



MEMORANDUM

TO: City of Urbana Sustainability Advisory Commission
FROM: Scott R. Tess, Environmental Sustainability Manager
DATE: Tuesday, January 6, 2015
RE: Staff Report

Climate Action Plan Phase 2 Progress

Goal 4 Action 1 Engage the Illinois State Water Survey to evaluate an update to design storm standards
Staff has had email communications with folks at the Water Survey on this topic before and after the new Plan was passed. We want to discuss the issue a little more with the Survey and then craft a request for the Mayor's consideration.

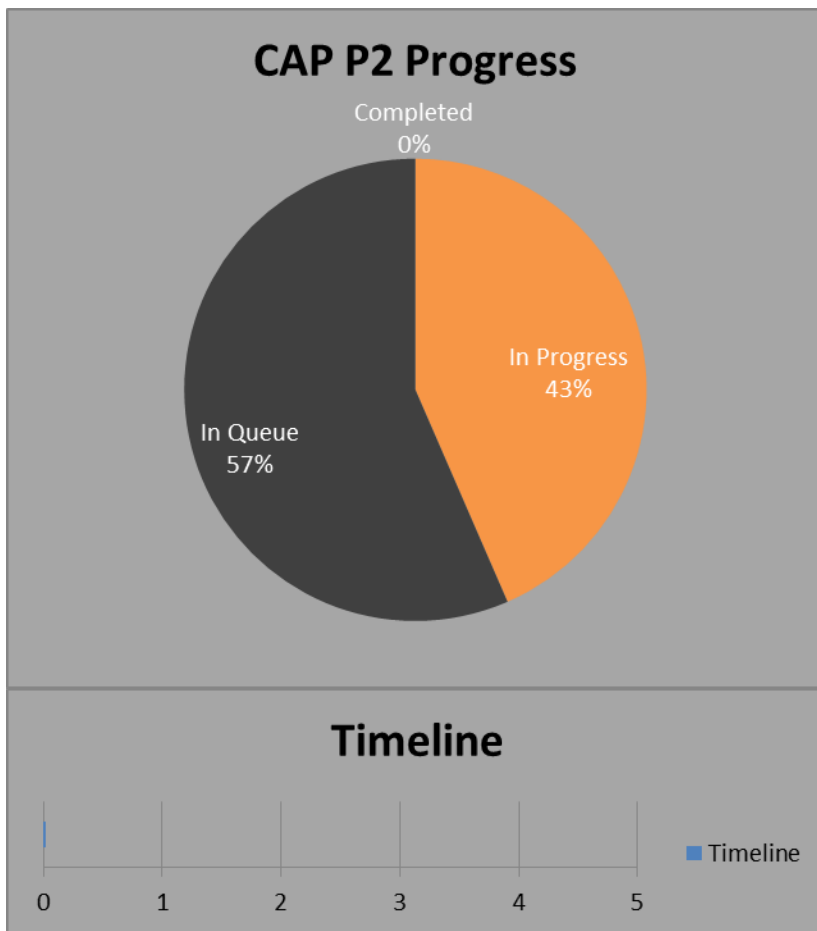
Goal 5 Action 1 Partner with existing energy efficiency programs and community groups

The Pester Power program will conclude its pilot Climate Teams soon and evaluation of the impact will be conducted. On January 14, the Georgetown University Energy Prize will announce which communities will be chosen as semi-finalists who will compete to improve energy efficiency for the next two years. Their website is www.guep.org.

Goal 3 Action 3 Pursue long term purchase of bundled renewable power and renewable energy credits

City staff met with Institute for Sustainability, Energy, and Environment (ISEE) staff to discuss opportunities to work together. One of the topics discussed was the purchase of renewable energy. The University owns a company that purchases electricity for the University. The subsidiary could potentially purchase bundled renewable power and renewable energy credits for the University. ISEE made an inquiry on our behalf regarding the possibility that their subsidiary could make additional purchases and sales of bundled renewable power and renewable energy credits for City of Urbana facilities. Unfortunately, the bylaws only allow the subsidiary to purchase power for the University or other entities located on University property.

Staff has established a reporting account on the Carbonn Climate Registry. Our city climate association, ICLEI, has agreed with other organizations to utilize Carbonn as the officially recognized international climate action reporting platform. The registry is located at <http://carbonn.org/>.



City Green Team

The City Green Team has decided to enter the Urbana City Building into the Illinois Green Office Challenge. The Challenge encourages friendly competition amongst office buildings to achieve energy and water conservation and waste reduction. The competition runs from November 2014 to April 2015.

University of Illinois Learning in Community Class

Staff supported a Learning in Community (LINC) class that generated three projects this semester for the City. The first project was a continuation of a previous LINC project to establish food scrap composting at the Urbana Middle School. The current class conducted a pilot test of a single day, single lunch hour food scrap collection. Food scraps were collected and composted in the school’s existing compost bin that heretofore had been used for landscape trimmings exclusively. Staff will continue to offer support for this effort at the Middle School.

The class also selected a wine cork recycler to partner with and conducted outreach to a select number of businesses associated with wine sales or service. Businesses are being invited to host a publicly accessible wine cork recycling container. The recycling service is free for the users and the business.

