



CARBONDALE SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

Thursday July 21st, 2022 - 5:00PM

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

AGENDA

- 1. Call to Order and Roll Call**
- 2. Approval of Meeting Minutes:** April 21st 2022
- 3. Citizen Comments and Questions**
- 4. Presentations**
 - Green Spot Award Calendar & Criteria - Vice Chair Metzger
- 5. Report of Officers, Committees, and Communications**
 - Sustainability Coordinator Monthly Progress Report (attached)
- 6. Old Business**
- 7. New Business**
 - Vote to accept proposed Green Spot Award Calendar & Criteria (attached)
- 8. Announcements**
- 9. Adjournment**

Good afternoon everyone,

This email will serve as my Sustainability Coordinator **report of progress** over the month of June 2022. Please let me know whether you'd rather this report be verbal/conversation-based.

Community-scale Carbon Neutrality:

- Emissions Reporting:
 - Met with Matthew Katz, our technical advisor for ICLEI's ClearPath Tool, for onboarding.
 - As a standard, community-scale inventories are completed prior to the creation of a Climate Action Plan or a carbon reduction target. However, we are in good shape because the City of Carbondale Sustainability Action Plan has been presented as a "living document" – meant to evolve with our efforts.
 - Enrolled in the ICLEI Inventory Cohort which will meet weekly until late November 2022 - at which point each enrolled member will have received ClearPath tool guidance to complete a baseline community-scale greenhouse gas inventory and forecast.
 - Met with Mike Mullaley for a presentation on CDP, the question seems to be not *will* we report to CDP, but when.

Key takeaways: The City of Carbondale will have a complete community-scale GHG Inventory and Forecast by the end of November 2022.

- Economic Prosperity:
 - Met with Economic Development to discuss the intersection of economic prosperity, social wellbeing, and ecological health. Fostering relationship for collaboration.
 - Attended "Community Benefits Agreements 101" webinar.
 - Attended 2022 U.S. Energy and Employment Report (USEER) Stakeholder Briefing.
 - Key findings:
 - We are seeing the steadiest job growth in wind energy, which supports the domestic supply chain – but the energy sector experienced positive job growth from 2020 to 2021 across all sectors and outperformed job growth in the economy overall.
 - A concerning 74% of the energy workforce as a whole is male, 26% are folks of color, and only 8% are Black.
 - I recommend as a City we consider exploring wind energy manufacturing, electric bicycle manufacturing, and electric vehicle manufacturing.

Key takeaways: The City of Carbondale has significant opportunity to build true sustainability, which is a win-win-win approach for all community members, by putting equity at the forefront of our economic development efforts.

- Public Wellbeing:
 - Attended the USCP Adaptation Subcommittee focused on equitable adaptation within our communities in the face of the climate crisis.
 - Discussion with [White Center Bike Playground](#) designer Steve Durrant, who was able to provide ample perspective and insight on the installation of a “traffic garden”. (If interest of supervisor – could be installed for 65K.)
 - Attended the “Past, Present, & Future of Electric Bicycling” webinar

- Ecological Health:
 - Joined a ICLEI Biodiversity Bootcamp – which will commence in late July
 - Met with City Arborist Mark McDaniels to discuss the city arboretum (very positive)

- Sustainability Culture:
 - Met with Roni LeForge to discuss City-wide sustainability communications, established that the “News Flash” feature of the City website reaches the widest audience. Permission to create graphics and content for the “Communique” to be approved prior to posting was granted.
 - Arranged for City participation in the 2022 ISEA Illinois Solar Tour September 24th at City solar sites in collaboration with Facilities Manager Mark Bollman.
 - Arranged a meeting with ISEA Executive Director to discuss ISEA support in engaging community members and encouraging current solarized homes to host during the Illinois Solar Tour.
 - Created graphics to encourage hosting and attendance to be approved by Roni LeForge and posted to the “News Flash”.

Key takeaways: The City of Carbondale already has a sustainability culture – we simply need to lean into it as city staff. Exploring the opportunity for festivals, programs, and P.R. communications will have a high rate of return on positive behavior change and community perspective of Carbondale.

