**Metropolitan Climate Action Plan**

**Agenda/Discussion Topics for 5/30/2014**

Goal is to “evaluate the potential for a region-wide Climate Action Plan.”

1. flesh out the idea more

From the Climate focus – Urbana has two phases – first ends dec 2014, it has a % reduction by 2020 and 80% reduction by 2050 milestone. They also have a water plan. There isn’t one for waste and recycling. Lots of goals and no money… eg. Energy star challenge – strategies like that when there is not funding. Also buy RECs through Municipal Aggregation – cheapest way…Energy Star through personal communication.

Champaign has a Sustainability Plan – with a broader focus. They talked about activities and outcomes. They originally worked with RPC to do their emissions inventory.

There are multiple methodologies for how to calculate the emissions. RPC created a model through CUUATS for City of Champaign. Urbana used ICLIE (SP?). UI used the Clean Air Cool Planet calculator that ACUPCC recommends. RPC used local transportation data.

County sustainability effort – the County joined IGBA. Land Use Plan has some sustainability components – water, energy efficient buildings, nnot really tied to anything the cities or university are doing. County is a non-home-rule county, so can’t add any laws that isn’t designated by the state. When the state adds a law, the county can add a higher standard. County doesn’t have a building standard, except occupancy requirements for commercial buildings.

MTD doesn’t have a CAP or sustainability plan, but there is an environmental policy. We care, prevent pollution, do our part… maintenance is ISO 14001 certified, which is a certified environmental management program. Create small goals each year about all types of sustainability. Goals that are specific goals addressing small issues each year. Hybrid buses, over half now and all future buses will be diesel electric hybrid. New construction is coming up, Jane is a full time sustainability contact at MTD. They use 5% soy biodiesel. Not sure what limits the amount, it may be cost or warranty.

Encouraging more use of public transportation and less cars. MTD does that with their marketing. Multi-modal forms of transportation. Encouragement efforts could be coordinated and increased.

Champaign School District has a Climate Action Plan. Parkland has a plan. Carle Hospital has a green team, which could be much more active. IGBA businesses, Bike Friendly businesses.

Some of the barriers to more regional collaboration are the different plans, timelines, budgets, approval process, ambitions… not likely going to have a single regional plan. So how can we do little things to get there. Similar metrics would allow us to do more reasonable comparisions.

UI could look at ICLEI software community for government track… It could work for campus as well.

Even if we are using different tools, we should add the metrics together and share that information.

CUUATS does transportation component as a region. We talked about how to allocate the emissions to Urbana, Champaign, or MTD, UI.

Base year for Champaign was 08. Urbana was 07, and will be 2013. Hard to see the metrics on the website. It is in the plan.

Urbana is updating their existing [Climate Action Plan](http://urbanaillinois.us/terms/climate-action-plan), <http://urbanaillinois.us/residents/sustainability/city-wide> Champaign has recently completed their [Sustainability Plan](http://ci.champaign.il.us/cms/wp-content/uploads/2012/04/Sustainability-Plan-Adopted-07.02.13.pdf), and the University is scheduled to update the [Illinois Climate Action Plan](http://icap.sustainability.illinois.edu/). What is the status at the County <http://www.ccrpc.org/sustainability/inventory.php> and at MTD? Are there other community or corporate climate action plans, such as Champaign school district?

RECs –collaboration? Urbana buys 100% of residential and small business less than 15,000 kwh/? ILRPS. The County also has Municipal Aggregation, about 13,000 households. Started with 100% renewable, at second bid reduced to 50% because of price. If Ameren default rate is below the negotiated price, the price goes to the default. Cities get a small fee, but County does not. Champaign didn’t renew their contract, so it will expire in July. Savoy had aggregation, through lowest bid, so not necessarily renewables.

Supply of RECs is much higher than the demand – so the council members are not convinced. $0.00166/KWh. Commercial municipal aggregation is not available.

ILRPS ends in 2020, and population groth bends the GHG inventory back up. County and Urbana pulled together a consultant to get a pooled bid. The Chamber of Commerce has an Illini Energy Cooperative ARES.

Stormwater – MS4 team works well

CUUATS – transportation team works well – baseline dates don’t match the planning dates

Energy? Energy Star Challenge – city buildings doesn’t have enough usage to be worthy of a PPA with a wind farm – timing is tricky. Champaign and Savoy – 20 year contract... would need a new local ordinance. Sign a long term agreement with generating facility through an alternative electric supplier. – talk to Kent

Prairie State Sustainability Network – matrix for listing initiatives by cities in state

+ find out about using iCAP Portal for community project tracking

Natural area efforts is something that needs more collaboration.

Focus on metrics emissions – very many questions and estimates needed in the estimating… who to include, how to select emission factors – comparability there are issues with factors, even if we continue to use our own tools, is everything being accounted for? Same boundaries being used? Baselines, from similar years, etc.

Energy first – GHG emissions, ICLEI costs money. $1200 per year? International Coalition of Local Environmental Initiatives -- County would not have an option for incentivizing -

1. develop a list of pros and cons
2. consider the different options for moving forward

Collaboration Ideas…

* Energy
	+ [U-C Energy Star Challenge](http://ucenergychallenge.com/)
	+ The City of Champaign includes data about the CO2e emissions from Abbott Power Plant in their sustainability plan.
	+ We all have renewable energy interests, so there may be a potential to collaborate to encourage the renewable energy adoption around this county.
* Land & Space
	+ I am not sure if there is a project/collaboration already underway with this topic, except through UI Extension’s outreach to the 102 counties.
	+ This is an area where we could potentially collaborate to facilitate in-fill development and additional greenspace.
* Procurement & Waste
	+ The UI Waste Transfer Station was built after the Community Recycling Center was closed a few decades ago.  Now, however, both cities have recycling programs in place with more acceptable recyclable content that we accept on campus.  Perhaps the UI could increase the types of materials that we recycle through a collaboration with the cities.
* Transportation
	+ [CUUATS](http://www.ccrpc.org/transportation/) works very well and should continue to be supported.
	+ To encourage alternative fuel vehicles, the UI is installing Electric Vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure, and the cities may be interested in collaborating on a Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) filling station.  If there were a CNG filling station available in this area, the UI Fleet could be converted to using CNG rather than traditional gasoline.
* Water
	+ Currently, we are collaborating on [stormwater management](http://www.fs.illinois.edu/services/safety-and-compliance/stormwater-management) through the MS4 program.  This includes the Green Infrastructure conference and the Boneyard Community Clean-up Day.
* Education/Outreach/Promoting
	+ Perhaps there could be a promotional effort to educate community members about general sustainability practices and encourage people to choose Champaign-Urbana as their permanent home.