



CARBONDALE SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

Thursday July 20th, 2023 - 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:** June 15th, 2023
- 3. Citizen Comments and Questions**
- 4. Presentations**
The City Sustainability Webpage is Live! A Sustainability Commission Review of Community-facing Video Guide on Pollinator-supportive Landscaping in our Community
- 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**
- 8. Announcements**
- 9. Adjournment**

Voting Members:

	Present	Absent	Comment
Treesong (Chair)			
Aur Beck (Vice Chair)			
Jane Cogie			
Kevin Clark			
Sarah Heyer			
Yoonseo Jung (CCHS Student)			
Isaac Ludington (SIU Student)			
Gayle Klam		x	Excused
Joan Davis			

Ex Officio Members:

	Present	Absent
Vacant		

City Staff:

	Present	Absent
Lauren Becker (Staff Liaison)		

Community Members Present:



CARBONDALE SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

Thursday June 15th, 2023 - 5:00PM

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

MINUTES

Voting Members:

	Present	Absent	Comment
Treesong (Chair)	x		
Aur Beck (Vice Chair)		x	Unexcused
Jane Cogie	x		
Kevin Clark	x		
Sarah Heyer	x		
Yoonseo Jung (Student)		x	Excused
Isaac Ludington (Student)	x		
Gayle Klam	x		
Joan Davis		x	Excused

Ex Officio Members:

	Present	Absent
Vacant		

City Staff:

	Present	Absent
Lauren Becker (Staff Liaison)	x	

Community Members Present: Jacob Bowers, Tom Grant, and Bill Sasso

1. **Call to Order and Roll Call** (5:05pm)
2. **Approval of Meeting Minutes:** May 18th, 2023 (J. Cogie moved, K. Clark seconded)
3. **Citizen Comments and Questions**

Previous ex-officio member Tom Grant shared that he feels that the Sustainability Commission has really gotten traction and is looking forward to reading the Community-scale GHG Emissions Inventory Report for the baseline year 2019.

4. **Presentations** (None)
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, attached)
 - c. Former Koppers Wood Treatment Site Report (A. Beck)
6. **Old Business** (None)

7. **New Business** (None)

8. **Announcements**

9. **Adjournment** (6:17pm, K. Clark moved to adjourn Isaac Ludington seconded. Chair Treesong ensured unanimous consent)

Unapproved

Good afternoon everyone,

The following will serve as my Sustainability Coordinator report of progress for the month of June 2023. As always please don't hesitate to reach out with questions and comments.

Table of Contents:

1. Uncategorized Updates
 2. Energy Sovereignty, Security, & Democracy Proposal
 3. Community Gardens & Pollinator-supportive Landscaping
 4. City Sustainability Commission
 5. Jackson County Communities LEAP Community Coalition
-
1. Uncategorized Updates
 - Continued regular check-ins with Wade Halva, Faith in Place
 - Continued regular check-ins with Justin Harrell, SIU Facilities & Energy Maintenance
 - Continued bi-weekly check ins with Gary Williams, City Manager
 - Attended "2023 Brownfields Grant-Writing Training Webinar Series: It is Never too Early to Start" 6/1/23
 - Received appointment to the Carbondale Children's Cabinet, filling the city position previously held by Roni LeForge
 - Attended the Children's Cabinet – Community Conversation "From Sleepers to Sneakers" sessions 6/26/23 and 6/27/23
 - Attended the "Rural Utility Service IRA Cross-Agency Rural Clean Energy Funding Opportunity" Webinar 6/27/23
 2. Energy Sovereignty, Security, & Democracy Proposal
 - Checked in with Pranav Myana of AmaterTech on relevant grant opportunities 6/8/23
 - Began attending the Midwest Climate Collaborative's regular "Federal Funding Fridays" 6/9/23
 - Met with Natalie Roper of the Just Transition Fund to discuss JTF grant funding available for technical assistance and grant writing assistance 6/9/23
 - Attended "Maximizing Access to \$11B for Rural Electric Cooperatives" 6/13/23
 - Attended "Elective Pay Stakeholder Briefing" 6/15/23
 - Attended "How the Inflation Reduction Act Can Transform Utility Resource Planning" 6/21/23
 - Began collaboration with Economic Development colleagues Steve Mitchell and Cody Lueker, understand the Energy Sovereignty Proposal to be an economic development project 6/21/23
 - Received and reviewed first draft of scope of work surrounding legal assistance from the Lawyers 4 Good Government entity, which will coordinate our legal assessment with multiple, qualified firms, at 90% less than what these legal services would usually cost a local government
 - Attended "Overcoming Common Infrastructure Challenges in Energy Communities – Part One: Transportation & Electric Grid Infrastructure" 6/29/23
 - Attended "Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund Solar for All Public Briefing" hosted by the Illinois Finance Authority/Illinois Climate Bank 6/29/23

- Met with the National Renewable Energy Lab (NREL) guides for the Jackson County C-LEAP Community Coalition, Johanna Jamison and Scott Carron to present and discuss the Energy Sovereignty Proposal. Discussed in depth the opportunity for detailed technical assistance from NREL and partnership in the pilot 6/30/23
3. Community Gardens & Pollinator-supportive Landscaping
 - Attended SOBL “Landscaping for Water Quality” hosted by Trees Forever 6/7/23
 - Fielded a call from Ms. Joyce Banks, who is interested in establishing a new community garden, “The Haven” 6/7/23
 - Developed draft design and content to be included on proposed City Sustainability webpage (attached)
 - Developed a community-facing presentation outlining the changes to code that have been conducted to protect and encourage pollinator-supportive landscaping to be included on the proposed City Sustainability webpage (attached)
 - Drafted a detailed visual presentation to be given to the Building and Neighborhood Services (BNS) Division of Community Development Services on the text amendments to protect and encourage pollinator-supportive landscaping
 - Presented to the Building and Neighborhood Services (BNS) Division of Community Development Services on the text amendments to protect and encourage pollinator-supportive landscaping 6/15/23
 - Conducted an in-the-field consult for “the Haven” community garden, which is under development
 - Met with city colleague Krysty Gray to translate the proposed City Sustainability webpage content and design into the Civic Plus format 6/27/23
 - Met with Civic Center Manager Laura Chamness to walk the Civic Center grounds and learn where pollinator-supportive and native species “swaps” can be made. Agreed to pursue funding that would cover the cost of converting the Civic Center landscape to predominantly pollinator-supportive and native species. 6/28/23
 4. City Sustainability Commission
 - Held 6/15 meeting
 5. Jackson County Communities LEAP Community Coalition
 - Met 6/8 and 6/30

Government

City Departments

Community Development

Sustainability

Overview

The Carbondale Community Sustainability Action Plan

Community-scale GHG Emissions Inventory (2019)

The Plan in Motion

How Do I Get Involved?

