



CARBONDALE SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

Thursday November 17th, 2022 - 5:00PM

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

AGENDA

- 1. Call to Order and Roll Call**
- 2. Approval of Meeting Minutes:** October 20th 2022
- 3. Citizen Comments and Questions**
- 4. Presentations**
- 5. Report of Officers, Committees, and Communications**
 - a. Sustainability Coordinator Monthly Progress Report (L. Becker, attached)
 - b. Federal, State, and Local Policy Landscape Report (J. Cogie)
 - c. Former Koppers Wood Treatment Site Report (A. Beck)
- 6. Old Business**
- 7. New Business**
 - a. Memorandum Recommending Council Action Re: Community Gardens (attached)
 - b. Memorandum Recommending Council Action Re: Mayors' Monarch Pledge (attached)
- 8. Announcements**
- 9. Adjournment**

Voting Members:

	Present	Absent	Comment
Aur Beck (Chair)			
Jane Cogie			
Kevin Clark			
Sarah Heyer			
Yoonseo Jung (Student)			
Isaac Ludington (Student)			
Treesong			
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 October 20th, 2022 - 5:00PM

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

AGENDA

1. Call to Order and Roll Call (5:04pm)

Voting Members:

	Present	Absent	Comment
Aur Beck (Chair)	x		Traveling, attended virtually
Jane Cogie	x		Presiding as Chair
Kevin Clark	x		
Sarah Heyer	x		
Yoonseo Jung (Student)	x		
Isaac Ludington (Student)	x		
Treesong	x		
Vacant			

Ex Officio Members:

	Present	Absent
Tom Grant (City Councilmember)	x	

City Staff:

	Present	Absent
Lauren Becker (Staff Liaison)	x	

Community Members Present:

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes: September 15th 2022 (K. Clark motions to approve, Treesong Seconds, Presiding Chair Cogie assures unanimous consent)

3. Citizen Comments and Questions (None)

4. Presentations (None)

5. Report of Officers, Committees, and Communications

a. Sustainability Coordinator Monthly Progress Report (attached)

Welcome to new commission members, Isaac Ludington and Treesong. L. Becker provided space for questions from new members to veteran members. Open discussion regarding the Sustainability Coordinator Monthly Progress Report for September. Specific commission interest in pollinator yards pilot program (PYPP), community gardens, and the community-scale greenhouse gas emissions (and equivalent) inventory for the baseline year of 2019. L. Becker establishes consent that commissioners would like to draft a memo in support of staff code review and revision to encourage community gardens. S. Heyer volunteers to draft this memorandum to City Council.

b. Federal, State, and Local Policy Landscape Report (J. Cogie)

Presiding Chair Cogie shares regarding the CEJA Town Hall to be held virtually October 20th

6:30pm. In addition, Prairie Rivers Network will be hosting a prep session to assist Southern Illinois community members with providing feedback during DCEO (Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity) statewide listening sessions surrounding the implementation of CEJA and the location of a Workforce Hub in Carbondale, IL. This prep session is held virtually October 25th 6pm-7:30pm while the DCEO listening session is Nov 3rd 3-5pm with accompanying surveys. This is the best time to respond to Requests for Information from the federal and state government. DCEO will be defining things like “what is a navigator” as outlined in CEJA. Equity is on the line.

c. Former Koppers Wood Treatment Site Report

Presiding Chair Cogie shares that she is interested to see what can be done through zoning to protect our community from the historic and ongoing harms surrounding the brownfield site within our community. L. Becker concurs strongly and highlights how this topic directly correlates to the work of the sustainability commission and the work of the sustainability coordinator. S. Heyer recommends that the Sustainability Action Plan be considered by city planning staff. L. Becker shares that the way zoning for our city is currently structured, the location of industry within city limits is disproportionately located in the Eastern portion of our city and that this calls direct attention to our city’s zoning practices.

6. Old Business (None)

7. New Business (None)

8. Announcements

- a. CEJA & You! Virtual Event October 20th 6:30pm [Register Here](#)
- b. Councilmember Grant shares that he has free trees for the taking. (Black Walnut)
- c. Presiding Chair Cogie shares that the Jackson County Housing Authority has secured a Trees Forever grant to plant additional urban tree canopy in Murphysboro.

