



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Environmental Sustainability Division

m e m o r a n d u m

TO: Sustainability Advisory Commission
FROM: Scott R. Tess, Environmental Sustainability Manager
DATE: November 4, 2014
SUBJECT: Urbana Climate Action Plan Phase 2 Draft public comment

Urbana is currently drafting the second phase of the city's Climate Action Plan. Please find below public comment provided by City commissions and the general public.

Tree Commission

- Recommended revising Goal 4: Action 4 to set the tree genus reduction goal to 15%

Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission (BPAC)

- Recommended keeping a separate bicycle mode share goal and overall mode share goal.
- Recommended changing the goals to an annual percentage increase goal or a 2020 percentage increase goal.
- Recommended a goal to create a pedestrian master plan
- Recommended goals to continue existing efforts such as bicycle master plan implementation
- Recommended working with campus bicycle and pedestrian improvement efforts

Plan Commission

- Recommended against requiring LEED on private sector construction projects. Incentives would be helpful.

Other Exposures

- Green Drinks Champaign County presentation
- Illinois State Geologic Survey Seminar Series
- Lierman Neighborhood Action Committee meeting
- Urbana Market at the Square tabling
- UPTV slide

Public Comment

30 forms by webform via email prompt
7 forms by webform via website prompt
13 forms by paper via personal prompt
50 total public comment forms

1. Please list all strategies from the Climate Action Plan Phase 2 that you strongly support.

Count	Action
11	All
3	None
5	Goal 1: Action 1
3	Goal 1: Action 2
7	Goal 1: Action 3
4	Goal 1: Action 4
9	Goal 1: Action 5
0	Goal 2: Action 1
8	Goal 2: Action 2
5	Goal 2: Action 3
6	Goal 3: Action 1
5	Goal 3: Action 2
3	Goal 3: Action 3
7	Goal 3: Action 4
3	Goal 3: Action 5
3	Goal 4: Action 1
3	Goal 4: Action 2
4	Goal 4: Action 3
5	Goal 4: Action 4
4	Goal 5: Action 1
0	Goal 5: Action 2
0	Goal 5: Action 3
2	Goal 5: Action 4
1	Goal 6: Action 1
2	Goal 6: Action 2

2. Please list all strategies from the Climate Action Plan Phase 2 that you strongly oppose.

Count	Action
2	All
4	None
2	Goal 1: Action 1
0	Goal 1: Action 2
0	Goal 1: Action 3
0	Goal 1: Action 4
0	Goal 1: Action 5
0	Goal 2: Action 1
0	Goal 2: Action 2
0	Goal 2: Action 3
4	Goal 3: Action 1
4	Goal 3: Action 2
2	Goal 3: Action 3
0	Goal 3: Action 4
1	Goal 3: Action 5
0	Goal 4: Action 1
0	Goal 4: Action 2
0	Goal 4: Action 3
2	Goal 4: Action 4
0	Goal 5: Action 1
0	Goal 5: Action 2
0	Goal 5: Action 3
0	Goal 5: Action 4
0	Goal 6: Action 1
0	Goal 6: Action 2

3. Please describe any strategies to reduce greenhouse gas pollution that you think are missing and should be incorporated into the Climate Action Plan Phase 2.

Count	Summary
8	none
1	more specifics for implementation
2	more commercial focus
1	plant more trees
2	better walkability
1	Reduce traffic speeds
3	less sprawl / compact development / infill development / sustainable development
1	create a pedestrian action plan
1	tax full cost of vehicle use
1	more recycling
1	more composting
1	coordinate CAP with LRTP
2	encourage energy efficiency
2	EV charging stations
3	use electric vehicles in City fleet
4	install/incentivize renewable energy
1	energy efficiency in city facilities
2	more public engagement
1	utilize landfill gas
1	individual household level goals
1	encourage care sharing services
1	encourage hybrid/ev vehicles
2	more/better bicycle infrastructure
1	oppose coal and fracking
1	city purchase of local food
1	conservation pricing of energy consumption
1	encourage green business practices
1	city financial support to renewable energy start-ups
1	need a plan to fund activities
1	climate change science does not have consensus
1	plant based carbon sequestration
1	less lawn mowing / no gasoline mowing
1	more / better mass transit
1	remove HOA restrictions on clotheslines, solar panels, wind turbines, rain barrels
1	natural gas busses
1	more fuel efficient bus routing / scheduling

4. Please choose the one (1) greenhouse gas pollution reduction strategy from the Climate Action Plan Phase 2 that is most important to you.