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Community Organizations

City-wide Programming

Mayors' Monarch Pledge

Pollinator-supportive Landscaping

Community Gardens

Earth Month 2023 Calendar of Events

The 2022 Illinois Solar Tour in Carbondale

Backyard Chicken Coops

Resources

Educational Guides

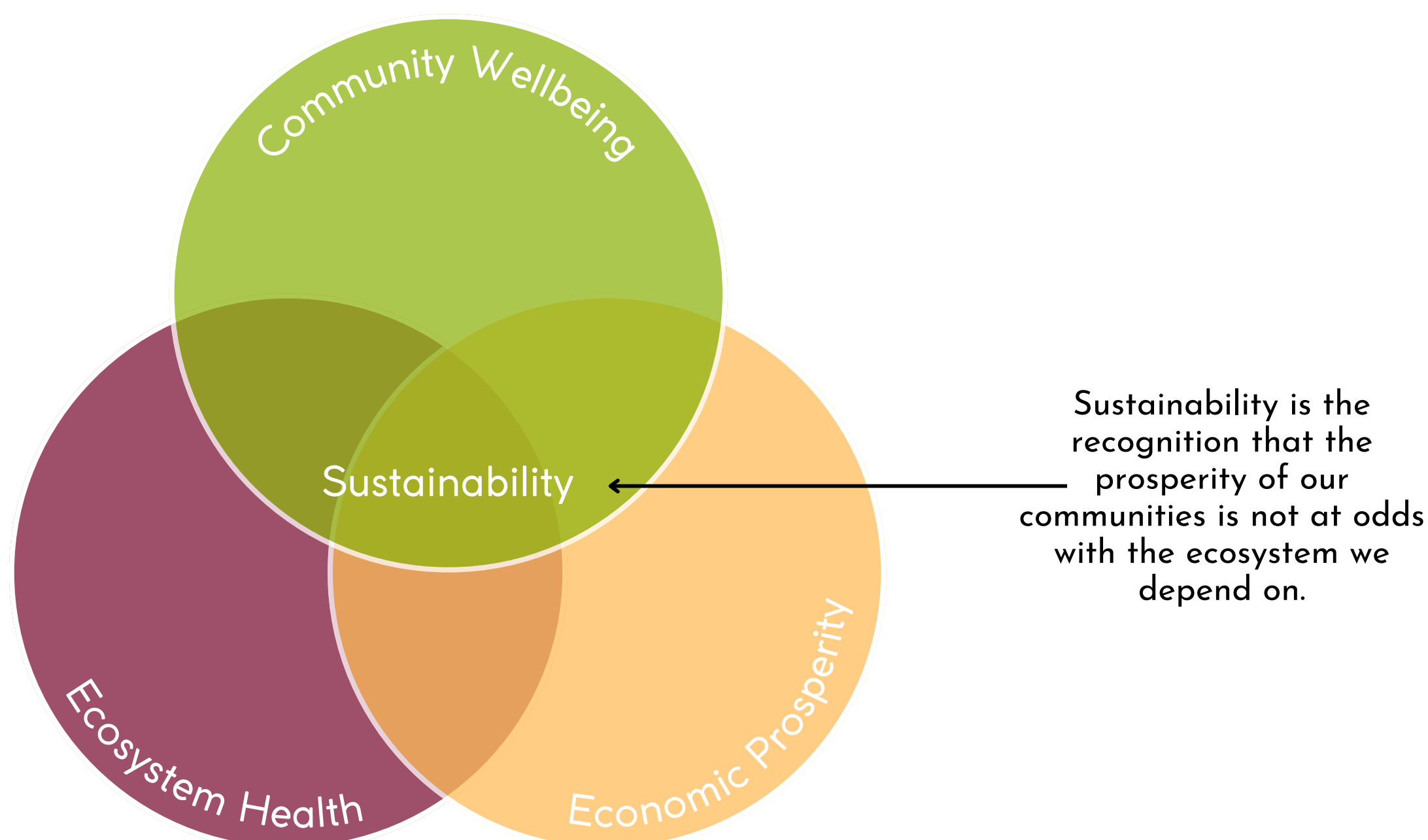
Local Organizations

Local Food

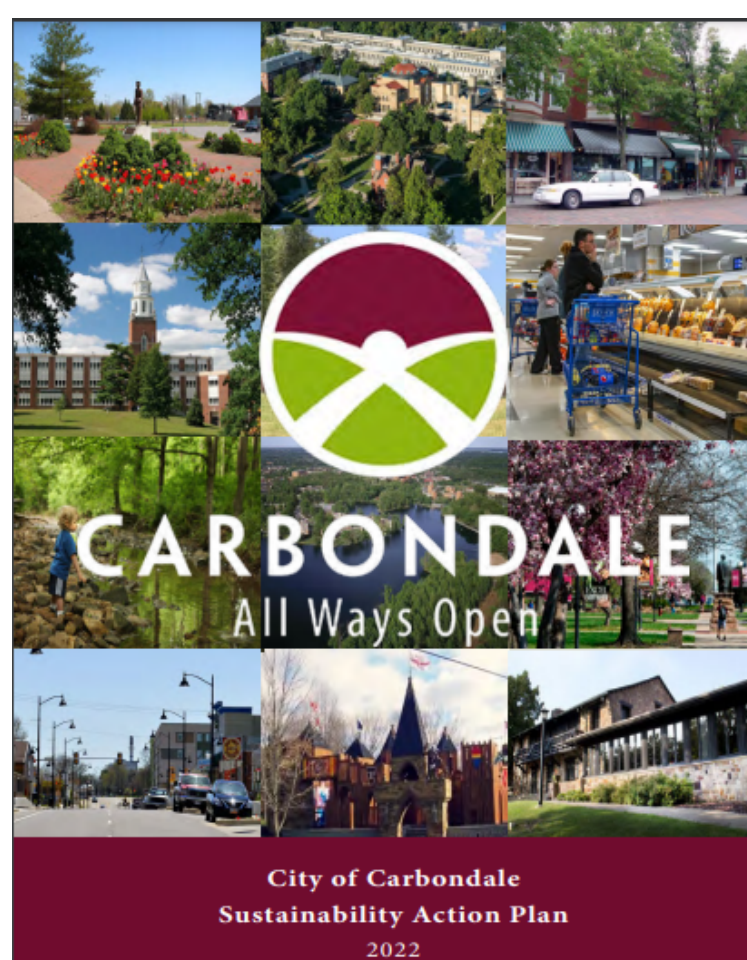
City of Carbondale Sustainability

Overview

The City of Carbondale recognizes sustainability is found at the intersection of Ecosystem Health, Community Wellbeing, and Economic Prosperity. Sustainability can be defined as the ability to "meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs" (Bruntland Report, 1987). Done right, using a sustainability lens to look at the world is fiscally responsible, community-centered, and leads to positive feedback loops in our communities.

