Pine County BBC Registration Survey

Updated 11/10/21

Updated 11/12/21 added responses 37-52

Updated 11/18/21 added responses 53-57

Please describe how your home or business Internet connection supports or hinders your online world.

1. At our home we do not have access to broadband options. We rely only on Verizon wireless hotspots that we purchase and loan from the library. Not only is this not a great long-term solution, it limits our ability to get work and homework done. It is not cost effective, and there are other amenities - not necessities that would be great to use but are not possible with our current set up such as using a router for devices, a wireless printer, security cameras, or even smart home features.

2. We don't have access to most internet providers at my house. It's nearly impossible to work from home and my daughter struggled to stay connected for school in the fall

3. Home: had to turn off land line as was not an acceptable connection or many times no connection. Now forced to hotspot from cell phone to use.

4. Connection is sporadic, some dropped which is frustrating. Many times have to search the premises to get enough bars.

5. Our internet is terrible and we are just yards off of highway 61. My kids were quarantined due to covid for 24 days and each day we would have to load up and sit in the local McDonald's parking lot because our interent wouldn't load their Google classrooms.

6. Slow very slow. Weather also plays a factor

7. My husband and I throughout COVID have worked remotely. We have three children that utilize remote learning, either through a high school or college. So with up to five people online at once our internet service and utilization can be strained.   Lastly, both my and my husbands employers are moving to a remote work environment, so having stable and reliable service is paramount to us continuing to reside in pine county.

8. There are only 2 choices for internet and both are not very cheap. I have had issues with them both working well when I need them to for working from home. The speeeds are not what they are in large cities.

9. The Chamber is fortunate to have an office space with access to fiber in Downtown Pine City.

10. We use a jet pack in our home to use as a hot spot. It only allows us 15 gigs each month to use and that is used up with the first 4-5 days. For the rest of the month it is considered slow speed and things take a while to connect or it pauses making it almost Impossible.

11. I work from home so if my internet is lagging or down then I cannot do my job efficiently.

12. Home internet is touch and go, slow speeds. Often have to limit users at any given time.

13. 90% of the time we can't even stream on one device. We can't let our kids use the internet because it will be used up in two days. We can't even do conferences.

14. Business Internet - We are fortunate to be part of a larger network that allows for fast-speed internet for our employees and students. However, when the pandemic hit, it presented challenges that we were not yet prepared for. Students returned home without the ability to properly connect and with no ability to come to campus, many had to withdraw from courses. Employees were not able to perform work at the speed at which they could on campus. As a large employer in our area, it is imperative that we have consistent connections throughout our county to ensure equitable access to jobs and education.

15. Our internet connection is slow and spotty. I work from home 100% and my husband does periodically. The lack of decent internet means it takes longer to complete our tasks and upload/download information. I have had many opportunities to grow my business via Zoom but was unable to because of the lack of consistent internet.   With the current COVID issues regarding school, it is very concerning when our children are supposed to learn from home with poor internet. The assumption is that everyone has an internet connection, which is far from accurate.

16. We don't have the option for any high speed Internet at our house

17. We are underserved allowing me to attend meetings but nothing else can be running in our home

18. Our current internet connect supports everything we need it to do.

19. Hot spot that runs slower by the end of the he month, zooming is sketchy

20. We have no affordable options for broadband and cellular coverage is also poor

21. x

22. weak signal, dont always work

23. We have no internet at home unless we use our Hotspot on our phones. Pretty shameful and difficult to explain to our special needs son.

24. We are working to make as many of our resources available online as possible.

25. Not having internet greatly impacted my children's education this past year when schools went distance learning

26. x

27. I work from home and sometimes the internet is not fast enough especially when the grand children are working on homework.

28. Right now I have decent internet with Centurylink for a good price.

29. Very poor service, like we are in a dead zone.   Sometimes we reception and other times nothing.   There is fiber optic on both north/south roads.

30. We can not stream programs. We cannot attend meetings by Zoom using video without being dropped at least every 8 minutes. Our grandchildren can not do homework at our house because their websites will not load after 7:45 a.m. -8:10 p.m. On weekends and holidays when "lake people" are in our area we have .5 of a bar of service. Our son-in-law is on 24 hour call. When he visits us he has not received important calls until he heads home days later. Ordering items on line is like a crap shoot. Sometimes orders go through and other times they do not. I can not FaceTime with grandkids. I can not use What's Up video chat app with my relative in Germany.

31. The only adequate connection we have at our home is through a Verizon hotspot. It is better than other options we have tried, but would love something better.

