



# **ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY DIVISION**

**ANNUAL REPORT: 2017**  
City of Urbana, Illinois

Photo Caption: Solar energy array behind the Arbor Division Shop

## ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY DIVISION

The Environmental Sustainability Division works to improve the performance of energy, water, and waste management while reducing sanitary nuisances. The Division administers community energy efficiency and water conservation efforts while working with City staff to also save energy and water. The Division operates the U-Cycle curbside and multi-family recycling service while conducting engagement with City staff to reduce waste. The Division enforces nuisance vegetation and refuse codes and waste hauler licensing while engaging community groups to ‘adopt’ street sections for litter collection with the Adopt Urbana program. The Division manages the Municipal Electric Aggregation program and the concomitant purchase of renewable energy credits. The Environmental Sustainability Division works with the Sustainability Advisory Commission whose members are appointed by the Mayor. The Commission meets regularly to receive updates from the Division and advise on the future course of sustainability work. For more information, visit <http://urbanaillinois.us/sustainability>.

In 2018, the Division intends to conduct another bulk solar array purchase program for the community, work towards a two megawatt commercial array on the closed landfill, develop electronics recycling options, evaluate facilities energy efficiency improvements, and encourage natural landscaping practices.

### Division Staff

Scott R. Tess, Environmental Sustainability Manager  
 Courtney Kwong, Recycling Coordinator  
 Jason Arrasmith, Environmental Compliance Officer  
 Kate Brickman, Administrative Assistant

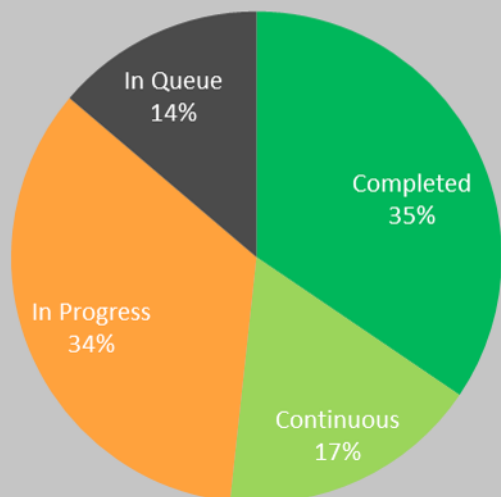
### Sustainability Advisory Commission Members

Andrew Stumpf  
 Claire Johnson  
 Dustin Allred  
 Morgan White  
 Stacy Gloss, Chair  
 Elizabeth Meschewski  
 Todd Rusk

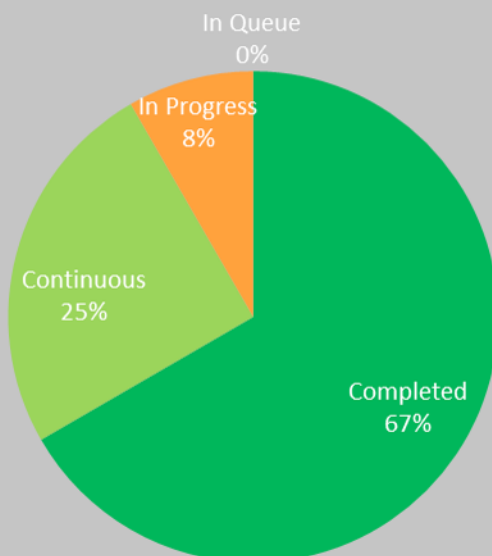
### Environmental Sustainability Division Budget Fiscal Year 2017-2018

Category	Budget
U-Cycle -staffing, contract collection, carts, public engagement	\$747,543.00
Sustainability and Environmental Compliance -staffing, energy, water, nuisance abatement	\$247,441.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$994,984.00</b>