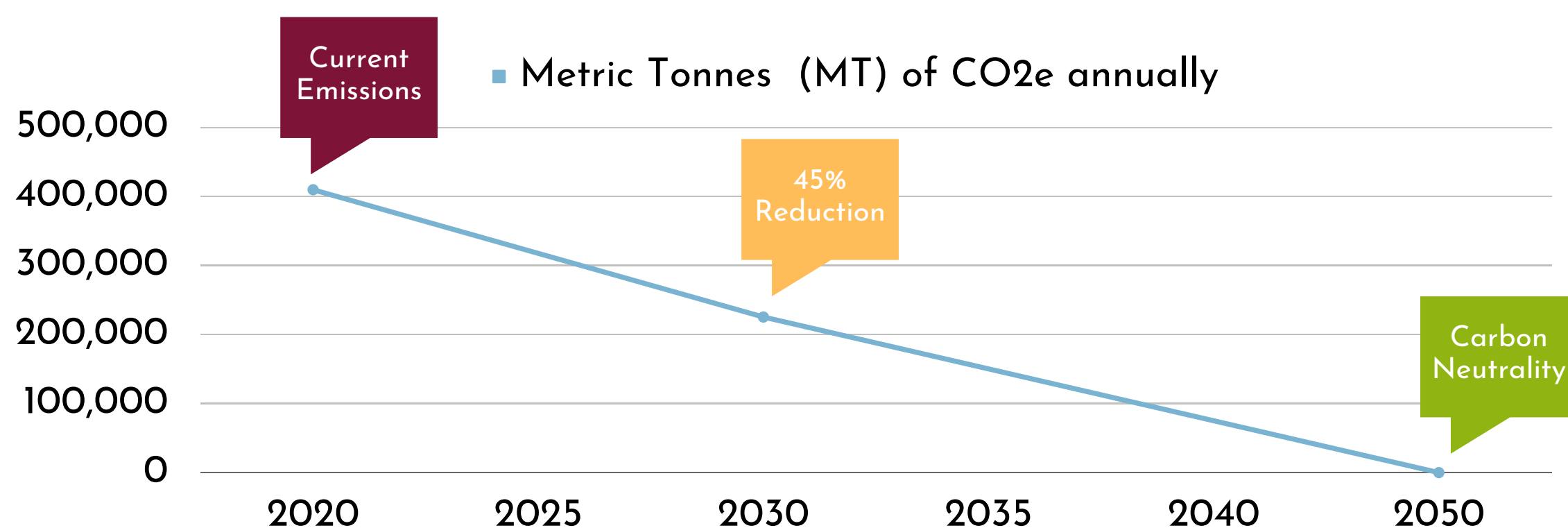


The Carbondale Community Sustainability Action Plan



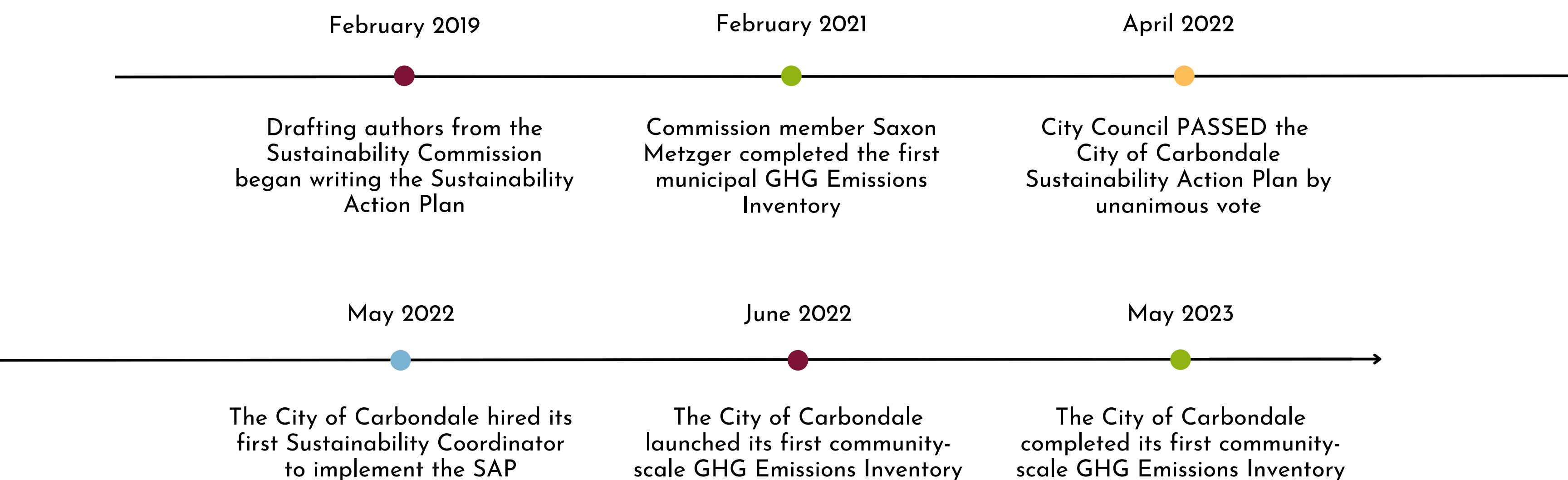
The City of Carbondale, Illinois recognizes that greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from human activity are catalyzing profound climate changes, the consequences of which pose substantial risk to the future health, wellbeing, and prosperity of our community.

