



## CARBONDALE SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

Thursday September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022 - 5:00PM

The Carbondale Civic Center – Room 103  
200 S. Illinois Avenue, Carbondale IL

### AGENDA

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1. **Call to Order and Roll Call**
2. **Approval of Meeting Minutes:** August 18<sup>th</sup> 2022
3. **Citizen Comments and Questions**
4. **Presentations:**
  - a. August 18<sup>th</sup> Commission Identity Exercise Results (attached) - Lauren Becker, Staff Liaison
  - b. Exploring Opportunities to Advise City Council – Lauren Becker, Staff Liaison
    - i. Avenue 1: Formal Letters
5. **Report of Officers, Committees, and Communications**
  - a. Sustainability Coordinator Monthly Progress Report (attached)
  - b. Federal, State, and Local Policy Landscape Report (J. Cogie)
  - c. Former Koppers Wood Treatment Site Report
6. **Old Business**
7. **New Business**
  - a. Vote to approve draft letter commending historic collaboration and anticipated future collaboration between the Sustainability Commission and SIU Sustainability Office to Chancellor Austin Lane Ph.D. (attached)
8. **Announcements**
  - a. 2022 Illinois Solar Tour *in Carbondale* – Register to reserve your seat on the tour [here!](#)
9. **Adjournment**

Voting Members:

|                            | Present | Absent | Comment                    |
|----------------------------|---------|--------|----------------------------|
| Aur Beck (Chair)           |         |        |                            |
| Saxon Metzger (Vice-Chair) |         |        |                            |
| Jane Cogie                 |         |        |                            |
| Kevin Clark                |         |        |                            |
| Sarah Heyer                |         |        |                            |
| Yoonseo Jung (Student)     |         |        | Off-site Attendee: Student |
| Vacant (Student)           |         |        |                            |
| Vacant                     |         |        |                            |
| Vacant                     |         |        |                            |

Ex Officio Members:

|                                | Present | Absent |
|--------------------------------|---------|--------|
| Tom Grant (City Councilmember) |         |        |

City Staff:

|                               | Present | Absent |
|-------------------------------|---------|--------|
| Lauren Becker (Staff Liaison) |         |        |

Community Members Present:



## CARBONDALE SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

Thursday August 18<sup>th</sup>, 2022 - 5:00PM

The Carbondale Public Library  
405 W Main St, Carbondale, IL 62901

### AGENDA

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#### 1. Call to Order and Roll Call (5:06pm)

Voting Members:

|                            | Present | Absent | Comment                    |
|----------------------------|---------|--------|----------------------------|
| Aur Beck (Chair)           | x       |        |                            |
| Saxon Metzger (Vice-Chair) |         | x      |                            |
| Jane Cogie                 | x       |        |                            |
| Kevin Clark                | x       |        |                            |
| Sarah Heyer                | x       |        |                            |
| Yoonseo Jung (Student)     |         | x      | Off-site Attendee: Student |
| Vacant (Student)           |         |        |                            |
| Vacant                     |         |        |                            |
| Vacant                     |         |        |                            |

Ex Officio Members:

|                                | Present | Absent |
|--------------------------------|---------|--------|
| Tom Grant (City Councilmember) | x       |        |

City Staff:

|                               | Present | Absent |
|-------------------------------|---------|--------|
| Lauren Becker (Staff Liaison) | x       |        |
| Jennifer Sorrell (City Clerk) | x       |        |

Community Members Present: Amy Welling

#### 2. Approval of Meeting Minutes: August 18<sup>th</sup>, 2022 (K. Clark moves, Chair Beck assures unanimous consent)

#### 3. Citizen Comments and Questions (None)

#### 4. Presentations

- Rules of Order Overview - Jennifer Sorrell, City Clerk
  - i. J. Sorrell drafted and provided a two page rules of order to guide the Sustainability Commission
  - ii. J. Sorrell recommended not adopting Robert's Rules of Order as they may be too stringent for the purpose of the Sustainability Commission
  - iii. Chair Beck provided context, that historically the Commission would conduct research and provide technical information to the City Council
  - iv. J. Cogie shared that there is a need to have this conversation given that the Commission is in a state of transition from developing the City of Carbondale Sustainability Action Plan to now having a staff member to lead implementation of the plan.