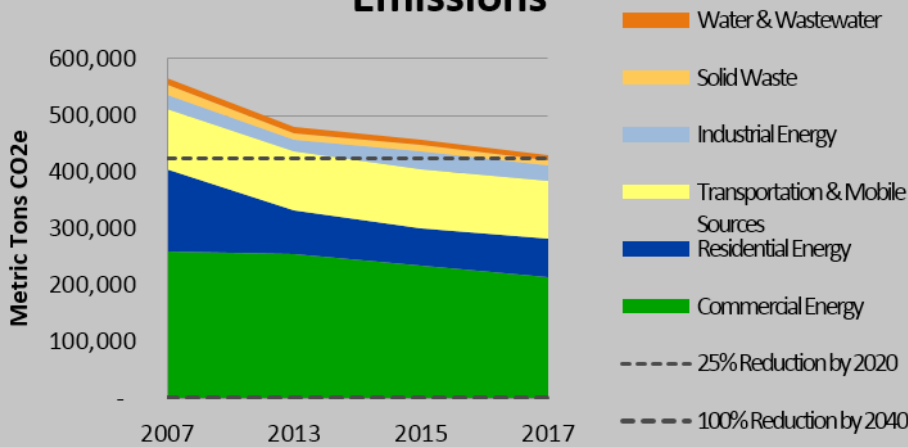
### Climate Action Plan Phase 2 Progress



### Sustainable Water Management Plan Progress



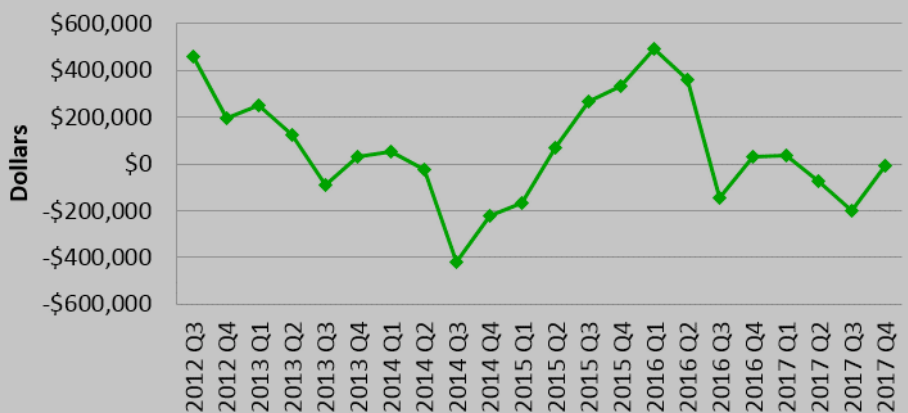
### Community Greenhouse Gas Emissions



#### Additional Information

The reduction in greenhouse gas emissions in the Residential sector is primarily attributable to the purchase of Renewable Energy Credits in the City’s Municipal Electric Aggregation program. The dotted lines represent the 2020 and 2050 greenhouse gas reduction goals listed in the City’s Climate Action Plan. In 2018, the City Council approved a resolution to establish a net carbon neutral goal to be achieved by 2040.

### Quarterly Municipal Electric Aggregation Savings

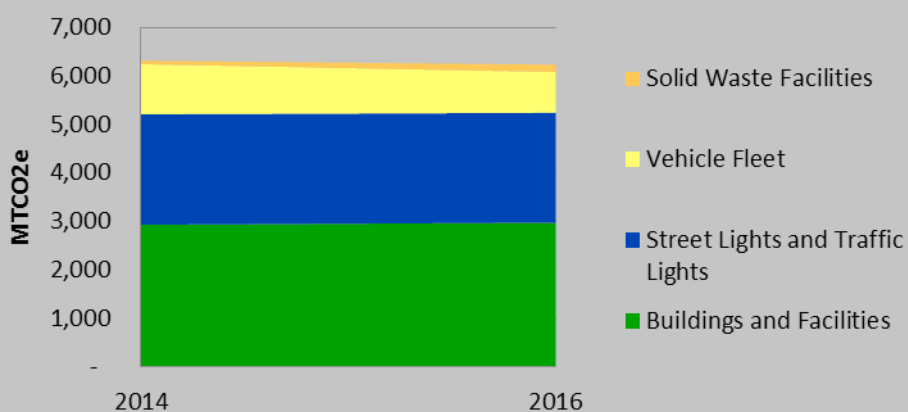


#### New Solar Energy Array

The City of Urbana worked with an installer to locate a solar array that plugs into the Arbor Division shop. The array was made possible by one of the first public sector solar power purchase agreements in the state.

