

Iowa City Climate Action Commission Agenda

Monday, May 3, 2021, 3:30 – 5:00 p.m.

Electronic Meeting, Zoom Platform

Electronic Meeting

(Pursuant to Iowa Code section 21.8)

An electronic meeting is being held because a meeting in person is impossible or impractical due to concerns for the health and safety of Commission members, staff and the public presented by COVID-19.

You can participate in the meeting and can comment on an agenda item by going to <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJApceirrjguE9fNFynBowKah7pNiXlvx4aX> via the internet to visit the Zoom meeting's registration page and submit the required information.

Once approved, you will receive an email message with a link to join the meeting. If you are asked for a meeting or webinar ID, enter the ID number found in the email. A meeting password may also be included in the email. Enter the password when prompted.

If you have no computer or smartphone, or a computer without a microphone, you may call in by telephone by dialing (312) 626-6799. When prompted, enter the meeting or webinar ID. The ID number for this meeting is: 944 6130 3493.

Once connected, you may dial *9 to "raise your hand," letting the meeting host know you would like to speak. Providing comments in person is not an option.

Meeting Agenda:

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Approval of April 5, 2021 minutes
4. Public Comment of items not on the Agenda
-Commentators shall address the Commission for no more than 3 minutes. Commissioners shall not engage in discussion with the public concerning said items.
5. Staff Announcements
 - a. Action items from last meeting
 - b. Updated Action Plan report (see attachment)
 - c. Discussion of transition back to in person meetings
6. Old Business:
 - a. Finalized letter to City Council on the Methane Feasibility Study
7. New Business:
 - a. Discussion and recommendations on residential incentive programs for energy efficiency
 - b. Discussion of retaining public buildings as related to the Climate Action Plan and goals
 - c. Updates on working groups (see reports in agenda packet)
 - i. Buildings (Krieger, Soglin, Grimm)
 - ii. Outreach (Krieger, Fraser, Holbrook, Bradley)
 - iii. Equity (Tate, Hutchinson, Hill)
 - iv. Adaptation (Bradley, Leckband, Giannakouros)
8. Recap of actionable items for commission, working groups, and staff
9. Adjourn

If you will need disability-related accommodations in order to participate in this meeting, please contact Sarah Gardner, Climate Action Engagement Specialist, at 319-887-6162 or at sarah-gardner@iowa-city.org. Early requests are strongly encouraged to allow sufficient time to meet your access needs.

MINUTES

PRELIMINARY

IOWA CITY CLIMATE ACTION COMMISSION
FORMAL MEETING

APRIL 5, 2021 – 3:30 PM –

Electronic Meeting

(Pursuant to Iowa Code section 21.8)

An electronic meeting is being held because a meeting in person is impossible or impractical due to concerns for the health and safety of Commission members, staff and the public presented by COVID-19.

ELECTRONIC MEETING

MEMBERS PRESENT: Madeleine Bradley, Stratis Giannakouros, Megan Hill, Kasey Hutchinson, Matt Krieger, Jesse Leckband, Becky Soglin

MEMBERS ABSENT: Ben Grimm, Grace Holbrook, John Fraser, Eric Tate

STAFF PRESENT: Sarah Gardner, Ashley Monroe, Mohsen Vahidzadeh

OTHERS PRESENT: Ayman Sharif

CALL TO ORDER:

Giannakouros called the meeting to order.

APPROVAL OF MARCH 1, 2021 MINUTES:

Krieger moved to approve the minutes from March 1, 2021.

Soglin seconded the motion, a vote was taken and the motion passed 7-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT OF ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA:

Ayman Sharif asked to address the City's public buildings. He noted that the School Board decided Roosevelt Elementary be sold to a developer rather than staying with the community after hot debate. Sharif felt this decision makes it harder for the climate action committee to reinvest in these buildings. He stated this building is very important to save, specifically for the historic characteristic of the building and the climate action need for this. Sharif's ask to the

School Board to save the building failed, though there were a lot of people from the community who also called to save the building. He asked the school district to delay the sale for cost/benefit analysis that includes the social and environmental costs/benefits. That did not happen, and the building was sold. Sharif asked this Commission to hold onto these types of buildings (which are scarce) or find a way to at least to delay losing similar buildings that can benefit from climate action.