32. Within the home, during distance learning, it became difficult for my own children to log into their homework at the same time along with myself. As a teacher, many students do not have access to the internet within the home and hot spots were not a reliable solution.

33. The lack of internet/cell phone connections in our area has impacted my children's schooling and is a deterrent for community expansion.

34. Expensive and not real effective

35. I do not live in Pine County and have a a 100 Mbps connection at home.

36. At my home, I pay for 12 Mbps and rarely get that speed, but this is the only service available to me. Fixed wireless is unavailable. Satellite is not affordable. Cellular service at my home can go in and out so hotspots don't work very well.

37. I have poor access to high speed internet, which hinders zoom calls as the satellite internet I have now is extremely bad.

38. In addition to personal use, I run a small business from my home. We have satellite internet service because it is the only service available right now that is at all dependable in our area. In order to work from home, I need fast dependable internet access and service.

39. Slow connection when working from home, very challenging when kids are home at same time due to distance learning.

40. I have limited internet service (slow speed) with a phone line modem. If I have two or more devices on the system, upload and download speed is terrible. The service is constantly interuppted and is not reliable.

41. I have slow and expensive satellite internet service from ViaSat. It is just acceptable for home use with minimal streaming. My home is my backup office location as Covid showed we needed to be able to operate remotely to provide customer service for our many clients. At ~ $167/mo this is the top tier available to me and is too expensive for the speed and bandwidth provided. It is not uncommon to have a Zoom meeting interrupted or a video buffering. This puts me at a competitive disadvantage to other financial advisors who may live where they have more reliable wired service as well as reasonable choices.

42. As a school system having internet is essential to the function of our school. During and after the pandemic it is essential for our students to have internet at home.

43. I have SCI cable internet, good service

44. With kids in distance learning again at Hinckley high school it's a must and you never know when they will start. We found out at 7 pm the night before via Facebook. No call. Also I am a PCA so to do my timesheets and communication with the teams.

45. Home internet (via satellite) is expensive and too slow to stream so it also limits our TV service options, which is also expensive then as well. Being satellite, we also can lose connection if really windy, stormy, or heavy snows.

46. I have satellite and the speed get reduced if I use over 150 gigs. Hard when I get through have the month before the speed slows way down. It was very difficult when my kids were in distance learning last year.

47. We only have access to limited DSL. Our location exceeds the recommended distance for a stable connection. This constrains our ability to reliably use the internet for video communication and many times simply accessing email.

48. Being a remote employee it is a necessity to have sufficient internet. I only see this becoming a higher need as more employees are allowed to work from home.

49. We have no option for high speed internet at our home address. Our children cannot complete online school work from home.

50. We have nearly no options for internet service at our home. We currently use HughesNet satellite service. Our download speed is usually around 1-2 mbps and upload is about 1 mbps. This prevents us from working from home when needed, video conferencing is impossible, streaming video is impossible, and our kids have a very hard time getting any schoolwork done when needed at home.

51. It hinders us as we don't have any options at our home. My children are unable to do school work at home! We can not print, watch any tv (except if we have satellite which is outrageous), or communicate with family in other states.

52. As the library system that serves Pine County, we hear regularly from patrons who have trouble accessing broadband. Our hotspot loan program has been a help, but it's not enough.

53. We do telehealth therapy sessions. I am able to get service in town; however, I was not able to work from home when COVID happened because I was not able to find an adequate service provider for my area. I tried many options from mobile hot spots to satellite, none of them were a solution. Some of them were able to provide some service, but not enough for me to provide services online, and others charged per mg, which became so expensive that it was a hinderance. In addition to my own difficulties, we have had many people in Pine County that could benefit from our services if they had access to good internet.

54. Slow internet makes uploading information to my website a slow and tedious process. Ads have been late coming off due to internet being down. Stories require internet communication.

55. I am fortunate to have SciCable internet access at my home as I live right in Willow River. Our School also has reliable internet access, however many of our students do not have that access at their homes.

56. It works pretty well, most of the time. It is adequate for my uses.

57. Our internet is slow, unreliable and expensive.

Please share your thoughts on how Lincoln County is positioned to provide the high-quality workforce.

1. x

2. I believe they aren't with lack of internet at this time.

3. Seems to be plenty of available workforce. The labor market has become competitive causing costs to rise.

4. Workers are in short supply at this time. Quality workers are produced when pay is fair and training to be effective workers is provided.