Under the agreement, a 3rd party owns and operates the solar array while the City pays for all the electricity the array produces. During the first 5 years of operations, the renewable energy credits (RECs) produced by the system are sold to the State of Illinois helping achieve the State’s Renewable Portfolio Standard. During the remaining 20 years of the power purchase agreement, the RECS will be owned by the City of Urbana.

### City Facilities Greenhouse Gas Emissions



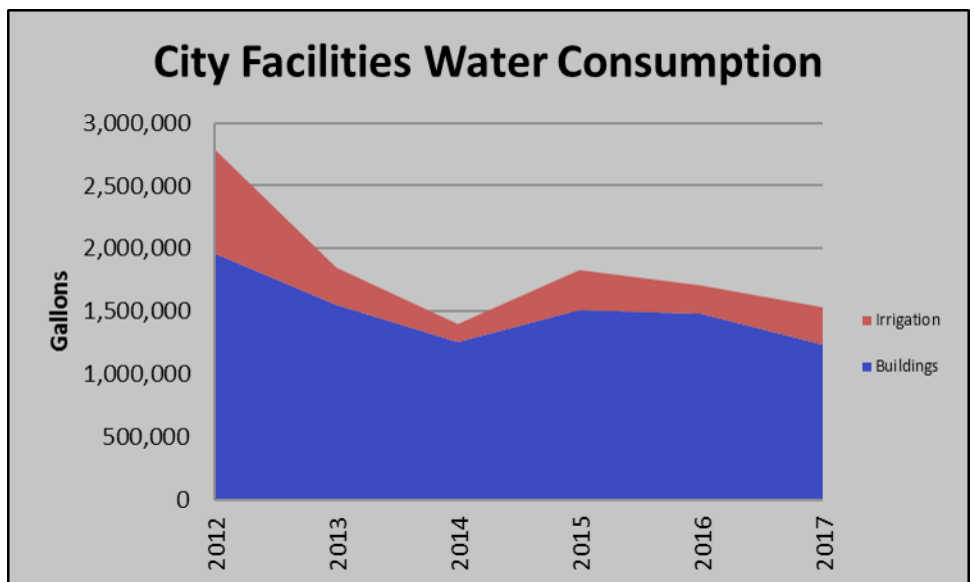
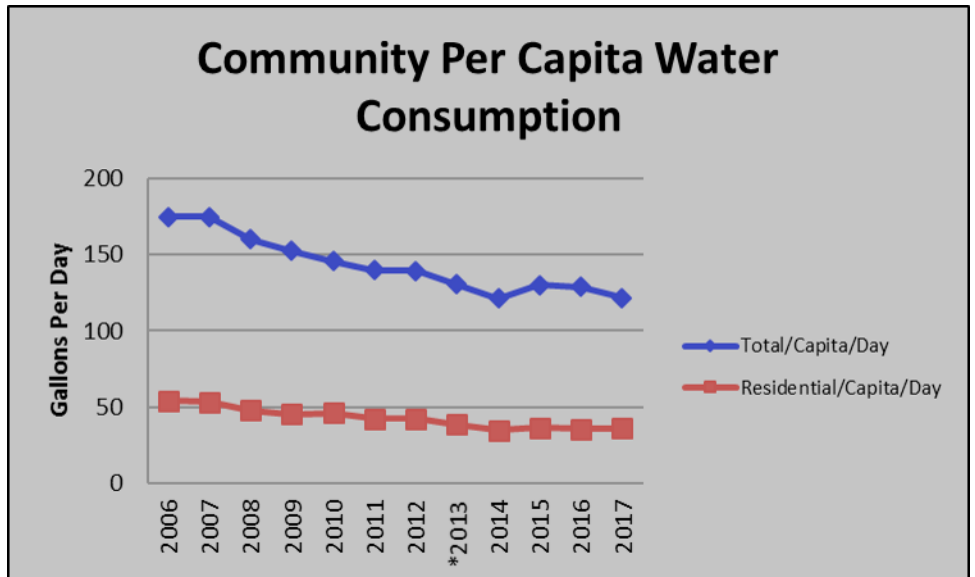
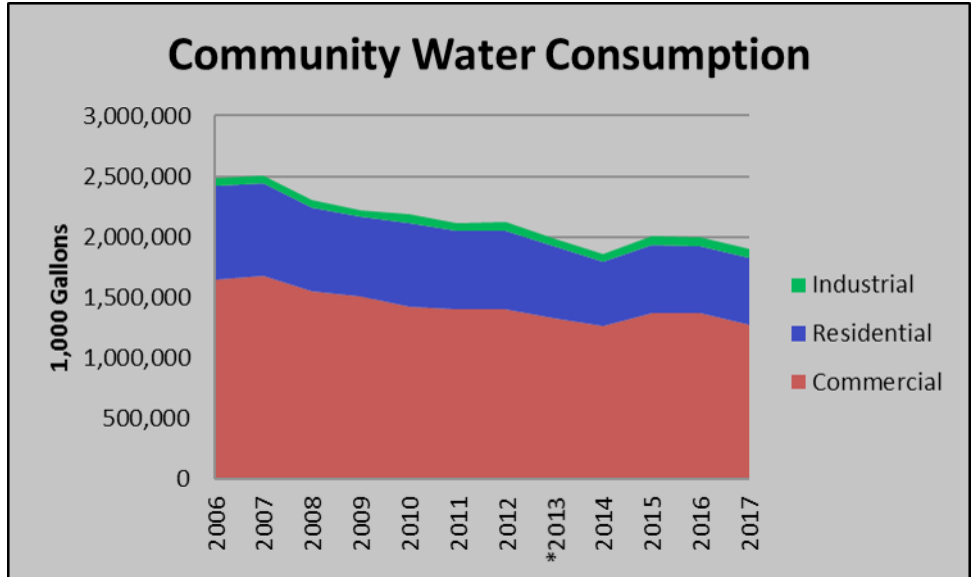
**Additional Information**