It is for this reason that in February 2019, through listening sessions, consultations with community stakeholders, and revision by subject matter experts, members of the City of Carbondale Sustainability Commission began drafting the first Carbondale Community Sustainability Action Plan (SAP). This Action Plan was written by drafting authors Saxon Metzger, Jane Cogie, Sarah Heyer, and Amy McMorrow Hunter, featuring contributions by Marilyn Tipton, Rodney Morris, Melissa McCutchen, Kevin Clark, and Amelia Blakely.



In April 2022, the Carbondale City Council unanimously passed the Carbondale Community's Sustainability Action Plan, committing the Carbondale Community to **carbon neutrality by 2050 and a 45% reduction by 2030**.

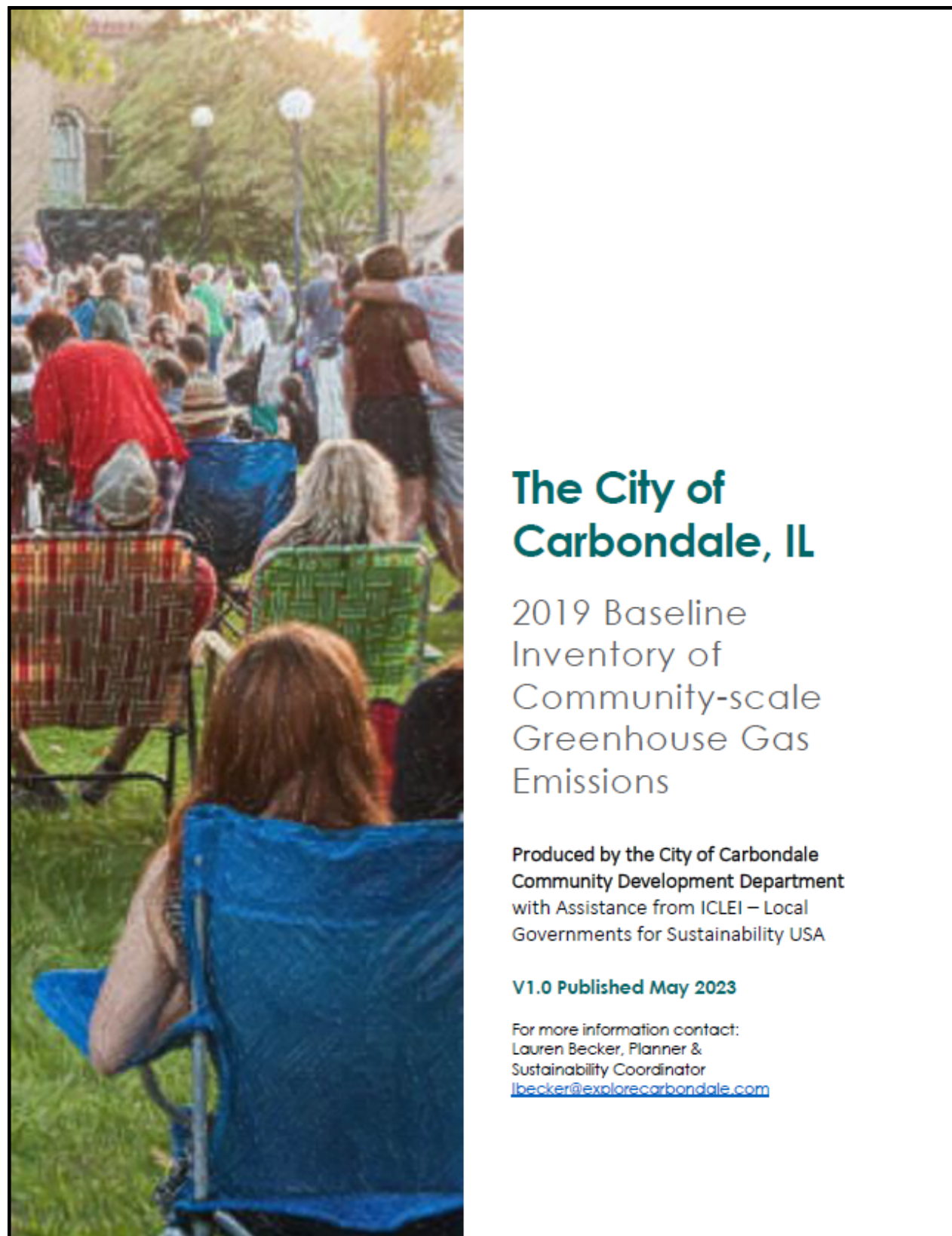
In May 2022, the City of Carbondale hired its first Planner & Sustainability Coordinator to implement the Sustainability Action Plan and guide the Carbondale Community to our established carbon commitment, housed in the Community Development's Planning Department.



The Carbondale Community's Sustainability Action Plan is supported by Criteria for Assessing City and Community Priorities, Restorative Justice Frameworks, Distributive Justice Frameworks, and Procedural Justice Frameworks that outline how the plan will remain dynamic and ensure equity through implementation.

In the year since passage of the Carbondale Community's Sustainability Action Plan, the city has taken great strides in implementation across culture, policy, and practice - including but not limited to the completion of the first community-scale GHG and equivalent emissions inventory for the baseline year 2019.

The Community-scale GHG Emissions Inventory (2019)



In May 2023, the City of Carbondale completed its first Community-scale GHG (greenhouse gas) and Equivalent Emissions Inventory for the baseline year of 2019.

This inventory was conducted through the ICLEI Local Governments for Sustainability ClearPath Software in accordance with the U.S. Community Protocol for Accounting and Reporting Greenhouse Gas Emissions (Community Protocol) and the Local Government Operations Protocol for Accounting and Reporting Greenhouse Gas Emissions (LGO Protocol).

The subsequent report details the key findings of the first Community-scale GHG Emissions Inventory.

Completion of a GHG Inventory is the first step toward tangible emissions reductions in order to achieving our commitment to Carbon Neutrality by 2050 and a 45% reduction by 2030.

The Plan in Motion

The work before us can be broken down into two categories: Mitigation & Adaptation

Mitigation is the act of stopping the release of GHG and equivalent emissions into our atmosphere. Adaptation is the act of recognizing what effects are already being felt and will be felt by our community regardless of the immediacy of the mitigation actions we take - then preparing for them.

MITIGATION v. ADAPTATION

Mitigation is the act of stopping the release of greenhouse gas (GHG) and equivalent emissions into our atmosphere.