5. I hope they can provide

6. Unsure

7. It's not. The internet service that is available in the area is absolutely limited. We have had meetings disrupted due to poor bandwidth issues. If Pine County wants to look at this seriously, you could develop areas with high speed internet rurally to attract a stable, high paid work force.

8. We have workers, I guess it is if they choose to work?

9. x

10. Maybe some more focus for the people surrounding the pine city community need more attention to internet services. So many of us love in the country and out service is lacking

11. Having the ability to work remotely because of consistent and fast internet would really open up people's ability to work many different, likely higher paying jobs.

12. I don't have enough knowledge to give an educated answer.

13. x

14. Pine County will see exponential growth as more and more individuals decide to move north; as well as the shift in culture where younger adults want to stay closer to home with the uncertainty of the world around them. Speaking from recruiting experience, we are seeing phenomenal pools of candidates from both local and commutable distances. During the interview process, candidates want to relocate to this area but express concern with the lack of local business (options), housing, and internet service. Those three areas must be focused on to retain and maintain a high-quality workforce.

15. Na

16. I do not think they are positioned to provide high quality workforce due to the lack of internet and inability to work remote

17. Only through grants and partnerships will we be able to serve those in Pine as we are at the bottom for service with so much work to be done

18. One of the tools required to have a high-quality workforce is to have good and reliable internet in the homes of these people. If people live right in town of the major towns in Pine City their internet is good, but we really need better and more reliable internet for all the families that live in the country.

19. If we can get home connection from the lines in most of our ditches hooked up, many more people could work from home

20. x

21. x

22. pine has better resources than townships

23. x

24. x

25. Unsure

26. x

27. I am not sure how to respond to this.

28. x

29. I feel that the Rock Creek area gets left out, everything goes to the north end of the county

30. The need is present in our ranking as almost the worse in the State. The northern communities have three of the top wire plowing services in the Midwest. Contractor are steadily building new homes. Finlayson has added 74 new mailbox holders in 2 years. With a decent wage, the workforce would respond favorably.

31. With free 2-year tuition to Pine Technical & Community College for all Pine County seniors, the county is poised to have an exceptional, highly trained workforce of young people in short order. However, if we do not have the jobs here, they will leave.

32. Located between the TC and Duluth we have the ability to draw companies along the interstate as well as individuals who can work from home.

33. The organization of programs to inform the rural areas of viable broadband connectivity.

34. na

35. Partnerships with Pine Technical and Community College and dedicated public leadership at the school districts.

36. Pine County is well positioned, especially with the college scholarship initiative with the Frandsen Foundation, Pine Technical & Community College and, Pine County's ARPA funding.

37. This question doesn't make sense.

38. Pine County is geographically in a great position to provide a high quality work force. We have a significant portion of our population that has relocated here because the location is rural, but midway between two urban centers (Minneapolis/St. Paul, and Duluth). Those people who grew up here and have chosen to stay have limited choices for careers and jobs. Excellent internet would give residents more employment choices.

39. In this virtual world we've shifted to, Pine County is not equipped to provide the internet needs to support remote workers.

40. I have fiber optic cable running through my front yard, but there is not a company that is currently using it. Pine County can help find a company that would be willing to tap into this service and offer reliable broadband.

41. With a major interstate running the length of the county, located in a major travel corridor, Pine County is positioned to diversify and provide more high quality businesses and jobs if the broadband resource could approximate the road system in speed, traffic and quality. Lack of accessible, reasonably price, high-speed internet to all areas of the county is keeping it a poor rural county. Covid showed the need for remote teaching, medicine, event business meetings and without that infrastructure, Pine County residents and businesses are at a significant disadvantage and consigned to the internet backwaters.

42. Pine County is a great position to provide a high quality workforce because there is a will to make Pine County a place business want to be and workers want to live. We need fast reliable internet in each and every home to make this happen.

43. I know there are areas within the county that needs some help. I know the commissioners are working hard to fix that

44. There is some great places to work however there very small staffed, but we could use some more great quality ones and larger ones.

45. We have a local college with IT programs and courses as well as construction trades to provide highly skilled workforce.

46. And I'm sure if Pine county had better fiber optic more people would relocate here.

47. We are not the only families living in rural areas on the edge of cell phone and internet access if at all. This is a common issue for a majority of the county population outside larger population areas.

48. I'm unsure if Pine County currently has the ability in all areas to support. The workforce is changing to allow more remote positions. If I did not have internet access this location would no longer be a place I could reside.