- Exercise - Lauren Becker, Staff Liaison
  - i. L. Becker led a fifteen minute exercise to assist in helping the body understand the identity of the Sustainability Commission in this time of transition. Questions included “What strengths do you bring to the Sustainability Commission?” and “What has been the most significant struggle for the Sustainability Commission in your time as a member?”
  - ii. L. Becker shared that results of the exercise, which are anonymous, will be compiled and discussed at the 9/15/2022 meeting.

## **5. Report of Officers, Committees, and Communications**

- Sustainability Coordinator Monthly Progress Report (attached)
  - i. J. Cogie brought to discussion that there is significant opportunity within the state, local, and federal sustainability landscape (i.e. CEJA), L. Becker asked if J. Cogie would be willing to provide a regular report. J. Cogie accepted.
  - ii. L. Becker outlined that out of respect for commissioners’ time, the monthly report of progress regarding sustainability coordination will continue to be provided in written format, with the understanding that commissioners will review the report prior to the meeting. Meeting space will be reserved for questions and discussion surrounding the report.
  - iii. Discussion surrounding SIU contact/collaboration and question of whether a new sustainability coordinator will be hired. K. Clark provided further context as a member of the hiring committee.
  - iv. Commission members expressed interest in writing a letter to Chancellor Austin Lane Ph.D. commending the historic collaboration between the City of Carbondale and the SIU Sustainability Office, and communicating that the body is eagerly awaiting the hiring of the newest sustainability professional. S. Heyer volunteered to draft a letter for approval at 9/15/22 meeting. J. Cogie offered to collaborate. L. Becker will inquire with city administration to learn the process of commissions sending formal letters.
  - v. Chair Beck requested that the monthly City report regarding the Koppers Wood Treatment Site be read during each Sustainability Commission Meeting, through a Report of Officers, Committees, and Communications. J. Cogie seconded (Designee to be appointed)
  - vi. L. Becker requested that the creation of new programs through the Commission be paused until the Commission has had a chance to determine new identity in a transition out of developing the Sustainability Action Plan to implementing the SAP

## **6. Old Business**

- Vote to accept proposed Green Spot Award Calendar & Criteria (attached)
  - i. S. Heyer moved to table the vote to accept the draft proposed Green Spot Award Calendar & Criteria indefinitely to allow the Commission to determine new identity in a transition from developing the Sustainability Action Plan to implementing the SAP. J. Cogie seconded. Vote passed unanimously.

## **7. New Business**

## **8. Announcements**

- L. Becker shared reminder of 2022 Illinois Solar Tour in Carbondale – September 24<sup>th</sup> 10am – 3pm
- J. Cogie shared Tree Equity Group – Trees Forever grant is moving forward
- S. Heyer shared the community yard sale is 9/3/22

## **9. Adjournment** (J. Cogie moves to adjourn, K. Clark seconds, unanimous consent – 6:33pm)

Good afternoon everyone,

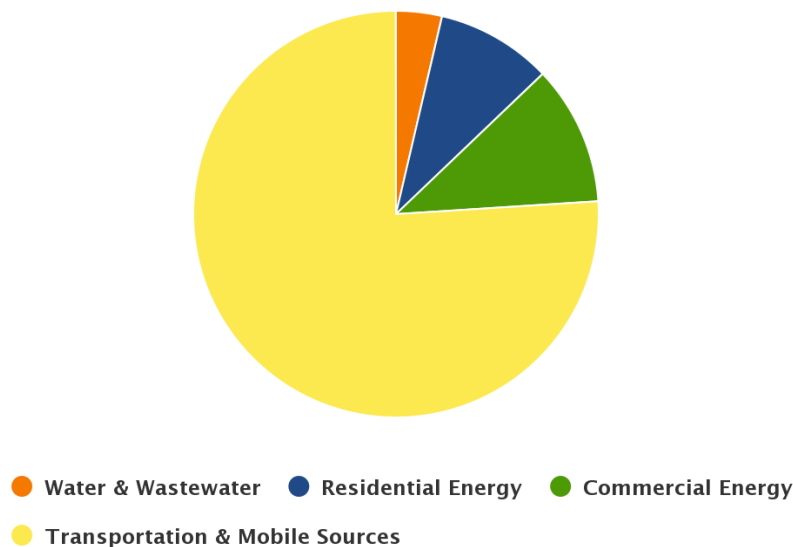
This email will serve as my Sustainability Coordinator **report of progress** over the month of August 2022.