The Community Water Consumption chart shows proportional water consumption by sector in the community over time. \*2013 data in this chart is estimated since actual data is not available from Illinois American Water.

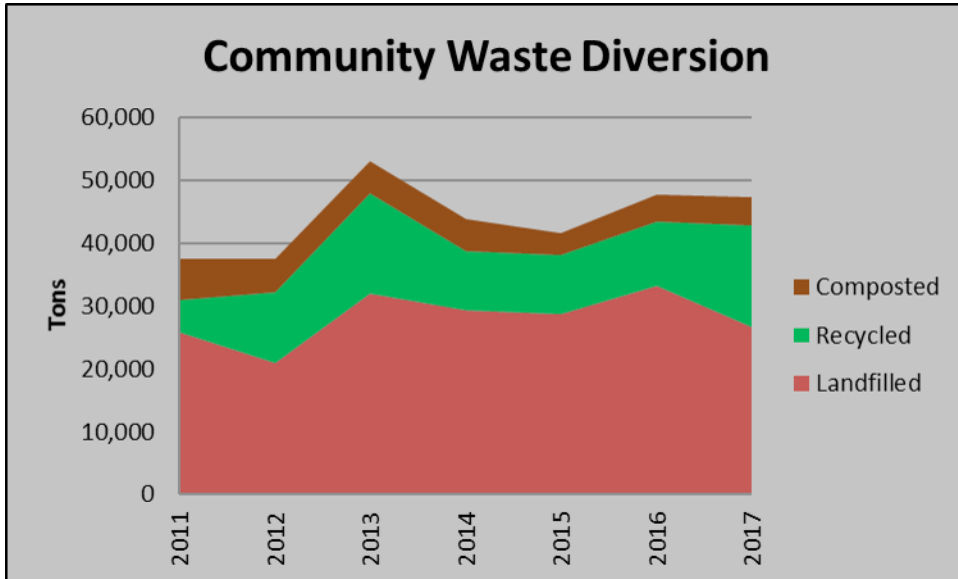
**Midwest Grows Green**

The City of Urbana and Urbana Park District have partnered with the Midwest Pesticide Action Center on the group's Midwest Grows Green program. This effort engages residents, retailers, and City landscape managers to adopt a natural lawn care approach.