Adaptation is the act of recognizing what effects are already being felt and will continue to be felt by our community regardless of the mitigation actions we take - and preparing for them. .

Example Actions

- Taking advantage of the energy efficiency resource through urban design
- Providing our community with affordable and reliable renewable energy
- Encouraging attractive, middle-density, mixed-use buildings to allow for a "15-minute" city
- Limiting threats to our regional food autonomy and security
- Ensuring access to sound, regional waste management and reclamation
- Strengthening the ability for our community members to walk, bike, scoot, bus, as primary modes of transportation
- Electrifying our housing stock and transportation system with renewable power supply

Example Actions

- Performing a regional Vulnerability Assessment
- Preparing for international agricultural impacts to our food security
- Preparing infrastructure and procedure for extreme winter storm events
- Coordinating a managed retreat from known and modeled floodplains
- Increasing critical infrastructure to combat the Urban Heat Island effect (i.e. preserved and encouraged urban tree canopy)
- Arranging MOUs with local facilities to provide cooling centers during extreme heat events
- Master-planning for the increased frequency, velocity, and volume of stormwater events
- Increasing resilience in existing building stock for climatic changes (extreme heat, extreme cold, increased flooding)

Carbondale has a rich history of community care, stewardship, and willingness to roll up our sleeves and address the problem at hand. This problem is no different. The City of Carbondale's climate action builds on decades of work, including municipal solar installations accounting for 91% of annual municipal electricity consumption, designation by the League of American Bicyclists status as a Bronze-level Bicycle Friendly Community since 2016, commitment to the Mayors' Monarch Pledge, recognition at the United Nations Conference on Biodiversity (COP15) for our nature-forward approach, and status as a Tree City USA for forty-one years with a growth award for over nine.



How Do I Get Involved?

We're glad you asked! Carbondale community members have the opportunity to be directly and indirectly involved in implementation of the Carbondale Community's Sustainability Action Plan.

As community members we can:

1. Participate in local elections and contact our elected representatives
2. Attend City of Carbondale Sustainability Commission Meetings
3. Attend City of Carbondale City Council Meetings
4. Join one of Carbondale's many Community Organizations
5. Participate in city-wide Sustainability Programming

City-wide Sustainability Programming

The Mayors' Monarch Pledge

In March 2023, the City of Carbondale signed the National Wildlife Foundation Mayors' Monarch Pledge.

The Carbondale community recognizes that human health depends on the health of biodiverse ecosystems that can better support the security and resiliency of food systems, healthy soil and air quality. The Carbondale community recognizes that cities, towns, and counties have a critical role to play to help save the monarch butterfly, of which the City of Carbondale, Illinois strives to become a leader. In light of the most recent placement of the monarch butterfly on the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources' (IUCN) Red List, the City of Carbondale is choosing to renew its commitment to assuring that pollinator-supportive landscaping and practices are prioritized in all current and future developments.



Through the Mayors' Monarch Pledge, the City of Carbondale:

1. Commits to taking meaningful actions to protect the pollinators of Southern Illinois.
2. Commits to raising awareness about the decline of pollinators, including the monarch butterfly and species' need for habitat.
3. Commits to conducting review and revision of city code to encourage pollinator-supportive landscape on public and private land within City of Carbondale city limits.
4. Commits to evaluating and correcting operations and landscape maintenance practices that could have unintended and detrimental effects on pollinator species.
5. Commits to creating a community-driven "pollinator yards" pilot program to educate and support community members interested in learning how to plant pollinator-supportive landscape in their own yards.

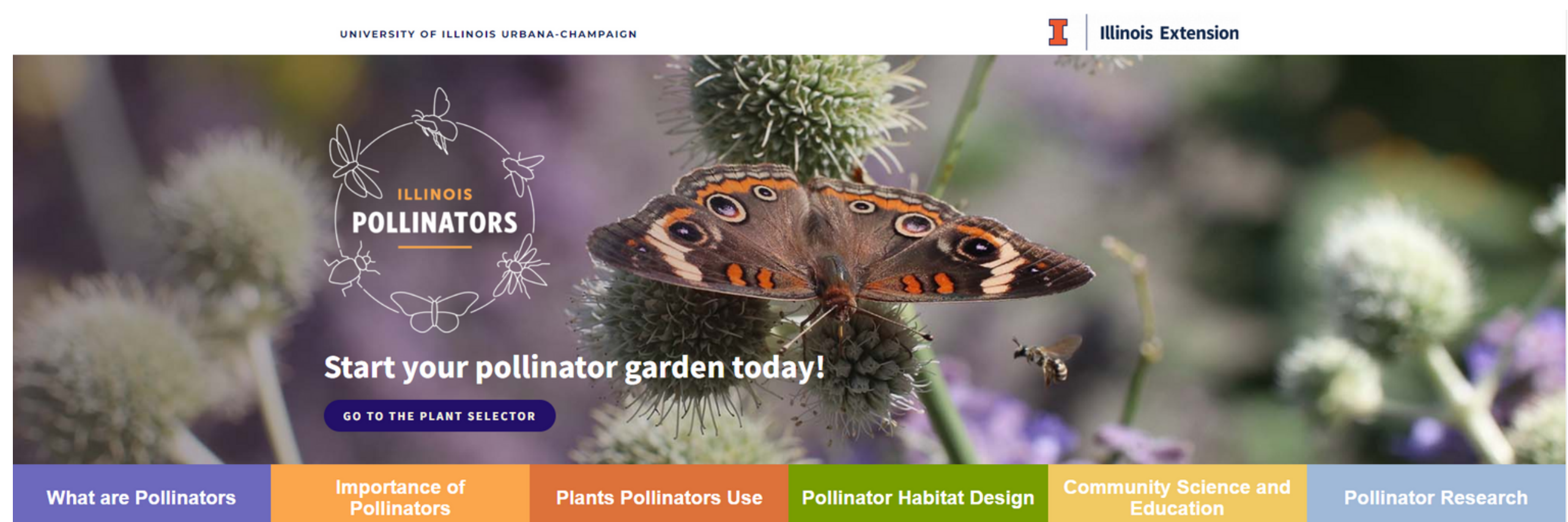
[Click here to view the Memorandum](#)

[Click here to view the Resolution](#)

[Click here to view the Proclamation](#)

Pollinator-supportive Landscaping

The City of Carbondale has collaborated with the University of Illinois Extension to provide Illinois-specific education to our community. The City of Carbondale thanks the University of Illinois Extension for creating the educational asset: <https://illinoispollinators.org/>