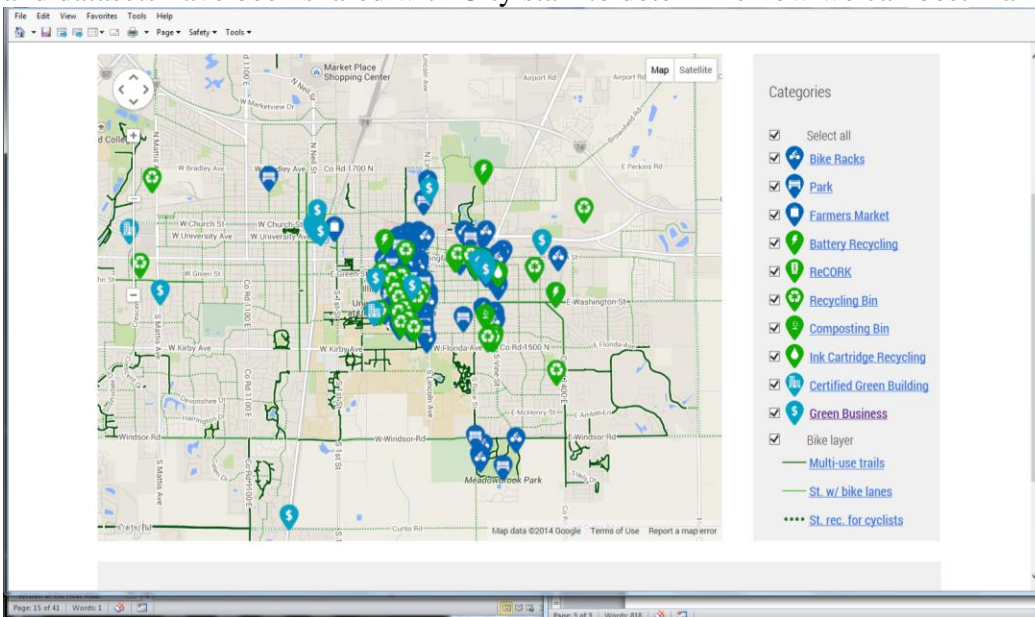
The class also conducted a survey on use and attitudes towards rechargeable batteries. The results are below:

In total, 90 surveys were completed. 81 out of 90 people answered saying that “Yes, they know what rechargeable batteries are.” 47 people out of the 91 use rechargeable batteries, while 34 out

of 81 (38%) do not use rechargeable batteries. Only 9 people out of 90 (10%) were not aware of rechargeable batteries. Within the “Yes, I know what rechargeable batteries are” category, those who use rechargeable batteries: 29 out of 47 (62%) said it was good for the environment, 21 out of 47 (45%) said it’s cost effective, 18 out of 47 (38%) said they use a lot of batteries and 2 out of 47 said “I don’t know why I use them.” The results for those who answered that are aware of rechargeable batteries, but do not use them were: 8 out of 34 (24%) said they were too expensive, 9 out of 34 (26%) said they were inconvenient, 6 out of 34 (18%) said they don’t know how they work and 16 out of 34 (47%) said they don’t use a lot of batteries.

Based on these results, the class created an advertising graphic to address some of the barriers to choosing rechargeable batteries identified by the survey.

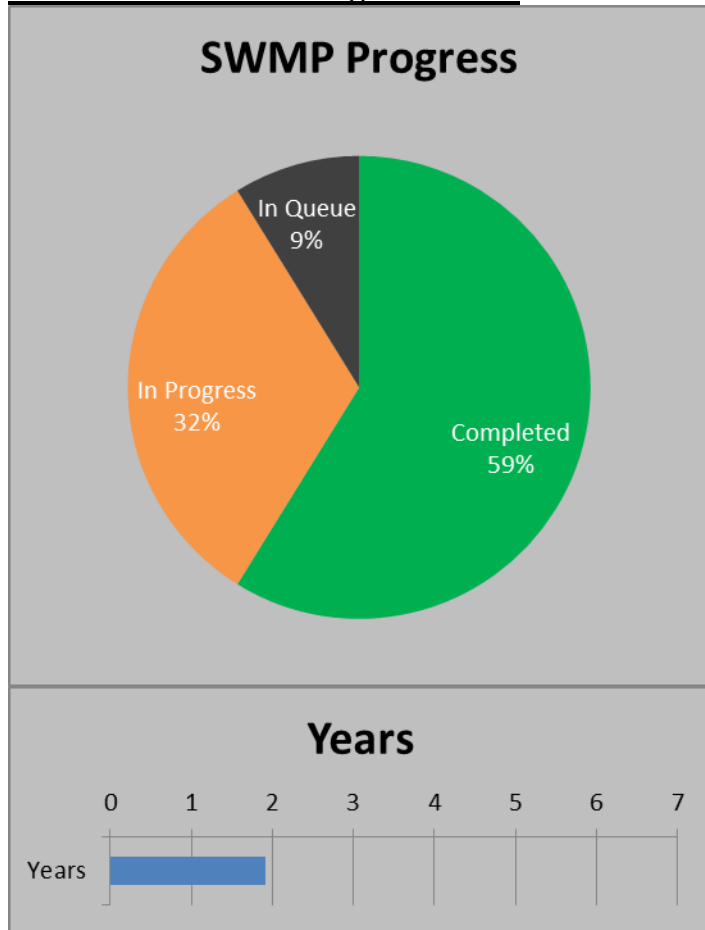
Finally, the LINC class created a Google-based Green Map that displays a number of different layers of data related to environmental topics. The class manually geocoded several new datasets including bicycle racks throughout the city. The map is temporarily hosted at <http://tiny.cc/greenurbana>. The map and datasets have been shared with City staff to determine how we can best make use of it.



U-Cycle

Recycling Coordinator, Courtney Kwong, continues to work with the Illinois Product Stewardship Initiative. The Initiative continues to advocate for legislation to expand manufacturer funded electronics recycling while continuing to support an existing legislative proposal from the Product Stewardship Institute to establish paint product stewardship in Illinois.

Sustainable Water Management Plan



Next SAC Meeting

February 3rd at 7:00 pm in Council Chambers