



MEMORANDUM

TO: City of Urbana Sustainability Advisory Commission
FROM: Scott R. Tess, Environmental Sustainability Manager
DATE: Tuesday, May 3, 2016
RE: Staff Report

Climate Action Plan Phase 2 Progress

Goal 3: Action 1 Purchase Green Power Partnership qualified renewable energy credits in future municipal electric aggregation agreements.

We have executed an agreement ensuring that all RECs purchased for our municipal electric aggregation are EPA Green Power Partnership compliant. Primarily, this ensures a recent generation date of the RECs. It will also improve our qualifications for membership in the Green Power Partnership recognition program for which we have applied. This item has been marked complete in Climate Action Plan tracking.

Goal 3: Action 2 Purchase Green Power Partnership qualified renewable energy credits and/or the installation of onsite renewable energy for City facilities

The City participated in a multi-city bid offering for installation of a solar array as part of our Grow Solar technical assistance. The City received one bid. Staff is evaluating that bid and requesting additional information from the bidder.

Goal 3: Action 4 Propose strategies to improve the local onsite renewable energy market

The Solar Urbana-Champaign program has 232 kw of capacity contracted.

Goal 4: Action 2 Evaluate funding needed to increase the tree pruning cycle to preserve existing trees

Arbor Division staff has determined the current tree pruning cycle to be approximately 20 years. To achieve the industry standard of pruning all street trees every 10 years, the Arbor Division would need to add 1.75 full time equivalent employees and an additional bucket truck.

Goal 4: Action 4 Reduce tree species, genus, and family preponderance to 5%, 15%, and 30% respectively

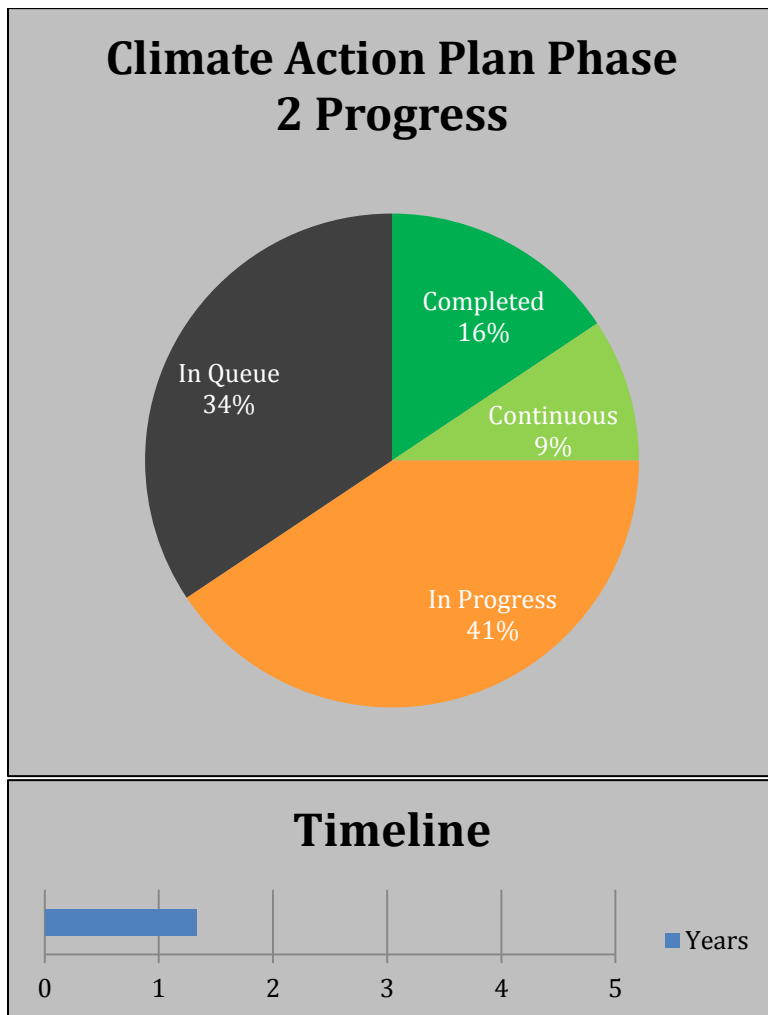
Staff has evaluated data from the City's tree inventory and determined that the tree species and the tree family diversity goals have been met. The highest preponderance of species, genus, and family are as follows:

- Species: 3% -Red Maple
- Genus: 20% -Acer
- Family: 21% -Fagaceae

Goal 5: Action 1 Partner with existing energy efficiency programs and community groups.
Partners and participants in the Urbana-Champaign ENERGY STAR Challenge have asked to run another round of the challenge for 2016. The Regional Planning Commission is presently supporting staff to update the Challenge website to be in conformity with Federal Accessibility requirements.

