



MEMORANDUM

TO: City of Urbana Sustainability Advisory Commission
FROM: Scott R. Tess, Environmental Sustainability Manager
DATE: Tuesday, September 3, 2019
RE: Staff Report

Climate Action Plan Phase 2 Progress

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

Solar Urbana-Champaign has secured 128kw of capacity.

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

The City of Urbana and SunPower landfill solar project has been awarded incentives to build a low-income community solar project. The City's electrical demand will serve as an anchor tenant for the project. The City and SunPower will be publishing a press release soon.

Landscape Recycling Center

Staff has received only one bid for fiber optic installation to the Landscape Recycling Center ticket booth. The bid was for substantially more than the amount budgeted. Staff will talk with vendors and re-evaluate our bid specifications to determine if more favorable bids can be achieved.

Sustainable Water Management Plan

The City Arbor Division has purchased a compost spreader with partial grant funding from the Lumpkin Family Foundation as part of the City's Midwest Grows Green partnership with the Integrated Pest Management Institute. The compost spreader will be used to top-dress Landscape Recycling Center compost on City-owned turf grass in place of synthetic fertilizers.

Additional Public Engagement

Staff spoke on a panel at the recent CURES Connections Workshop where participants developed research and programmatic priorities to address the leading contemporary sustainability challenges. The workshop is part of an effort to develop a Center for Urban Resilience and Environmental Sustainability within the University of Illinois System.

U-Cycle

On Friday, August 23 and Saturday, August 24, staff coordinated recycling and corn cob composting at the annual Sweetcorn Festival. Festival patrons recycled about 6 cubic yards (750 lbs.) of commingled recyclables including plastic cups, bottles, cans and cardboard/paper materials. Patrons recycled 2 cubic yards of corn cobs that were sent to the Landscape Recycling Center for composting. U-Cycle staff also had a U-Cycle tent where recycling information and outreach materials to citizen was distributed.

Staff provided a U-Cycle advertisement to the Daily Illini for the new student move-in editions to inform students of recycling at apartment buildings in Urbana. Staff also met with Champaign County Environmental Stewards (CCES) board members to continue outreach efforts about this new non-profit organization and its goal to provide more frequent household hazardous waste collection events to

Champaign County residents. U-Cycle staff also provided recycling brochures to the larger apartment complexes in Urbana during student move-in in August.

Next Sustainability Advisory Commission Meeting

October 1 at 7:00 pm in Council Chambers at the Urbana City Building.