**Community-scale Carbon Neutrality:**

- Emissions Tracking & Reporting:
  - Continued weekly ICLEI GHG Inventory Reporting Cohort
  - Continued to collaborate with City Manager Williams to send out formal data request letters with data worksheets as well as follow-ups.
  - Continued to receive and process data to ensure accuracy.
  - Continued entering data received into the Master Data Workbook.
  - One-on-one check in with ICLEI advisor Hannah Miller
  - Met with state of Illinois coalition of municipal sustainability professionals to establish working relationships and state network

**Key takeaways: We are waiting on data from Ameren Electric, public transit providers, and city waste management. Weekly reminders will need to be shared with recipients of data request letters to assure timeline, however we are still on track to have a complete, baseline community-scale GHG Inventory and Forecast by the end of November 2022. Data gathered thus far is visualized below:**

CO2e By Category



- Water & Wastewater:
  - Connected with Professor Emeritus Dr. Sanjeev Kumar – who has assembled a team to discuss SIU school of engineering and City partnership on water and wastewater management best management infrastructure (blue/green infrastructure) aligning with available Green Infrastructure Grant Opportunity (GIGO) funding from the Illinois EPA.

- Met with Greater Egypt, Green Earth Nature Preserve, Senior Planner Molly Maxwell, and Director of Operations Robert Hardin to discuss the granting timeline for the stream restoration of Little Crab Orchard Creek.

**Key takeaways: Planning green infrastructure will require the support and expertise of our civil engineering team. We have the opportunity to form cross-entity partnerships (SIU, SIH, etc) in our green infrastructure planning to assure funding. Codifying best management practices for water management will require site development standard text amendments.**

- Biodiversity:

- Continued attending weekly ICLEI Biodiversity Bootcamp sessions to learn about successful municipal programs across the nation.
- Began exploring the T-mobile 50K Revitalizing Communities grant and Canadian National Railroad Communities in Boom 25K grant to convert current city landscaping to entirely native, drought tolerant, low-to-zero maintenance to serve as demonstration gardens for an opt-in Pollinator Yards Program.
- Explored potential code changes to allow for an opt-in Pollinator Yards Program, which would allow community members to have grasses above 7inches in height without suffering financial penalty.
- Began exploring opportunity to increase urban tree canopy within the Northeast portion of our community – according to tree equity scoring:  
<https://treeequityscore.org/map/#12.06/37.71883/-89.20911>
- Met with City Arborist Mark McDaniel to discuss current grounds responsibilities and landscape maintenance
- Began internal conversations surrounding heritage tree preservation through codified site development standards
- Met with Emily Ehley of Trees Forever for an introduction to the non-profit and mission
- Attended the August 31<sup>st</sup> Tree Equity meeting, a subcommittee of the Downstate Caucus' Natural Solutions subgroup

**Key takeaways: Planning community-wide conservation, preservation, and biodiversity efforts will require the support and expertise of our Public Works Department. Partnering with local nonprofits/not-for-profits provides ample opportunity for increasing local biodiversity and carbon capture through nature-based solutions. Biodiversity and tree canopy is a critical form of infrastructure for our city. Preservation and support for our local biodiversity is fiscally responsible and will result in higher air quality, water quality, decreased heat extremes, soil stabilization, and soil regeneration. Current state, federal, and private granting opportunities lend to our efforts.**

- Energy:

- Met with Scott Tess, Sustainability & Resilience Officer for the City of Urbana to discuss his success in community solar and community solar education (solar power hours) through a partnership with the Midwest Renewable Energy Association.
- Began weekly camaraderie check-ins with Justin Harrell, PE Southern Illinois University Facilities and Energy Management to foster collaboration between SIU and the City of

Carbondale in line with City Council Vision 2025 Goal #5. These conversations will primarily target energy-related carbon reduction strategies.

