



DATE: Tuesday, December 02, 2025
TIME: 7:00 PM
PLACE: 400 South Vine Street, Urbana, IL 61801

AGENDA

- A. Call to Order and Roll Call**
- B. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting**
 - [1. October 7, 2025 Minutes](#)
- C. Public Input**
- D. Presentations**
 - [1. Staff Report](#)
- E. Unfinished Business**
- F. New Business**
 - [1. Discussion of Sustainability Advisory Commission and City Sustainability Goals with City Leadership](#)
 - [2. Annual Meeting Schedule](#)
- G. Adjournment**

PUBLIC INPUT

The City of Urbana welcomes Public Input during open meetings of the City Council, the City Council's Committee of the Whole, City Boards and Commissions, and other City-sponsored meetings. Our goal is to foster respect for the meeting process, and respect for all people participating as members of the public body, city staff, and the general public. The City is required to conduct all business during public meetings. The presiding officer is responsible for conducting those meetings in an orderly and efficient manner. Public Input will be taken in the following ways:

Email Input

Public comments must be received prior to the closing of the meeting record (at the time of adjournment unless otherwise noted) at the following: citycouncil@urbanaillinois.us. The subject line of the email must include the words "PUBLIC INPUT" and the meeting date. Your email will be sent to all City Council

All City meetings are broadcast on Urbana Public Television and live-streamed on the web. Details on how to watch are found on the UPTV webpage located at <https://www.urbanail.gov/executive-department/page/urbana-public-television>.

members, the Mayor, City Administrator, and City Clerk. Emailed public comments labeled as such will be incorporated into the public meeting record, with personal identifying information redacted. Copies of emails will be posted after the meeting minutes have been approved.

Written Input

Any member of the public may submit their comments addressed to the members of the public body in writing. If a person wishes their written comments to be included in the record of Public Input for the meeting, the writing should so state. Written comments must be received prior to the closing of the meeting record (at the time of adjournment unless otherwise noted).

Verbal Input

Protocol for Public Input is one of respect for the process of addressing the business of the City. Obscene or profane language, or other conduct that threatens to impede the orderly progress of the business conducted at the meeting is unacceptable.

Public comment shall be limited to no more than five (5) minutes per person. The Public Input portion of the meeting shall total no more than two (2) hours, unless otherwise shortened or extended by majority vote of the public body members present. The presiding officer or the city clerk or their designee, shall monitor each speaker's use of time and shall notify the speaker when the allotted time has expired. A person may participate and provide Public Input once during a meeting and may not cede time to another person, or split their time if Public Input is held at two (2) or more different times during a meeting. The presiding officer may give priority to those persons who indicate they wish to speak on an agenda item upon which a vote will be taken.

The presiding officer or public body members shall not enter into a dialogue with citizens. Questions from the public body members shall be for clarification purposes only. Public Input shall not be used as a time for problem solving or reacting to comments made but, rather, for hearing citizens for informational purposes only.

In order to maintain the efficient and orderly conduct and progress of the public meeting, the presiding officer of the meeting shall have the authority to raise a point of order and provide a verbal warning to a speaker who engages in the conduct or behavior proscribed under "Verbal Input". Any member of the public body participating in the meeting may also raise a point of order with the presiding officer and request that they provide a verbal warning to a speaker. If the speaker refuses to cease such conduct or behavior after being warned by the presiding officer, the presiding officer shall have the authority to mute the speaker's microphone and/or video presence at the meeting. The presiding officer will inform the speaker that they may send the remainder of their remarks via e-mail to the public body for inclusion in the meeting record.

Accommodation

If an accommodation is needed to participate in a City meeting, please contact the City Clerk's Office at least 48 hours in advance so that special arrangements can be made using one of the following methods:

- Phone: 217.384.2366

- Email: CityClerk@urbanaininois.us



DATE: Tuesday, October 07, 2025
TIME: 7:00 PM
PLACE: 400 South Vine Street, Urbana, IL 61801

MINUTES

A. Call to Order and Roll Call

1. Chair Westawker called the meeting to order at 7:00pm; a roll was called; and a quorum was present.
2. Commissioners physically present: Luke Westawker, Morgan White, Andrew Stumpf, Kavinder Patel, Sarah Womack
3. Commissioners joined by phone:
4. Commissioners absent: Jessica Lemkuhl

B. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

1. Approval of June 3, 2025 Minutes moved by White, seconded by Stumpf, all in favor.

C. Public Input

D. Presentations

1. Household Hazardous Waste Facility – Susan Monte: Susan Monte of Champaign County Environmental Stewards provided an update regarding development of a Household Hazardous Waste Facility.
2. Staff Report: Staff provided updates regarding geothermal, municipal electric aggregation, and community solar.

E. Unfinished Business

1. Discussion of the Sustainability Advisory Commission's Role: Commission members inquired about the outcome from the Sustaining Urbana Neighborhoods Grant, Commission communications to City leadership, and potential efforts members might participate in.

F. New Business

G. Adjournment

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TO: Urbana Sustainability Advisory Commission
FROM: Scott R. Tess, Sustainability & Resilience Officer
DATE: December 2, 2025
RE: Staff Report

City Fleet Electric Vehicles

The City received a \$250,000 line-item appropriation from the State of Illinois General Revenue Fund to reimburse the City for construction and procurement costs relating to a Pilot Fleet Electrification Project to be undertaken by the Public Works Department. The construction work broke ground in October, and is expected to take from 2 to 3 months to complete. Once completed, it will provide 5 EV charging stations ready to use and 5 additional service points for future expansion. The project cost of \$156,489 includes the purchase of EV Chargers as well as adding new electrical service from the street. Staff is now evaluating vehicles scheduled for replacement in the near future and determining what available EVs may fit the City’s replacement needs.

Geothermal Urbana-Champaign

The bulk purchase program for clean, renewable geothermal heating and cooling installations has concluded its educational program for the year. Final numbers for the year are likely to be 8 installations totaling 35 tons of capacity. Totals for the lifetime of the program are:

Year	Systems Installed	Total Installed Tons
2021	14	60
2022	14	61
2023	11	82
2024	7	32
2025	8	35

Facilities Community Solar Subscription

The City executed a community solar subscription to cover traffic light and street light accounts. The subscription would provide for a 10% savings compared to the default rate. Renewable Energy Credits would go to the State of Illinois in exchange for incentives offered to community solar developers.

U-Cycle

The new U-Cycle curbside vendor continues to make month over month improvement on missed collections.

Month	Total	% Less Than Previous Month	% Less Than First Month
Apr-25	423		
May-25	331	-22%	-22%
Jun-25	188	-43%	-56%
Jul-25	171	-9%	-60%

Aug-25	126	-26%	-70%
Sep-25	125	-1%	-70%
Oct-25	107	-14%	-75%

Annual Meeting Schedule

Date	Time	Room
3/3/2026	7pm	Council Chambers
4/7/2026	7pm	Council Chambers
5/5/2026	7pm	Council Chambers
6/2/2026	7pm	Council Chambers
8/4/2026	7pm	Council Chambers
10/6/2026	7pm	Council Chambers
12/1/2026	7pm	Council Chambers

Persons with disabilities needing special services or accommodations for this meeting should contact the City of Urbana's Americans with Disabilities Coordinator at 384-2466 or TTY at 384-2447.

Resolution No. 2025-03-01R

A RESOLUTION RECOMMENDING THE CITY OF URBANA PRIORITIZE THE FOLLOWING
WATER AND ENERGY SUSTAINABILITY GOALS

Whereas, the City of Urbana established the Sustainability Advisory Commission (SAC) in May 2008 (Sec. 2-91) “to assist the Mayor and City Council in identifying the highest priorities for city government and citizens to achieve the sustainable management and use of our natural resources”; and

Whereas, the City of Urbana’s previous Climate Action Plan for 2015-2020 laid out action items that have not all been addressed; and

Whereas, the Sustainability Advisory Commission has identified new goals since 2015 to improve the sustainability of the City of Urbana; and

Whereas, the 2015-2020 Climate Action Plan included “Work with the Sustainability Advisory Commission to create a new plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions for the 2020 to 2050 period”; and

Whereas, the Sustainability Advisory Commission passed Resolution No. 2023-02-01R in order to begin the process of implementing a plastic carry out bag fee for retailers; and

Whereas, the City of Urbana does not offer incentives for businesses to recycle nor includes businesses in the successful residential U-CYCLE program; and

Whereas, local sustainability initiatives can be tailored to greatly benefit the specific needs of different cities and their various residential and business communities; and

Whereas, government policies and practices pertaining to environmental, renewable energy, and public health topics have changed in the past on four-year cycles;