- Waste:
 - Conducted a refuse ride-along with Jake over in Operations to discuss community member perception and relationship with refuse, and staff working perception and relationship with refuse.
 - Met with Loren Polley to discuss City-wide waste, sustainability commission, and begin to collaborate on a roadmap on the logistics and culture of waste within the community of Carbondale.
 - Significant opportunity in the market for organic material translates to a **financial incentive** to waste reduction – we could see the processing Carbondale waste result in an export product, encouraging economic prosperity. (i.e. local composting facility that sells product regionally and beyond)

- Waste contamination is not – at the end of the day – the fault of our community members, but it is often communicated that way. Waste should be foolproof, and our neighbors are not fools.
- Waste is often a small percentage of a community’s GHG & equivalent emissions at the start of our reduction efforts – but becomes more significant as we address low-hanging fruit like buildings efficiency and begin to bring down our total emissions. It is best for us to “get ahead” on waste.
- There is no market for PCR (post-consumer recycled) plastics at this time. Even if there was, PET #1 and HDPE #2 bottles and jugs can only be recycled once or twice and every waste management system is dealing with a different regional market.
- Waste is a multi-pronged issue, impacted by the lack of corporate responsibility in full lifecycle management of their products (i.e. Dorito chip bags)

Sustainability Commission:

- Held June 16th 2022 Sustainability Commission Meeting (very positive)
- Established Annual Calendar of Meetings for the remainder of 2022 and communicated such to Civic Center Coordinator Laura Chamness and Network Specialist/website manager Krysty Gray.
- Brought the commission up to date with City Code requirements to ensure compliance with the Open Meetings Act, standard agendas, and post-meeting system of filing documentation for public record.
- Advertised commission vacancies to general public.
- Met with Chair Aur Beck to discuss preferred method of meeting logistics preparation (very positive)

LEAP Pilot:

- June 8th 2022 introductory meeting
- June 24th 2022 scoping meeting #1
 - Opportunity for stakeholders to submit and share detailed answers to questions regarding the scope of the LEAP Pilot’s target projects.
 - My submission is as follows:

We are currently a community of persistent poverty. By pursuing a just transition I see that identity shifting to a community of persistent prosperity.

I envision a win-win-win scenario where manufacturing renewable energy and nature-based solutions enrich the lives and livelihoods of our community members.

1. What is the most significant information needed to advance your community's clean energy goals?

Please feel free to share the following - none of what I share is anonymous. - Lauren Becker

In order to meet our goal of carbon-neutrality by 2050 and 50% reduction by 2030 - the City of Carbondale needs to conduct a community-scale greenhouse gas inventory. As the City's dual role Planner/Sustainability Coordinator, that inventory falls to me while the solutions will be a team lift. The good news is the City of Carbondale is already a part of ICLEI - and we have access to their ClearPath tool, which will allow me to perform a comprehensive inventory. The drawback is predictably time constraints and needing data from colleagues I haven't yet formed a relationship with. Once I have the "diagnosis" I can provide updates/a clearer road map within the Carbondale Sustainability Action Plan that was written by the Sustainability Commission.

2. What are the top barriers to achieving your community's clean energy vision?

1. Guaranteed funding for projects. (If we have to make a series of bets without guaranteed funding, we are much less likely to put our all into the planning stages)
2. Bandwidth of current employees. (My colleagues at the City are strapped. I doubt this is uncommon in our community)
3. A willingness to be audacious in our pursuit of solutions (as a community our mindset seems to be shifting positively to a "we have to do something" which could be in our favor as we try new approaches).
4. Data to take informed and decisive action to protect our community. (ClearPath Tool)
5. Free-range. In my first month here I've gathered that those of us who have no decision or little decision-making power know what needs to be done, but have to waste time convincing those who have power that it's the right call. We need to be empowered. We need long leashes from our supervisors - and their willingness to back our strategic planning with funding.
6. Success stories from communities like ours. (In order to vision what we want for Jackson County, we have to have a starting point, a basis for our future's design.)

3. Who are the key decision makers that we need to engage in the project?

Community members who are already suffering the impacts of the Climate Crisis (but instead of asking them open ended questions that place the burden on their shoulders, we have to have a plan which we present for feedback. We have to give folks a starting point.

4. What are the top decisions that need to be made in the next years to advance the goals of this project?

Where does responsibility lie? How creative are we willing to be? What funding are we willing to allocate up front to avoid catastrophe?

Vice Chair, Saxon Metzger

7/18/2022

Green Spot Award Calendar & Criteria Statement:

“Nominations from the public and members of the Commission will be gathered and an individual organization will be selected on in a rolling, quarterly basis based on either exceptional progress towards sustainability or having a track record of positive sustainability metrics based on commissioner's expertise. The Commission will select one winner to nominate as an annual winner, which will be forwarded to the Carbondale Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber will either request an alternate winner or approve the Commission's choice for annual winner, and then award that organization at their annual banquet.”