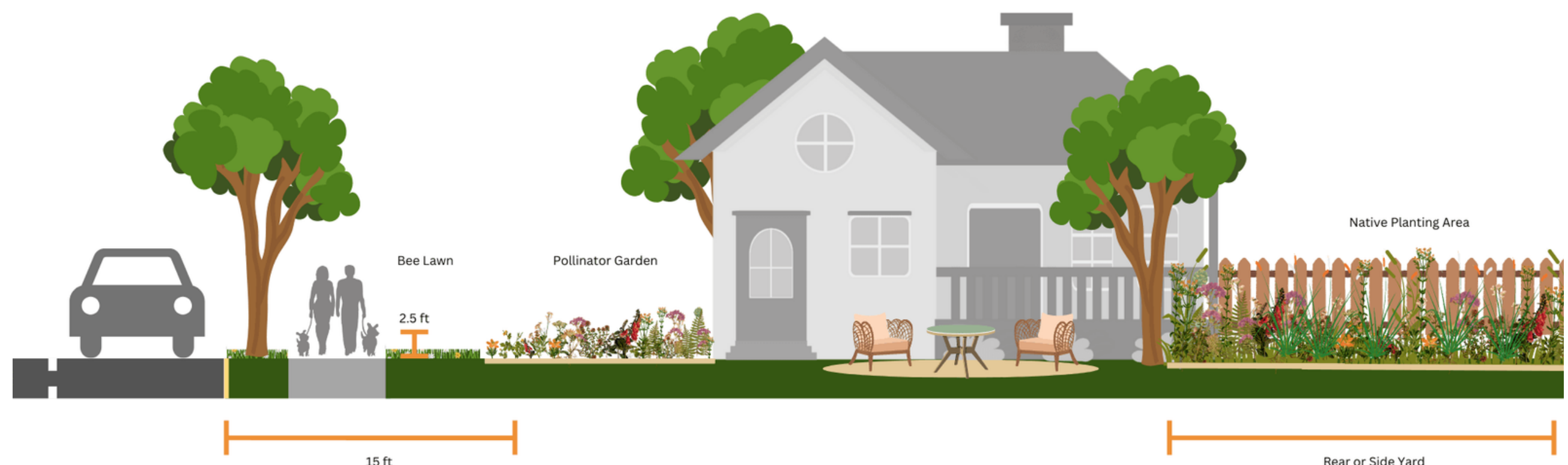


On April 25, 2023, the Carbondale City Council passed an Ordinance Amending Titles 15 and 11 of the Carbondale Revised Code to Support and Encourage Pollinator-supportive Landscaping across the City (PC 23-08).

The City of Carbondale code defines three different classifications of pollinator-supportive landscape:

1. **Pollinator Gardens:** Most common. May feature 100% native and/or non-native species. Prioritizes long-blooming varieties. May take up the entirety of your yard while maintaining site visibility. Must have defined boundaries.
2. **Bee Lawns:** Developed by the University of Minnesota Bee Lab. Similar to a traditional lawn. Combines low-growing flowering varieties with turf (like white clover and frog-fruit). Must still be kept under 8 inches.
3. **Native Planting Areas:** Least common option due to height (>6ft) and density. Often called “re-wilding” or “ecosystem restoration.” Requires patience (>3 years to establish) and ecological knowledge of Southern Illinois’ native ecosystem (i.e., grass-dominant prairie, temperate broadleaf, and mixed forests). May not be established in the minimum front yard.

City staff recommends community members performing *ecosystem restoration* reach out to City staff and neighbors proactively to communicate intention and avoid confusion.



Below is a video guide that provides a more detailed description of how the City of Carbondale approaches pollinator-supportive landscaping, why it's important, and what resources are available.



[Click here to view the City Council Ordinance](#)

[Click here to view the Text Amendment to Title 11](#)

[Click here to view the Text Amendment to Title 15](#)

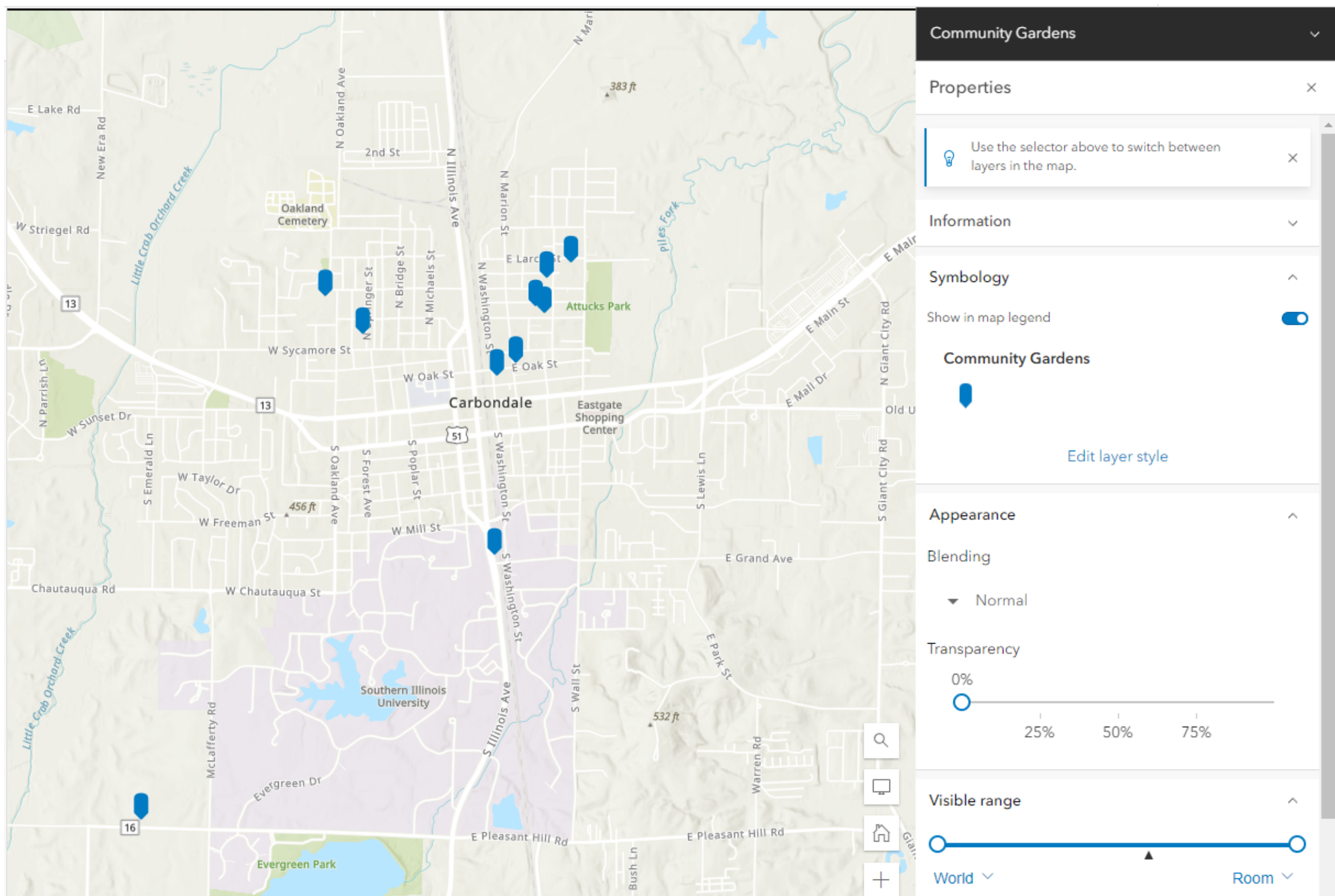
Interested in joining a network of pollinator-minded neighbors? Sign up for updates surrounding pollinators and the City of Carbondale by emailing the City's Sustainability Coordinator at lbecker@explorecarbondale.com.

