



CITY OF URBANA, ILLINOIS
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT DIVISION

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor Prussing and Members of the City Council
FROM: Bart Hagston, Environmental Sustainability Manager
DATE: March 24, 2011
RE: Update on U-CYCLE and Sustainability Advisory Commission

U-CYCLE Program Update

On April 1, 2011, the City's new U-CYCLE recycling collection contracts take effect. ABC Sanitary remains the hauler for the single-family program and Community Resource, Inc. takes over as the new hauler for the multi-family program. Staff have met with both haulers to ensure the program continues to run smoothly. As a new provider, staff will be working closely with Community Resource during the first few weeks of the contract to monitor performance and help troubleshoot any problems. Collection days will remain the same, so residents should not notice any changes, except for the addition of two new materials.

The following materials have been added under the collection contracts: 1) plastic grocery bags; and 2) #6 rigid plastic containers (except expanded polystyrene, commonly called "Styrofoam"). These materials are ones that residents have requested be added, and we have been able to incorporate them at no additional cost. A brochure detailing the U-CYCLE program and the additional materials will be mailed out to all residential mail stops during the first week of April. In addition, a news release regarding the collection of additional materials will be disseminated and the City's website will be updated.

The new contracts will produce some savings over the existing contracts. The annual collection costs for the single-family program are projected to decrease by \$5,000 and the multi-family program costs are projected to decrease \$69,000. These savings come at a crucial time, as the costs for the fall/spring leaf collection program were assumed by the Recycling Enterprise Fund during FY10-11, without an increase in revenue. The savings from the new U-CYCLE contracts will come close to off-setting the leaf program costs (\$85,100 budgeted in FY10-11).

Sustainability Advisory Commission (SAC) Update

The Commission continues to meet monthly and discuss various items of interest. Staff support consists of Jeff Engstrom from Community Development, and Kate Brickman and Bart Hagston from Public Works. The main items of discussion during the past several months include ongoing Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) projects and Climate Action Plan development. Recently, discussion has been initiated on water resource issues, as that topic, along with energy, were the two primary goals with which SAC was originally tasked.

EECBG projects

Partial re-roof of the City Building – this project was completed last fall. The project features a white, reflective roof with R22 insulation. It is projected to significantly decrease facility consumption of electricity and natural gas. Cost of this project was \$38,490 and was completely paid for with Federal grant funds.

Residential energy audit and shell improvements - this project began in September 2010 and continues. Between September and February, 289 energy audits were conducted. Limited quantities of CFLs, high-performance shower heads, and faucet aerators were installed by the auditor while he was on-site. A total of 23 shell improvement projects have been completed with Ameren “program ally” contractors. The average Ameren incentive for shell improvement projects was \$840. The average City incentive was \$168 (20% of Ameren’s incentive). Therefore, the total average incentive to participants has been \$1,008.

In January staff began sending out letters to the residents receiving energy audits to encourage them to take the next step and undertake recommended improvements. This letter has generated a number of calls. UPTV is now airing a segment promoting the energy audits.

To date, based upon the installs by the Ameren auditor and the follow-up improvement projects, residents are now annually saving cumulatively 4,581,203 kWh/year of electricity and 1,039 MTCO_{2e} (metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalents) in emissions. A total of \$11,087.95 of the \$72,000 budget has been expended. The number of shell improvement projects should increase since the weather recently improved. Staff are also currently discussing with Ameren’s subcontractor, CSG, various ways in which the expenditure of funds can be expedited, focusing on methods which will generate the most energy savings.

City facilities lighting upgrades – this project will occur this summer. This project, as originally conceived, involved replacement of all linear fluorescent lamps at the City Building with liner LED lamps. Based upon recommendations from the Smart Energy Design Assistance Center (SEDAC), it was decided that the energy savings from that project would be less than desired, compared to the cost. SEDAC performed a full energy audit of the City Building and made some new lighting recommendations which will be implemented. These recommendations include the use of various lighting technologies and occupancy controls. Also, as part of this project, the T12 fluorescent lamps with magnetic ballasts currently used in the Public Works back garage will be retrofitted to T8 lamps with electronic ballasts. (T12 lamps are less energy efficient and their manufacture is being phased out in 2012). Total budget for this project is \$72,010 (all grant funds).

Climate Action Plan

Development of the plan is ongoing, with advice and climate planning software being provided by ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability. The greenhouse gas (GHG) emission inventory data has been updated using corrected information from Ameren. Public input solicited last year at two public forums, the Market at the Square, and through an online survey was compiled and provided to SAC. A full-day workshop was held with SAC in December to begin to look at specific GHG reduction strategies. A representative from ICLEI attended the workshop to provide guidance and introduce the CAPP (Climate and Air Pollution Planning Assistant) planning tool to SAC members and staff. Staff continue to utilize the CAPP tool to develop specific GHG reduction strategies for recommendation in the plan. The strategies to be recommended will cut across all sectors of the community and will focus on the most feasible methods by which the goal established by SAC (25% reduction by 2020 using 2007 as baseline year) can be achieved. It is projected that a draft plan will be available for review by SAC at their May 2011 meeting. Upon the Commission’s recommendation, the plan will be sent to the City Council for review and adoption.

Water Resources

The Commission began discussing various water resource issues in March. Members have conducted research on various aspects, including stormwater management, water resource planning, water conservation, and how water resources are addressed in municipal sustainability plans. Consensus of the Commission has been to look at all of these water resource issues as a whole, and not focus solely on one aspect or another. Brad Bennett, Engineer at Public Works, will provide a presentation to the Commission at their April meeting regarding a potential stormwater utility and how such a program might help fund green infrastructure projects, as well as a brief synopsis of the Boneyard Creek Improvement Plan.