49. In town the positioning is good, however, for those working in the rural areas the positioning is terrible.

50. I'm not sure.

51. We are located literally in between two major cities and we have nothing here to bring people in!

52. The library wants to be part, and can be part, of helping to educate and train the county's workforce.

53. Pine county could become a high commerce area if we were able to provide the resources to people wanting to set up business here.

54. Having a college in the county means the area can provide an educated workforce.

55. Pine County has a high school population of hard workers. They are our future and we have the task of training them for their future careers in the hope that they will choose to settle locally.

56. Within the cities, I think things are fairly good, Internet-wise. But outside, it is often not adequate for any sort of business or school use. Or entertainment.

57. My concern is for the schools and school children who have to home school .

How do you think businesses and industries in Lincoln County are using technology in an innovative way?

1. The ability to operate competitive small business in our rural areas is dependent on reliable and affordable broadband. Telehealth, technology operations, even apps for scheduling staff are used. Ordering or making reservations online, sales and supply chain, marketing through websites and social media.

2. They are offering online options for dining, grocery shopping, scheduling things in the community, meetings, etc.

3. It's the way to do business, especially with the younger generation. It's efficient and cost effective.

4. The pandemic has been very difficult for many businesses in this area to survive. Technology would allow hybrid success.

5. x

6. No clue

7. I'm not sure they are. It's not being readily communicated what businesses and industries are doing to be innovative

8. During the pandemic businesses had to use many different ways to reach out like Facebook and online meetings.

9. x

10. x

11. I appreciate the remote work options in addition to things like online ordering, online advertising, and allowing people to attend events virtually!

12. To reach others outside our community to draw in business and improve our economy.

13. Advertising via Facebook, online ordering, online appointments, my chart through wellia, dance zoom meetings during covid, conferences via zoom, buying and selling goods, garage sale advertising, advertising community events, raising awareness, keeping members up to date. The list could go forever.

14. No, this is a giant area of growth for most of Pine County

15. By definition we have to be innovative. In order to participate in an internet-connected world, we have to find unique ways to connect with customers, business connections, etc. This is costly and time consuming. Those efforts could be redirected if the slow/lacking internet issues were addressed.

16. x

17. Some are doing well, others are really struggling. I have talked with business owners that use their phones, wi fi and then hotspots and are still having problems

18. I think they're using it as innovatively as they can, but having fresh ideas for them to try might be helpful.

19. Marketing products and schooling

20. x

21. x

22. not sure

23. x

24. x

25. The use of technology allows for greater access to services to underserved communities. For example: telehealth services for those lacking transportation

26. x

27. Faster internet helps businesses and individuals alike.

28. x

29. Would be a big benefit for business and workers.

30. Businesses and industries are allowing people to work from home, attend meetings on line, installing meters that are read remotely, there is electronic monitoring on propane tanks (except they can't use our because of poor signal to Cloquet), on-line medical video chats (except while sending photos to the doctor the signal drops out and the call ends), and on line banking would be expanded to those who have terrible service now.

31. I don't know if this is particularly innovative, but paying bills by credit card using Square Reader etc. is really catching on. A number of organizations in Pine City are using social media well to connect with users and constituents.

32. Due to limited resources, I do not feel as though technology is utilized as well as it should.

33. Business growth, accessing local talent for remote work applications.

34. na

35. not sure

36. I think businesses & industries struggle to be innovative with technology, because fiber really only is available to a few.

37. I think a lot of business in Pine County use technology to reach there clientele and build relationships with them aswell.

38. I don't really know the answer to this.

39. Those that can utilize zoom, google meet, etc. to connect to others in the county and across the state.

40. With the COVID-19 pandemic, a lot of businesses are allowing employees to work from home. Some cannot do that, since they don't have reliable internet.

41. Zoom meetings, telemedicine, websites, Facebook and Linked-In, social media for connecting, networking, advertising.

42. Many people are can work from home now. We need to ensure that everyone can access the quality internet with upload and download speeds that are required to run a business. Pockets of this exist in the county but it is not the norm.

43. County employees are now working from home, some have good internet and others are using hot spots

44. A lot of places use internet for orders, and to communicate. Some use it for payroll.

45. Manufacturing is getting much more advanced and technology continues to drive innovations. Working remotely from home will also help the workforce continue to thrive while keeping people able to live in our rural areas.

46. I think businesses and industries could be doing much more innovation with better broadband.

47. If the business is rural they are looking at satellite access but until recently that has not been effective.

48.