The natural lawn care approach uses the following practices in place of chemical fertilizers and pesticides: Mow high, no less than 3 inches. Water Properly, no more than 1 inch per week. Fertilize organically, only naturally derived organic fertilizers such as compost, compost tea, alfalfa meal, etc. Core aerate, up to twice per year.

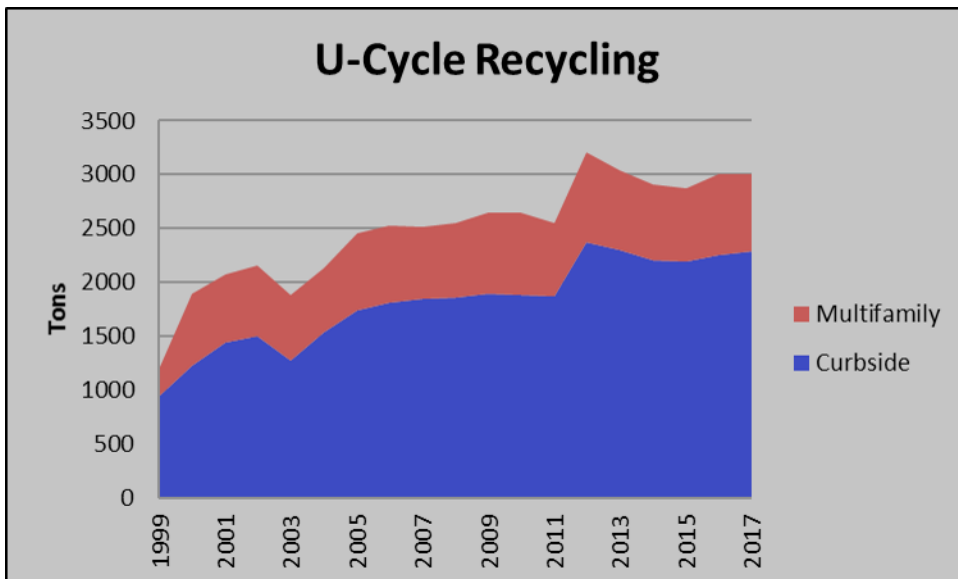






#### Additional Information

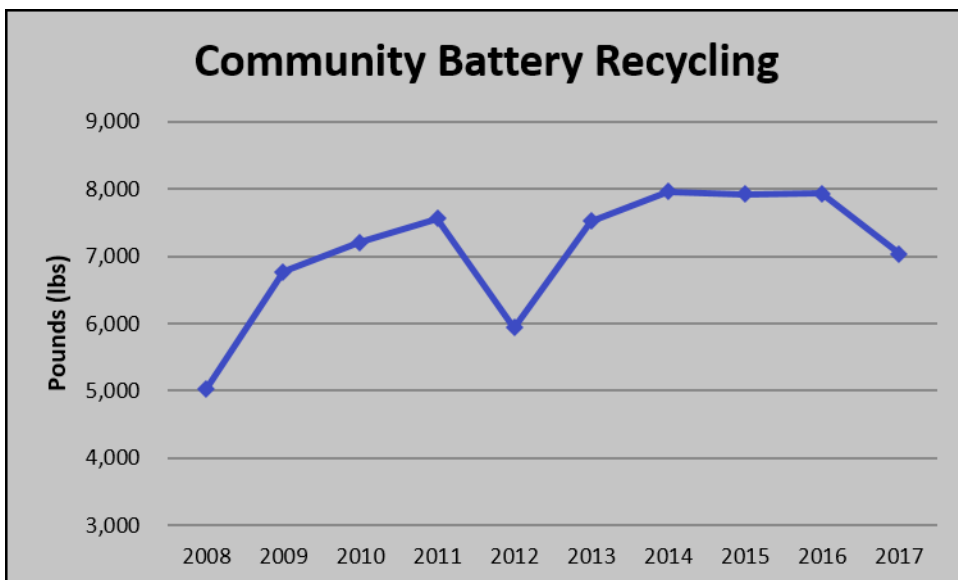
The Community Waste Diversion chart shows proportional waste, recycling, and composting over time. In 2017, total waste diversion was 44%.