9. Adjournment (S. Heyer moves to adjourn. K. Clark seconds. Presiding Chair Cogie assures unanimous consent. 6:07pm)

Good afternoon everyone,

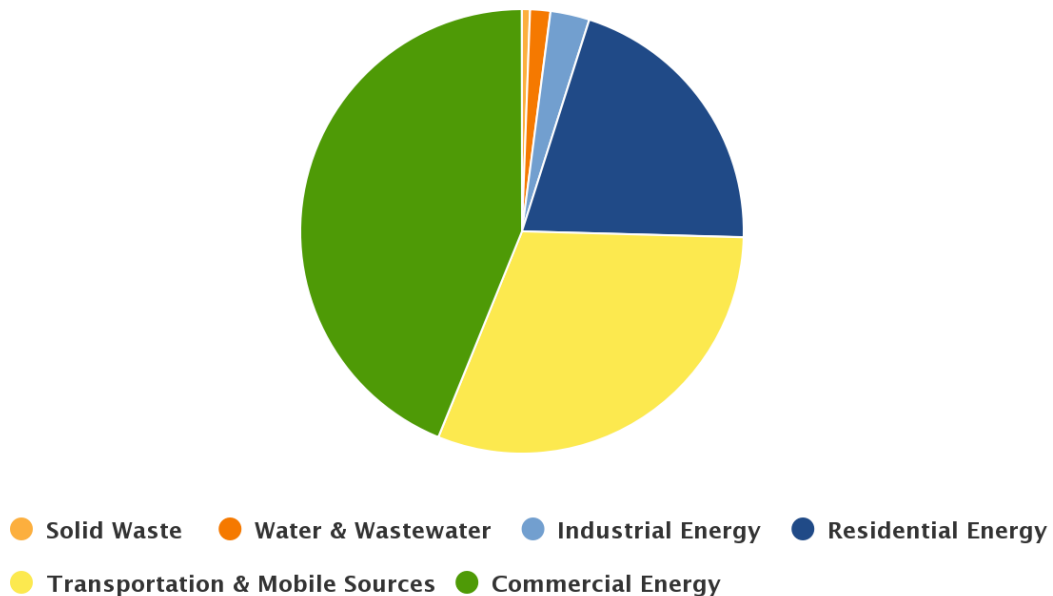
This email will serve as my Sustainability Coordinator report of progress for the month of October 2022.

Community-scale Carbon Neutrality:

- Emissions Tracking & Reporting:
 - Significant progress in data acquisition, with Ameren Electric and two of the four remaining public transportation data request worksheets returned.
 - Local waste pick-up services beyond the City of Carbondale have been unable to provide data. I will be working with our ICLEI representative to explore data extrapolation for the remaining population served by alternative providers.
 - Continued to enter data received into ClearPath.

Key takeaways: We are waiting on data from public transit providers. Weekly reminders will continue to be sent. Given data request hold-ups, the baseline community-scale GHG inventory may not be completed by the end of November 2022, but we will still see both a baseline inventory and a “business as usual” forecast before the new year. Data gathered thus far is visualized below:

CO₂e By Category



- Water & Wastewater:
 - o Collaborative SIU School of Engineering proposal regarding a comprehensive water and wastewater management plan as a response to climatic change through best practices (i.e. blue/green infrastructure) will be put forward to the City Council as a Community Investment Proposal (CIP) for review.

- Biodiversity:
 - o Visited a local resident's pollinator garden and bioswale to inform program exploration.
 - o Advertised a community request for insight regarding potential pollinator yards pilot program in "The Morsel" put out by the Neighborhood Co-op and each established grocery store in town.
 - o Received an influx of community input regarding pollinator-supportive landscaping. (Each community member has been added to an email list for further information/insight gathering.)
 - o Met with the newly hired University of Illinois Extension part-time Pollinator Coordinator out of their Champaign Branch. Extension would like to model a statewide Extension program off of the City of Carbondale, with our community serving as a pilot. Given community perspective shared thus far, and staff research, the program and partnership could be modeled similarly to [that of the city of Coon Rapids, MN](#). Code change and programming could reflect the "Pollinator Gardens", "Bee Lawns", and "Native Planting Areas" model – providing options and code structure as unique and diverse as our community member's yards.

To give community members a jumping off point in evaluating potential pollinator-supportive landscape programming:

Here is a segment of Coon Rapids' code referencing the maintenance of vegetation and landscaping: https://library.municode.com/mn/coon_rapids/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=TIT8HESASA_CH8-500MAVELA You'll note that Coon Rapids still requires folks who are growing "Bee Lawns" to mow them before they get to above 8 inches. This code communicates *intention* surrounding pollinator-supportive landscaping very well. You'll also note that Coon Rapids states, "To comply with Coon Rapids ordinances, your pollinator garden can include native plants, but cannot take the form of a native prairie or meadow. A native prairie is subject to different city regulations than a pollinator garden." I've reached out to the Sustainability Planner at Coon Rapids with a "request to take inspiration".

