

**CITY OF URBANA, ILLINOIS**  
**SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMISSION**  
**Council Chambers, Urbana City Building and Zoom Meeting**  
**Tuesday, September 13, 2022**

**Commissioners Present:** Tomas Delgado, Jessica Lehmkuhl, Andrew Stumpf, Luke Westawker, Morgan White and Grace Wilken

**Commissioners Absent:** Stacy Gloss

**Staff Present:** Scott Tess

**1. Call to Order, Roll Call, and Declaration of Quorum**

Andrew Stumpf assumed the chair in Stacy Gloss's absence. Acting Chair Stumpf called the meeting to order; a roll was called; and a quorum was present.

**2. Approval of Minutes**

Commission Member Delgado moved to approve the meeting minutes from the August 2, 2022 meeting; Commission Member Wilken seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

**3. Additions to Agenda**

Commission Member Wilken moved to add "c. Future Items," to New Business. Commission Member White seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

**4. Public Input**

No public input was provided.

**5. Presentations**

**a. Staff Report**

Scott Tess provided the staff report.

**Geothermal Urbana-Champaign**

The city currently has eleven geothermal contracts totaling 47 tons of capacity. A number of the projects were being drilled during the week with media coverage of the program.

**Closed Landfill Land Use**

The city has approved a lease options with TotalEnergies to develop the remaining area of the closed landfill for another solar array.

**Municipal Electric Aggregation**

City Council approved appropriations for the next Municipal Electric Aggregation contract. The current agreement ends with the meter reads in December 2022. The city hoped to find responses to are competitive. Currently, municipal electric aggregation rates are \$0.045/kwh; Ameren rates are \$ 0.10/kwh and increasing to \$0.12/kwh soon.

**Landscape Recycling Center**

As part of a pilot project, the Landscape Recycling Center is accepting pre-consumer (food preparation) and commercial (restaurants and grocery stores) food scrap generators. One hauler is providing the

service. The service has one business signed up with a couple more expressing interest in participating in the program.

### **Solar Urbana-Champaign**

Residents were signing up at a fast pace since energy prices are very high and the base price for the program was at the lowest in seven years. Most installations were home installations. So far, there are 25 contracts for 236 kw capacity. October 31<sup>st</sup> is the deadline. Total capacity before the recent report was 2.5 MW over a six-year period in a three-county area.

### **Next Sustainability Advisory Commission Meeting**

October 4th at 7:00 pm in Council Chambers at the Urbana City Building.

### **6. Unfinished Business**

None

### **7. New Business**

#### **a. Fire Station Sustainability Discussion**

Commissioners were asked to discuss sustainability issues important in developing the new fire stations in Urbana. Scott Tess mentioned that there were basically three levels of plans: good, better, and best. The cost for the plans increased as level increased.

Commissioners said that the cost of the project should not dictate sustainability features. The following items were mentioned and would be discussed further at the next meeting:

- Solar-ready design
- Geothermal-ready design
- Trees/green infrastructure
- Electric vehicle (EV) charging stations (employee vs. guest)
- Parking lot capacity
- Stored heat system for future geothermal addition
- Life expectancy of building
- Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED0 certification
- Developing a scorecard to determine good, better, and best options for sustainable features
- Solar power backup
- Permeable pavement
- Repurposing materials from old fire stations
- Public input
- No asphalt sealants (infrastructure to be concrete)
- Efficient use of vehicles – using smaller vehicles for small-scale responses
- Use remaining acreage for community gardens
- Water conservation—looking for ways to capture rainwater

#### **b. Inflation Reduction Act Discussion**

Scott Tess asked commissioners to send comments for sharing to him and he would distribute the information to the Sustainability Advisory Commission.

Luke Westawker reviewed the Residential Clean Air Act, which was part of the Inflation Reduction Act. Commissioner Westawker mentioned that the program was geared to low- and moderate-income households providing credits for electric vehicles and solar, heat pump, and geothermal energy credits. He added that some programs were currently available, but others would not be available until 2023.

Grace Wilken review the Environmental and Climate Justice Block Grant program. Commissioner Wilken reported that the \$3 billion program would be available to community-led programs. She said that the program listed eligible programs: work force development, proper disposal of hazardous waste and remediating hazardous sites as examples.

Morgan White asked that these descriptions be placed on the website so those in the community would know what was available.

Andrew Stumpf said that some geothermal programs would go away after this year. He added that organizational units would be able to apply for credits.

**c. Future Topics**

- i. Disposable bag policy
- ii. Pumpkin Smash at Landscape Recycling Center

**8. Announcements**

The University of Illinois hired a Zero Waste Coordinator, Daphne Hulse.

Bike to Work Day was September 14, 2022.

Light the Night program was September 15, 2022.

**9. Adjournment**

With no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned. This meeting was recorded.