



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Environmental Sustainability Division

m e m o r a n d u m

TO: Mayor Laurel L. Prussing and Members of the City Council
FROM: Scott R. Tess, Environmental Sustainability Manager
DATE: January 2, 2013
SUBJECT: Sierra Club Cool Cities Achievement Award

Background

The Sierra Club Cool Cities website located at <http://illinoiscoolcities.org> states that

Cities stepped up to the climate change challenge in 2005 when the Mayor's Climate Protection Agreement (MCPA), written by Seattle Mayor Greg Nickles, was endorsed by the US Conference of Mayors. The MCPA called for a 7% reduction of greenhouse gases below 1990 levels by 2012. Over a 1000 US mayors and over 50 Illinois mayors have made a commitment to finding local solutions to climate change.

During the seven years of the MCPA, cities conducted greenhouse gas inventories, wrote climate action plans and implemented solutions such as improving energy efficiency in lighting, appliances and pumps, supporting alternative transportation, improving fleet fuel efficiency, installed green roofs on buildings, passed ordinances for LEED certification of new construction and added renewable energy resources.

The ground work has been laid for greenhouse gas reductions and Illinois mayors are building on their accomplishments by signing on to the Illinois Cool Cities Local Sustainability Protection Agreement

Cities signing on to the Mayor's Climate Protection Agreement (CPA) became Cool Cities and agreed to reduce community greenhouse gas emissions by 7% below 1990 levels by 2012 and engage in a menu of different sustainability activities. In Illinois, 57 mayors signed on and projects from lighting upgrades to LEED certified buildings sprang up around the state. The Illinois Sierra Club tracks over a dozen sustainability activity categories for cities across Illinois at <http://coolcities-il.appspot.com/>.

As a result of the City of Urbana's purchase of renewable energy credits in the city's municipal electricity aggregation, the city met the greenhouse gas reductions targets in the US Mayor's Climate Protection Agreement, which expired at the end of 2012. In recognition of this, Lonnie Morris with the Illinois Sierra Club would like to present a Cool Cities Achievement award to the Mayor and City Council.

Attachments:

cc: