



CARBONDALE SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

Thursday October 19th, 2023 - 5:00PM

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

AGENDA

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes: September 21st, 2023

3. Citizen Comments and Questions

Community member Tom Esposito will bring to the Commission concerns surrounding two-choke leaf blowers

4. Presentations

5. Report of Officers, Committees, and Communications

- a. Sustainability Coordinator Monthly Progress Report (L. Becker, attached)
- b. Former Koppers Wood Treatment Site Report (A. Beck)

6. Old Business

7. New Business

Discussion Surrounding Two-choke Leaf Blowers

Discussion Regarding Climate Vulnerability Assessment

Discussion Regarding Electrification & Energy Efficiency Improvements

Discussion Regarding Chamber of Commerce Award

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			
Joan Davis			

Ex Officio Members:

	Present	Absent
Vacant		

City Staff:

	Present	Absent
Lauren Becker (Staff Liaison)		

Community Members Present:



CARBONDALE SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

Thursday September 21st, 2023 - 5:00PM

Meet at the Carbondale Civic Center – Room 103
200 S. Illinois Avenue, Carbondale IL

We will carpool to Chautauqua Bottoms Nature Preserve
Parking Lot off W Chautauqua Rd.

MINUTES

Voting Members:

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

Ex Officio Members:

	Present	Absent
Vacant		

City Staff:

	Present	Absent
Lauren Becker (Staff Liaison)	x	

Community Members Present: Laurel Tucson, Tom Beck, Camile, and Jasmine

1. **Call to Order and Roll Call** (5:27pm)
2. **Approval of Meeting Minutes:** August 17th, 2023 (J. Davis moved, J. Cogie seconded)
3. **Citizen Comments and Questions**

Community member guests L. Tucson and T. Beck brought up concerns about city-owned lands not being managed to protect pollinators, stressing that management is key.

Staff Liaison Becker shared that improper management goes against the Mayors Monarch Pledge and recommended that a formal letter be shared with the City Council and/or City Manager.

4. **Presentations** (None)
5. **Report of Officers, Committees, and Communications**
 - a. Sustainability Coordinator Monthly Progress Report (L. Becker, attached)

6. Old Business (None)

7. New Business (None)

8. Announcements

J. Cogie shared date and time for The Clean Homes of the Future in Southern Illinois Listen Lead Share

S. Heyer shared that she has continued interest in community-wide composting

9. Adjournment (5:38pm, S. Heyer moved to adjourn. J. Davis 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 September 2023. Please don't hesitate to reach out with questions and comments.

Table of Contents:

1. Uncategorized Updates
 2. Energy Sovereignty, Security, & Democracy Proposal
 3. City Sustainability Commission
 4. Jackson County Communities LEAP Community Coalition
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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
 - Began attending weekly "Federal Funding Fridays" offered by the Midwest Climate Collaborative
 - Continued serving as a guest on the WDBX Radio Show "Seeing Green"/"Talk of the Town" (Mondays 10am) to showcase sustainability updates for the City of Carbondale
 - Attended the Midwest Climate Collaborative Member Meeting (9/7)
 - Attended the Illinois Finance Authority/Illinois Climate Bank Listening Session regarding Illinois Solar for All (9/8)
 - Attended staff session with BusinessFlare, the consultant conducting listening sessions to draft the Economic Development Plan (9/13)
 - Attended the Illinois Finance Authority/Illinois Climate Banks' USEPA Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund Competitive Opportunities Listening Session (9/14)
 - Presented to P.E.O. International on the City of Carbondale's progress toward the goals outlined in the Carbondale Community's Sustainability Action Plan (9/21)
 - Attended the Morton Arboretum's Woodland Garden Design Virtual Workshop (9/27)
 - Attended the weekly Southern Illinois Clean Heat Planning meeting in preparation for the "Clean Homes of the Future" Listen, Lead, Share (9/27)
 - Attended the "Clean Homes of the Future" Listen, Lead, Share (9/27)
 - Volunteered at the second annual Family Eco Festival, held at Alto Vineyards, which provided hands-on activities for all ages as a fundraiser for Innovations in STEM Education, supporting teachers and science education in our region (9/30)
 2. Energy Sovereignty, Security, & Democracy Proposal
 - Met virtually with Dr. Hector Medina & Dr. Tom Eldredge of Liberty University to discuss their receipt of DOE funding to demonstrate modular, closed-loop pumped storage hydropower (PSH) and their ability to provide contractual design services (9/6)
 - Met with Illinois Finance Authority consultant Andrew Barbeau of the Accelerate Group to discuss the Energy Sovereignty Proposal's eligibility for the USDA, RUS PACE Program
 - Presented the Energy Sovereignty, Security, & Democracy Proposal to colleague Mark Bollmann, Special Projects Manager for the Southern Illinois Multimodal Station, to receive insight and perspective about timeline (9/13)

- Met jointly with Elevate representatives and NREL representatives to determine whether they had interest in serving as vendors in our application to the Energy Futures Grant (9/14)
- Met for introductions to the Village of Dowell's newly hired Project Manager, Jeff Ashauer (9/14)
- Met with Noor Shahzad of the Environmental Protection Network to discuss what legal technical assistance could be provided by partners of EPN for the Village of Dowell (9/15)
- Met with Gentry & Frances of Pleiades Strategy to discuss progress on the proposal – determined that Pleiades has interest in providing support in the form of communications and community engagement as needed (9/15)
- Discussed the potential for retrofitting existing assets for closed-loop pumped storage hydro with Public Works Director – Water Operations, Tony Harrison (9/18)
- Submitted the World Resources Institute Ross Center Prize for Cities (9/18)
- Met with Natisha, of Wisdom Born Consulting, who has been providing technical assistance in preparation of our application to the Energy Futures Grant to confirm scope and timeline of deliverables (9/20)
- Met with Scott Carron, NREL, to discuss pumped storage hydro EFG proposal development – specifically the scope of work and budget (9/20)
- Met with both Elevate and NREL researchers to discuss the Ag-PV portion of the application to the Energy Futures Grant – specifically the scope of work and budget (9/21)
- Met with EFG team to confirm draft Workplan and strategy (9/25)
- Submitted the USDA, RUS PACE Program Letter of Intent on behalf of the City of Carbondale and the Village of Dowell (9/25)
- Attended the Energizing Rural Communities Phase Two Kick-off (9/27)
- Attended the Department of Energy's 48e Low-Income Communities Bonus Credit Program Informational Webinar (9/29)

3. City Sustainability Commission

- Held 9/21 meeting, which entailed a field trip to Chatauqua Bottoms

4. Jackson County Communities LEAP Community Coalition

- Attended Jackson County C-LEAP meeting (9/14)
- Attended Jackson County C-LEAP meeting (9/28)