



MEMORANDUM

TO: City of Urbana Sustainability Advisory Commission
FROM: Scott R. Tess, Environmental Sustainability Manager
DATE: Tuesday, February 6, 2018
RE: Staff Report

Climate Action Plan Phase 2 Progress

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

Staff is supporting the Midwest Renewable Energy Association recruiting staff and other community members from many cities in Champaign County to serve on an advisory committee for vendor selection for Solar Urbana-Champaign 3.0. We hope to have our first Solar Power Hours in April.

Urbana has been selected for an NREL education program called Solar Training for Cities and Counties. This program is a no-cost solar photovoltaic (PV) training program for cities and counties seeking to add solar energy to their facilities (on both buildings and land). Environmental Sustainability Division staff and Planning Division staff are utilizing the educational programming.

Additionally, staff is sharing experience and advice to other public sector agencies locally and across the state regarding the procurement of solar arrays and renewable energy.

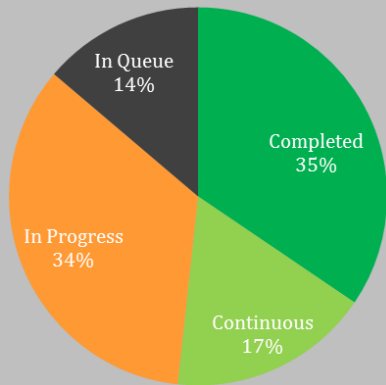
Goal 6 Action 1: Work with the Sustainability Advisory Commission to inventory greenhouse gas emissions and evaluate emissions reduction strategies every two years

Staff is collecting and inputting data to inventory the calendar year 2017 community greenhouse gas inventory.

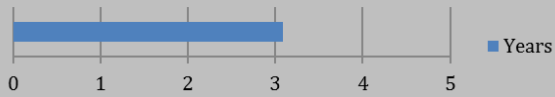
Additional Energy and Climate Activities

Staff is working to benchmark calendar year 2017 energy use for City facilities in ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager. It appears that some meter numbers have changed due to the installation of new smart meters in the area complicating the data management effort.

Climate Action Plan Phase 2 Progress



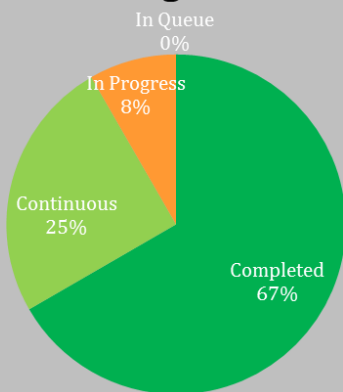
Timeline



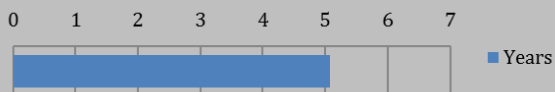
Sustainable Water Management Plan

Staff is working to publish an invitation to bid for a one day rain barrel and compost bin sale. The target sale date would be the first Saturday in May. This date would also feature the first Market at the Square event of the year.

Sustainable Water Management Plan Progress



Timeline



U-Cycle

Staff has been working to identify existing businesses that would operate as the official electronics drop off and bulking site under the new recycling law. However, the law provides that electronics manufacturers take all electronics including CRT TVs and monitors at no cost, but does not provide for the manufacturers to pay the collection sites. At present, businesses accepting electronics are getting paid for the electronics and are not interested in giving up that revenue. Therefore, we will take the second option in the recycling law whereby electronics manufacturers pick up some costs for the community to operate electronics collection events.

Staff is developing a program for a backyard composting workshop set for Saturday, May 5, from 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. at the Anita Purves Nature Center. Arbor Division staff and a Master Gardener’s volunteer will discuss the importance of composting and how to set up a backyard program.

Utility Tax

Staff had been asked by SAC Chair Stacy Gloss and City Councilor Eric Jakobsson to investigate utilizing an increase in the existing natural gas consumption tax by some increment and using that additional increment to fund energy and climate activities. This change is not feasible since the City of Urbana is already taxing at the statutory limit of 5% of gross receipts.

Additional Sustainability Division Activities

Staff is working to bid out nuisance vegetation abatement services.

Staff is coordinating implementation of a new work order and asset management computer program for Public Works.

Commission Vice Chair

The ordinance establishing the Sustainability Advisory Commission provides for the Mayor to appoint a Vice Chair of the Commission. The Vice Chair would perform all duties of the Chair in the absence of the Chair. Those duties include establishing a meeting agenda and presiding over a meeting.

Next Sustainability Advisory Commission Meeting

March 6 at 7:00 pm in the Executive Conference Room