
TO: Urbana Sustainability Advisory Commission
FROM: Scott R. Tess, Sustainability & Resilience Officer
DATE: Tuesday, February 2, 2021
TIME: 7:00 P.M.

MEMORANDUM

Community Solar

Staff continues to work with solar developer Nexamp to recruit subscribers to the Urbana community solar project on the closed landfill. Staff will be presenting new and amended easement for Ameren Illinois and Nexamp to install and maintain solar-related equipment on the landfill property.

Landscape Recycling Center (LRC)

Staff is launching a new website for the LRC that will allow staff in the booth to make timely updates regarding product availability, sales, closing, and other news. Staff is also working on some minor improvements to the booth including gutters and siding.

Geothermal

Geothermal Urbana-Champaign has secured 5 contracts for installation and has 21 proposals out for review by property owners. There are eight remaining Geo Power Hours listed at geothermalUC.org.

Green House Gas Inventory

Staff is collecting annual data to create a calendar year 2020 municipal greenhouse gas emissions inventory.

Public Engagement

Staff spoke to the Champaign County Design and Conservation Foundation and the Sierra Club about City sustainability work.

Ucycle

The City of Urbana's recycling coordinator, Courtney Kwong, is working to make it easier to recycle paint in Illinois. Courtney currently serves as the co-chair of the Illinois Product Stewardship Council (ILPSC) and has been a member of the Council since 2014, serving as chair from 2016-2018. The ILPSC formed in 2014 with a mission to shift the waste system from one focused on government-funded and ratepayer-financed disposal and recycling, to a shared responsibility with product producers known as product stewardship. The ILPSC is a coalition of public and private entities including local governments, state governments, businesses, environmental groups, NGOs, solid waste agencies, and associations in Illinois.

The ILPSC worked hard to implement amendments to the Electronics Products and Recycling Reuse Act in Illinois, successfully changing the electronics legislation from weight-based goals to convenience standards in 2019 (SB 1417). During the new year, the ILPSC will continue to work with industry associations, such as the American Coatings Association, to pursue paint recycling legislation in Illinois.

Urban Forest

Staff are seeking partners to support public engagement around street tree planting and maintenance. Staff is speaking with University of Illinois Extension Service and Champaign County Design and Conservation Foundation.

Announcements

- Geothermal Power Hours posted at geothermaluc.org
- Virtual Green Drinks hosted by Champaign County Climate Coalition
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84576097745> 1/29/21 6 PM CST – 7 PM CST
- Household Hazardous Waste collection event Saturday, April 10, 2021 – Location TBA, Registration TBA– general public will be notified once contracts/logistics approved
- Residential Electronics Collection Event – Scheduled for Saturday, May 22, 2021
- Strategies for Collecting Residential Food Waste - Composting & anaerobic digestion are great, but first the organics have to be collected. This free webinar being offered by NERC & NEWMOA, will present three models for successful collection of food waste from households. 2/3/21 1 pm - 2:30 pm <https://oregonrecyclers.org/events/strategies-collecting-residential-food-waste>

Next Sustainability Advisory Commission Meeting

March 2 at 7:00 pm in Council Chambers at the Urbana City Building or by Zoom depending on circumstances.