Giannakouros said he was unfamiliar with this event but thought they could look into it and have some discussion at the May meeting.

STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Action Items from last meeting: Gardner said at the last meeting they discussed having staff members join the working group meetings to go over the updates to the Accelerated Actions work plan. She sat in on the Equity, Adaptation, and Outreach Working Groups, and they postponed joining the Buildings Working Group until next month when both she and Vahidzadeh will be able to attend.

Fraser and Giannakouros also said at the last meeting they would draft a letter reflecting the Commission's decision about the Methane Feasibility Study. This letter could be passed along to City Council. A draft of that letter was included in the agenda packet to be discussed later in the meeting.

Gardner also agreed to follow up with Hutchinson and Giannakouros on the climate action grants, as they had graciously volunteered to help score them. They had that first meeting about scoring today. There are 25 grant applications to review.

Staff asked at the previous meeting that any working group that would like to have their minutes included in the agenda packet submit them by March 26. Gardner received minutes from the Outreach Working Group and the Buildings Working Group, both of which were included in the agenda packet.

The last meeting ended with Giannakouros reminding everyone that Dr. Robert Bullard was going to be speaking at the University of Iowa. He invited anyone who was interested to attend that virtual lecture to do so.

Climate Action and Outreach office updates: Gardner began with an update on the TIF-funded climate action incentive program, which is underway and has received 10 applications so far. They are connecting applicants with MidAmerican Energy to identify additional energy efficiency projects and rebate information. The first project is one submitted by Procter and Gamble to replace an old, inefficient air compressor on one of their manufacturing lines. They sent interesting energy data about the air compressor. This proposal will be brought before City Council this month for approval.

Gardner said work is continuing on the Earth Day Neighborhood Energy Blitz, with a door-to-door campaign taking place on April 24. On April 25 they are partnering with the Neighborhood Association to have a booth to allow anyone who didn't receive a kit at their doorstep to pick one

up. The supplies for the kits have been ordered and the print materials are in production. They translated all the print material into four additional languages. Kit assembly will begin on Friday. They haven't had quite as many volunteers sign up as initially anticipated. However, they have a plan B where they will take the number of volunteers and assign them to some of the zones that they've identified to drop off kits in the neighborhood. If there are any zones that they can't reach because they don't have enough volunteers, the Green Iowa AmeriCorps team will deliver the kits in the remaining zones during the week following.

Regarding the marketing RFP, Gardner reported they have finalized the contract and work is underway. It was awarded to a firm named Cause Impact (referred to in the original bid as Balanced Approach). Staff had an initial meeting with them to refine the project scope. They have been having ongoing meetings every other week since then to go over all the City marketing material and to talk about goals for the project. It is proceeding fairly quickly; at the last meeting Cause Impact suggested that they may be able to have a presentation ready on the benefits and barrier analysis by the June meeting for the Commission. Staff has been working with them to identify key community-based organizations to connect with to help identify the key barriers and benefits for priority actions.

For the energy efficiency building projects, Gardner noted at the last meeting they discussed a rehab project that was proposed for a duplex on Taylor Drive that is now well underway. The project has two parts. One half of the duplex suffered a house fire, so they are doing energy efficiency interventions from the studs up on that half, including adding insulation and putting in energy efficient windows and appliances. On the other half of the duplex they won't be adding insulation in the walls the same way, but they will be focusing a lot on the energy efficient appliances. Both sides of the duplex will have solar panels installed. The City is also partnering with Backyard Abundance to do a landscaping project in the front of the house. Gardner noted the whole goal of the differing approaches on either half of the duplex is to present a range of options, and to convey that to pursue energy efficiency residents don't have to do all of these things at once; they can do some now, and some later.

Gardner previously mentioned that the City is partnering with Parade of Homes to identify a project that showcases energy efficiency interventions. They have selected a builder called Elevation Homebuilders. This builder has a number of interventions planned for the property, including dead zone HVAC, smart switches and thermostat, 100% LED lighting throughout the house, E-V charging preparation, and a process called AeroBarrier sealing, which involves pressurizing a home and disbursing insulating material throughout the house to seal up cracks.

