GOAL: The goal of OEFIP is 100% energy and food self-sufficiency for our community by 2025. While some will say it can’t be done, we take the stance that not only can it be done, but that it must be.

It is time to be not only ambitious, but provocatively bold. Wisconsin communities are losing the most fundamental capacity for sustainability, and long-term economic prosperity, especially in regards to energy and food security. More importantly, communities are losing their capacity to secure the future for their children. In recognition of these trends, the Village of Osceola was the first community in Wisconsin to pass the Governor’s 25 X 25 Energy Independent Community Resolution on May 1, 2008.

The 100 X 25 OEFIP is unique and establishes an unprecedented leadership role for the community. There are virtually no exemplary models currently in existence, consistent with the values, principles, and practices of The Natural Step for sustainable community development that frame a comprehensive and holistically integrated plan for inter-generational energy and food self-sufficiency for small communities in the Upper Midwest, much less in the St. Croix Watershed of northwestern Wisconsin. The OEFIP project combines the proven skills of the Osceola Village staff, school district, and civic leadership, with that of the St. Croix Institute for Sustainable Community Development at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls, and Environmental Intelligence, Inc. to establish “A Premier National Model for Cash Positive, Carbon Negative, Energy & Food Independence.”

This model will:

- Showcase the development and a proof of concept model for The Natural Step;
- Maximize partnership synergies of local government, commercial, non-profit, and academic institutions;
- Establish a robust system for locally sourced employment and small business development;
- Provide an integrated macro level plan for “locally sourced” renewable energy that meets the current and projected demands for residential, commercial, industrial, and public electricity, space and water heating and cooling, transportation, and food production based on the carrying capacity of the native ecosystem;
- Optimize the energy system design and economies of scale across the breadth and depth of renewable energy sources including solar, wind, geothermal, and biomass, with options for microgrid applications;
- Optimize the food system design across the breadth and depth of fruits, vegetables, grain, meat, and dairy production to meet the basic dietary needs of every citizen, family, and institutionalized resident; and
- Further establish Osceola as one of the leading communities in the state and nation for demonstrating real solutions to the most fundamental needs of human subsistence and cultural advancement grounded in ecologic integrity, social ethics, and economic vitality.
Village & School District of Osceola
100 X 25: Energy & Food Independence by 2025 Project (OEFIP)

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The Natural Step Principles of Sustainability: We strive to become a sustainable community through our continued:

• elimination of our contribution to the progressive buildup of substances extracted from the Earth’s crust (e.g., heavy metals such as mercury, minerals such as phosphorous, and fossil fuel greenhouse gases);
• elimination of our contribution to the progressive buildup of chemicals and compounds produced by society (e.g., dioxins, PCBs, and DDT);
• elimination of our contribution to the progressive physical degradation and destruction of ecosystems and natural processes (e.g., over harvesting forests, filling wetlands, and paving over productive soils and critical native habitat); and
• elimination of our contribution to conditions that undermine people’s capacity to meet their basic human needs (e.g., lack of living-wage employment, public transportation, healthy diet, medical services, and participation in public decisions).

Partner Organizations:

• Village of Osceola
• Osceola School District
• Osceola Public Library
• WI Office of Energy Independence
• Xcel Energy
• Focus on Energy
• Environmental Intelligence, Inc.
• University of Wisconsin – Extension (Polk County)
• West CAP—West Central Wisconsin Community Action Agency, Inc.
• St. Croix Institute for Sustainable Community Development (UWRF)