

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Debra Baesemann  
414.254.9890  
elmgrovegreenteam@gmail.com

## **ELM GROVE FORMS COMMITTEE TO INCREASE RESILIENCE AND REDUCE COSTS** ***Sustainability Committee Releases 2023 Elm Grove Trash Audit Data***

Elm Grove, WI (April 27, 2023)— The Village of Elm Grove has formed a Sustainability Committee to provide guidance and lead projects that will help the Village increase its resilience and reduce costs. The committee members reside in Elm Grove and were appointed by Village President James Koleski at the April 24, 2023, Village Board meeting, and will serve two-year terms.

The Elm Grove Sustainability Committee members are:

- Co-chair Debra Baesemann
- Co-chair Molly Salinas
- Christine Brooks
- Tom Castile, Village Trustee
- John Schindler, Village Trustee
- Natalie Schneider
- Nicci Sternitzky
- Jennifer Studebaker
- Kristin Walters

"The aim of the Sustainability Committee is to help Elm Grove residents, businesses, and government meet immediate needs while preserving resources for future generations," said Debra Baesemann, Committee Co-chair. "Our vision is to encourage best practices for sustainable living, business, and development."

### **Sustainability Committee Releases 2023 Trash Audit Data**

The Sustainability Committee has released the data from an audit of Elm Grove's municipal waste. On April 10, 2023, citizen volunteers from the Sustainability Committee and the Elm Grove Green Team, with the assistance of Johns Disposal, the solid waste management company contracted to collect waste in Elm Grove, sorted 1,344 pounds of municipal waste into nine categories.

The aim of the audit is to understand the residential trash stream in Elm Grove, and create a baseline that will be used to measure efforts to improve recycling efficiency, decrease solid waste going into the landfill, and ultimately save the community money by reducing landfill fees and improving recycling accuracy.

“We identified several ways we can decrease trash production as a village through the trash audit, and I’m so excited to get started,” said Molly Salinas, committee co-chair. “This was a great first project for the Sustainability Committee, which is about loving our village and wanting to take the best care of it that we can so future generations can enjoy it.”

<b>Village of Elm Grove Trash Audit 2023 Data</b>		
1,344 lbs. in sample; annual solid municipal waste: 1,700 tons		
Category	Total Weight	Percentage
trash	686 lbs.	51.2%
recyclables	270 lbs.	20.1%
food waste	240 lbs.	17.9%
plastic bags - all types	51.6 lbs.	3.9%
clothing	44.9 lbs.	3.4%
yard waste	32.1 lbs.	2.4%
home delivery packaging	11.8 lbs.	0.9%
Styrofoam	3.6 lbs.	0.3%
batteries	3.5 lbs.	0.3%

For information on the statewide WI DNR audit, visit:  
<https://widnr.widencollective.com/portals/9locxp5m/SolidWasteinWisconsinLandfills>

The Elm Grove Green Team is a group of the Waukesha County Green Team. For more information about the Waukesha County Green Team, please go to  
[www.waukeshacountygreenteam.org](http://www.waukeshacountygreenteam.org)

\*\*\*