Regarding the climate action grants, Gardner stated they received 25 applications this year and staff are starting to review through them. They hope to finish scoring the grants within the next two weeks and make determinations from there. They have extended the application period for school groups so that students can submit applications for the coming month. Staff extended that so they can focus more on providing some assistance to school groups who would like to apply or students who would like to do that work and therefore they are not competing in the same pool of applicants as the other larger grant requests that came in from businesses and organizations.

Gardner noted the City has signed up to co-host the first virtual power hour this month with Grow Solar Linn in Johnson County. One of the City's Climate Ambassadors signed on as a presenter of some of the future solar power hours.

Concerning the EV Readiness, Gardner said this month Iowa City and the partner communities have been individually going through all the information that was gathered during the stakeholder engagement activity. They have been identifying which actions they believe they can implement within the short term, medium term and long term for their communities. That project also will be wrapping up in the next few months with an anticipated draft report to come out in May.

The carbon sequestration project that staff have been working on is also winding down. The tool is in the final stages of development and they'll convene to share the tool with other sustainability programs throughout the Heartland Regional Network. They have identified a capstone project as part of that grant to plant trees in Court Hill Park and along Normandy Drive to replace trees that were damaged by the Derecho or by Emerald Ash Borer.

Next, Vahidzadeh said staff keep track of greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory every year. He has started the process for 2020 and is gathering data from many different departments. Then, he'll go through all of the data and see how successful they've been in terms of reaching the goals of reducing GHG emissions. Vahidzadeh noted that not all data will be available, and some of it needs to be validated. For example, both MidAmerican and the DOT need to validate their data in terms of vehicle miles traveled, which might take a while. Vahidzadeh stated they have also been keeping track of operations of different City-owned facilities in terms of water usage and energy usage to see if the measures that they've taken such as using LED lighting have resulted in any improvement. They have a tool at the City where they can keep track of all the bills, both energy and water, and see how effective the measures are in terms of reducing energy and water usage. He noted Climate Action staff also have meetings with City staff in other departments to encourage measures to reduce GHG emissions from City operations. Vahidzadeh noted that after analysis of GHG inventory for the calendar year of 2020, they'll use the analysis in the report that they submit every two years to be compliant with the requirements for the Global Covenant of Mayors. This is a major report that will be submitted in the fall.

Gardner noted a few remaining items that are ongoing projects. In recent months there has been ongoing discussion about the equity report worked on by the City's Equity Fellow last year. They are in the final stages of condensing it into a more usable form. Staff anticipates bringing that draft to the Equity Working Group this month and including it in next month's agenda packet for the Commission to review.

Gardner reported the City has a new part-time Communications Assistant, Olivia Parrott, who's been helping with the most recent sustainability newsletter. She also has been putting together some materials to go out for the Energy Blitz.

Gardner said the next smart series presentation with the Iowa City Chamber Business Partnership is May 11 and will discuss LED lighting. The focus of the presentation is not only on the energy savings in terms of the lighting uses itself, but also the beneficial impacts LED can have on heating and cooling costs.

Recruitment is underway with Green Iowa AmeriCorps for members who will be joining in the fall. There will be three summer members who've signed on and will be starting on May 17 to help with projects through the summer. Gardner explained AmeriCorps members each have a certain number of hours to fill according to their contracts. Once those hours are filled, they are

done. Those who have been members since last fall tend to complete the program at different times, and the summer members help bridge the gap until the fall team starts.

Gardner reported the second cohort of Climate Ambassadors just completed their training last week. The Commission looks forward to meeting with them in the future at volunteer events.

Krieger asked the completion time for the rehab program. Gardner said it is supposed to be completed May 31. Krieger suggested there be a specific outreach plan associated with it for how information about the project is spread. Gardner responded they are looking at typical channels. They had initially discussed putting together a website that would focus on it as it was making progress, but the progress moved so quickly. That, combined with the fact that the City is looking to change its web hosting platform and not add web pages, curtailed that a bit. They have been documenting the process with the hopes of developing some outreach strategies around the project going forward. Krieger noted the highly-viewed Climate Fest video last year, and suggest there be something similar for Climate Fest 2021.

Krieger also said he is really excited about the Energy Blitz project. This is because it fulfills a Commission goal to make dramatic change across the community directly and campaign-style. Krieger stated it could be a nice pilot to test how that type of activity works. He is really interested to see the results.