#### Electronics Recycling

Urbana, Champaign, Savoy, and Champaign County hosted two electronics recycling events in 2017, where the communities recycled 146 tons of electronic devices, a 33% increase compared to 2016.

These municipalities anticipate two electronics recycling events in 2018 as well. Future events should enjoy partial financial support through Public Act 100-0433 which provides for electronics manufacturers to fund electronics recycling activities based on a “convenience standard.” The previous ‘goal system’ left communities without sufficient electronics recycling collections. The passage of this law was the culmination of legislative efforts by the Illinois Product Stewardship Council which is co-charied by City of Urbana Recycling Coordinator Courtney Kwong.



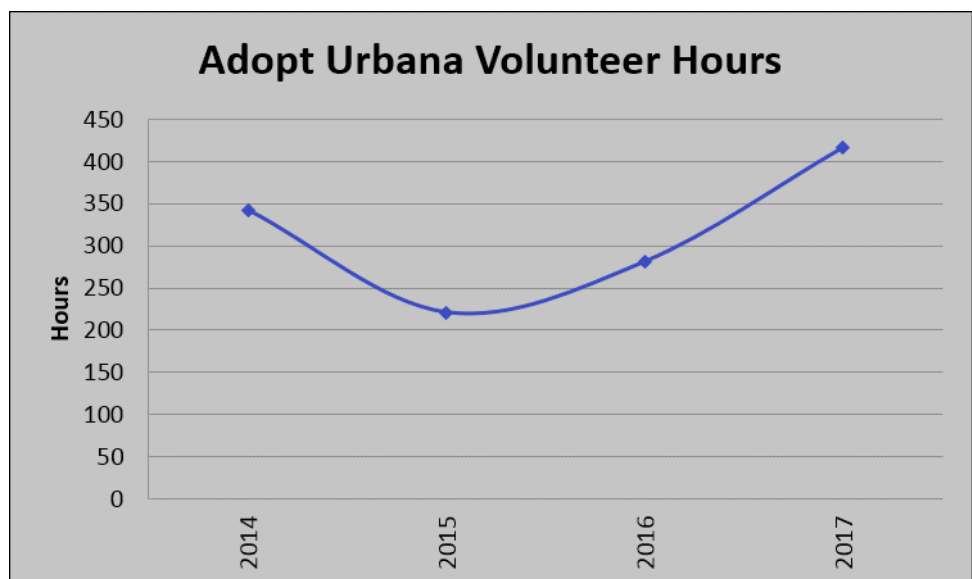
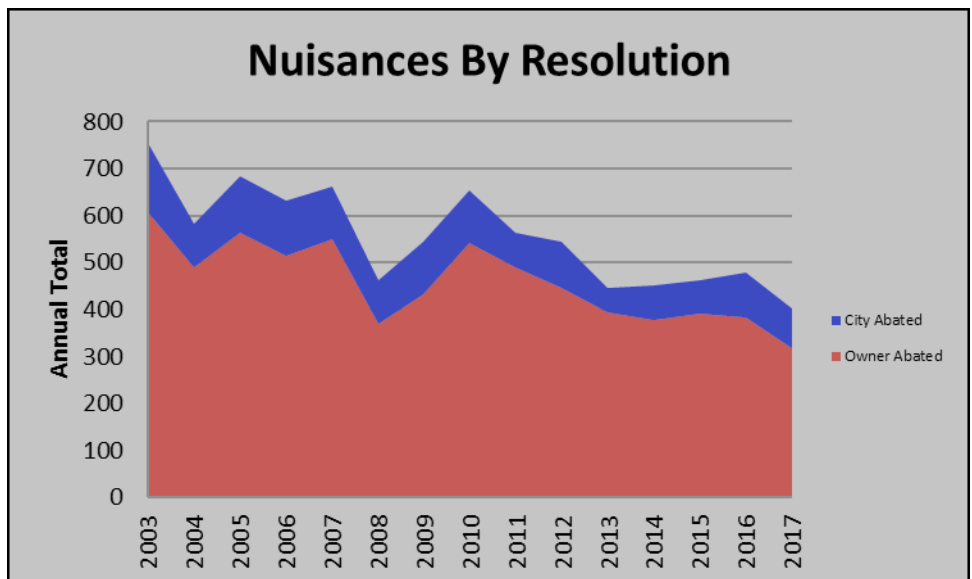
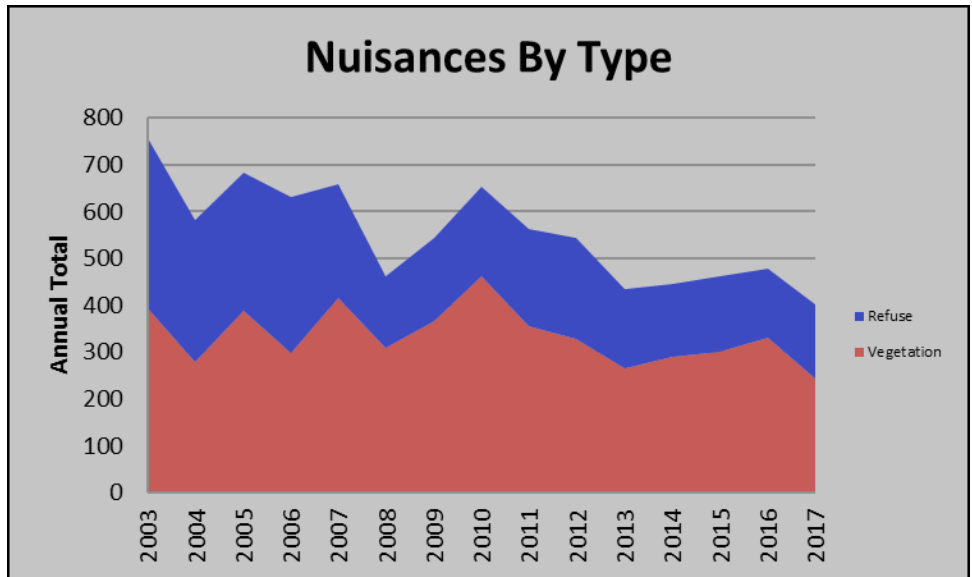
# NUISANCE ABATEMENT