Count	Action
1	Goal 1: Action 1
1	Goal 1: Action 2
6	Goal 1: Action 3
1	Goal 1: Action 4
9	Goal 1: Action 5
2	Goal 2: Action 1
3	Goal 2: Action 2
3	Goal 2: Action 3
1	Goal 3: Action 1
2	Goal 3: Action 2
2	Goal 3: Action 3
3	Goal 3: Action 4
0	Goal 3: Action 5
4	Goal 4: Action 1
0	Goal 4: Action 2
0	Goal 4: Action 3
0	Goal 4: Action 4
1	Goal 5: Action 1
0	Goal 5: Action 2
0	Goal 5: Action 3
0	Goal 5: Action 4
1	Goal 6: Action 1
2	Goal 6: Action 2

5. In general, is the Climate Action Plan Phase 2 on the right track or wrong track?

Count	Response
39	Right Track
7	Wrong Track

6. Do you want to be contacted about starting a block or neighborhood group that will work together to improve energy efficiency in your home?

Count	Response
10	Yes
34	No

7. Enter email address (optional)

17 email addresses entered

8. Please share any other comments on the Climate Action Plan Phase 2 here. (optional)

18 comments

I so appreciate that the people who made the plan tried to present many alternatives, but it really is too much for me to look through--and I'm a kind of pestery checking things out person, willing to study documents. I don't think it's a good idea to be so exhaustive, because exhaustive feels like exhausting. I trust you all to know what you're doing, and I would have appreciated a much smaller list of goals--maybe, that you would have linked goals together in an implementation plan. So we would have been presented with, say, 5 alternatives, and not the huge number you presented us with. But thank you SO much for all this caring careful work.

I, like most other Urbana householders, would be interested in learning to improve energy efficiency at home. But since that's not where the biggest contributions to climate changing pollutants come from, I'd be even more interested in being part of a group that worked to involve area industries in reducing their emissions. I think we should be working toward solutions that make substantial changes. I understand how difficult it is to make changes to plants and big facilities, but I think that's where focus should be. And I'd like to see commercial, industrial, and research representatives working with city and community people to design strategies that will amount to real improvements, not things that are just theoretically improvements.

My suggestion is to go aggressively after the action steps that can produce the biggest returns and do what you can to encourage and incentivize all the rest. All of Goal 4 is easily done. Reducing any energy demand is good (like requiring rental units to be energy efficient.) I think bike share can go beyond 12%. I think redeveloping the Urbana Downtown (knock down the County Plaza and get a high density mix of retail and housing there would be great long term) will generate income and reduce energy use. Let's get a hardware store downtown again!!

Not a significant enough reduction.

We should take advantage of our various neighborhood groups and their mailing lists as much as possible.

Very important to cross-link with the LTRP on a continuous basis. This makes or breaks the sustainability development of Urbana. Additionally, there needs to be some analysis of the transportation contribution to GHG added to this! Thank you for the wonderful work.

Seems thoughtful and ambitious.

I support reducing commercial energy consumption, and think it could be promoted to businesses using the benefit of cost savings to try to increase participation. O'Brien Auto Park seems like a big target, because from the air, they are one of the brightest spots in Urbana, i.e. they use a lot of light at night. I also support bringing back the Home Energy Rebate program. My family did not get to take advantage of it, and there may be other residents or families new to Urbana who would like to take advantage of it.

It needs more action items for making Urbana more bike friendly. A reliable bike route from downtown Urbana to downtown Champaign would be a good start. Cyclists either cut through the engineering quad which endangers pedestrians or are forced to take Springfield, Green St, or University which during busy times can be quite dangerous.

Your 2020 goal of a 25% reduction in green house gases seems a bit low. Your 2050 goal seems good, but I would increase that percentage for 2020. Page 25 - you point out many things that aren't great/couple be improved upon - would like to see more detailed recommendations in this section. You've put little data or commentary about the impact climate change has already had on Urbana - for example, drought a year ago cause crazy amounts of bugs, the significantly went summer we had resulted in larger amounts of mosquitoes and put us at risk for west Nile virus. The extreme winter, I'm sure drives away residents. Heating is so high as a result of this crazy weather. If you have stats on people dying due to weather related events - that would be good to have in this report. Even the allergy impact of not pruning trees as often as the national standard of 5 years - would be good to point out. For some of the charts looking at Urbana's 2007 & 2013