Potential University of Illinois Extension's partnership to municipalities:

1. **Expert Education** for residents interested in pursuing a pollinator garden, bee lawn, or native planting area through virtual trainings (i.e. training module) and in person master gardener (or master naturalist) educational events at demonstration gardens in Carbondale.
2. **Design Review** of pollinator garden, bee lawn, or native planting area by experts (potentially the Extension staff Ryan mentioned and/or local master gardener/master naturalist volunteers) This would assist municipalities immensely by ensuring that the designs are in compliance with boilerplate municipal code (like Coon Rapids, MN) and not expecting municipalities to be master gardeners themselves.

3. **Pollinator Pocket Mapping** for access by the wider community. Folks who register through the University of Illinois Extension and have their pollinator garden, bee lawn, or native planting designs approved will be added to the City of Carbondale's registry and the University of Illinois Extension map of Pollinator Pockets throughout Illinois. This map can then be featured on municipal websites.

If University of Illinois Extension is willing to print and mail them, our city could design three separate signs "This yard is home to a pollinator garden!" "This yard is home to a bee lawn!" and "This yard is home to a native planting area" that folks who register through Extension can "opt in" to receive and post in their yard. These signs would be branded by the municipality and the University of Illinois Extension respectively.

- Energy:
 - Began developing a "The Plan in Motion" document that fleshes out the implementation of April 2022 Sustainability Action Plan vision surrounding renewable energy, which must be a menu of affordable, clean, and reliable power for residential, commercial, and industrial uses.
 - Continued weekly camaraderie check-ins with Justin Harrell, P.E. Southern Illinois University Facilities and Energy Management (SIU FEM) 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.
 - Arranged to meet with the Senior Regional Director of Vote Solar to discuss how the Illinois Power Agency's Long Term Plan to roll-out renewables may allow for community-driven community solar installations as a means to increase local energy security, decrease family energy costs, and encourage our shift to renewable energy.
 - Met with City Manager Gary Williams to discuss history of "opt-out" municipal electricity aggregation for the City of Carbondale, which at "100% green power" was in place from 2012 to 2020.

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 (i.e. community-driven community solar, municipal electricity aggregation, and partnership with local utility providers) and what forms best suit the community of Carbondale based on community input, and success stories from communities similar to ours. RFPs and RFQs surrounding renewable energy production will need to be drafted. The feasibility of renewable district heating and cooling (i.e. geothermal) in high density portions of the city will need to be evaluated in relation to current City of Carbondale site development standards.

- Waste:
 - Began exploring the development of a Community Investment Proposal (CIP) alongside Refuse & Recycling Coordinator Loren Polley and Director of Public Works Robert Hardin to provide community-wide composting to the City of Carbondale for residential and commercial organic yard waste and food waste.
 - Reached out to Southern Illinois University to explore what large-scale composting facilities (i.e. vermicomposting, digester) are already assets to our community.

- Community Wellbeing & Culture:
 - o Tabled at the Community Health Fair and Health Screening at the Victory Dream Center on behalf of Community Development Services on the linkages between public health and the climate crisis.
 - o Toured the Eurma C. Hayes Center to learn about recent building envelop improvements and current programming.
 - o Met and toured the Food Forest Community Garden with Sorrel Smith at 410 E. Chestnut
 - o Attended “Equity and Walkability: Improving Pedestrian Infrastructure in Underserved Neighborhoods” webinar

State & Local Policy:

- Collaborated to plan the first “CEJA & You” community educational event for Southern Illinois
- Spoke at the first “CEJA & You” virtual educational event for Southern Illinois, October 20th, hosted by the Prairie Rivers Network and Faith in Place.
- Attended the DCEO Workforce Hubs “Prep Session” hosted by Prairie Rivers Network to prepare for the Southern Illinois listening session hosted by DCEO November 4th.
- Attended “National Perspectives on Walking and Pedestrian Safety: Where We Are and How We Move Forward” webinar
- Continued monthly meeting with municipal sustainability staff cohort for the state of Illinois
- Met as a Planning Team to discuss current gaps in city code surrounding community gardens.
- Put into motion a memo to City Council on behalf of the Sustainability Commission asking city staff to evaluate current gaps in City Code regarding community gardens (i.e. accessory structures, permitted locations) to be voted on by the Sustainability Commission November 17th

Sustainability Commission Meeting:

- Welcomed two new commission members, Isaac Ludington and Treesong
- Established consensus to draft a formal memo to the City Council from the Sustainability Commission requesting that staff such as the Planner & Sustainability Coordinator be tasked with reviewing and revising city code to support and encourage community gardens as a source of food security for our community members, in line with the 2022 Sustainability Action Plan.
- This Sustainability Commission Memorandum to the City Council may serve as a model for future code review and revision on community interests within the Sustainability Commission’s responsibilities as outlined by the City of Carbondale Sustainability Commission Bylaws.