49. The public school set up for online learning during inclement weather and during covid outbreaks, however, with not everyone having access to internet many children will be behind when these instances take place

50. I'm not sure

51. They really aren't! For any technology we have to outsource to major companies or other states (Wisconsin for satellite internet) to be productive!

52. Unknown

53. I do not think the business in Pine County are able to maximize the use of the technology in their particular fields here in Pine County.

54. Restaurants are using the internet to advertise their menus and businesses keep customers updated on their latest arrivals.

55. Businesses are using technology by making their processes and procedures more efficient.

56. A number of businesses depend on technology for communication with the outside world, as well as transferring files necessary for their business.

57. No idea

How do you see unequal access [digital equity] to technology and the internet creating a divide in Lincoln County? If you have an example either from your family or someone you know, please share it.

1. Geographic area that one lives is likely the largest factor, followed by affordability for those who do have access.

2. If my children were moved to distance learning it would be very difficult for them to get quality education. Often they had to wait until I got home to use my personal hotspot. I also am forced to go into the office on days I could work from home because we don't have strong enough connectivity to do zooms/google meets

3. I, personally, was not able to sell some real estate in Partridge Township when I had a willing buyer who found out how bad the internet access was. I believe this happens more often than we know.

4. Those without good connection or no access, is especially difficult for families with children in school, as they can't use resources available to families with higher incomes. Many people are below the poverty level in Pine and Kanabec counties and can't afford hook up to fiber optic cable, even if it goes right by their homes. Pine and Kanabec counties rank at the bottom of cellular service in MN. This is similar to when rural areas got electricity far behind the towns and cities many years ago.

5. x

6. Depending on where you live depends on how good your internet is and how much you will spend

7. Look at distance learning for schools, many families struggled with getting reliable access so their students could be successful. The people that can pay for internet coverage will and those that can't get left behind.

8. There are some students and families who don't all have access to the internet.

9. x

10. x

11. Having access to the internet opens up a host of opportunities whether they be employment based or community based.

12. The cost for high speed internet, when available, is very expensive and not proportional to the income of our community members. Even when given a hotspot from the school for distance learning last year, when one of my kids would use the microwave, the others would loose connection.

13. People who live in town have decent service but those of us who rely on satellite are doomed if we go back to distance learning

14. Specifically, we see this from a business perspective in our student population. Students are unable to connect in rural areas and since most of them are home-bound for multiple reasons, they are unable to participate in education. While others who have the ability to drive to school or live close enough to have the ability to connect to the internet for a reasonable price, have the ability to better their futures by attending school in person or online.

15. My business is relationship based. With the introduction of COVID, many in my field were able to seamlessly transition to an online business format. Without a solid connection, I cannot rely on Zoom or other live-streaming options to run my business. This puts me and my business at a distinct disadvantage.

16. Remote work and remote learning are extremely difficult for families that live out of city limits. There is the option of star link but it is incredibly expensive

17. If you are in a city or highly populated areas you have a better chance of having service. Most of Pine is in outer areas and suffering

18. I work with struggling teens here in Pine County and when all the schools were having to do online school last year so many of our teens struggled. Either they didn't have internet at their house, or if they did it wasn't nearly fast enough to do everything they needed to do for school and Zoom calls.

19. Well the on line schooling proved where kids understand the technology, bit can't get any or fast enough internet

20. x

21. x

22. we can only do the best that we can at this time, the future will be better

23. I think it creates a divide because some families have to go sit in a parking lot in order to do school work, work or other things that need to be done, while others have access to internet because they live "in town ". Not very fair to residents who live in the more rural areas.

24. I see people using the resources at the Public library to access resources needed for daily living, such as job and educational opportunities, interacting with government agencies, etc.

25. Outlying areas such as Duxbury don't have adequate internet services and often lack cellphone service as well.

26. x

27. I have my grand children living with me and have to micromanage internet usage so that I can do my job.

28. Poor people without internet or very poor internet and rural people with only expensive satellite internet are underserved.

29. There are dead zones east of Rock Creek the kids can't do school online and can't do business

30. Personally, if I want to upload photos to make a book, add to a training file...I drive to Pine City or North Branch to our daughters to do that. She has 4 bars of service and 5G is available.

31. This past year made it very clear that those in dead zones not covered by cable or radio internet via Genesis Wireless are going to be several steps behind in terms of speed and reliability.

32. During distance learning, the lack of internet only created a larger educational gap in the already low-income households. There are numerous examples of students driving from Markeville over the WI border to access the internet or driving 45 minutes to park in the EC parking lot.