Now therefore, be it resolved the Sustainability Advisory Commission of the City of Urbana recommends that the Mayor and City Council begin pursuing these identified highest priority sustainability goals for the City of Urbana for 2025-2026, with the following recommendations and considerations:

Section 1: The City of Urbana should continue to pursue its own aspiring sustainability goals to become a clean, sustainable city rather than following minimum standards set by state and federal bodies; and

Section 2: Strive to be among the forefront of sustainable cities, and serve as an inspiration for similar cities in Illinois and across the country by tailoring our approach to the specific needs of our community; and

Section 3: Incentivize local businesses to recycle, such as by using U-CYCLE mixed bins and multi-family dumpsters that can be integrated into existing pickup routes by 2027; and

Section 4: Begin an education campaign to make U-CYCLE a cultural habit in Urbana, by universalizing what can go in these bins whether at a residence, in public, or in a business by 2026; and

Section 5: Prioritize the installation of energy efficiency technologies in City capital projects by 2026; and

Section 6: Coordinate with the Urbana Park District to provide increased access to parks, greenways, and recreational areas and support their Strategic Plan and CARES Plan by 2028; and

Section 7: Appropriate and find all necessary resources to plant trees in 2,000 vacant City tree sites using the newly expanded staff capacity in arbor crew, while also using community volunteers and engaging with local businesses and schools, by 2035; and

Section 8: Support the creation of new net-zero housing, defined as highly energy-efficient buildings that produce on site or procure enough carbon-free renewable energy to meet building operations energy consumption, by 2026; and

Section 9: Increase access to renewable energy technologies in residential and commercial buildings and projects (i.e., solar and geothermal systems) by 2026; and

Section 10: Electrify the majority of city-owned vehicles, equipment, and tools using rechargeable batteries or hydrogen fuel cells by 2030; and

Section 11: Coordinate with local entities such as the Urbana Free Library and Urbana School District 116 to promote and support education and awareness programs for sustainability by 2026; and

Section 12: Prioritize the incorporation of mixed-use development in the City's urban planning to incentivize walkability, bike-ability, and the use of public transportation by 2026; and

Section 13: Continue pursuing the Streetlight Asset Management Plan to install new streetlights in neighborhoods without any, and replace old streetlights with a more uniform, and low light pollution design by 2026; and

Section 14: Move forward on implementing a carry-out bag fee for all single-use plastic bags distributed by retailers as soon as possible, and begin to investigate other ways to reduce the amount of single-use plastic bags as well as single-use polystyrene packaging in the City by 2026; and

Section 15: Support environmental stewardship legislation at the state and local level by 2028.



MAYOR/CITY COUNCIL STRATEGIC GOALS 2024-2025

Strategic Area #3: Infrastructure

Strategies:

1. Improve quality of current infrastructure assets.

Action Steps

- a) Complete sanitary sewer asset management plan and roadway asset management plan by the end of fiscal year 2025
- b) Review and adjust dedicated revenue streams for infrastructure assets, beginning with the Local Motor Fuel Tax
- c) Add one additional FTE arbor technician and vehicle for adequate tree maintenance to maintain current urban canopy status and decrease vacant tree

2. Increase investments in infrastructure equity.

Action Steps

- a) Complete 10 EQL projects by end of calendar year 2024 and initiate a second EQL round by end of calendar year 2025
- b) Prioritize ensuring adequate staffing for Community Development to pursue public infrastructure grants
- c) Develop revisions to Zoning Ordinance to improve the process in order to enhance public notice and ensure appropriate protest procedures

3. Expand sustainable infrastructure within the community.

Action Steps

- a) Evaluate the practical and financial feasibility of sustainability improvements in City facility capital projects
- b) Create and implement a grant program for community environmental projects
- c) Support food waste composting at the Urbana LRC
- d) Pursue the implementation of a single-use plastic bag fee as recommended by the Sustainability Advisory Commission Resolution No. 2023-02-01-1R

Urbana, IL Imagine Urbana Comprehensive Plan

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Connected City Map

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Development Opportunities Map

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D. Big Move 3: Create Neighborhood Plans to Address the Needs of Individual Areas

E. Big Move 4: Strengthen Downtown Urbana’s Role as the Economic Driver of the City

F. Big Move 5: Expand Urbana's Arts and Culture Program

G. Big Move 6: Make Walkability a Priority

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J. Big Move 9: Increase Urbana’s Economic Vibrancy

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2. Imagine Urbana Community Outreach Summary

3. Community Engagement Theme Definitions

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I. INTRODUCTION

A. Acknowledgements

B. Message from the Mayors

C. What is a Comprehensive Plan?

D. How will Imagine Urbana Be Used?

Acknowledgements

DeShawn B. Williams, Mayor

Diane Wolfe Marlin, Mayor (Former)

Urbana City Council

Maryalice Wu, Ward 1

Christopher Evans, Ward 2

Shirese Hursey, Ward 3

Jaya Kolisetty, Ward 4

Chaundra Bishop, Ward 5

Grace Wilken, Ward 6

James Quisenberry, Ward 7

Urbana Plan Commission

Dustin Allred, Chair

Will Andresen

Andrew Fell

Lew Hopkins

Debarah McFarland

Bill Rose

Karen Simms

Chenxi Yu

Imagine Urbana Comprehensive Plan Project Team

Tarek Azim, Management Analyst

Kevin Garcia, Principal Planner/Zoning Administrator

Carol Mitten, City Administrator

Nick Olsen, Community Development Coordinator

Marcus Ricci, Planner II

Elizabeth Rocks, Intern

Andrea Ruedi, Senior Advisor for Integrated Strategy Development

Lily Wilcock, Planner II (Former)

Staff Working Group

Breaden Belcher, Grants Division Manager

Shannon Beranek, Civil Engineer I (Former)

Tim Cowan, Public Works Director

Imagine Urbana Theme Discussion Groups

Breaden Belcher, Grants Division Manager

Paige Bennett, Police Officer

Carla Boyd, Human Rights and Equity Officer

Kate Brickman-Levy, Executive Coordinator

Tim Cowan, Public Works Director

Lashaunda Cunningham, Police Services Supervisor

Kent “Demond” Dade, Fire Chief

Carmen Franks, Assistant City Engineer

Vince Gustafson, Deputy Public Works Director

Melissa Hendrian, Crime Analyst

Elizabeth Hannan, Human Resources and Finance Director/Chief Financial Officer

Nick Hanson, Building Official

Bryan Heaton, Market at the Square Coordinator

Sanford Hess, Information Technology Director (Former)

Will Kolschowsky, Senior Management Analyst and Assistant to City Administrator

Mayor Diane Wolfe Marlin

Stephany McMahon, Economic Development Supervisor (Former)

Rich Surles, Deputy Chief of Police

Scott Tess, Sustainability & Resilience Officer

Kat Trotter, Planner II (Former)

Brian Weldy, Firefighter

Darius White, Economic Development Coordinator (Former)

John Zeman, City Engineer

Community Partners

Aspen Court

APL Engineered Materials, Inc.

Bashear Commons HOA

Best of Africa

Kevin Garcia, Principal Planner/Zoning Administrator
 Vince Gustafson, Deputy Public Works Director
 Elizabeth Hannan, Human Resources and Finance Director/Chief Financial Officer
 Will Kolschowsky, Senior Management Analyst and Assistant to City Administrator
 Stepheny McMahon, Economic Development Supervisor (Former)
 Carol Mitten, City Administrator
 Lorrie Pearson, Community Development Services Director (Former)
 Rachel Storm, Arts and Culture Coordinator (Former)
 Scott Tess, Environmental Sustainability Manager
 Kat Trotter, Planner II (Former)

Special Thanks and Recognition

All Urbana Residents, Workers, and Visitors Who Provided Feedback
 Cloud303.io, SMS Survey Designer
 Jamie Hedrick, Graphic Designer
 University of Illinois Urban Planning Classes (UP 510) Fall 2020, Spring 2021, Fall 2022, Fall 2023, Fall 2024
 Urbana Arts and Culture Commission
 Urbana Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission
 Urbana Community Development Commission
 Urbana Historic Preservation Commission
 Urbana Sustainability Advisory Commission

Champaign County Bikes
 Brookdale Senior Living
 Champaign County Housing Authority
 Channing-Murray Foundation
 Champaign Urbana Public Health District
 Cunningham Township
 Downtown Neighborhood Association
 Dream Girls Academy
 El Progresso
 Family Dollar
 Head Start of Champaign County Regional Planning Commission
 Historic East Urbana Association
 King Park / Dr. Ellis Neighborhood
 Lierman Neighborhood Action Committee
 Middle Urbana Neighborhood Association
 Salt & Light
 Southeast Urbana Neighborhood Association
 Silver Hearts
 Steer Place Apartments
 The Urbana Free Library
 Town & Country Apartments
 Twenty-Five O' Clock
 Urbana Park District
 Urbana School District 116
 West Urbana Neighborhood Association

B. Message from the Mayors

On behalf of the City of Urbana, we are excited to share the 2025 *Imagine Urbana* Comprehensive Plan. The Comprehensive Plan will guide the City's policy, infrastructure, and planning decisions in the coming years. It provides the framework to promote quality of life for residents through innovative, sustainable, and fiscally responsible growth and development.

