



## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** City of Urbana Sustainability Advisory Commission  
**FROM:** Scott R. Tess, Environmental Sustainability Manager  
**DATE:** Tuesday, April 7, 2015  
**RE:** Staff Report

### Climate Action Plan Phase 2 Progress

Goal 1: Action 2 and 3 Propose an ordinance incentivising or requiring new homes/commercial buildings achieve Designed to Earn the ENERGY STAR certification, LEED certification, or Passive House certification.

Staff has evaluated tax abatements and fee reductions for their capacity to induce additional uptake of green building certifications at a reasonable cost to the City. Staff has determined that financial incentives alone will be insufficient to induce additional uptake of green building certifications at this time. Instead a suite of activities is being developed that will cultivate interest in and demand for green building certifications on the part of builders, home buyers, and businesses.

Goal 1: Action 4 Engage Ameren Illinois to facilitate energy data access for commercial facilities through ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager web services

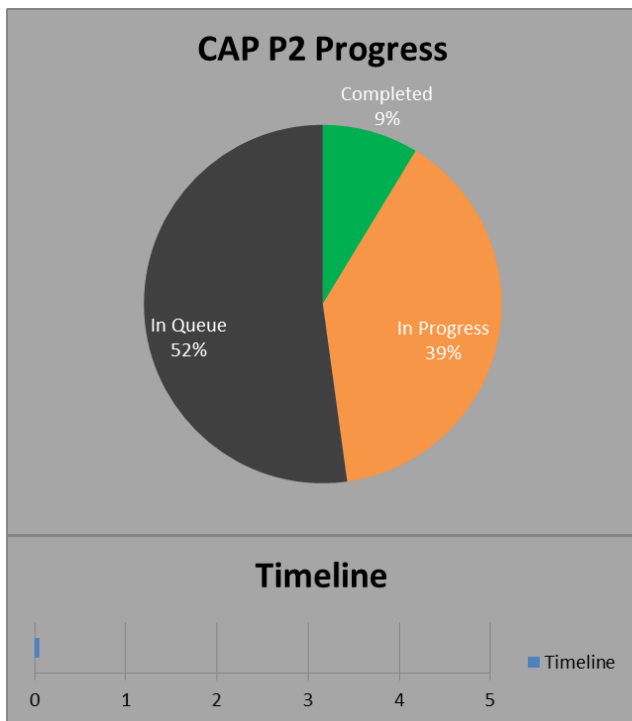
Staff has sent a letter to Ameren Illinois encouraging them to support web services for ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager and to support meter aggregation, also known as virtual net metering. Web Services allows utility data to flow automatically from Ameren computer servers to Portfolio Manager accounts. Virtual net metering allows a customer to combine an onsite electricity consumption meter and an offsite solar panel production meter and net the consumption and production of the two for billing purposes.

Goal 4: Action 1 Engage the Illinois State Water Survey to evaluate an update to design storm standards

Staff has sent a letter to the State Climatologist encouraging his office to revise and improve the accuracy of Bulletin 70 which describes design storm standards. These standards are relied upon by cities to size stormwater management requirements for new developments. Staff has encouraged other municipalities throughout the region and the state to do the same.

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

The Urbana-Champaign ENERGY STAR Challenge concluded with awards on March 12. See attachment. Challenge Partners have overwhelmingly supported running the Challenge again in 2015.



**City Green Team**

The Urbana City Building is currently in seventh place in 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.

**Public Engagement**

Staff spoke at UP 466 Energy Planning and the Built Environment and UP 311 Local Planning, Government, and Law about planning and sustainability as well as at the March Green Drinks event about municipal and community water consumption trends.

**Sustainable Water Management Plan**

Aspect 1: Goal 1: Action 2 Demonstrate, promote, and/or incentivize practices to reduce potable water used for commercial, residential, and/or irrigation purposes.