- Met with a representative from Pivot Energy, an approved solar vendor through Illinois Solar for All for introductions.
- Attended the Midwest Building Decarbonization Coalition, “Understanding Implicit Bias in Building Decarbonization” to better understand the landscape of building decarbonization related to home-ownership.
- Finalized participating hosts and secured a bus and driver donation from Jackson County Mass Transit for the Sept. 24<sup>th</sup> Community Solar Tour thanks to Special Projects Manager Mark Bollmann
- Discovered through conversation with Wade Halva, Faith in Place Policy Coordinator of Southern Illinois that although previously not designated as a priority community by the DCEO when identifying communities impacted by the closing of a coal plant – the Marion/Carbondale MSA may actually qualify.

**Key takeaways: Following the completion of the 2019 baseline community-scale GHG Inventory, city staff will need to evaluate the avenues to renewable energy available and what forms best suit the community of Carbondale based on community input, and success stories from communities similar to ours. We will need to keep our ears to the ground on RFIs/opportunities to provide comment on federal programs surrounding energy.**

- Community Wellbeing & Culture:
  - Met with Fanta Saidou PhD, MPH, CHES, Health Ministry Coordinator for Southern Illinois Healthcare (SIH) to discuss potential partnerships surrounding public wellbeing programming
  - Attended “Vision Zero: from talking to doing. Guest: Leah Shahum, Founder & Director at Vision Zero Network” to explore increasing safety for pedestrian traffic, a first step to increasing pedestrian traffic as a whole.
  - Met with Anthony Henson, Jackson County Resource Coordinator to discuss Jackson County-wide initiatives surrounding resilience and sustainability related to the wellbeing of our community (i.e. grant opportunities, County resources)
  - Attended “Vibrant Tribal Economies Webinar Series – Session 7: Business Incubators”
  - Met with Justin Schoof, Director of the SIU School of Earth Systems and Sustainability/Professor of Geography and Environmental Resources to discuss community education surrounding climate change and the SIU System Strategic Plan Sustainability Committee
  - Attended “Managing the Climate Crisis: Designing and Building for Floods, Heat, Drought, and Wildfire” webinar featuring Jonathan Barnett and Matthijs Bouw
  - Met with Christina Krost of Faith In Place to discuss shifts within the policy landscape of Southern Illinois pertaining to sustainability
  - Met with Jane Cogie, Amy McMorro Hunter, Amanda Pankau, and Andrew Rehn of Prairie Rivers Network to discuss education and communication surrounding CEJA and its programs

**Key takeaways: Great things are happening! We simply need avenues to tell people about it.**

- Waste Management:
  - o Met with Sarah Heyer to gather insight on historic waste management efforts, as well as the research she conducted during her tenure as Director of the local non-profit Keep Carbondale Beautiful related to a regional waste management facility and system

**Key takeaways: The creation of a regional waste management facility/system is not only necessary, but could prove economically viable given the lack of sustainable waste management systems available to communities within our region. There is significant economic opportunity for Carbondale in this arena.**

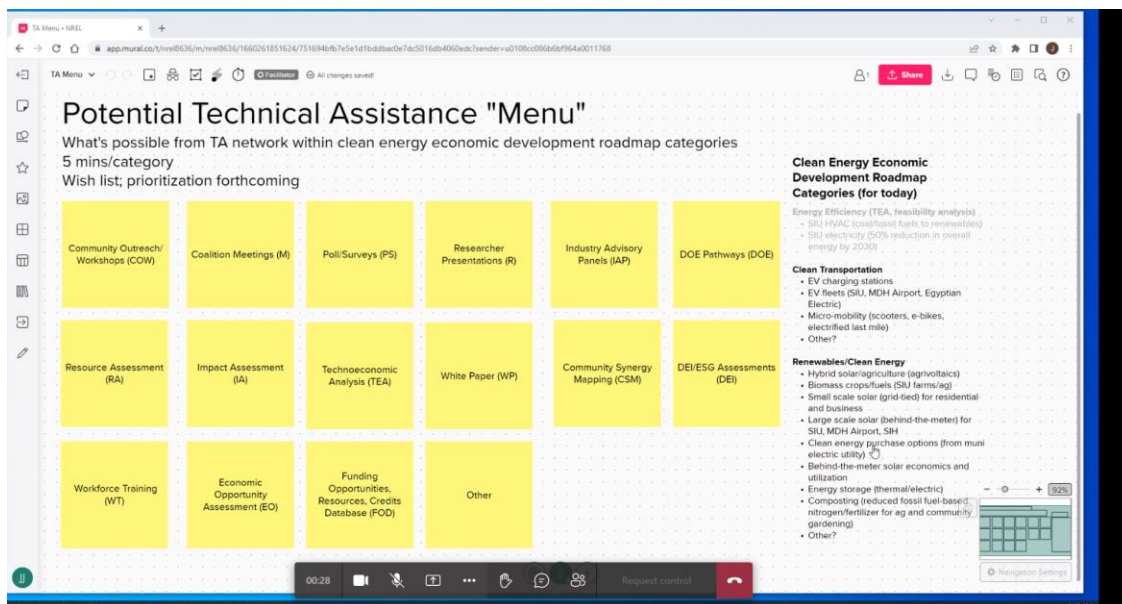
### Sustainability Commission:

- Held August 18<sup>th</sup>, 2022 Sustainability Commission Meeting
  - o Significant conversation surrounding SIU/City collaboration and interest in writing a letter to SIU Chancellor Dr. Austin Lane.
  - o Significant conversation and exercise on the identity and purpose of the Sustainability Commission as an advisory board to the City Council
  - o Commission received a presentation on rules of conduct and procedure from Jennifer Sorrell, City Clerk

**Key takeaways: Further conversation will need to be had to rediscover the identity of the Sustainability Commission following the passage of the Sustainability Action Plan and hiring of sustainability staff.**

### LEAP Pilot Program:

- August 26<sup>th</sup>
  - o Another very positive meeting. Focus is continuing to tighten. The graphic below outlines the “menu” of assistance LEAP technical advisors may provide to us through this program.



To: Chancellor Austin Lane, PhD

CC: Jeff Burgin, Gary Williams, City Council



Dear Chancellor Lane,

On behalf of the City of Carbondale Sustainability Commission, we write to provide you with a brief update on activities relating to Southern Illinois University Carbondale.

1. After appointment through City Council on September 13th, the position of SIU student member will be yet again filled by one of your exceptional students, current SIU Law student Isaac Luddington. We welcome Isaac and will appreciate his perspective as a member of the student community and recent graduate of your Political Science Program.
2. In April 2022, by unanimous vote, the Carbondale City Council passed the City of Carbondale Sustainability Action Plan, which commits our community to carbon neutrality by 2050 and a 45% reduction by 2030.
3. To that end, the City has hired a dual role Planner & Sustainability Coordinator to accomplish these goals: Lauren Becker. Great strides have been made toward the implementation of the Sustainability Action Plan, including a community-scale Baseline GHG Emissions Inventory to be completed November 2022.

We are eager to continue our time honored tradition of collaboration with Southern Illinois University Carbondale's Sustainability Office.

We wait with anticipation for the hiring of the SIU Sustainability Coordinator, who will allow us to build on this fruitful synergy.

Together, the City of Carbondale and Southern Illinois University Carbondale will continue to attract and retain students and community members invested in making our community the place to be – to learn, grow, and lead cutting edge research to promote a more resilient Southern Illinois for generations to come.

Best wishes for another successful and sustainable academic year.

Sincerely,

Sarah Heyer

Jane Cogie



## CARBONDALE SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

Thursday August 18<sup>th</sup>, 2022 - 5:00PM

The Carbondale Civic Center – Room 103  
200 S. Illinois Avenue, Carbondale IL

### Commission Exercise – 15 minutes

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This exercise is designed to help identify the Sustainability Commission. There are no wrong answers and your responses can be anonymous. Please number your answers on the scrap paper provided, fold them, and put them in a pile. Your responses will be compiled and we will discuss them next meeting along with the Sustainability Commission Bylaws.