From the outset, in 2020, the City was committed to taking a holistic and inclusive approach throughout the planning process. Our first step was to *Examine Urbana*, which resulted in a detailed look at where we are today. This was followed by an extensive, three-year community engagement effort to obtain input from all neighborhoods as well as business, hospitality, educational, and health care sectors. We listened closely to people of all ages and backgrounds and did our best to reflect their needs, challenges, preferences, and vision for the future.



The 2025 *Imagine Urbana* Comprehensive Plan sets forth Big Ideas that build upon our strengths and address current challenges. It offers Big Moves to help guide us toward a vibrant and sustainable future. This visionary plan is a testament to our shared aspirations, values, and commitment to building a welcoming, thriving community for generations to come.

Diane Wolfe Marlin

Urbana Mayor

May 2, 2017 - May 5, 2025

DeShawn B. Williams

Urbana Mayor

Sworn in May 5, 2025

What is a Comprehensive Plan?

For any city to thrive, it must look ahead, anticipate challenges and opportunities, and plan for the future.

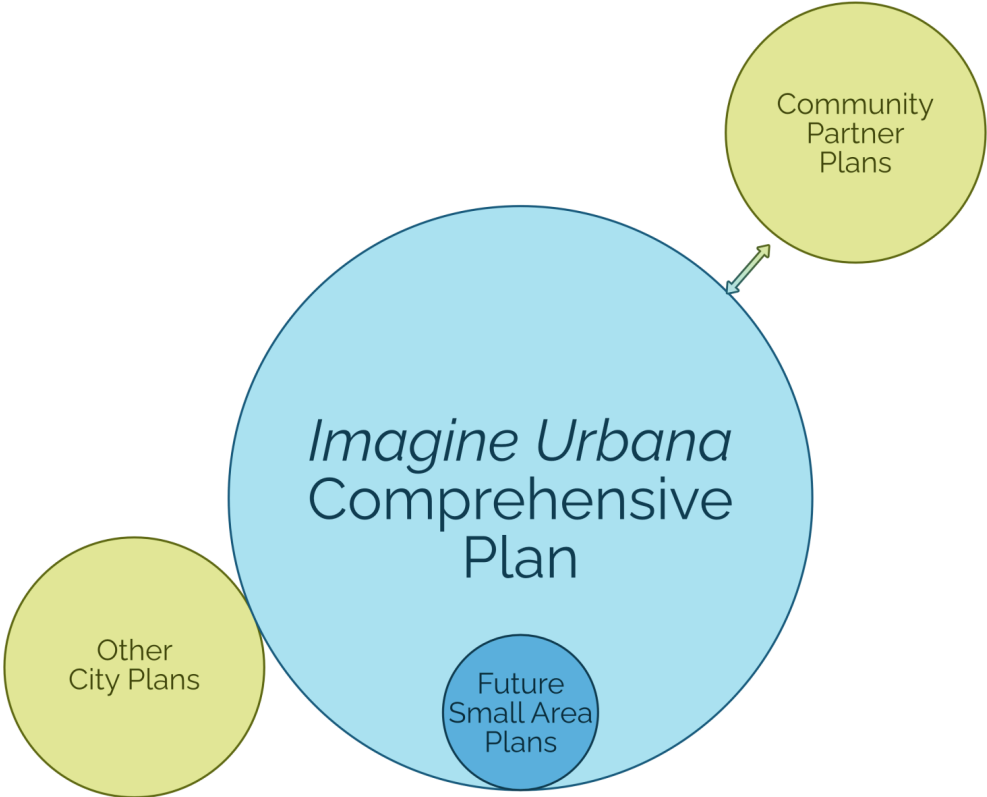
Imagine Urbana is the City's new Comprehensive Plan. It embodies our community's vision for what Urbana should look like in the next 20 years, and articulates goals, objectives, and strategies to make this vision a reality.

Imagine Urbana also serves as the City's primary long-range planning document, guiding the future of the community. It gives direction for decisions related to community-wide land use, zoning, economic development, transportation systems, social dynamics, the environment, arts and culture, and overall quality of life.

The City's most recent Comprehensive Plan is from 2005. *Imagine Urbana* builds upon many elements of the 2005 Plan, while incorporating community feedback and addressing current needs and trends in today's environment to ensure our City's resilience over the next 20 years.

Imagine Urbana is a working document, driven by community engagement, serving as a roadmap to navigate the future course of Urbana.

The graphic below shows how other plans provide additional guidance to the Comprehensive Plan. Community Partner Plans, created by organizations outside of the City of Urbana, are completely independent of the Plan, but interact with it. Other City Plans are "stand-alone" documents that target specific areas within the City for strategic development or redevelopment and are aligned with the Comprehensive Plan. Small Area Plans address the unique goals of a specific area and may be adopted as supplements to the Comprehensive Plan.



How Imagine Urbana relates to other plans

Who Will Use Imagine Urbana, and How?

City Planners	Other City Staff, Elected Officials, & Commissions	Developers, Architects, & Contractors	New & Existing Residents & Businesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Guides long-term planning ▪ Inform land use, transportation, and infrastructure decisions ▪ Evaluate development proposals ▪ Guides zoning and land development code updates ▪ Inform policy recommendations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Guides for policy development ▪ Help maximize return on public investment ▪ Budgeting & resource allocation ▪ Prioritize infrastructure projects and community services ▪ Ensure future development aligns with community's desires ▪ Evaluate grant opportunities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project planning and streamlining the approval process ▪ Site selection and feasibility ▪ Assess City's development priorities and anticipated growth areas ▪ Align projects with community values & desires 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Assess real estate purchases ▪ Inform business expansion and relocation decisions ▪ Understand how the community might change over time

These are some of the ways that various groups use the Imagine Urbana Comprehensive Plan to guide decision-making related to community-wide land use, economic development, transportation systems, social dynamics, the environment, arts and culture, and overall quality of life in Urbana.

III. VISION & VALUES

The Vision for Urbana grew out of the *Imagine Urbana* Comprehensive Plan community outreach process. The City's people represent a very diverse population. (See Appendix B.1. - Urbana Demographics.) Fostering a truly inclusive community is an ongoing process that requires commitment from leadership, dedication of resources, and a willingness to evolve with the needs of the community. During the *Imagine Urbana* outreach process, an overriding goal was to involve the entire community and to provide opportunities for everyone to have a voice.

As themes emerged from the community's input, so did the City's Vision and Values. (See Appendix B.2. - Community Engagement Theme Definitions.) The City's underlying Values play a crucial role in supporting its vision, by providing the guiding principles and framework to help achieve the vision. Values also influence the decision-making process. When faced with complex decisions, City Council and staff can refer to the City's Values to ensure decisions are aligned with the vision and its underlying principles.

Urbana's Vision

A Welcoming Community for Everyone

Urbana's Values

Item F1.