33. I am town chair of New Dosey and have had several discussions with individuals which would like to move to the area. They have expressed this is not a viable option due to the lack of internet providers/connectivity. Their family cannot not work, complete schooling and maintain extended family relationships due to the insufficient internet in the area.

34. As an educator, we see great discrepancies not only due to economic factors, but due to location as well. It causes great issue for some students.

35. The biggest impediment to pine county employees working from home is lack of internet service.

36. I see the divide between the cities (who are well connected) and the townships, who are not as connected due to lack of density.

37. During the pandemic l, my younger siblings didn't have access to high speed internet at home. Therefore, making it hard for them to do school work.

38. There are areas within the county, especially in the southern part, that have much better internet access. The northern part of the county, and east and west parts away from the I-35 corridor have much poorer service and very limited options.

39. Rural northern Pine County has terrible internet speeds.

40. As an educator, I personnally witnessed inequity in learning due to lack of internet. Families with limited or no internet struggled to meet with teachers remotely, upload or download homework, and even conduct necessary research.

41. The people in town next to hard-wired internet are at a competitive and educational advantage. I know people who are able to run their businesses and family interests on the internet efficiently at a reasonable price with many choices. I have 2 choices - satellite and wifi. At my home Satellite is expensive and just acceptable, the WiFi option would not be. No option for cable or fibre-optic.

42. From a school perspective it is making equity issues worse between students and families. In other words, if my family has fast reliable internet I am getting a better education then my neighbor that doesn't. The quality of your education should depend on your zipcode.

43. As the CVSO I have knowledge of veterans in the northern part of the county that can't do basic VA required actions because of lack of internet

44. The internet is really bad at some locations and it is hard to do anything even on a phone.

45. Unequal access to technology is often due to affordability of access. A lack of access contributes to reduced educational and employment opportunities which only exacerbates the socioeconomic divides.

46. I saw it firsthand with students that were unable to get reliable Internet during distance-learning last year. It's an extreme disservice to students when they don't have the opportunities to perform at their best.

47. That I can not answer.

48. Many locations with in the county only have access to satellite, if that. Which does not come cheap

49. Our direct neighbors have access to high speed internet. We were told by the same company it would cost $8000 to provide us the same service due to our distance from the service box. Everyone at the end of our road can get high speed internet. Unfortunately not even satellite internet providers can offer us services due to the positioning of the trees in relation to their service towers

50. People living out of town do not have equal opportunity to education in our pandemic world. This has affected our family personally.

51. You have to live in town or close to town to be able to have internet which puts country kids at less of an advantage.

52. We see it daily in our patrons and their access, or lack of, to internet access.

53. We offer mental health therapy with a specialty in DBT and RO-DBT. This is incredible for a rural area to have, as most often these services are only available in large cities. Many people in Pine county are unable to receive these services because they doe not have a license, vehicle, or both, and Pine County does not have public transportation. This would not typically be a big deal, as we would just see them online; however, Pine county also lacks aqueduct internet services. These people then have to go without mental healthcare.

54. My news website requires that deadlines be met. My daughter is attending college online and has deadlines for submitting her work. Slow or no internet doesn't allow me to compete in the news industry and my daughter's work gets a lower score when the internet can handle her uploads and times out causing her work to be late.

55. The unequal access affects all of our students and families that live outside of the I35 corridor. This hinders their abilities to complete school activities or work from home. This has the potential to create a learning divide.

56. Many I know outside of town are very frustrated by lack of meaningful options for internet service. Most within town are fine, though more options would improve the price.

57. x

How do local organizations communicate with community members? Is this a two-way discussion? How is technology used? What are the messages [advocacy] Pine County is sending out to the world to attract people and investment?

1. x

2. Social media, websites

3. We have lots of available land at a low price to build a home or business on. Obviously, let's get our internet access into the 21st century!

4. Hard to sell a house to someone from good cell service to poor, in any area! High speed broadband would make a huge difference to the counties, in developing new businesses.

5. x

6. Better internet for all no matter where you live. With school possibly going distance learning we all need it.

7. As employers are moving to remote work environments, this could be a huge boon for the county, as you get an educated population with stable employment. That could help decrease child poverty levels in the county. The cost of housing is stable in comparison to the twin cities metro, so for young homeowners this could be a win - especially remote workers

8. x

9. x

10. x

11. I think we should emphasize our community and how connected people are in addition to their willingness to help others in the community out. I think expanding internet access in addition to highlighting the amount of people we have in the area would help it be more attractive to developers. Also being welcoming of new businesses and ideas.

