

URBANA SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMISSION

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-01

A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING SOCIAL EQUITY AND JUSTICE IN URBANA'S SUSTAINABILITY  
FRAMEWORK

WHEREAS, the City of Urbana established the Sustainability Advisory Commission in May 2008 (Sec. 2-91) to assist the Mayor and City Council in identifying the highest priorities for city government and citizens to achieve sustainable management of natural resources - water and energy in particular; and

WHEREAS, Urbana has implemented the Urbana Climate Action Plan Phase 2: 2015-2020 which expires in 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Urbana Climate Action Plan Phase 2 outlines an understanding that climate change is a scientifically established fact; that some climate impacts are inevitable, and that some climate impacts are still avoidable if greenhouse gas pollution is reduced; and

WHEREAS, the Urbana Climate Action Plan Phase 2 outlines our values of mitigation of climate change to **reduce pollution, save money, and improve quality of life**, as well as **adaptation** to climate impacts to **help protect people and property**; and

WHEREAS, the Urbana Mayor passed the Urbana Climate Inheritance Resolution 2018-02-005R of February 19, 2018 stating that City Council commits to: 1) achieve net carbon neutrality, community-wide, by 2040; 2) work toward generating 100 percent of the community's electricity from renewable energy sources by 2025; and 3) **promote healthy, sustainable community living that fosters creativity and encourages collaboration**; and

WHEREAS, the Sustainability Advisory Commission recognizes that "socially and economically disadvantaged and marginalized people are disproportionately affected by climate change"<sup>1</sup>; and

WHEREAS, the Sustainability Advisory Commission recognizes that without strong commitments to social equity, local governments have moved only part of the way toward achieving their sustainability goals equitably. Inequality and social exclusion are not sustainable practices because they undermine the viability of communities. Communities may have programs that preserve the natural environment, reduce overall energy usage, and address other aspects of sustainability, however, without programs to promote social equity, communities are not effectively strengthening the social foundation necessary to ensure long-term viability.<sup>2</sup>; and

WHEREAS, the Ready for 100's 2017 Case Study Report acknowledges<sup>3</sup> that some cities are beginning to integrate equity into their climate adaptation and renewable energy plans. Some cities have structured incentives enabling low-income household participation and access to solar resources and other municipal renewable energy sources. Municipalities can achieve a more efficient and fairer energy system to achieve sustainability goals in an equitable manner by ensuring that the communities most affected—and presently underserved—are the driving force behind transitioning to a 100% renewable energy,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

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<sup>1</sup> IPCC (2014). Climate Change 2014: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability. New York: Cambridge University Press. p.796

<sup>2</sup> "Local Governments, Social Equity, and Sustainable Communities: Advancing Social Equity Goals to Achieve Sustainability", International City/County Management Association  
[https://icma.org/sites/default/files/306328\\_FINAL%20REPORT%20Advancing%20Social%20Equity.pdf](https://icma.org/sites/default/files/306328_FINAL%20REPORT%20Advancing%20Social%20Equity.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> Sierra Club 2017 Case Studies Report: <https://www.sierraclub.org/sites/www.sierraclub.org/files/blog/RF100-Case-Studies-Report-2017.pdf>

1. The Urbana Sustainability Advisory Commission seeks to integrate social equity into subsequent Climate Action Plans and future sustainability programs from this day forth.
2. The Urbana Sustainability Advisory Commission identifies social equity, economic equity, diversity, and inclusivity as a high priority for city government and citizens in our community.
3. The Urbana Sustainability Advisory Commission will pursue a review and amendment to the SAC bylaws to include a social equity statement to express/demonstrate/commit ourselves to an understanding of the role that race/ethnicity and economic equity and inclusivity must play in community sustainability planning and outcomes.
4. The Urbana Sustainability Advisory Commission will participate in development of the new City of Urbana's Comprehensive Plan ensuring that goals related to climate adaptation, sustainability, and social equity are part of the inclusive and comprehensive strategy expressed by the Mayor<sup>4</sup>
5. The Urbana Sustainability Advisory Commission requests the city government to convene a series of 'Chairs of Commissions' working meetings to build relationships between commissions, and understand how their work is intertwined – breaking down silos and identifying shared principles and priorities for advancing equity in the City of Urbana.
6. The Urbana Sustainability Advisory Commission invites the City Council, other city commissions, and members of the public to develop and publish a collaborative statement on equity and sustainability.
7. The Urbana Sustainability Advisory Commission will strive to foster a working environment that includes under-served and under-represented people and communities as partners in creating the vision and practical, achievable outcomes for just and equitable practices in relation to climate adaptation, sustainability, climate change mitigation, and the preservation and management of our natural resources.

PASSED BY THE URBANA SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMISSION this 7th day of July in 2020.

AYES:

NAYES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAINED:

\_\_\_\_\_ [CITY CLERK NAME], Staff

APPROVED BY THE CHAIR, URBANA SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMISSION

this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

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 Stacy Gloss, Chair, Urbana Sustainability Advisory Commission

<sup>4</sup> Zigterman, Ben, "Urbana's latest hire to help rewrite city's comprehensive plan", News Gazette, March 2, 2020  
[https://www.news-gazette.com/news/urbanas-latest-hire-to-help-rewrite-citys-comprehensive-plan/article\\_4beef081-77fc-5cc5-87d0-626dc8bbb1ac.html](https://www.news-gazette.com/news/urbanas-latest-hire-to-help-rewrite-citys-comprehensive-plan/article_4beef081-77fc-5cc5-87d0-626dc8bbb1ac.html)