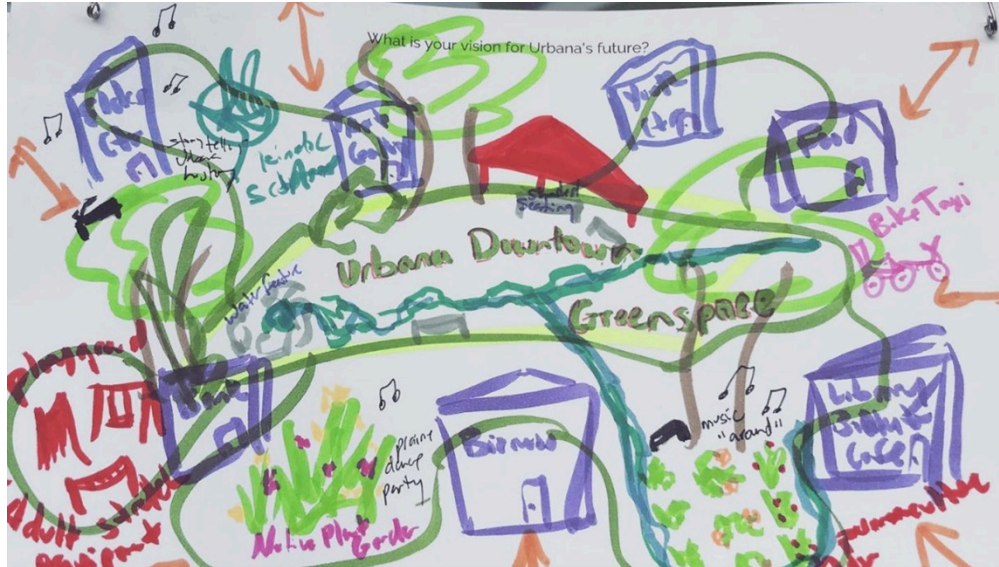
The City ensures **Equity and Inclusion in all City Services**

This City is a **Welcoming, Livable, and Healthy Community**

The City has a **Thriving, Resilient Economy and Environment**

The City celebrates and enriches its **Cultural Vitality**

The City promotes **Growth Within the City's Borders**



IV. UNDERSTANDING BIG IDEAS, BIG MOVES & LITTLE MOVES, AND METRICS

Big Ideas

At the heart of Imagine Urbana are the Big Ideas for the City's future --- what Urbana will look like 20 years from now (Section V).

Aligned with the City's Vision and Values, these Big Ideas are the overarching goals for Urbana's future, reflecting the community's aspirations gathered through the Imagine Urbana community outreach process. They are designed to serve the diverse range of individuals and groups within the community.

Each Big Idea is comprised of specific **Objectives** that embrace what it means to attain each Big Idea and a **Barometer(s) of Success** to track achievement.

Big Moves and Little Moves

Big Moves are the strategies to achieve the City's Big Ideas. They involve a combination of short-term, mid-term, and long-term initiatives. Short-term actions often have an immediate, high impact, thus building momentum toward achieving Imagine Urbana's Big Ideas, mid-term initiatives involve more substantial efforts

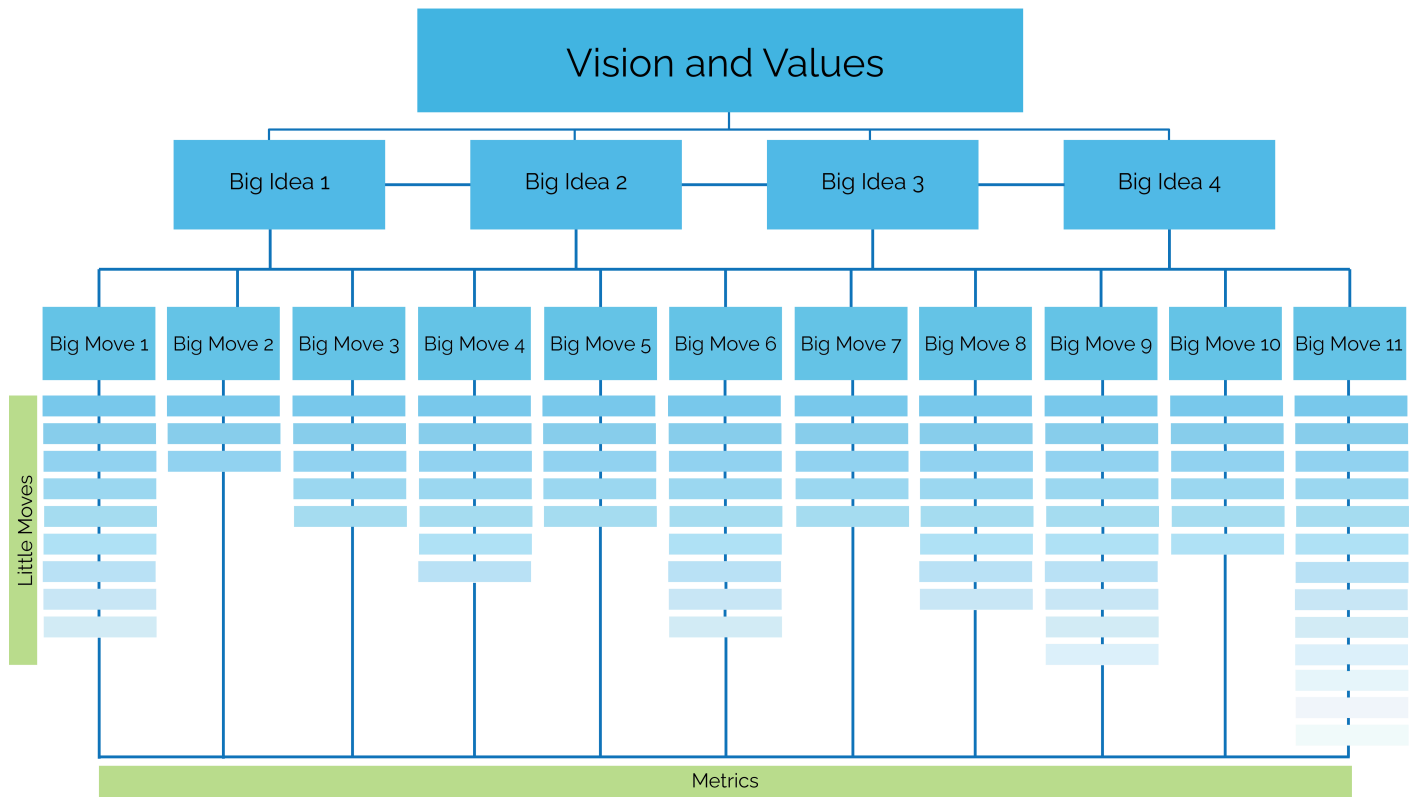
to complete, and long-term measures often involve sustained efforts, often in collaboration with community partners. Each Big Move often addresses multiple Big Ideas. (See [What are the Big Ideas for Urbana's Future?](#))

Associated with each Big Move are Little Moves, which are the strategic actions that provide specific, tangible steps for implementing each Big Move.

Tracking Progress with Metrics

Imagine Urbana updates will report on progress that has been made toward achieving the Big Moves and implementing the Little Moves. Metrics have been assigned to each Little Move to track progress toward attaining the Big Moves. (See [VIII.](#))

This hierarchy of Big Ideas, Big Moves, and Little Moves (goals, strategies, and strategic actions), which align with the Vision for the City's future and its core Values, allows for a systematic and organized approach to planning Urbana's future, based on community input and values.



*Hierarchy of Vision, Values,
Big Ideas, Big Moves, Little Moves, and Metrics*

V. WHAT ARE THE BIG IDEAS FOR URBANA'S FUTURE?

A. Big Idea 1: Urbana is a Place for Everyone

B. Big Idea 2: Urbana is Both Financially and Environmentally Resilient

C. Big Idea 3: Urbana is a City of Connected Neighborhoods

D. Big Idea 4: Urbana Embraces its Cultural Vibrancy and Character

Big Idea 1: Urbana is a Place for Everyone

Urbana has a diverse population and a rich history of defending human rights, acceptance and inclusion, and welcoming immigrants. This Big Idea focuses on making Urbana even more inclusive and welcoming to all people.

Objectives

- 1.1 Design the City for people of all ages and abilities.
- 1.2 Strengthen community outreach and engagement to prioritize inclusivity and responsiveness.
- 1.3 Broaden the economic base and housing options in ways that reflect the City's diversity.
- 1.4 Transform Downtown into a vibrant, inclusive gathering space.

Barometer of Success

- Results of Community Quality of Life survey.



Big Idea 2: Urbana is Both Financially and Environmentally Resilient

This Big Idea will ensure Urbana can navigate economic downturns, maintain financial stability, and support the long-term health of its public infrastructure and services, natural environment, and the well-being of its residents.

Objectives

- Ensure the City's government, economy, and infrastructure can withstand and thrive in the face of challenges and disruptions.
- Focus on incremental development and innovation; piloting new ideas in small ways to see what works.
- Use the City's annexation policy to strategically control development.
- Make it easy to open new businesses, invest in development, and be innovative.
- Streamline permit review using technology and processes that are intuitive, transparent, and expedient.
- Use asset management plans and sustainable funding strategies to maintain infrastructure, while balancing public expectations of condition, performance, and resources.
- Emphasize development in areas with existing City infrastructure, natural resources, and amenities.
- Capitalize on the City's strengths and assets, including the University student and daytime working populations.
- Support local businesses to ensure they thrive and create quality jobs for Urbana residents.
- Welcome and invest in affordable housing development and make policies that attract developers of affordable housing.

