustainable Development Partnership, University of Minnesota Extension
3. Dan Handeen, Research Fellow, Center for Sustainable Building Research, University of Minnesota School of Design

## Session 6

Kryzsko 249

**Panel Discussion:** He who must not be named: Climate action in small MN cities

Moderator: Kristin Mroz– Co-Director, Green Step Program

Panelist:

1. Jason Ludwigson - Sustainability Coordinator, City of La Crescent
2. Pat Branstad – Steering Committee Member, Climate Smart St. James
3. Jennifer Lindahl – Southeast Clean Energy Resource Team (CERT) Coordinator
4. Erica Bjelland – Program Associate Coordinator, MN GreenStep Cities & Tribal Nations

## Friday, October 25

**2:30 pm to 3:50 pm**

## Session 7

Kryzsko 247

***Regular session: Climate Change and Renewable Energy***

Moderator: Michael Scholz, Winona State University

Presenters

1. Alan Buss- A Community Approach to the Energy Transition, Vernon County Energy District
2. Mike Lynn- Clean Energy Grants and Technical Assistance, MN Dept of Commerce
3. Natalie Siderius & Bill Spitzer- Southeast Minnesota Transportation Management Organization (TMO) Study Project, SE MN Together

## Session 8

Kryzsko 223

***Workshop:*** Expanding engagement for climate resilience in small cities and rural areas

Moderator: Krishna Roka, Winona State University

Presenter:

1. Marcia Ratliff- Executive Director, Engage Winona
2. John Howard– City of Winona

## Session 9

Kryzsko 249

### **Regular session:** *Climate Change Actions*

Moderator: Robert Wolensky, UW-Stevens Point

Presenters

1. Marty Walsh- Utilizing the Inflation Reduction Act for Economic Development in Rural Communities, People's Energy Co-op
2. Heather Navarro & Sadie Neuman- Small Cities and Federal Funding for Climate Action, Midwest Climate Collaborative, and UMRBA
3. Patrick Lichty- Endangered Species: Critical Dialogues on Climate Change using AI, Winona State University

## Friday, October 25

**4:00pm to 5:20 pm**

## Session 10

Kryzsko 249

### **Panel discussion:** Building Small City Resilience to Climate Change

Moderator: Sharon Stephens

**Presenters:**

1. Aimee Duchene- Grant Specialist Coordinator, MPCA
2. Linnea Savereide, P.E- Engineer, Municipal Division, MPCA
3. Sharon Stephens- Climate Change Adaptation Coordinator, MPCA
4. Amanda Wold- Climate Change Technical Assistance Coordinator, MPCA

## Session 11

Kryzsko 249

### **Panel discussion:** Community Climate Planning and Action Toolbox

Moderator: Michael Bowler, Winona State University

1. Abby Finis- Principal and Founder, Local Climate Solutions
2. Becky Alexander- Researcher, LHB
3. Jessi Eidbo- Carbon Solutions

**5:00 pm to 5:30 pm**

Conference reception

Kryzsko, Ballroom

**5:30 pm to 6:30 pm**

**Keynote address**

Kryzsko Ballroom

**Climate Change, State Policy and Small Cities**

**Larry Kraft**– Vice-Chair of the Climate and Energy Finance and Policy Committee , MN  
Legislature

**Saturday, October 26**

**8:30 am to 9:00 am**

Conference registration (Breakfast)

Kryzsko Ballroom

**9:00 am to 10:20 am**

**Session 12**

Kryzsko 223

**Workshop:** Transitioning to a Resilient & Sustainable Future-  
Detour Ahead

Presenter: Ivan Idso– Community Advocate

Moderator: Robert Wolensky, UW-Stevens Point

**9:00 am to 10:20 am**

**Session 13**

Kryzsko Ballroom

**Panel:** *College Students and Climate Change*

Moderator: Nicole Ciulla, Winona State University

**Panelists:**

1. Dana Walker– Winona State University
2. Jade McElmury– Winona State University
3. Rachel Fredrick– Winona State University

**10:30 am to 11:50 am**

**Session 14**

Kryzsko 223

**Panel Discussion:** Public Participation in Regional Natural Resource Planning in the Upper  
Mississippi River Basin

Moderator: Michael Scholz, Winona State University

**Panelist**

Sadie Neuman- Public Participation & Communications Project Specialist, UMRBA

Thank you for attending the 24th Conference on the Small City and Regional Community, and thank you to our sponsor, the WSU Foundation. We also thank the WSU College of Liberal Arts, and the WSU Department of Sociology, Criminal Justice, and Geography for their support. Thank you to our co-hosts the Center for the Small City, UW - Stevens Point.