LEAP

- October 7th: Biweekly meeting
- October 21st: Biweekly meeting



Community Development
200 South Illinois Avenue
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Fax 618-457-3289
www.explorecarbndale.com

MEMORANDUM

TO: The City of Carbondale City Council Members / Gary Williams, City Manager

FROM: City of Carbondale Sustainability Commission

RE: City Code Review & Revision – Community Gardens

DATE: October 26th, 2022

For the purpose of this memorandum, the Sustainability Commission defines community gardens as “those that are developed in neighborhoods with the primary purpose of providing space for members of the community to grow plants for beautification, education, recreation, community distribution, or personal use.” *Id.* at § 17-17-0103(F)(1).

In the Spring of 2022, the Carbondale City Council, through unanimous vote, passed the City of Carbondale Sustainability Action Plan. Focus Area 3: People, has as its first goal, “Optimize local self-sufficiency and preparedness through local production of food and products to become an export-intensive economy [...]” and “Ensure all Carbondale citizens, with a focus on the food insecure, can access a food system that is community-driven [...]” (p. 21) Under this objective are the following two actions:

“ 1. Prioritize support and expansion of programs already under development, especially in low-income or underserved areas, including programs for recycling, youth programs, community gardens, composting, nutrition and cooking, educational opportunities, waste utilization, reducing single-use plastics, and healthy schools programs, and identify gaps, both on and off city property”

“ 2. Review current statutes, regulations, ordinances and zoning to ensure implementation of local food-friendly practices and appropriate diversion of food waste from restaurants and supermarkets from landfills to shelters or composting.”

In the Fall of 2022, City staff became aware of current gaps within City of Carbondale Revised Code surrounding community gardens. These gaps are found largely on two fronts.

1. Current Carbondale Revised Code limits the location of community gardens by only allowing them in parcels zoned “AG” (Agricultural).
2. Current Carbondale Revised Code limits logistic support of community gardens by not permitting accessory structures (i.e. tool sheds or garden sheds) on parcels without a primary structure.

In the Fall of 2022, the Carbondale Sustainability Commission was alerted to these gaps by City staff. In order to implement the Sustainability Action Plan, ensure the implementation of local food-friendly practices, and support community gardens within the Carbondale community, the City of Carbondale Sustainability Commission deems a comprehensive review and revision of code related to community gardens imperative.

The Sustainability Commission, according to the bylaws of our commission, is issuing this memo as a recommendation to the City Council of Carbondale - that these gaps be addressed through formal code review and revision surrounding community gardens by City staff with input from the Carbondale community.



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MEMORANDUM

TO: The City of Carbondale City Council Members / Gary Williams, City Manager

FROM: City of Carbondale Sustainability Commission

RE: City Council Support for Pollinator Habitat: Mayors' Monarch Pledge

DATE: November 17th, 2022

Our community recognizes that pollinator populations have suffered significant decline due to habitat fragmentation, threatening the security and the resiliency of our food system. With the most recent placement of the Monarch butterfly on the IUCN Red List, the City of Carbondale is renewing its commitment to assuring that pollinator-supportive landscaping is prioritized in all current and future developments.

With this memorandum, the Carbondale Sustainability Commission is requesting that the City Council approve and the Mayor sign the National Wildlife Federation [Mayors' Monarch Pledge](#) for the coming year, 2023. This pledge will commit the City of Carbondale to tasking staff with the selection and implementation of specific actions that will increase the habitat for pollinators necessary for the resilience of our community and our ecosystem.

Through this commitment, Carbondale will join hundreds of other cities that have signed similar pledges, following models set forth by the National Wildlife Federation and other environmental organizations collaborating on this effort. This commitment will advance implementation of the roadmap of actions set forth in the Natural Solutions section of our Commission's comprehensive Sustainability Action Plan, approved by the City Council in Spring 2022. Such actions are necessary steps for achieving carbon neutrality or negative carbon

emissions for all city-owned lands, natural spaces, and waters; maximized community benefits; and sustained biodiversity and ecosystem functions, priorities essential to the Action Plan.

The National Wildlife Federation states, “By taking the Mayors' Monarch Pledge, you are committing to both restore habitat in your community and encourage your residents to do the same. Before pledging, read the [Mayors' Monarch Pledge](#) language and review the [list of action items](#). Mayors or their staff point of contact can [take the pledge online](#) between December 1 and March 31 each year. Mayors will commit to at least three action items (out of 30) that your community will initiate throughout the year to support monarch conservation. Mayors who complete eight or more actions will receive special recognition and become a member of the Mayors' Monarch Pledge Leadership Circle and those that complete 24 or more actions will become a Monarch Champion City.”

The Sustainability Commission, according to the bylaws of our commission, is issuing this memo as a recommendation to the City Council of Carbondale - that the City of Carbondale become a signatory of the National Wildlife Federation Mayors' Monarch Pledge and task city staff with the implementation of actions that bolster pollinator habitat and our community's resilience within the new year of 2023.