



MEMORANDUM

TO: City of Urbana Sustainability Advisory Commission
FROM: Scott R. Tess, Environmental Sustainability Manager
DATE: Tuesday, May 2, 2017
RE: Staff Report

Climate Action Plan Phase 2 Progress

Goal 1: Action 6 Evaluate opportunities to retrofit existing outdoor lighting with more energy efficient lighting

Staff has hosted a site tour of several facilities for energy services companies interested in bidding on our guaranteed energy savings project request for proposal. Four companies attended the tour. Responses to the request for proposal are due June 2.

Goal 3: Action 4 Propose strategies to improve the local onsite renewable energy market

Solar Urbana-Champaign has secured its first contract for a solar installation. Solar Power Hours are continuing.

Goal 3: Action 5 Propose strategies to increase renewable energy purchasing in the commercial sector

Staff are observing the progress of a new property assessed clean energy (PACE) legislation in the Illinois General Assembly. The bills HB2831 and SB1700 create an entirely new process for PACE rather than relying on the existing special service area procedures in state statutes. The bills would allow for third-party administration of PACE “areas” and would allow multiple jurisdictions to share PACE areas.

Public Engagement

Staff shared information on Solar UC, U-Cycle, rain barrel sale, and other programs at the Home & Garden Show at Lincoln Square April 8 and 9.

Staff participated in a meeting convened by the Institute for Sustainability, Energy, and the Environment aiming to collaborate with local stakeholders on identifying and implementing shared climate resilience strategies. Further meetings are being scheduled.

Staff participated in a panel discussion on ‘green jobs’ at Parkland College with a primarily student audience.

Sustainable Water Management Plan

Aspect 1: Potable Water Supply and Demand: Action 3 Reduce water used for landscape irrigation

- **Consider resilient landscapes that minimize use of labor, water, and energy through plant selection and limited or no irrigation for all new landscape plans for city-owned properties**

The Arbor Division is expanding its testing of low mow fescue grasses with a planting in a right of way strip on Washington Ave. near Philo Rd. Low mow fescue is already in use along portions of the Boneyard Creek Crossing.

U-Cycle

Online registration for the electronics recycling event on May 20, 2017 is full. Residents can be placed on a waiting list in case there are cancelations.

Staff shared information at the University of Illinois' Environmental Expo and conducted an Earth Day presentation to Pre-K students at Chesterbrook Academy at the U of I Research Park touching on why recycling is important to the Earth, what types of things can be recycled, what the recycling symbol means, and directed a recycling sort game with the class.

Staff participated in the first meeting of the Household Hazardous Waste Leadership Team which aims to "guide efforts towards implementation of convenient, safe, and environmentally responsible household hazardous waste management options for citizens of Champaign County, including, but not limited to:

- Provision of interim one-day HHW collections;
- Expansion of collection options for unwanted pharmaceuticals and other wastes streams; and
- Development of a permanent HHW collection facility"

The initial objectives of the leadership team is to review resources available and needed to conduct a one-day HHW collection; seek and apply for potential grant funding; recommend best options for a fiscal agent or sponsor; and seek advice regarding developing a business plan.

The HHW leadership team will be meeting on a bi-monthly basis and at our next meeting in June, identify goals that we want to complete in 2017.

Next SAC Meeting

June 6 at 7:00 pm in Council Chambers