Giannakouros said he is really interested to see the upcoming report on City emissions because this is an unprecedented experiment in terms of how the pandemic changed behaviors. He noted that it is going to be interesting to see in what ways the data did or didn't move due to the way behavioral patterns have changed over the past year. He thinks that carbon machines just keep eating carbon no matter what. So, they need to change the architecture of the system - and behavior is a small part of that. He's interested to see how the City emissions data plays out.

Gardner mentioned an article that came out last week in Midwest Energy News reporting Ann Arbor, Michigan, is getting ready to do something very similar to Iowa City's Energy Blitz. Ann Arbor is delivering kits to 200 homes, so she feels quite good about Iowa City's 1,300-home initiative.

OLD BUSINESS:

Review draft letter to the City Council on the Methane Feasibility Study: Giannakouros said he and Fraser put together a rough letter. They tried to keep it concise and wanted the Commission to look at it and comment. Their goal was to say that the study of itself was important, regardless of whether the City takes action or not, because it gives a great benchmarking baseline for anything else the City does climate-related in terms of investment. It can be benchmarked against the cost and reductions in this study for facilities, and it also tells a little bit about the water facility and the landfill going forward. Giannakouros noted that, as discussed, the Commission is not going to move forward at this time with any sort of recommendation to make investments, but that they appreciate the project.

Krieger thanked Giannakouros and Fraser for drafting this. He noted it sounds like there was discussion that the Commission didn't want to provide any sort of detailed reasoning why not to provide the recommendation and to just keep it simple.

Giannakouros confirmed that if Council wants more information as to why the Commission came to the determination, they could do that. However, for the Commission to talk about the ROI and different scenarios in any length and with expertise in a letter like this would probably be more of a technical undertaking. That was their opinion -- if other Commissioners want to go into more detail, they can definitely put more detail in the letter.

Krieger agreed with this approach at this time. He said that if more is requested, they could provide it at that point.

Giannakouros suggested they add a sentence that invites asking the Commission for more information. They could also leave it as is and assume that they have pre-formed questions.

Soglin stated she would appreciate one sentence being added. When she read through it, she felt they were making a big recommendation as the report was quite thorough. So, they need to have a good reason for telling the City not to pursue any of the scenarios. Soglin reviewed the minutes to see if there were certain brief sentences that might provide some explanation quickly, but also would be fine with at least a sentence being added saying the Commission would be willing to offer more explanation if requested. Her reasoning was that it was such a detailed study and staff and the consultants took so much time to meet with the Commission.

Giannakouros stated he was happy to make that modification, as it would be a way of showing their willingness and engagement with this issue and provide a more detailed explanation for the reasoning if requested.

Giannakouros made a motion to edit the letter within the parameters that Soglin suggested and then send this letter to City Council.

Leckband seconded the motion.

A vote was taken and the motion passed 7-0.

NEW BUSINESS:

Update on Working Groups:

Buildings: Soglin stated they had thought they might be drafting a memo related to the TIF policy and the sustainability paragraph in that policy. The topic was about whether LEED renovation would be covered as part of the TIF policy, but Wendy Ford talked with them about, and the issue is far more complicated. At this time any memo is just on is on hold. However, the Building Group needs to talk about it again. They will be meeting with Gardner on Friday.

Outreach: Krieger stated the working group meeting notes that were included in the agenda packet were just discussions around the items that Gardner provided an update on today. However, she went into more depth on how the Ambassador Program is doing--it's great to hear that's been so successful so far. He just wanted to note applications right now are open for the third cohort. Additionally, it was good to hear updates on the climate action grants. Krieger

noted the Working Group is going to start reviewing all the climate actions and bring forward a few items from each member of the working group to look at in more detail.

Equity: Hutchinson noted they had been stuck in a rut and spinning their wheels on the same topics consistently. But this last meeting was really a kickstart thanks to Gardner who got them back on track. They too are going to be reviewing the actions and bringing forward three items to really put their focus on this year. Hill will also be joining the Equity Working Group.

Adaptation: Bradley talked about how they wanted to define adaptation within the group and decided that they wanted to make sure the quality-of-life perspective was included in their definition. They talked about who they might want to potentially reach out to from the community and outlined some goals for the rest of the meetings.

