



## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** City of Urbana Sustainability Advisory Commission  
**FROM:** Scott R. Tess, Environmental Sustainability Manager  
**DATE:** January 3, 2013  
**RE:** January Staff Report

### Questions From Last Meeting

#### Decoupling

This policy is agreed upon by utility companies and their state regulators. The state agrees to allow surcharges on ratepayers' bills to offset sales losses due to conservation. Given the recession, California has seen larger than expected sales losses and surcharges. Much of the loss in sales is due to the recession not conservation; however it is difficult to quantify the relative proportion of each.

#### Irrigation Rules

There are no state or local ordinances requiring new irrigation systems to have rain sensors, timers, or soil moisture sensors.

#### Flood Design Standards

In the Special Flood Hazard Areas where new, substantially improved, or repetitively flood damaged buildings are proposed, permits will be issued where the development plans ensure flood protection measures. Some provisions prohibit certain activities such as storing flammable or toxic chemicals.

#### Flood Damage Records

Records of flood damage are kept by address.

#### Adjusting Flood Zone Maps

Brad Bennett stated that FEMA is in the process of issuing new electronic GIS based flood insurance maps for Champaign County. The City has been working with FEMA on this effort. Champaign, Urbana, and the University paid for a USGS project to model and remap the Boneyard Creek Floodplain and Floodway Maps back in 2006-2008. Floodplain and floodway mapping is an expensive and long duration process. FEMA used the latest LI-DAR elevation data for the GIS based mapping.

#### Fertilizer Use

There are no state or local rules governing urban fertilizer application.

#### Plumbing Code

The City must follow the State plumbing code. Local instances of stormwater use for flushing are permitted case by case by the State. The state is working on a 'green' plumbing code alternative pathway. Additionally, there is a new Energy Conservation Code being adopted by the State 1/1/2013 which will feature stricter energy performance standards for new construction.

#### Drinking Water Use

Additional data has been requested from IL American Water Company as requested by the SAC including monthly consumption data, unaccounted for water, and the state of repair for the system. They were able to state that all pump stations have generator back up and they do not expect any impact of service due to power outages.

#### Water Consumption Trends

Two questions were posed. What amount of aquifer consumption reduction would be necessary to flatten the depletion trend; What impact would specific use scenarios such as a new industrial installation have on the aquifer? George Roadcap with the Illinois State Water Survey has agreed to address these questions at the commission meeting.

#### **Municipal Electric Aggregation**

The template for the report has been revised by staff to improve readability and include the electricity generation sources for Ameren as a whole as well as for the subregion grid which contains Urbana.

#### **Pharmaceutical Waste Collection**

The Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant program is working with the Urbana, Champaign, University and County Police departments to investigate the feasibility of locating pharmaceutical waste drop boxes at each police station. The boxes and promotions can be grant funded by Sea Grant. Incineration is offered for free by Covanta in Indianapolis. The Cities would have to cover the cost of Police staff time and transportation.

#### **ICLEI 5 Milestones**

The City of Urbana has received a certificate for completing Milestones 1,2, and 3 of the ICLEI 5 Milestones of Sustainability. The 5 milestones are:

1. Conduct a baseline emissions inventory and forecast
2. Adopt an emissions reduction target for the forecast year
3. Develop a Local Climate Action Plan
4. Implement an Climate Action Plan
5. Monitor and Verify Emissions Reductions

#### **Next SAC Meeting**

February 5 at 7pm.