12. Education. Looking out for the vulnerable and providing education resources, including high speed internet, to the most vulnerable youth.

13. It's a beautiful area and tons of tourists travel through or to pine city each year to enjoy the lakes and be away from the city without the hassle of driving hours and hours to escape.

14. Housing - this is a MAJOR issue in our area. The new employees that do want to relocate to the area are forced to live outside of pine county due to the inability to rent, own or build in this area. There needs to be reasonable housing, specifically people are looking for developments, that are close to town.   Shopping and restaurant Options - Another decision point for new employees is options. Recently we hired an individual from Iowa but since we only have one location to purchase food, they decided to live outside of Pine County. People want options, and not just mainstream options.

15. Na

16. x

17. We have people who have moved to our county and found they needed to quit their job as they had no service. The most important thing we can do is continue working to get service to all of our country residents

18. I think having fast and reliable internet is a good start to attracting development, but make sure to highlight those things Pine County does well. Those could be the school, great state parks, excellent hunting and fishing, only an hour drive from the cities.

19. Home hook ups to the high speed internet with choices of carriers

20. x

21. x

22. good question

23. x

24. x

25. The natural beauty and abundant parks and lakes is very appealing. Investing in infrastructure and expanding technological services will not only attract more tourism, but also attract those looking to make pine county their permanent residence/headquarters.

26. x

27. No idea

28. Subsidize Centurylink to provide fiber optic internet to the whole county.

29. It would get us in the 21st century and maybe get rid of the hulums around the area

30. We have one of the best state parks white water rafting in the Midwest. Vacationers are not happy with slow Internet service when they try to send videos or photos of their adventures. Also, we have an outstanding environmental center with over 4000-7000 people attending in one year. The number one complaint by most was slow Internet service.

31. Pine County is relatively low-income when compared to the state of Minnesota as a whole. It is also not densely populated. If we are seeking to bring better internet service to underserved areas, it would be best to consider an approach that covers a broad area. Radio, wireless and satellite options should be explored.

32. The location between the TC and Duluth!

33. Affordable/reliable internet services.

34. The corridor we live on is a great advantage. That needs to be the center of more discussion. Having thriving businesses and being attractive to families will continue to cause a demand for better internet.

35. Highway Access to Twin Cities, Duluth, and St. Cloud. Available land/shovel ready business/industrial sites

36. Tourism.

37. I don't have an opinion on this subject.

38. Local organizations use social media, web sites, community bulletin boards, and paper flyers to communicate with community members. Word of mouth is an important source of information as well.

39.

40. We communicate with members using our Facebook page, Website, Student Management System (all require cell or internet reception) and paper copies. Some families communicate with our staff using technology, but I know there are some families who just don't due to lack of resources. I have not seen messages from Pine County that would attract people of companies. Perhaps my lack of broadband is the reason.

41. I utilize a website, business pages on Facebook, Linked-In and Twitter, and Zoom meetings to connect with prospects, contacts and clients locally and across the country. I rely on this to run my business and while my service at my office in downtown Moose Lake (Carlton County) is excellent, it is significantly less so at my home in rural Pine County.

42. The partnership with the school districts and Pine Technical and Community College to provide a two years of college is fantastic. It sends the message that our county wants to invest in our students and values post secondary training. Social media, email, texts, surveys are all ways that communication takes place now. Reliable internet is needed to reach people.

43. I do not know

44. They post thing on community pages for people to see. No not a two way communication it's a post. Some times people comment and they respond that would be 2 way. Technology is used for so many things now days even appliances. I have not seen a message from pine county on the matter.

45. Communication to community is often done though Facebook or other social media. Newspapers still provide some information, but that comes at the cost of a subscription that many won't budget as a necessity.

46. I don't know if there's really any good discussion, unfortunately I think people are tired of asking for good broadband and not receiving it.

47. Texting and social media are the most reliable form of communicating with families with limited or no internet access. This can be limited because some families are not in cell phone coverage area or out funds for data.

48.

49. Social media is one of the biggest ways organizations communicate. Everyone needs access to the internet for this to get a two way discussion. The messages Pine County is sending to the world is poor. The hotel was turned down, don julios has been in the works for years, we have many run down and abandoned buildings. Housing is hard to come by and rentals are nearly non existent. There is not much to attract people or investments at this time.

50. I'm not sure

51. Local organizations use their Facebook and webpages to reach locals. They do occasionally use the newspaper in which you have to pay for to be able to see. If we had internet capabilities we wouldn't feel so out of the loop with our community. They aren't sending any attraction to our county as most of the local cities aren't allowing new businesses to come in - only bars, restaurants, and gas stations.

