

CITY OF URBANA, ILLINOIS
SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMISSION
SPECIAL WORK SESSION
ON CLIMATE PLANNING
City Council Chambers
Saturday, August 13, 2011

Commissioners Present: Chairperson Marya Ryan, Gary Cziko, John Marlin

Commissioners Absent: Kirstin Replogle, Todd Rusk, Stephen Wald

Staff Present: Kate Brickman, Jeff Engstrom, Bart Hagston

Call to Order, Roll Call, and Declaration of Quorum

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m. Kate Brickman called the roll and a quorum was not present.

Changes to the Agenda

Approval of the June minutes was postponed.

Approval of Minutes

The approval of minutes from June 29, 2011 was postponed for lack of a quorum.

Public Input

There was no public input offered at this time. Later in the meeting, a member of the public interjected questions about whether the SAC was paid for their service, but the individual declined to identify herself.

Discussion of Emissions Reduction Measures

a. Clean Air & Pollution Prevention Assistant (CAPPA) User Guide

The guide was provided to commission members. Mr. Hagston walked the Commission through select portions of the CAPPA report and took questions from the Commission.

b. CAPPA Worksheets, Measures and Reports

Mr. Hagston used data provided by the Champaign County Regional Planning Commission (CCRPC) to develop projected growth rates in population, employment and vehicle miles traveled (VMT) through 2020, the target year for the Climate Action Plan (CAP). Mr. Hagston relayed that Mr. Engstrom and Mr. Wald took a more in-depth look at the data, particularly for VMT, as that projected growth was considered relatively high by Commission members at the last meeting. CCRPC had also referenced data from the Illinois Department of Transportation as

another source of data to develop a projected VMT growth rate for Urbana. Using the IDOT data and comparing it to population growth, it was determined that an annual growth rate for VMT of 0.98% would be used in the Clean Air & Pollution Prevention Assistant (CAPPA) tool, versus the 3.02% rate which was previously developed. .

Commission members discussed the changing state of energy technologies and what assumptions could be made when developing the Climate Action Plan. Mr. Hagston stated that ICLEI suggests planning based upon currently available technologies, so plans do not assume technological advancements that may not occur and the potential impact of emissions reduction measures is not overstated. Mr. Marlin recommended that the CAP needs to be rather flexible and somewhat selective about what is proposed at this time because commitment is needed from the public.

The conversation turned toward educational efforts. Mr. Cziko spoke regarding educational efforts that could be undertaken to reduce Vehicle Miles Traveled in Urbana. Mr. Marlin suggested a website be developed that would feature information on various emissions reduction measures, including local references to people or businesses that have undertaken each type of measure.

A discussion took place regarding renewable energy. Mr. Hagston stated that the City's current contract is for traditional electricity, but it would be possible to look at the inclusion of electricity from renewable sources when the current contract expires. The City currently purchases electricity under the contract developed by the Champaign County Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Hagston has talked with one provider of renewable electricity that felt they could offer a price competitive with traditional energy when the contract next comes up for bid.

Mr. Cziko asked about the possibilities of using feed-in tariffs to help fund renewable energy projects. Ms. Ryan suggested that the new State law creating renewable energy districts might also help.

d. Emissions Data from Other Sources

Mr. Hagston stated that he had contacted MTD and the Urbana school district to better determine any efforts they have undertaken, or plan to undertake, to reduce emissions. As large sources, their efforts could be very impactful. He has yet to hear back from these entities, but will follow up.

e. Measures Discussed in 2010

Ms. Ryan presented the slides that were developed by city staff and SEDAC in 2010 looking at how reductions in various sectors could meet the stated 25% GHG emissions reduction goal by 2020. The projected reductions assumed 100% participation by those in each sector, which is not likely. Discussion ensued.

The Commission looked at the section of the CAPPA spreadsheet where the value of measure benefits is rated. Information from the CAPPA user guide regarding the impact of these ratings was discussed. Mr. Hagston agreed to contact a staff person at ICLEI who is an expert on the CAPPA tool to better determine the potential impact of these ratings on the final report produced by the tool. It was also suggested that we add some user defined emissions reduction measures

to the spreadsheet, as there were some measures identified which are not otherwise addressed in the tool (such as commercial refrigeration improvements, for example).

Mr. Marlin initiated a discussion on anti-idling policies, particularly surrounding public transit and school buses.

Mr. Cziko returned the conversation to renewable energy. He suggested there needs to be education of SAC members and the general public about how the purchase of renewable energy and renewable energy certificates decreases emissions. There is a general lack of understanding as to how the purchase of renewable energy works. It was suggested that maybe CCNet could help with such an educational effort.

f. **Public Input**

Public input that was collected in 2010 was provided to the Commission. Input came from events at the Urbana Civic Center, a survey that was posted on the City's website and that was circulated at the Market at the Square, and from a letter from a member of the Urbana Historic Preservation Commission.

g. **Plan Structure, Goals and Finalization**

Mr. Hagston suggested that he put together a proposal, based upon the Kansas City, Missouri model, for moving Urbana climate planning forward in two phases.

- Phase I would involve broad policy recommendations to the City Council on emissions reductions and include some easier measures which could be focused on in the short-term to get at the "low hanging fruit".
- Phase II would involve development of a working group, featuring representation from various community sectors, which would look at the more complicated measures needed to make larger emissions reductions over the medium to long-term.

Commissioners were in agreement that Mr. Hagston proceed with development of such a proposal for consideration at the next meeting.

Announcements

Due to the Labor Day holiday, the City Council meeting will be moved to the Commission's regular meeting date in September. Therefore, the Commission's regularly scheduled meeting for Tuesday, September 6th will be cancelled and rescheduled. Mr. Hagston agreed to survey Commission members to determine the best alternate meeting date in September.

Mr. Cziko announced that the City's roundabout study will be presented at the City Council Committee of the Whole meeting on August 22.

Mr. Cziko announced that he will be holding a "Cycling Savvy" course on September 23-24.

Adjournment

The meeting concluded at 11:30am.

This meeting was recorded.