## Additional Information

The Nuisances By Type chart shows the proportion of nuisances that are either vegetation or refuse. Sidewalk snow removal violations as well as noise ordinance violations are not shown due to the very low instances of these violations.

## Improved Data Management

In 2017, the City of Urbana began implementing three new software packages to better generate, track, and analyze data. All three of these software systems are utilized by the Nuisance Abatement program. Inspections and citations for nuisance code violations will now be performed and track in a system unified with the Community Development Department's permits and inspections. Additionally, landfill leachate collection system maintenance performed at Urbana's closed landfill will be scheduled and tracked in a unified system with the Public Works Department's asset management and work orders. Finally, like all City Departments, the Nuisance Abatement program invoices, payments, and budget will now be managed by a new software program that will make tracking and reporting expenditures more efficiently.



## AWARDS & GRANTS

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The City of Urbana was selected for NREL's City and County Solar PV Training Program. This program will support efforts to add solar energy to publicly owned facilities. The series is comprised of virtual and in-person training options. Upon completion, attendees will receive a one-on-one consultation with an NREL staff member.



Urbana has been named a Green Power Community by the U.S. EPA for its ongoing use of green power through the city's municipal electric aggregation program. Green power is zero-emissions electricity that is generated from environmentally preferable renewable resources, such as wind, solar, geothermal, biogas, eligible biomass, and low-impact hydro.

The City of Urbana's Environmental Sustainability Manager was selected as a People's Delegate to the United Nations Climate Conference in Bonn, Germany. This afforded an opportunity to share Urbana's sustainability work on a global scale and represent that cities in the United States are still committed to the Paris Agreement on climate.



The Community Foundation of East Central Illinois has selected the local Household Hazardous Waste Leadership Team which the City of Urbana supports to participate in their Community Solutions Incubator program. The Incubator will assist the Leadership Team by providing access to networking opportunities and mentorships from experts in the areas of business, finance, non-profits and marketing to name a few. The mission of the HHW leadership team is to guide efforts toward implementation of convenient, safe, environmentally responsible household hazardous waste management options for citizens of Champaign County.

