



**CITY OF URBANA, ILLINOIS
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY DIVISION**

MEMORANDUM

TO: City of Urbana Sustainability Advisory Commission
FROM: Scott R. Tess, Environmental Sustainability Manager
DATE: Tuesday, October 1, 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 201kw of capacity.

Additional Energy and Climate Activities

Staff is providing promotional support and has offered to participate in seed cleaning and preparation to support the Urbana Free Library's new Seed Lending Library. The Urbana Free Library is now accepting saved seeds from gardens. At present, the Library is only accepting seed this season for "super easy" seed saver plants: tomatoes, herbs, peas, beans, peppers, and lettuces. The basic idea is that residents plant the seeds, grow the plants, let some go to seed, and then return some of these next-generation seeds to the Library for others to borrow. The City Landscape Crews have set aside some landscape plant seeds for the Library as well.

Landscape Recycling Center

Staff has published a modified invitation to bid to procure an internet network installation at the Landscape Recycling Center ticket booth. The current invitation to bid closes October 4.

Additional Public Engagement

Staff is participating as a local partner in the University of Illinois Institute for Sustainability, Energy, and the Environment capstone course.

U-Cycle

Staff is collaborating with City of Champaign and Champaign County for the upcoming electronics recycling event on Saturday, October 12, and the Illinois EPA-sponsored household hazardous waste (HHW) event on Saturday, October 26. Online registration for both events is up and running until time slots are filled. The City is pleased that Champaign County has been selected for a one-day HHW event as it has been seven years since the last event. There are 1,700 slots available for households to sign up for the HHW event. In 2012, Champaign County brought in 509 55-gallon drums of chemical and hazardous materials; equivalent to just over 200,000 lbs. of materials. Staff anticipates a large event with a lot of materials since it has been such a long time between events.

Staff attended a "Recycling in Transition" workshop in Springfield on September 11, where recycling coordinators around the state met to discuss the state of recycling in Illinois since the China ban took effect. Fortunately, we are still in good shape in the Midwest and recyclable commodities are still moving. We are fortunate to have mills in the central region of the U.S. that will take our recyclables such as paper and plastic. Though market prices are very low, materials continue to move and have not affected the U-Cycle program. Urbana residents will be kept abreast if any changes should occur in the future.

Next Sustainability Advisory Commission Meeting

November 5 at 7:00 pm in Executive Conference Room at the Urbana City Building.