Barometers of Success

- Total revenue to total infrastructure burden
- Property tax dollars per taxable acre*
- City has asset management plans for all core infrastructure assets addressing resource efficiency, environmental impact, and resiliency to extreme weather events
- City has a Climate Action Plan that addresses climate mitigation and climate adaptation

* 30% of land in Urbana is tax-exempt



City of Urbana Community Solar Array

Big Idea 3: Urbana is a City of Connected Neighborhoods

This Big Idea is all about convenience, where everything an Urbana resident needs is in their neighborhood, or can be traveled to safely and easily. People should be able to get around their neighborhoods, and get to other neighborhoods, quickly and comfortably.

Objectives

- Capitalize on the strengths and assets of individual neighborhoods.
- Expand trails and sidewalks to connect neighborhoods to each other, to Downtown, and to regional destinations like the University and medical facilities.
- Encourage small neighborhood businesses.
- Focus on making it safe, comfortable, convenient, and useful for people to walk and bike in their neighborhood.

Barometers of Success

- Transit/Walked/Biked %
- Overall Walkscore and Walkscore by subgroup per www.walkscore.com/IL/Urbana
- % of capital budget spent on projects to better connect the City via walking and biking. www.walkscore.com/IL/Urbana
- Decreased level of traffic stress scores / level of traffic stress, % of streets



Big Idea 4: Urbana Embraces its Cultural Vibrancy and Character

This Big Idea involves building upon one of Urbana's biggest strengths, its unique and eclectic character, and using it as a cornerstone for continued progress and success.

Objectives

- 4.1 The City is a destination for music and the arts.
- 4.2 Community partners and local groups host festivals and events throughout the year.
- 4.3 Residents and visitors gravitate to Urbana's unique shops and eclectic vibe.
- 4.4 Murals and sculptures are located throughout the City.
- 4.5 The City's historic architecture and features are used to enhance its eclectic character.

Barometers of Success

- Increase in grant funding
- Increased community participation in workshops, events, and collaborative projects



Big Move 6: Make Walkability a Priority

Walking* is the most equitable form of transportation. Designing an equitable city and putting people first means that walking must be at the forefront of how things are built. Urbana's development regulations must be written so that walking is given top priority. Over time, this will ensure that our neighborhoods are better connected, and people can safely walk to their destination. Getting around Urbana should feel safe and convenient, no matter the mode of travel.

* "Walking" includes people in wheelchairs and with other mobility impairments.

Little Moves

6.1 Continue to implement the 2020 Pedestrian Master Plan and 2016 Bicycle Master Plan.

6.2 Amend development regulations to support walkability, using *Walkable City Rules* as a guide.

6.3 Address safety concerns that deter people from walking.

6.4 Prioritize staff time to focus on making streets and parking lots safer for people walking and biking.

6.5 Extend the Kickapoo Rail Trail through Downtown Urbana.

6.6 Update the land development code, manual of practice, and zoning ordinance to implement complete streets and traffic calming measures where appropriate.

6.7 Expand the investment of Federal funding for public infrastructure in targeted low-income neighborhoods.

6.8 Update brick sidewalk ordinance to prioritize safety and function of the City's sidewalks.

6.9 Evaluate the elimination of minimum parking requirements.

6.10 Define Street Types and illustrate them on the [Connected City Map](#).



Associated Metrics

6.1.1 Number of recommendations implemented from each Plan

6.2.1 Number of development regulations identified and # changed

6.3.1 Number of concerns addressed

6.4.1 Has a Transportation Planner been hired (Yes/No)

6.5.1 Miles of Kickapoo Rail Trail completed in Downtown

6.6.1 Have regulations been adopted to implement complete streets and traffic calming measures? (Yes/No)

6.7.1 Percentage increase in total grant funding for infrastructure in low-income neighborhoods

6.8.1 Has the brick sidewalk ordinance been updated? (Yes/No)

6.9.1 Have requirements been evaluated? (Yes/No)

6.9.2 Have minimum parking requirements been modified? (Yes/No)

6.10.1 Have Street Types been defined and illustrated on [Connected City Map](#)? (Yes/No)

- **Big Idea 1:** Urbana is a Place for Everyone
 - Objective 1.1 Design the City for people of all ages and abilities.
- **Big Idea 2:** Urbana is Both Financially and Environmentally Resilient
 - Objective 2.2 Focus on incremental development and innovation, piloting new ideas in small ways to see what works.
- **Big Idea 3:** Urbana is a City of Connected Neighborhoods
 - Objective 3.2 Expand trails and sidewalks to connect neighborhoods to each other, to Downtown, and to regional destinations like the University and medical facilities.

Project Lead

Planning Division, Grants Management Division, Public Works Department

Implementation Partners

Plan Commission, Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee, Urbana Park District, Champaign County Forest Preserve District, Norfolk Southern Railroad, Police Department

**Kickapoo Rail Trail
West End Access**

Note: E. Main St bike lane ends between Scottswood Dr and Dewey St. Proceed with caution if utilizing Weaver Park grass lot. Walmart parking lot is recommended until an engineered connection is completed.

- Kickapoo Rail Trail (Champaign County Forest Preserve District)
- ▲ Weaver Park - Grass Parking at Proposed Trailhead (Urbana Park District)
- Walmart Parking (Use Northernmost Row Closest to Building Only)
- ★ Accessible Curb Cut
- - - Walmart Connection



The GIS data shown here is intended to be used as a general index to spatial information, and is not intended for detailed, site-specific analysis or resolution of legal matters.

2025 Kickapoo Rail Trail Access in Urbana

Big Move 8: Invest in Financially and Environmentally Resilient Infrastructure

To ensure Urbana's future viability, it is crucial that development decisions access the long-term costs of infrastructure relative to the benefits they bring to the community. Investments in new infrastructure must prioritize environmental resilience wherever feasible, ensuring that Urbana remains sustainable for generations to come. By aligning financial considerations with environmental priorities, Urbana can create a more resilient, efficient, and [Connected City](#) that effectively serves its residents.

Little Moves

- 8.1 Tie infrastructure maintenance and new project resources to metrics to make more informed decisions.
- 8.2 Revise development regulations to ensure developments financially contribute to the City's long-term viability.
- 8.3 Prioritize development in areas already served by services and infrastructure.
- 8.4 Develop metrics and policies to promote development that sufficiently funds ongoing operations and maintenance.
- 8.5 Practice proactive maintenance.
- 8.6 Encourage the use of native plants and trees in all developments and infrastructure projects.
- 8.7 Align [City](#) policies to address utility and stormwater vulnerabilities.



Associated Metrics

- 8.1.1 Metrics established and in use? (Yes/No)
- 8.2.1 Development regulations evaluated and modified where appropriate? (yes/No)
- 8.3.1 Number and percentage of new developments in areas currently served by infrastructure
- 8.3.2 Number and percentage of developments requiring new infrastructure
- 8.4.1 Number of metrics and policies established
- 8.5.1 Increase in roadway average life expectancy
- 8.5.2 Increase in sidewalk and path average life expectancy
- 8.6.1 Percentage of new development using native plants
- 8.6.2 Percentage of infrastructure projects using native plants
- 8.6.3 Percentage of total plants in each project that are native
- 8.7.1 Number of City policies identified and modified

Associated Big Ideas and Objectives

- [Big Idea 2](#): Urbana is Both Financially and Environmentally Resilient

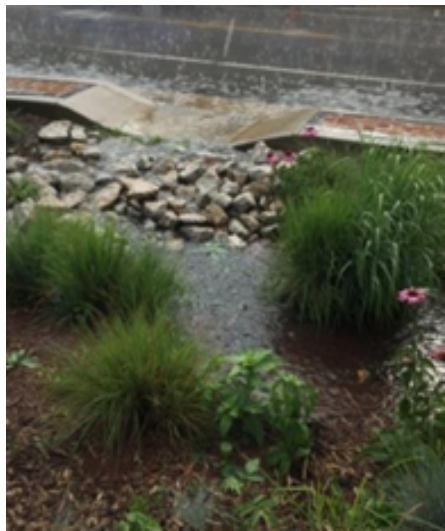
- Objective 2.1 Ensure the City's government, economy, and infrastructure can withstand and thrive face of challenges and disruptions.
- Objective 2.2 Focus on incremental development and innovation, piloting new ideas in small ways to see what works.
- Objective 2.3 Use the City's annexation policy to strategically control development.
- Objective 2.6 Use asset management plans and sustainable funding strategies to maintain infrastructure, while balancing public expectations of condition, performance, and resources.
- Objective 2.7 Emphasize development in areas with existing City infrastructure, natural resources, and amenities to minimize environment impact.
- **Big Idea 3:** Urbana is a City of Connected Neighborhoods
 - Objective 3.2 Expand trails and sidewalks to connect neighborhoods to each other, to downtown, and to regional destinations like the University and medical facilities.
 - Objective 3.3 Focus on making it safe, comfortable, convenient, and useful for people to walk and bike in their neighborhood.