About you:

1. What strengths do you bring to the Sustainability Commission?

- a. Lots of connections
- b. Listening to all input
- c. Knowledge of recycling and waste management in Carbondale
- d. Experience with nature/invasives
- e. Group communication experience
- f. Passion for the environment
- g. Intelligence
- h. Critical thinking
- i. Writing ability
- j. Networking
- k. Member of diverse community groups
- l. Intent on collaboration with diverse groups

- m. Research ability
- n. Huge interest in addressing climate change equitably
- o. Classroom 1 on 1 teaching
- p. Knowledge of climate change
- q. Arguing for long term solutions
- r. Creativity
- s. Resource connectivity
- t. Organizational skills
- u. Spare time/Bandwidth
- v. Perspective from life stage of early parenthood

2. What technical expertise do you bring to the Sustainability Commission?

- a. Years of collaboration and trying to make things work in a variety of contexts
- b. Writing, editing, collaborate in writing and editing
- c. Push to build knowledge of climate change action
- d. Knowledge of climate jobs act
- e. Trained by Al Gore in 2007
- f. Years of climate mentoring
- g. Teach people how to live simply
- h. Love food advocate
- i. I know Carbondale well
- j. Writing news releases
- k. Community contacts
- l. Soil building
- m. Community engagement

- n. Building communication
- o. Bridges between people
- p. Connecting people
- q. Community engagement
- r. Administrative
- s. Teaching
- t. Bookkeeping
- u. First aid/AED/CPR/Emergency Preparedness

3. What are your areas of interest? (i.e. energy, waste, biodiversity, transportation, etc.)

- a. Bicycling
- b. Local Food
- c. CommUnity
- d. Dancing
- e. Simply Living
- f. Cooking
- g. Transportation (active)
- h. Food sustainability
- i. Clean energy (solar, community solar)
- j. Problem solving through networking
- k. Natural solutions
- l. Regenerative farming, agrovoltatics
- m. Achieving equity (being sure the community most impacted has real voice and power)
- n. Waste management
- o. Gardening/plants/natives

- p. What individual entities can do to be more sustainable (education)
- q. Renewable energy
- r. Taking care of mother earth
- s. Finding viable solutions to transition to renewables
- t. Food desert knowledge
- u. Electronics recycling
- v. Wind power
- w. Solar power

4. Why did you choose to become a member of the Sustainability Commission?

- a. To try to make a difference
- b. The great potential of our commUnity
- c. Together we can do more
- d. We need to do more to make ourselves and our community more sustainable and resilient to the changes that are already happening and will continue to happen. Since we've finally decided to stay somewhere ong term I decided it was time to get more involved.
- e. To push the Sustainability Commission to do activities
- f. I'd been encouraged from outside
- g. I saw it as an extension of my job (now former job)
- h. Started as staff liaison to the EEAC (original sust commission)
- i. Appointed by Mayor as ex-officio
- j. Wanting to know and help inform how the city was responding to opportunities in the future energy jobs act (FEJA)
- k. To help influence sustainable practices in Carbondale and the region

## About the Commission:

### 5. What has been the most significant challenge for the commission?

- a. How long it takes to get anything done due to following the proper meeting rules and open meetings act
- b. Educating itself and collaborating on the best process for moving decisions forward
- c. Putting together the Sust. Action Plan
- d. Staying on point with the Sustainability Plan in a realistic, obtainable, goal set
- e. Moving ideas to action

### 6. What do you understand the role of the sustainability commission to be?

- a. We are only an advisory board, however we have been pushing the city and pulling the city to be more sustainable
- b. Our role is to advise the city council (i.e. collect info that they don't have time for and present that info with suggestions for action)
- c. Advise the City Council and make the argument to the same to encourage forward progress by the community.
- d. Advocate for sustainability ideas and action
- e. Connect with community members on their needs and ideas for achieving sustainability
- f. Push/advise the city on actions to combat climate change equitably

### 7. Is there anything else you'd like to bring to discussion about the commission?

- a. We need progress toward filling vacancies
- b. The importance of finding the most productive way the commission can support/help amplify the work of the sustainability coordinator and vice versa.
- c. Very much appreciate the Sustainability Coordinator role! We want to make the most of it.
- d. How do we get good people to join the commission?
- e. How can we be more empowered?
- f. City sustainability tax to fund projects?

- g. Verify the hybrid meetings as remote/in person and promote public participation in the commission
- h. A way to collaborate on grants, state and federal (City of Carbondale, SIU, and the Regional Planning Commission)