Additional Energy and Climate Activities

Staff is developing a process for the Environmental Sustainability Division to make LED lights and low-flow fixtures available to the City’s Grants Management Division engaging in housing rehabilitation activities. These energy and water saving devices would be installed by the Grants Management Division’s contractors as they enter private homes for rehabilitation projects otherwise funded by the Grant’s Management Division. These programs typically serve seniors households, low income households, and disabled households.



Sustainable Water Management Plan

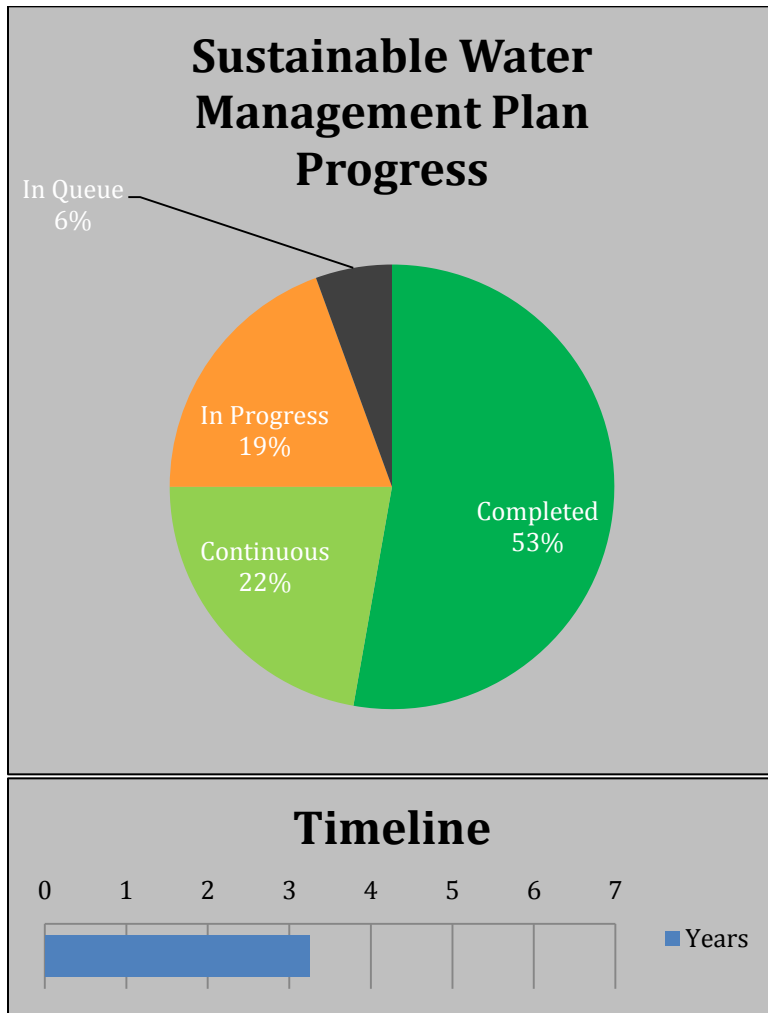
Action 1: Goal 1: Action 1 Track Potable Water Use for community and for City of Urbana facilities.
Staff has discussed a platform to share and publish environmental performance metrics including water consumption with the Regional Planning Commission and other municipalities in the region. Discussions are ongoing. This item has been marked as In Progress in Plan tracking.

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

Staff will conduct a rain barrel and compost bin sale on May 14 from 9am to 3pm in the parking lot north of the Urbana City Building. The University of Illinois Extension Service will provide public education at the event. Additionally, Grand Prairie Friends have been invited to sell any leftover native plant inventory they may have from their sale the previous weekend. This Action has several parts, not all of which are completed. Therefore, this item has been marked as in progress in Sustainable Water Management Plan tracking.

Aspect 3: Goal 2: Action 3 Report EPA TMDL testing to the Sustainability Advisory Commission

A summary of the most recent Illinois EPA water quality report is attached.



U-Cycle

Staff conducted public engagement at Chesterbrook Academy, the Sonified Sustainability Festival, and the Students for Environmental Concerns Earth Expo this month.

Next SAC Meeting

June 7 at 7:00 pm in Council Chambers