Project Lead

Public Works Department

Implementation Partners

Planning Division, Sustainability Advisory Commission, Economic Development Division, Building Safety Division



*Green infrastructure in Downtown Urbana
(Image Source: Andy Robinson)*



Public Works Department planting trees

Big Move 11: Advance a Healthy, Clean, and Green Community

Historically, Urbana has prioritized its environmental impact. The City was the first community in Illinois to be recognized as a Tree City in 1976, created a Boneyard Creek Master Plan in 1978, adopted a Sustainable Water Management Plan in 2013, and multiple Climate Action Plans. Reducing the City’s environmental impact is vital to support the global initiative to address climate change, to be a more sustainable city, and to foster healthier lifestyles among its residents.

Little Moves

- 11.1 Complete a full rewrite of the City’s Climate Action Plan in conjunction with other community partners that have adopted Climate Action Plans.
- 11.2 Prioritize energy efficiency and renewable energy in City capital projects.
- 11.3 Promote biking and walking.
- 11.4 Coordinate with the Urbana Park District to provide increased access to parks, greenways, and recreational areas, and support their Strategic Plan and CARES Plan.
- 11.5 Establish an asset management plan to complete sidewalk network.
- 11.6 Encourage waste reduction.
- 11.7 Plant trees in all vacant City tree sites.
- 11.8 Support installation of renewable energy generation systems.
- 11.9 Competitively select one licensed waste management hauler for curbside collection in each designated residential area.
- 11.10 Support net-zero new housing in City housing programs.
- 11.11. Increase residential and [Commercial](#) solar and geothermal installations.
- 11.12 Electrify City-owned vehicles.
- 11.13 Support environmental stewardship legislation.
- 11.14 Encourage adaptive reuse and historic preservation of existing buildings that contribute to the City's architectural heritage.

Associated Metrics

- 11.1.1 Climate Action Plan rewritten with community partners involvement? (Yes/No)
- 11.2.1 Number and percentage of capital projects employing energy efficiency/renewable energy
- 11.3.1 Percentage of Pedestrian Master Plan network completed
- 11.3.2 Percentage of Bicycle Master Plan completed
- 11.3.1 Percentage of Pedestrian Master Plan non-network recommendations completed
- 11.4.1 Number of specific collaborations with Park District
- 11.5.1 Asset Management Plan completed? (Yes/No)

- 11.6.1 Increase in City of Urbana Landscape Recycling Center waste
- 11.7.1 Percentage of vacant City tree sites planted
- 11.8.1 Number and percentage penetration of renewable energy projects
- 11.9.1 Selection and Implementation? (Yes/No)
- 11.10.1 Number of net-zero houses built
- 11.11.1 Number of new private solar and geothermal installations as a % of total
- 11.11.2 Number of C-PACE applications
- 11.12.1 Percentage of electric vehicles in City fleet
- 11.13.1 Number of support letters
- 11.14.1 Number of buildings reused/preserved
- 11.14.2 Dollars invested in reuse/preservation projects

Associated Big Ideas and Objectives

- **Big Idea 2:** Urbana is Both Financially and Environmentally Resilient
 - Objective 2.7 Emphasize development in areas with existing City infrastructure, natural resources, and amenities.
- **Big Idea 3:** Urbana is a City of Connected Neighborhoods
 - Objective 3.1 Expand trails and sidewalks to connect neighborhoods to each other, to downtown, and to regional destinations like the University and medical facilities.
 - Objective 3.3 Focus on making it safe, comfortable, convenient, and useful for people to walk and bike in their neighborhood.

Project Lead

Sustainability and Resilience Officer, Grants Management Division, Public Works Fleet Supervisor

Implementation Partners

Sustainability Advisory Commission, Public Works Department, Planning Division, Building Safety Division, Recycling Coordinator, Executive Department



2024 SUSTAINABILITY & RESILIENCE ANNUAL REPORT

City of Urbana, Illinois



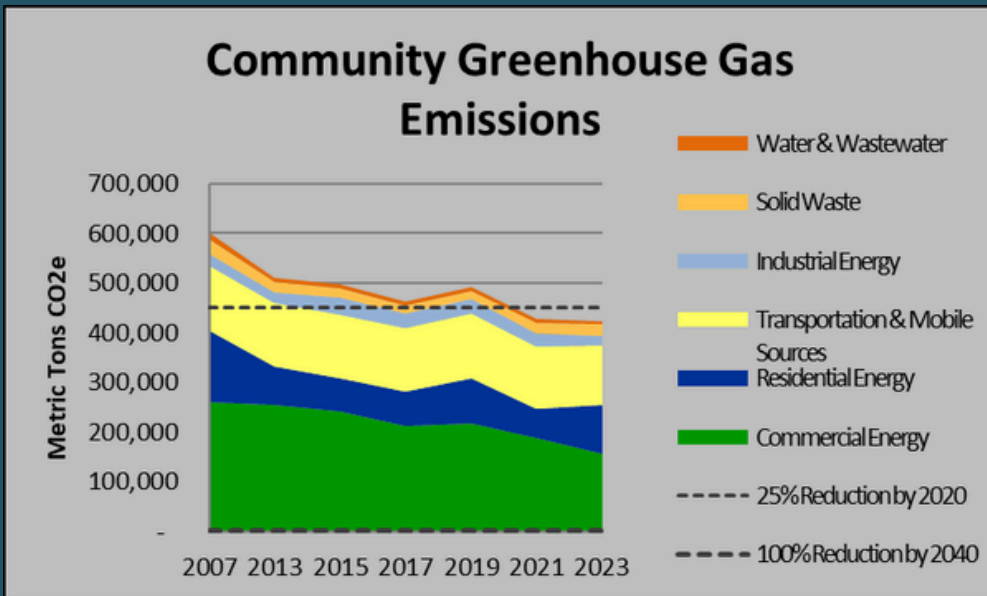
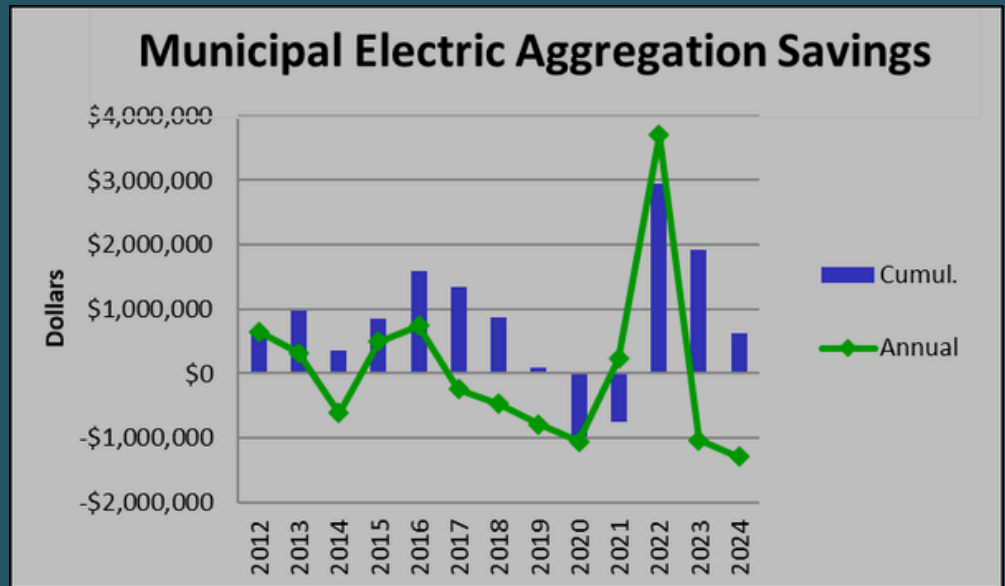
The City of Urbana incorporates sustainability and resilience throughout a number of programs and departments, working to improve the performance of energy, water, and waste management. The City administers community and municipal renewable energy development efforts. It provides curbside and multi-family recycling service while conducting engagement with City staff to reduce waste. The City operates the Landscape Recycling Center as an enterprise which provides disposal services for landscape trimmings and converts this material into saleable lawn care products. The City is also responsible for maintenance of a closed landfill and pursues compatible reuse of the landfill property. It manages a Municipal Electric Aggregation program and the associated purchase of renewable energy credits. For more information, visit <https://urbanaillinois.us/sustainability>.

