



MEMORANDUM

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

Climate Action Plan Phase 2 Progress

Goal 3 Action 2: Purchase Green Power Partnership qualified renewable energy credits and/or the installation of onsite renewable energy for City facilities.

The City is working with our competitively selected vendor, SunPower, to develop a lease option to utilize the closed landfill for a 2 megawatt solar array. The City will consider an offer to purchase some or all of the power generated.

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

The Midwest Renewable Energy Association has released a request for proposal for a solar installer for the third round of Solar Urbana Campaign. We hope to have our first Solar Power Hours in April.

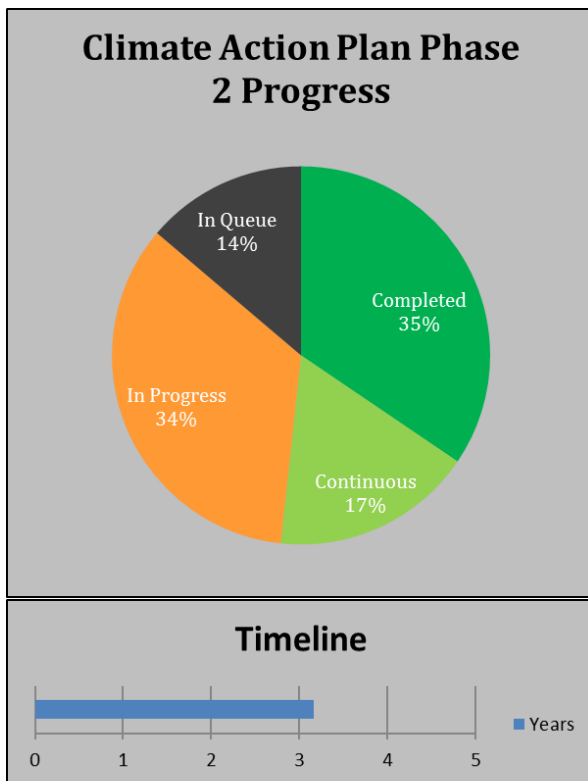
Goal 6 Action 1: Work with the Sustainability Advisory Commission to inventory greenhouse gas emissions and evaluate emissions reduction strategies every two years

Staff has completed a draft of the calendar year 2017 community greenhouse gas inventory and Environmental Sustainability Annual Report. These will be presented during the commission meeting.

Additional Energy and Climate Activities

Public Engagement: Staff met with the student group Business in Environmental Responsibilities to develop some student projects utilizing ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager and the National Renewable Energy Lab's Renewable Energy Integration & Optimization tool. Staff met with the student group Act Green to discuss renewable energy credits and the renewable energy market.

Volkswagen Settlement: The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency is accepting public comment on their proposed use of the Volkswagen Settlement money distributed to states. Comment is open until April 13. Illinois' initial allocation from the Fund is \$108 million. The Settlement allows funds to be used for projects that repower or replace eligible engines or vehicles. Information is available at <http://www.epa.illinois.gov/topics/air-quality/vw-settlement/>.



U-Cycle

Staff attended the housing fair at the University of Illinois. The event provided an opportunity to talk to students who live in Urbana or will be living in Urbana next semester regarding the recycling program. It also gave opportunity to speak with property managers and provide them with recycling information for their tenants.

Staff is collecting waste and recycling data for City facilities and operations to compile an annual report.

Council and Mayoral Goals

Every four years Mayor and Council go through a process of creating consensus goals. This spring the two meeting process resulted in five goals for the City to pursue above and beyond normal obligations. As reported in the News-Gazette (<http://www.news-gazette.com/news/local/2018-02-26/urbana-council-lays-out-citys-top-five-priorities-through-2021.html>), the goals are as follows:

1. With consideration of downtown Urbana as a whole, initiate and plan for a transformation of the Lincoln Square site into a destination.
2. Increase minority participation in city procurement, hiring and contracting. And, working with the Human Relations Commission, develop a system to incentivize and advocate for equity and increased minority employment rates.
3. Work to achieve equity in traffic stops and reduce the disparate impact of court costs and fines on lower-income people.
4. Expand the connectivity of the Kickapoo Rail Trail with a focus between Vine St. and Lincoln Ave.
5. Invest in and repurpose older housing stock.

Next Sustainability Advisory Commission Meeting

April 3 at 7:00 pm in City Council Chambers