Giannakouros noted there's a lot of things in adaptation that end up overlapping with the work of other groups such as buildings, for example just reducing the energy footprint of buildings. But adaptation is not just a technical challenge to physically adapt, but also thinking about socially how they envision a different future. So, adaptation can be seen as responding to climatic changes in a way that preserves their way of life-- making quality of life better regardless of coming climate disturbances. He believes that part of that is thinking about ways to have healthy, walkable, livable cities that are attractive and that people want to live in. When changing infrastructure and changing systems, they need to have an eye towards not just responding to high-degree days, or flood events, but responding to the opportunity for Iowa City to re-envision the spaces people live in. To reach that goal requires hearing different voices from people who are technically sound and understanding how to deal with increased stormwater, how to create shade cover for hot days, or will there be more derechos. They need to think about ideally what would a community that they live in would look like. If they can get there in this group, this group can complement things that are going on in buildings and other groups already.

Gardner added at that meeting they also talked about reaching out to Ursula Farrier, who had done some work as a graduate student at the University of Iowa analyzing potential existing structures that could serve as resilience hubs in the future, or as shelters in the case of emergency. She has agreed to make a presentation at the next meeting. So, they'll be kick starting the efforts by listening to her presentation and asking some questions.

RECAP OF ACTIONABLE ITEMS FOR COMMISSION, WORKING GROUPS, AND STAFF:

Gardner stated they will be adding a sentence to the letter going to City Council, offering a more detailed explanation if requested regarding the methane feasibility study.

At the beginning of the meeting Ayman Sharif offered some comments on retaining public buildings and how that might relate to climate action. It was suggested the topic be discussed in the working groups and then discussed at the next meeting.

Gardner reminded all working groups that if they would like to have their minutes included in the next agenda packet, please get them to her by April 23.

Giannakouros agreed it would be nice to have something on the agenda next month regarding a

broader discussion of the public buildings and their relation to climate action.

Giannakouros also stated the UI is inviting Ayana Johnson to lecture. She's an ocean biologist who helps species conservation, but in a way that helps communities that are usually left aside or are disproportionately impacted by these issues, and don't have an economic voice, especially when they're not engaged with an ocean directly. She is going to be someone that that the Climate Commission might be interested in seeing.

Gardner added that they use Dr. Ayana Johnson's work as a cohost of a podcast called *How to Save a Planet* in the Climate Ambassador training. She said hands-down, it is the most well-received information. So, several Climate Ambassadors are really quite excited to listen into that lecture.

Krieger noted since there's not a lot of in-person events happening quite yet, there's still a lot of virtual things happening for Earth month which are posted on the City website. Hill is working on Earth Fest which starts April 11.

Giannakouros stated they can send anything his way and he can help advertise events on campus.

ADJOURNMENT:

Krieger made a motion to adjourn.

Hill seconded the motion.

A vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

CLIMATE ACTION COMMISSION ATTENDANCE RECORD 2021

NAME	TERM EXP.	1/4/2021	2/1/2021	3/1/2021	4/5/2021	5/3/2021	6/7/2021	7/5/2021	8/2/2021	9/6/2021		11/1/2021	12/6/2021
Madeleine Bradley	12/31/2022	x	x	x	X								
John Fraser	12/31/2020	x	x	x	O/E								
Stratis Giannakouros	UI Rep	x	O/E	x	X								
Megan Hill	12/31/2022	x	x	O/E	X								

Climate Action Commission

April 5, 2021

Page 9 of 9

Grace Holbrook	12/31/2021	O/E	O/E	O/E	O/E								
Kasey Hutchinson	12/31/2022	x	x	x	X								
Matt Krieger	12/31/2020	x	x	x	X								
Jesse Leckband	MidAmerican Rep	O/E	x	x	X								
Becky Soglin	12/31/2022	x	x	x	X								
Eric Tate	12/31/2021	x	O/E	O/E	O/E								
Ben Grimm	10/31/2022	x	x	x	O/E								

KEY:

X = Present

O = Absent

O/E = Absent/Excused

NM = No

Meeting

-- -- = Not a Member

Progress update on "Accelerating Iowa City's Climate Actions" as of 4-28-21

Note 1: Many actions initiated in 2020 have continuing activities. There is an expectation that the actions will continue to develop over time, as they become integrated throughout City and community operations.