Category	Budget
U-cycle**	\$762,480
Environmental & Sustainability	\$214,458
City Landfill & CUSWDS* Landfill	\$130,256

**Urbana's Recycling Service *Champaign Urbana Solid Waste Disposal System

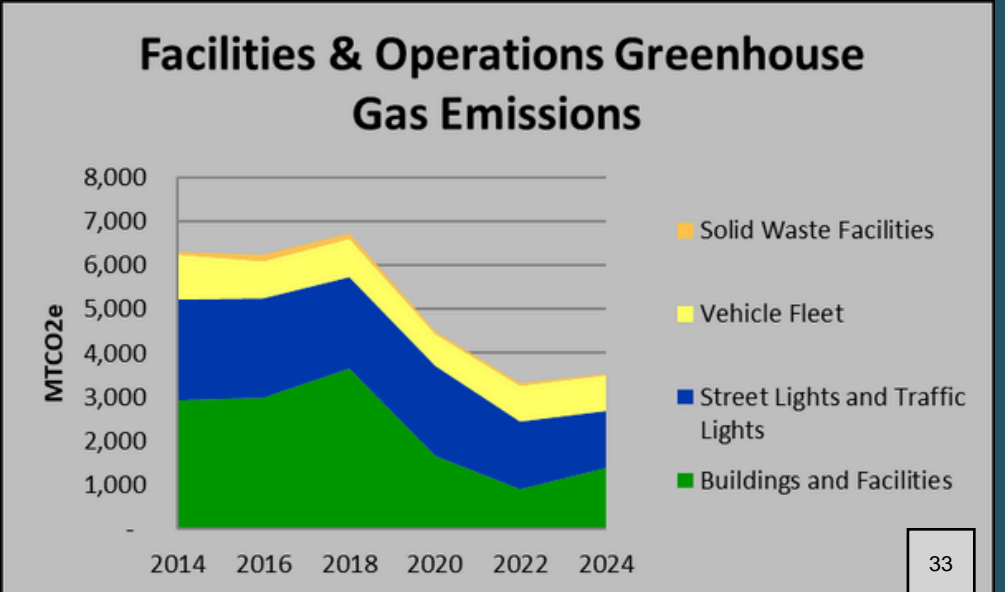
Photo: Geothermal Well Drilling

ENERGY & CLIMATE



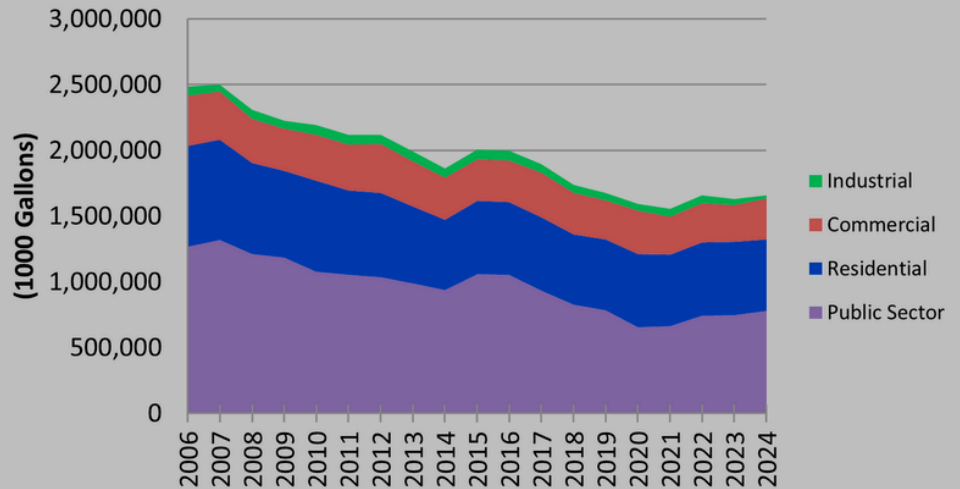
The community reached the 2020 goal to reduce greenhouse gasses 25% by 2020 and now looks forward to the long-term goal of full carbon neutrality.

The City of Urbana has expanded the use of energy efficient LED lighting in buildings and more recently, streetlights. Along with other mechanical improvements, these efforts have significantly reduced energy use and attendant greenhouse gasses.

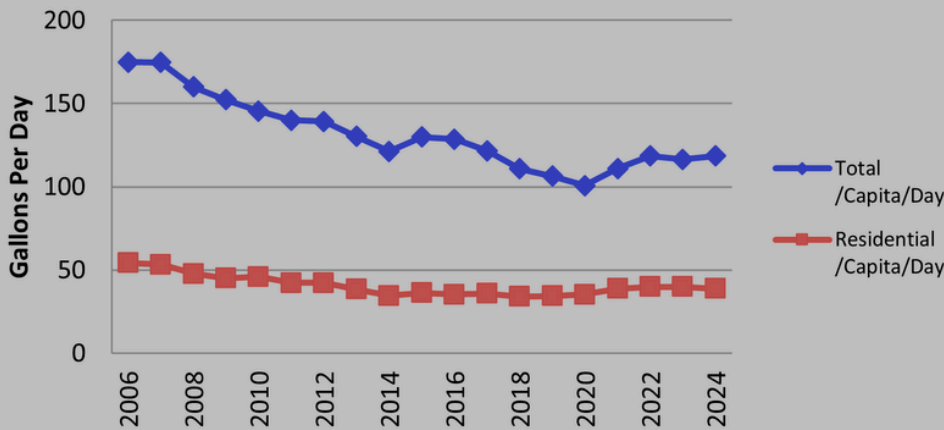


WATER

Community Water Consumption



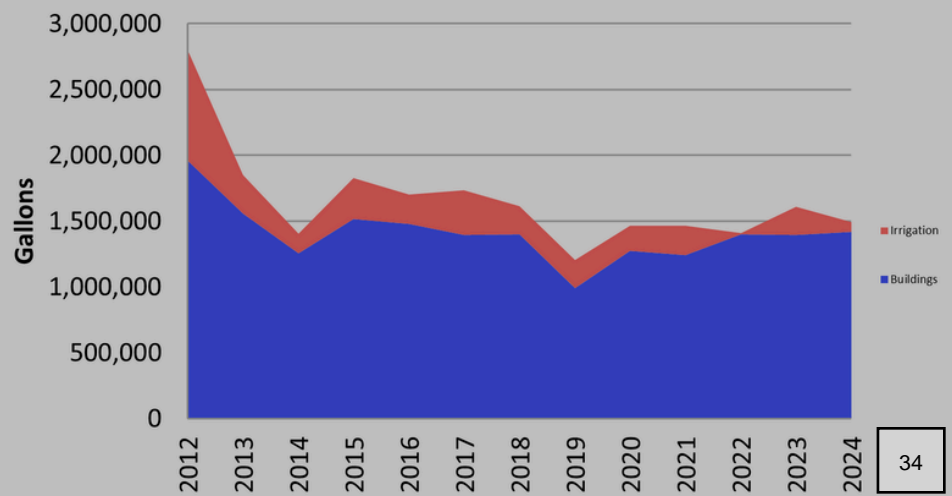
Community Per Capita Water Consumption



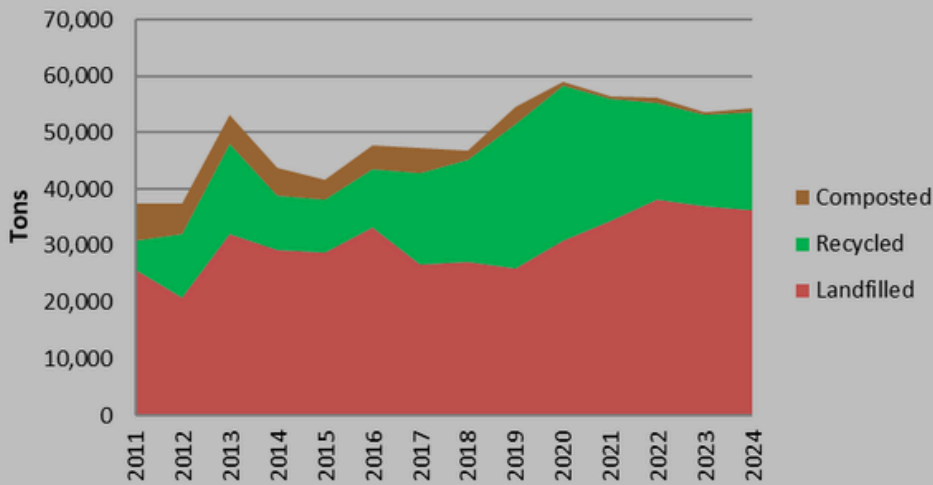
Urbana's residential water consumption per capita remains well below the State average of 80 gallons per day.