Community Gardens

The Carbondale community is home to over ten community gardens belonging to houses of worship, interfaith organizations, non-profits, and collections of neighbors who share the common values associated with community gardening. These community gardens provide space for members of our community to grow plants and/or produce for beautification, education, recreation, food security, and/or community distribution.

Find Your Community Garden!

Want to get involved with your community garden? Use our interactive map below to find out which community garden is closest to you and how to get in touch with them.



Learn Your Community Garden's Story

The City of Carbondale thanks the collection of community gardeners who dedicate their time, talents, and imagination to fostering beauty, food security, and education in Carbondale. Learn about each community garden below!



On April 25, 2023, the Carbondale City Council passed an Ordinance Amending Title 15 of the Carbondale Revised Code to Support and Encourage Community Gardens (PC 23-07). Following notification of City staff and receipt of a Zoning Certificate, community gardens are now permitted in *all zoning districts* with garden sheds and/or gazebos!

For more information, contact Planner & Sustainability Coordinator Lauren Becker at lbecker@explorecarbondale.com.

Click here to view the City Council Ordinance

Click here to view the Text Amendment to Title 15

Click here to view an example design & maintenance plan

Find Your Nearest Grocery Store, Food Pantry, & Farmer's Market!

Use the University of Illinois Extension's Community Food Map to find your nearest grocery store, food pantry, and farmer's market.



Find Food IL
COMMUNITY FOOD MAP

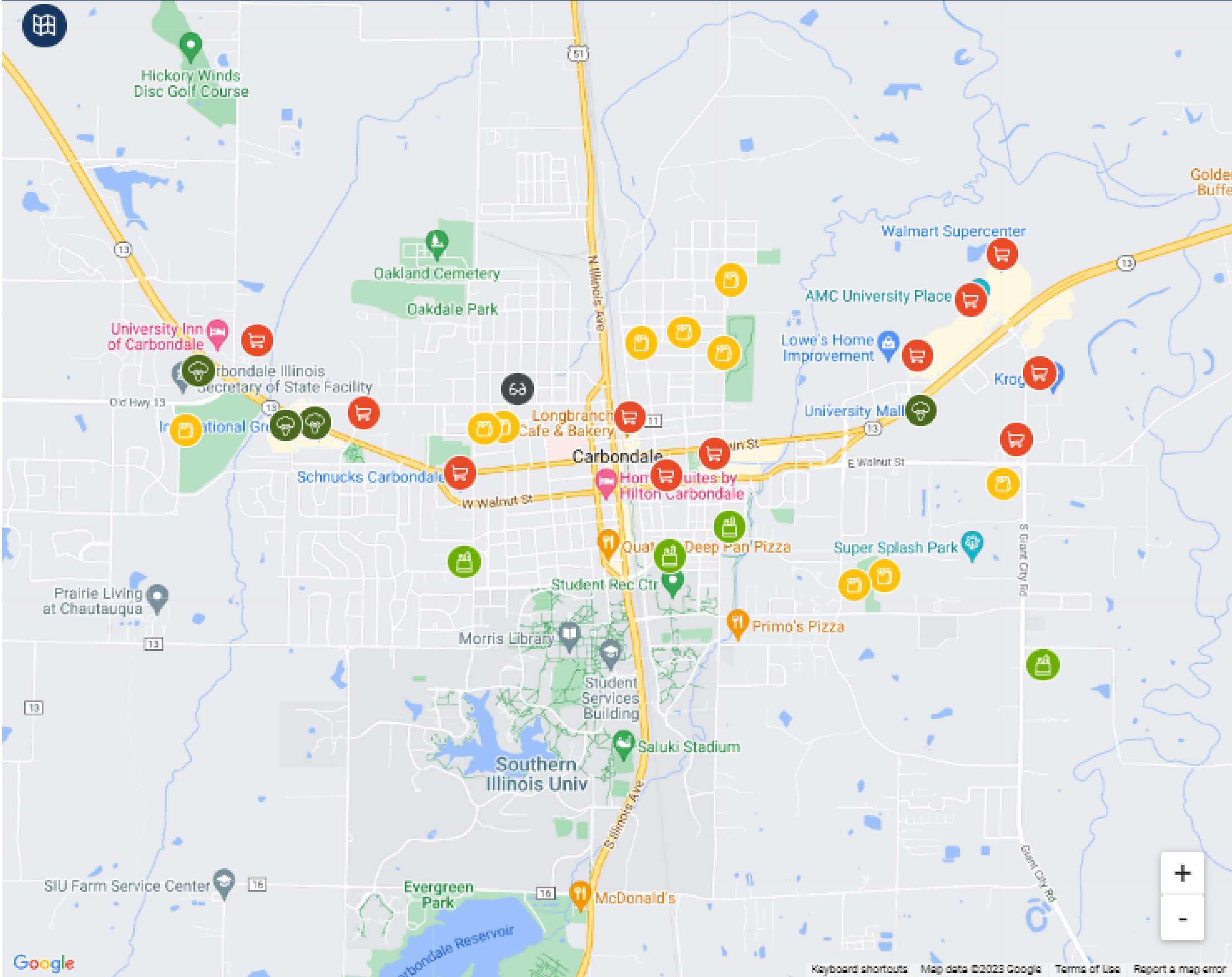
Note: School & Summer Meal Sites will switch to summer-only meal sites on 6/1/23.