Note 2: Phases indicate anticipated year of project start		Phase 1 (2020)	Phase 2 (2021-23)	Phase 3 (2024-25)	Find companion "Accelerating Iowa City Climate Actions" Report at	www.icgov.org/climateaction		
Action		Phase	Plan Alignment	Time to Initiate	Workplan	Equity Focus	Status	Commission Notes
Buildings								
BE-1	Promote Energy Efficiency and Performance Tips to the Public	1	1.1 – 1.2, 1.6	Jun-20	Initiate planning and needs assessment. Identify resources, contacts, and content. Assess web access and source development, method of dissemination. Support eventual actions with strategy from communications plan (Action 5.1 - EDU). Agreement with Cause Impact as consultant in effect and underway.Objectives identified include emphasis on concrete action residents can take to improve energy efficiency and to move towards electrification of household energy use. Staff discussions with community groups are positive and developing ideas. Promotion of programmable thermostats went out in fall. Additional promotion planning underway.	Imperative. Review of equity report and assistance from EHR staff essential. Commission and Working Group recommendations and feedback needed.	In Development	Discuss plans for educating and engaging residents and business; recommendations and program ideas welcome
BE-2	Partner with Stakeholders to Promote Green Building and Rehabilitation	1	1.1-1.4	Jun-20	Started introduction to organizations, several more meetings and expansion of contacts necessary. Met with City development staff and Home Builders Association. Plan to engage small group of stakeholders to discuss barriers and interest in pursuing green build strategies to create new alliances/education opportunities. *New* Initial stakeholder meeting held with HBA, program options in development. Support more actions with strategy from eventual communications plan (Action 5.1 - EDU).	Use equity report to ensure stakeholders from impacted groups are represented, and feedback is shared with development community, landlords, and builders. Staff is continuing work on an equity outreach plan that involves community-based organizations that may provide valuable insights on needs, benefits, and barriers. Commission and Working Group recommendations and feedback needed.	Underway	Discuss plans for educating and engaging residents and business; recommendations and program ideas welcome
BE-3	Encourage the Local Realtor Community to Include Energy Performance in the Multiple Listing Services (MLS) Property Inventory	1	1.1 & 1.6	May-20	Staff met with local realtors from ICAAR about housing trends and potential for education and cooperation on energy efficiency and projects benefitting residential properties. ICAAR and City exploring example programs and will plan to meet again in 2021. In the iterim, City staff is finishing a compilation of information about assistance programs, many of which enhance climate action initiatives. ICAAR is supportive of sharing these programs with the community. ICAAR shared that several initiatives supporting sustainability measures are in development. Staff has conceptualized new ideas for partnering with ICAAR but has not yet discussed.	Benefits for informed buying/selling, may need incentive assistance later on, if concentration of activity falls within only a few neighborhoods or stakeholder interest lacking. Education for all residents and renters about housing with energy efficiency and indoor air quality speaks to equity concerns. Commission and Working Group recommendations and feedback needed.	Underway	

Action		Phase	Plan Alignment	Time to Initiate	Workplan	Equity Focus	Status	Commission Notes
Buildings								
BI-1	Offer Free Home Energy Assessments through Green Iowa AmeriCorps	1	1.1	Sep-20	Energy Assessments with the Green Iowa AmeriCorps team look slightly different this year but still are included in their responsibilities. Supplemental weatherization kits available through GIA, available to IC residents have been shared with many households this fall. Exploring non-AmeriCorps group to perform other weatherization services.	AmeriCorps is focused on certain groups - seniors, low income, veterans. Not sure how they track or report these demographics. Education delivery and equipment installation/provision alternatives probably needed in short term. Development of a mapped GIS inventory of energy efficiency assessments and investments is underway.	Underway	
BI-2	Enhance Energy Standards for City Rehabilitation Projects	2	1.1	Jun-21	Received updated report from NDS on current activity and efforts. Staff currently exploring alternatives for rehab projects and ability for City to support incentives or supplemented energy efficient equipment if homeowners cannot/won't pay the difference to upgrade. Have met with local HVAC providers & builders to identify key issues and ideal projects. Proposal still in development; will bring to Commission and community stakeholders for feedback and further guidance. Education components also necessary - communications strategy outcomes. GIS equity mapping underway; will bring mapping tool and toolkit info to Commission for review.	Assisted households currently meet federal income requirements. Establish a mapped GIS inventory of energy efficiency assessments and investments. Ensure access to energy efficiency and other sustainable design elements in each project through education and engagement. Adding GreenIowa AmeriCorps energy assessment property addresses to GIS Equity Map, to further gauge possible geographic or demographic gaps in program services and outcomes.	Underway	Await staff proposal for enhancing Energy standards for City rehabilitation projects
BI-3	Coordinate Neighborhood Energy Blitz Events	1	1.1	Fall 2020	City launched first Energy Blitz around Earth Day with about 50 volunteers, connected the event to coordinated efforts with the South District Neighborhood Association. Positive feedback, lessons learned will be applied to next energy blitz event, possibly later in 2021.	Assess equity report to determine any areas of focus. NDS can assist with housing/permit data that can help focus on neighborhoods with less efficient housing stock. Outreach to underserved groups may spur interest in blitz programs or projects. Working Group recommendations and feedback needed. GIS equity mapping in progress.	Underway	Provide feedback on past Neighborhood Energy Blitz Program (April 2021)