Following early efforts to reduce City Facilities water consumption, water use for government Facilities remains low.

City Facilities Water Consumption



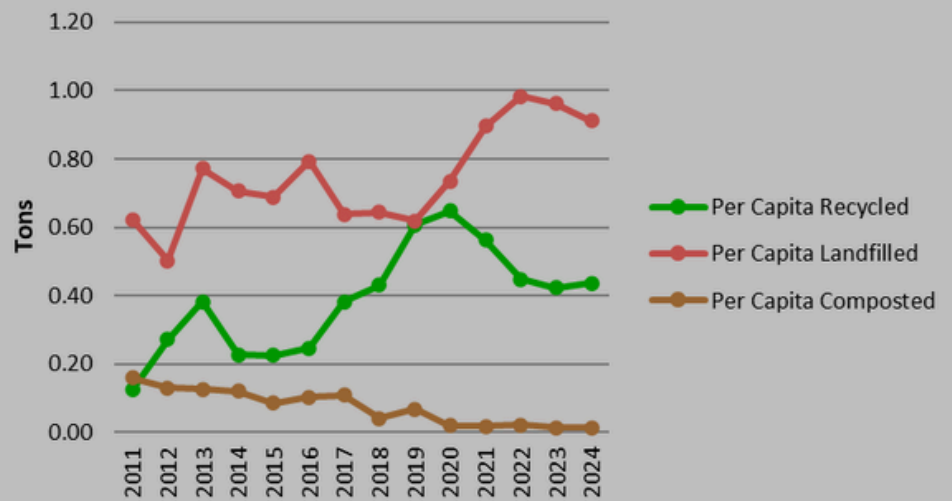
Community Waste Diversion



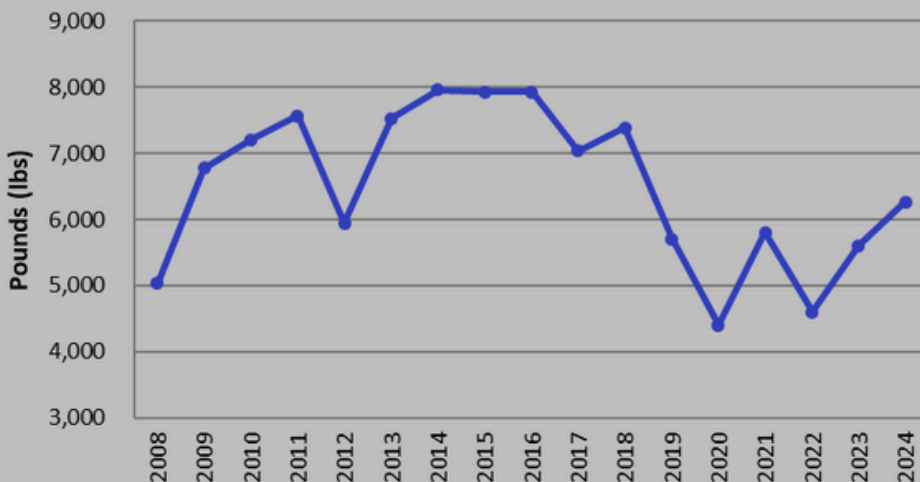
WASTE & RECYCLING

The City of Urbana provides curbside recycling, multifamily recycling, electronics and household hazardous waste collection events as well as other smaller recycling services.

Per Capita Waste Diversion

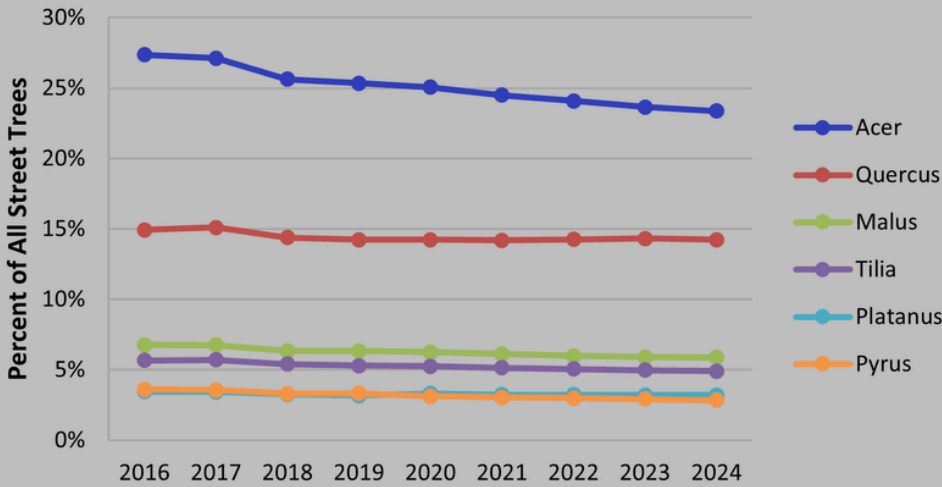


Community Battery Recycling



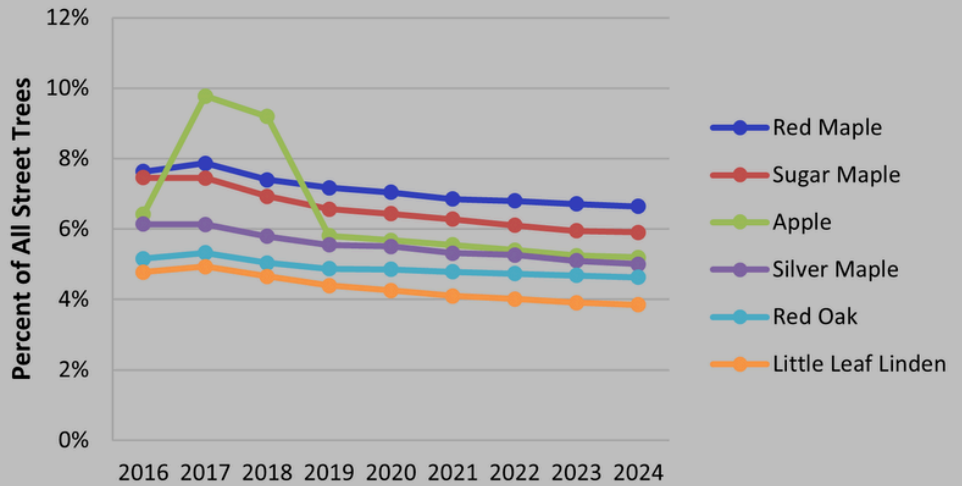
STREET TREES

Percent Tree Genus Over Time

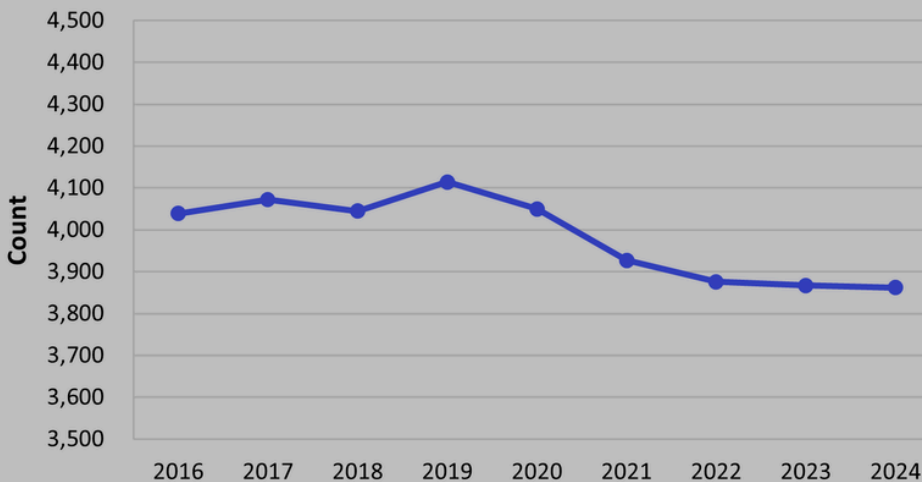


The City of Urbana plants, prunes, and removes street trees in the right of ways. At over 14,000 trees, this represents a significant collection of urban infrastructure assets that increase property values, shade pedestrians and buildings in the summer, remove pollution from the air, and add beauty to the community.

Percent of Tree Species Over Time



Vacant Tree Sites



All street tree metrics continue to trend in the right direction as the City works to increase tree diversity and plant more of available sites.