52.

53. The majority of our communication with the community occurs online. It is not always a two way discussion.

54. Social media brings the outside world closer to Pine County.

55. Communication is always a hot topic. We can always improve and enhance our communication models.

56. Organizations that have the ability communicate with the community through email and social media. It is difficult to find out about events without it.

57.

Sustainability initiatives strive to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. They can also help businesses become more competitive as they use materials, water and energy more efficiently in their production cycle. How are people and organizations in Lincoln County adopting sustainable practices in their operations? What barriers to sustainable practices exist?

1. x

2. They are attempting to be more technologically advanced such as ordering groceries online, allowing those to work from Home so office space isn't being rented, facilities aren't needing to be used, online payment options.

3. Our area's recycling efforts have been tremendous. Currently, low cost or no cost to bring to centers.

4. Recycling centers have gained popularity, but some items that could be recycled are not accepted. More emphasis could be taught in schools and campaigns to encourage people to respect and value planet earth.

5. x

6. Unsure

7. I don't have enough information/background on this to respond

8. x

9. x

10. x

11. I don't know much about this and that may in and of itself be a barrier to the practices as people in the community aren't always aware of what sustainable practices organizations are doing.

12. This questions requires time to answer that I don't have right now.

13. x

14. PTCC is regulated by governing bodies that allow us to be knowledgeable and abide by sustainability initiatives. However, I believe that local organizations may not have the knowledge on how to adopt these practices or what it would look like for them to operate in a sustainable manner. Education helps...maybe from PTCC :-)

15. Na

16. x

17. Cable is being laid but not branched out to help our residents. We are working to find the best way to get this service to all

18. One potential barrier of adopting sustainable businesses practices in Pine City in particular is the cost of water. Some businesses may not want to locate to Pine City since the water costs so much and if they are not allowed to drill their own well.

19. Plastic recycling for benches in manufacturing

20. x

21. x

22. more people are working from home,not commuting as much, shopping local

23. x

24. x

25. Many people desire utilizing sustainable resources such as geothermal or solar, but cost greatly impacts the ability of the average of Pine County resident to do so.

26. x

27. Unknown

28. x

29. Other than upgrading some roads I think the growth would take care of itself with the opportunity that would be available.

30. Osprey Wilds, Sandstone, MN is using sustainable food and farming practices. The barriers are Covid 19 is limiting attendance, funding is still needed because schools cancel at last minute and food and supplies have already been ordered. The City of Finlayson needs a zoning committee to protect area bodies of water from over development.

31. Many Pine County businesses and organizations are seeking ways to be sustainable. A plastic bags-for-benches program in Pine City was quite successful.

32. When talking with business owners many are just finding ways to keep their doors open due to shortages of employees so when it comes to sustainability, it is a great idea, but the focus should be on creating and sustaining businesses.

33. Most businesses are practicing sustainability. Making sustainability programs known and easy to participate would help.

34. Na

35. lack of convenient / cost effective recycling.

36. You see more solar installations, electric vehicles and more willingness to address water quality issues these days than in the past. In the past, the barriers most likely were cultural and the desire to keep government regulation out of our business/lives.

37. I'm my company I work at, I see a lot of recycling and reusing.

38. I don't know

39.

40. I don't see this happening.

41. Barriers are mostly educational, attitudinal, and economic. There should be stronger tax incentives for sustainable practices and to network people with resources so that we look for alternatives, reduce use, reuse where we can, then truly recycle.

42. Fast reliable internet is none negotiable. Sustainability is not something you discuss when it should be considered a basic need. As an example, we don't seem to discuss sustainably for electricity. This is simply something we know we get.

43. I do not know

44. Reusing items, recycling goods.

45. Pine county is using more solar power for private homes from what I've seen in my own rural area. Having the electric car charging stations is an excellent contribution to sustainable practices as well. Having better internet will allow more efficiencies in businesses and provide more ideas for innovation with sustainability in mind.

46. Unknown

47. not sure

48.

49.

50. I'm not sure

51. They aren't! We are only allowed one source of electric or natural gas, only 2 garbage companies. Our county relies solely on what was here before and not allowing expansion!

52.

53. I am not sure how to answer this question.

54. Direct communications with businesses through internet make it less expensive to run a business on a daily basis. Rural businesses send their written communication through email and participate in zoomed meetings. No travel required and less time wasted on the road.

55.

56. I'm not sure.

57.