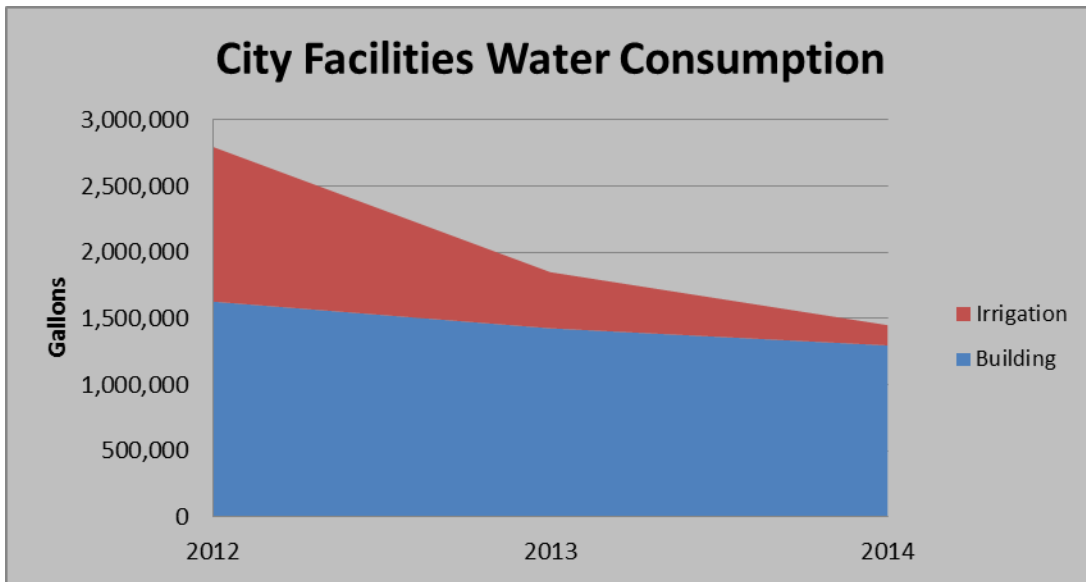
The City has approved a bid for a rain barrel and compost bin sale for May 16. The approved bidder is the same company as previous years. Compost Bins will be for sale at \$50 and Rain Barrels at \$60. Urbana and Champaign stormwater utility rebates are applicable. See attachment.

Staff participated in the US EPA’s Fix a Leak Week with a speaking engagement and by supporting a leaky toilet repair demonstration organized by the Mahomet Aquifer Consortium in partnership with the Lowe’s store in Champaign. The Mahomet Aquifer Consortium distributed free toilet leak detection kits.

Aspect 1: Goal 2: Action 3 Reduce water used for landscape irrigation

The City has installed two automated irrigation control systems. One system has a rain sensor control and the other has an evapotranspiration sensor control. The Arbor Division has installed 22 moisture retaining planter baskets to reduce water loss in streetscape plantings. Our plan goal was to reduce irrigation water consumption by 15%. 2014 irrigation consumption was 20% lower than 2012 use. An

additional plan goal aimed to reduce water consumption by 24%. Overall City facilities water consumption is 48% lower than 2012.



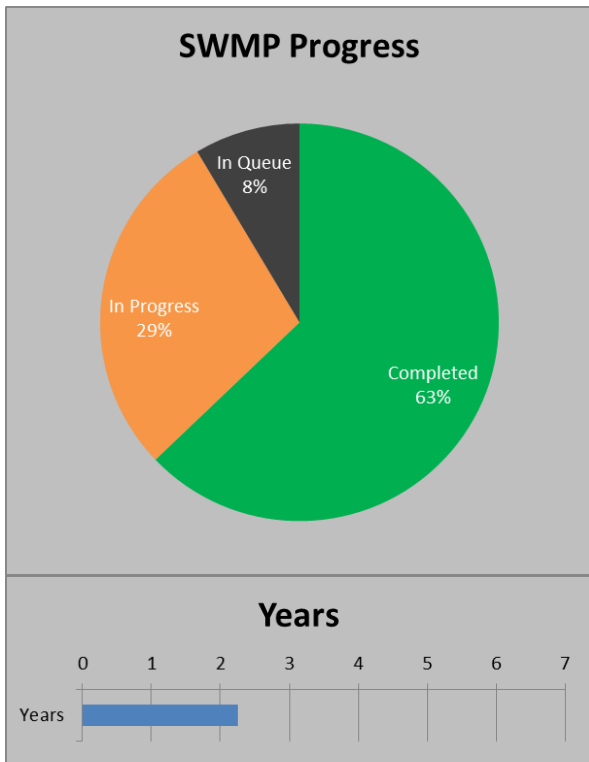
46% of trees selected for the Arbor Division’s 2015 tree planting program are native to Eastern North America. By being long adapted to the region, native trees should prove resilient to fluctuating weather and climate conditions. The Arbor Division also maintains a very high diversity of tree species and genus to minimize tree losses that might affect any particular species or genus.

Aspect 2: Goal 1: Action 1: Continue to pursue Sole Source Aquifer status to protect the Mahomet Aquifer.

From EPA’s website

On March 11, 2015 the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced a decision to designate a portion of the Mahomet Aquifer system as a sole source aquifer. More than half of the population in east-central Illinois relies on the Mahomet Aquifer system as a source of drinking water.

The Safe Drinking Water Act gives EPA authority to designate all or part of an aquifer as a "sole source" if contamination of the aquifer would create a significant hazard to public health and there are no physically available or economically feasible alternative sources of drinking water to serve the population that relies on the aquifer. The designation authorizes EPA review of projects that receive Federal financial assistance to assess potential for contamination of the aquifer system that would create a significant hazard to public health.



**U-Cycle**

Staff sent letters to state legislators from our area requesting their support for HB 1455 and SB 797 which would ensure adequate funding for electronic recycling programs throughout Illinois. See attached.

**Next SAC Meeting**

May 5 at 7:00 pm in Council Chambers