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**TO:** Urbana Sustainability Advisory Commission  
**FROM:** Scott R. Tess, Sustainability & Resilience Officer  
**DATE:** June 7, 2022  
**RE:** Staff Report

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### **Closed Landfill**

Staff coordinated a community service opportunity which cleared deadwood and concrete waste from a section of the closed landfill. The purpose is to establish a mowable condition on the surface to better maintain the integrity of the clay cap on the landfill and repel water off the landfill.

### **Geothermal Urbana-Champaign**

The geothermal bulk purchase program has secured 5 contracts with 7 proposals out for consideration.

### **Landscape Recycling Center**

A pilot project to accept and compost food scrap will commence when generators and haulers finalize equipment and procedures for collection.

### **Public Engagement**

Staff spoke to the UP 136 Urban Sustainability class at the University of Illinois about the City's sustainability work.

### **U-Cycle**

U-Cycle collaborated with City of Champaign and Champaign County to provide a one-day household hazardous waste collection event funded by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency. There were 1,055 households that registered for the event and 819 households attended the April 9 event, for a participation rate of 78%. Household hazardous waste totals for the April 2022 event are forthcoming.

U-Cycle also collaborated with the City of Champaign and Champaign County to provide a one-day electronics recycling collection event. There were 1,451 households that attended the May 21 event, out of 2,049 households that registered (71% attendance rate). Electronics recycling totals for the May 21 event are forthcoming. Since 2016, the countywide residential electronics collection events have recycled 790 tons of electronic devices, the majority (65%) being televisions. Televisions, especially cathode ray tube (CRT) or 'tube' TVs, continue to be the more difficult and costly item to recycle due to the hazardous nature of the lead contained in the cathode ray tubes.

U-Cycle and the Urbana Park District conducted their annual backyard composting workshop on Saturday, May 7, at the Anita Purves Nature Center. Participants learned the importance of composting, the different composting methods, and acceptable/non-acceptable items to place in their compost bins/piles. Demonstrations were conducted with a tumbler compost bin and how to set up a vermicomposting bin. One lucky participant received a compost bin tumbler! The workshop is held every year during the first Saturday in May, which coincides with International Compost Awareness Week.

### **Solar Urbana-Champaign**

The solar bulk purchase program has published a request for proposal for a program solar installer.

**Solar Energy System Zoning Ordinance Text Amendment – Marcus (15-20’?)**

City Council passed a revised version of the Solar Energy System amendment on May 23. It will add a new section XIII-9 “Solar Energy Systems” to the Special Development Provisions Article of the Zoning Ordinance to add definitions and establish use provisions for principal and accessory use solar energy systems. It would permit principal-use solar energy systems (“solar farms”) as a special use in the agricultural district; B-3, B-4, B-4E business districts; both industrial districts; the conservation/recreation/education district; and R-4, R-5, and R-6 residential districts. It would also establish guidelines for ground-mounted accessory use solar energy systems (“solar arrays”) and allow them in all zoning districts, regulating them as accessory structures rather than as a mechanical system. Building-mounted solar energy systems would be treated as mechanical systems and exempt from the amendment.

**Next Sustainability Advisory Commission Meeting**

August 2 at 7:00 pm in Council Chambers at the Urbana City Building.