Action		Phase	Plan Alignment	Time to Initiate	Workplan	Equity Focus	Status	Commission Notes
Buildings								
BI-4	Launch a TIF-funded climate action incentive program aimed at reducing industrial energy consumption	1	1.2 & 5.4	May-20	In August 2020, Council finalized approved establishing and approving Urban Renewal Areas at Heinz, Sycamore, and Scott Six and approved changes to downtown URA in Sept. 2020. Staff is engaged with businesses in these areas and is processing multiple applications for funding assistance in remaining years of the TIF agreement. Staff met to finalize requirements for downtown TIF program, focused on occupants of smaller commercial spaces.	Downtown program considers ability of businesses to get funding through other sources and existing city grants, to help prevent potential gaps in assistance availability.	Underway	
BI-5	Develop or Partner with Local Stakeholders on a Comprehensive Climate Action Rehabilitation Program	1	1.1 – 1.4	Jul-20	As discussions with community organizations progress, new ideas for how to accomplish this task are being generated. Commission will need to weigh in on neighborhood pilot program/s which are in conceptual development. Explore RFQ for external partner/s to implement a program. Significant interest in supporting youth or young adult skills training program. GIA crew conducted first in-home energy assessments in late October but held off on indoor visits from November through the end of the year. Instead, they have delivered energy saver kits for residents to install themselves for over 160 households. Planning for this item continues into 2021 - reconnecting with community partners in June.	Approach to populations served critical. Commission and Working Group recommendations and feedback needed for further development.	In Development	Recommendations needed to develop comprehensive energy efficiency building rehab programs, identify best practices, suggest example programs, assist with equity efforts
BI-6	Consider a Building Permit Fee Rebate Program for Enhanced Energy Standards	2	1.3	Feb-21	Discussion with NDS, identify requirements, potential costs, and offset. Present to local stakeholders and Commission for feedback. *New* Initial stakeholder meeting held with HBA, program options in development.	Understanding that locally, incremental home "price creep" tends to price homebuyers out for every \$1,000 more, we need to keep inflation of housing costs to a minimum and ensure that the program does not add costs. Geographic review could also ensure that program is applied somewhat evenly through all areas of new development/redevelopment.	In Development	As work progresses, will require Commission feedback and recommendations
BI-7	Initiate a Net-Zero House Design Competition	2	1.3	Aug-21	Have determined that competition should include student and professional categories but needs further shaping. Potential for resulting designs to be functionally built. Modification of this program includes a category for retrofit/remodel at lower energy savings.	Potential for outcome of contest to be constructed by the City with income-requirements for homeownership. Modified competition categories could define different pricing models and occupant populations. Working group can provide suggestions and feedback.	In Development	As work progresses, will require Commission feedback and recommendations