Map Directory

-  View Resources in a list
-  School & Summer Meal Sites
-  Food Pantries & Meal Sites
-  Grocery Stores
-  Farmers Markets
-  SNAP & WIC Offices
-  Senior Food Resources

Filters

Add/Update Site



+

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Keyboard shortcuts Map data ©2023 Google Terms of Use Report a map error

The Earth Month 2023 Calendar of Events

In April 2023, the City of Carbondale partnered with Southern Illinois University Student Affairs and the wider Carbondale community to compile the first Earth Month 2023 Calendar of Events. This calendar is a well-rounded lineup that showcases the vibrant, resilient, and engaged community that is Carbondale.

[Click here to view the Earth Month 2023 Calendar of Events](#)



The 2022 Illinois Solar Tour in Carbondale

On Saturday, September 24th, the City of Carbondale partnered with the Illinois Solar Education Association (ISEA) to host the first guided tour of distributed solar installations in Carbondale during the Statewide Illinois Solar Tour. Attendees traveled to over ten homes and businesses as well as at the City of Carbondale's three solar sites to learn about solar energy directly from friends and neighbors. Attendees even received a sneak peek at the Ford Lighting at Vogler Ford Motor Company.

The City of Carbondale thanks Jackson County Mass Transit District (JCMTD), who generously donated transportation for the event.



Backyard Chicken Coops

The City of Carbondale both allows and encourages community members to raise their own backyard chickens!

In 2013, the Carbondale City Council approved an ordinance to allow chickens in the city with a chicken coop license. Coop licenses are \$25 with an annual renewal of \$10.

- Each coop may hold up to six egg-laying, non-crowing hens of the Gallus gallus species
 - Coops may not be located in side or front yards
 - Coops must be at least 15 feet from the property line and 25 feet from residences
 - Coops must be between 4 and 40 square feet in area
 - Coops must be between 5 and 8 feet tall
-
- Chickens may not run loose on city streets, but they may move freely inside fenced areas on private property
 - Chickens must be secured in their coops from 9pm to 6am
 - Composting of chicken waste is encouraged

To apply for your own chicken coop license, fill out this form

To apply for a chicken coop license renewal, fill out this form

For more information contact Planner Ashley Gibson at agibson@explorecarbondale.com or via phone (618) 457-3258



Resources

Educational Guides

- On The Climate Crisis
 - [Project Drawdown](#)
 - [Map of Social and Natural Risk for the Great Lakes Region](#)
 - [Climate Mapping for Resilience and Adaptation](#)
 - [Planning for Climate Migration](#)
- On Home and Garden
 - Stormwater Management
 - [EPA Stormwater Map](#)
 - [Illinois GroundWork \(GSI\)](#)
 - [Alternatives to ice salt](#)
 - [How to: Rain Barrels](#)
 - [How to: Rain Gardens & Bioswales](#)
 - Sustainable Landscaping
 - [IllinoisPollinators](#)
 - [Dig, Plant, Grow](#)
 - Waste
 - [How to: Backyard Compost](#)
 - [City of Carbondale Waste Management](#)
- On Federal Tax Incentives for homes & businesses (Solar, HVAC, etc.)
- On Sustainable Transportation
 - [Bike Carbondale, IL](#)

[Energy Communities map](#)
DOE Renewables Incentives

Local Organizations

- [Green Earth](#)
- [Keep Carbondale Beautiful](#)
- [Evergreen Garden Club of Carbondale](#)
- [University of Illinois Extension | Jackson County](#)

Link: green teams, youth groups (Faith in Place website)
Seed St. Louis

Local Food

- [Find your Community Garden!](#) (Interactive Map)
- [Carbondale Farmers Market](#) (Winter)
- [Carbondale Community Farmers Market](#) (Outdoor)
- [LEAF Food Hub](#)
- [Foodworks](#)
- [Find Food IL Community Food Map](#)

Don't see what you're looking for? Help us build this resource!

Contact Planner & Sustainability Coordinator Lauren Becker via email at lbecker@explorecarbondale.com or via phone at 618-457-3246

Government

Boards & Commissions

Sustainability Commission

Sustainability Commission

Regular Meetings

- 5 p.m.
- 3rd Thursday of each month
- Carbondale Civic Center
- 200 S. Illinois Avenue
- Carbondale, IL 62901

[Click here to view the Sustainability Commission Annual Meetings Calendar \(2023\).](#)

Meetings and changes to this schedule will be made in accordance with the [Carbondale Revised Code](#) and the [Illinois Open Meetings Act](#).

Agendas and Minutes

View Agendas and Minutes of the Carbondale Sustainability Commission

Members

- Treesong (Chair)
- Aur Beck (Vice Chair)
- Kevin Clark
- Jane Cogie
- Joan Davis
- Sarah Heyer
- Yoonseo Jung (CCHS Representative)
- Gayle Klam
- Isaac Ludington (SIUC Representative)

The Carbondale Sustainability Commission currently has no vacancies.

About

The Carbondale Sustainability Commission is responsible for advising the City Council on:

- Applying energy and environmental conservation principles throughout the City
- Increasing energy efficiency in transportation
- Recommending energy conservation in building code
- Recycling and the use of reusable materials
- Sharing information and expertise on environmental issues with other groups and organizations
- Studying possible incentives for renewable energy and energy conservation

Composition and Terms

- Nine members appointed by the Mayor with the consent of the City Council
- One ex-officio City Council Member
- One CCHS member, who resides within the City limits, is to be appointed for a 1-year term
- One SIU Student member, who resides within the City limits, is to be appointed for a 1-year term
- Two-thirds of all members must reside within City limits or 1 1/2 miles of City limits

Legislation to Date

- [Earth Day Proclamation \(February 16th, 2023\)](#)
- [Memorandum | Community Gardens \(November 17th, 2022\)](#)
- [Memorandum | Mayors' Monarch Pledge \(November 17th, 2022\)](#)