consumption stats - it would be interesting to compare how the city is doing in comparison to the City of Champaign. I realize they are much bigger, but even if you could do a comparison per individual home or per individual business - it would be interesting to see how we compare to our neighboring city. Grammatical Comments = Page 5 - under Goal#4 you have the term "Action Item 4" repeated twice. Page 8 - first sentence needs a comma before "which". Page 8 - second sentence, I would reword to read - "The purpose of Phase 1 was to implement a small number of proven initiatives that reduce greenhouse gasses, while evaluating additional initiatives to be implement in Phase 2 that includes climate change adaptation initiatives." Page 8 - Title at the top, change "In Progress" to "In-progress". Then title at the bottom, capitalize Section 5, and drop the period between 5 and Appendices. Page 9 - Add bullets to sub-paragraphs. Page 9 - 4th paragraph down, 3rd sentence - "infrastructure. Because the electrons produced from the different technologies .." reword to read "infrastructure. As a result, the electrons produced from different technologies..." Page 9 - last sentence - "Because RECs are..." reword to "Since RECs are..." Page 12 & 13 - text in the boxes under "Sector" - I would capitalize each word there. Page 13 - try to use vector images so when you import in graphics - they won't be so fuzzy/poor resolution. Page 14 - for the top end of the Kwh & Therms - would be nice to have number labels. Also put a note on the second chart why nothing for industry shows up on the Therms graphic. Page 18 - change the bullets to check marks - and drop the "A" at the beginning of each bullet. Page 18 & 19 - you could probably reduce down the spacing so it fits on one page. Page 20 - hard/impossible to see the grey goal line on the chart - consider making that darker. Page 21 - Throughout the document, you need to add periods to anytime you have a complete sentence, even if its a bullet. On this page, you are missing periods for 1st, 3rd, 4th, 6th, and 7th bullet. Page 21 - This sentence doesn't make sense/is unclear = "Estimated cost: Estimated program cost for commercial reduction through financial incentives strategy: \$76,000 per year. Estimated program cost for commercial reduction through benchmarking strategy: \$490,000 per year. Estimated cost for commercial reduction through RECs: \$82,000 per year. Additional costs to business participants." Page 22 - drop "Such a policy" each time is used, and change it to "Policy should". Page 24 - under action item 2, second sentence, change "They" to "These" Page 24 - under action item 4 - you mention a Chicago program - I would cite the source and provide a hyperlink to that program. [Note that in modern word/document fonts - you don't need two spaces after a period - the text adjusts automatically at the start of the sentence - therefore, you have too much space at the start of sentences where you double spaced.] Page 28 - your chart runs off the page. If that first column is not needed, then delete it.

Does the U of I iCAP and Urbana iCAP goals not overlap? Incorporating each other may help expand Urbana's number of supporting committees and research. It might be difficult with the university red tape.

We simply can't expect that once a PLAN has been set up that it will solve a problem. And as the title suggests, ACTION is required. Unfortunately, funding is required - whether via additional staff and/or actual resources. Are we finally willing to do that?

Solar power on every rooftop should also be a plan.

I would like to see Electric Vehicle charging points (EVSE's). Level 2 at minimum.

The potential of solar water heaters might be worth having a closer look

Keep up the good work!

Recognizing and reducing local risk needs to be prioritized first when addressing the impacts of climate change with limited financial resources. Once local risks have been mitigated it would be appropriate to pursue more regional or global strategies. (i.e. Although wise to encourage both, Goal 4, Action 1 should be prioritized above Goal 3 Action 1 because the local risk of inadequate infrastructure will be more effectively mitigated by community action than will the global distribution of energy sources)

Again, please add Electric Vehicles for all city of Urbana parking enforcement, and other city vehicles. Talk to the city of Normal, IL to learn how to get Federal Funding for this.

Typos and Formatting Edits

The following amendments have been made to the Urbana Climate Action Plan Phase 2 since public comment has been closed.

p4 remove duplicate text

p5, p22, p24 footnote page number

p8 2 roundabouts instead of one

p8 capitalize Section 5 and remove period

p13 updated pie graphs

p14 caption and titles

p15, p16 charts colors, chart REC rendering

p16+20 removed unused legend symbols

p18 bullet style change

p21 added periods

p22 added an energy consulting firm

p23 Action 2 47% to 51.6%

p24 they to these

p24 alignment change

p26 alignment change

p26 promotion and education

p28 resized chart to fit on page