Action		Phase	Plan Alignment	Time to Initiate	Workplan	Equity Focus	Status	Commission Notes
Buildings								
BI-8	Complete a Net-Zero Demonstration Rehabilitation Project	2	1.1 & 1.4	Mar-21	Budgeted FY22 funds for preliminary or complete rehabilitation/construction. Although initial project is not identified as true net-zero, goal is to provide two levels of investment by residential property owners, complete with data collection and analysis. Significant rehabilitation planned for one unit, and moderate rehabilitation for another. Project began construction in early 2021, completion by summer 2021; will be in June Remodeler showcase.	Equity will be required in review of the project placement, occupants, and local impacts. Demonstration project engages local students as an educational and skill-building opportunity.	Underway	As work progresses, will require Commission feedback and recommendations
BI-9	Launch an Electrification Incentive Program	2	1.1-1.2 & 1.4	May-21	Starting with a few rental induction stovetop appliances to begin to introduce residents to non-natural gas technology. Development of a rebate program in early part of the year will require research and stakeholder feedback. *New* Initial stakeholder meeting held with HBA, program options in development, brought to Commission at May 2021 meeting for discussion.	Explore opportunities for multi-family properties. Working group and stakeholder feedback helpful.	In Development	As work progresses, will require Commission feedback and recommendations
BR-1	Create a More Robust Energy Code Inspection Program	1	1.1 -1.2	Jun-20	Additional inspector budgeted in FY21, on hold. Met with NDS staff in September to review items staff will be looking at and addressing through compliance checks, such as pre-drywall conditons, R and U values of walls and windows. Altered inspections program and initial education about necessary inspections planned for initiation shortly after additional inspector hired.	Commission/Working Groups should assist with how they would like to measure equity and what should be reported to show progress.	Underway	Define how City should measure equity in housing inspection program
BR-2	Incorporate Stricter Energy Standards into Tax Increment Financing Policies	1	1.3 – 1.4	Aug-20	While codifying these efforts is not fully in motion due to existing project load, staff continues to encourage and require actions informally through the development process. Elements of recent development approvals require energy efficiency measures, including LEED Silver standard build (minimum of 8 points from energy category), rooftop solar, low flow fixtures, and incorporated stormwater improvements. These measures will be administrative components of the process until these measures or enhancements are amended into Code.	Greater equity can be achieved through a geographic distribution of benefits. Education and advocacy could benefit populations impacted and served by policy implementation.	In Development	Participate in stakeholder review or provide commentary to Council
BR-3	Incorporate Strict Energy Standards into Height and Density Bonuses	2	1.3 – 1.4	2022	At this time, NDS is working on an update to the Riverfront Crossings District Code, in which the height and density bonuses apply more frequently than other zoning districts. Application of the height bonus provision is discretionary and staff has been instructed to require energy efficiency measures as a category for height bonuses. These provisions closely mirror the existing TIF standards. Recent projects that have come before Council and upcoming projects are incorporating these provisions and the City will continue this until the Code is amended. (See BR-2)		Not Started	As work progresses, will require Commission feedback and recommendations

Action		Phase	Plan Alignment	Time to Initiate	Workplan	Equity Focus	Status	Commission Notes
Buildings								
BR-4	Initiate Energy Benchmarking Requirements	2	1.6	2022	Research. Consideration of current laws, existing programs in and out of Iowa needed before application of this type of regulation.		Not Started	As work progresses, will require Commission feedback and recommendations
BR-5	Develop Climate Action Requirements for all Existing and Future Rental Permits	2	1.1 & 1.7	Jun-21	Discussions with NDS and stakeholders, including property owners, landlords, realtors, renters, and development community.	Renters should be impacted as little as possible while receiving benefits of any improvements made to comply with a proposed program.	Not Started	As work progresses, will require Commission feedback and recommendations
BCP-1	Advocate for State Adoption of Advanced Energy Codes	1	1.1 – 1.4	May-20	The spring 2020 meeting was delayed by COVID, with hopes to reconvene later in the year. We do not have confirmation that a meeting was held. City Council legislative priorities included this, noting that although approval is administrative, assistance and support from Iowa policymakers will help.	Could support these efforts with help from education and advocacy from underserved groups that directly benefit from housing improvements. Staff reached out to several aligned groups in September but did not hear back. Discussions may need to take place when equity planning/outreach is further along.	Underway	
BCP-2	Advocate for Aggressive Energy Code Development and Adoption	1	1.1 – 1.4	May-20	Eligible staff voted for adoption of new IECC codes in 2020. City Council legislative priorities included this, with a request for the State of Iowa to develop an energy plan or update that will address climate actions. *New* Early discussion with local development community on potential for voluntary elevation of energy efficient building standards.	Could support these efforts with help from education and advocacy from underserved groups that directly benefit from housing improvements. Staff reached out to several aligned groups in September but did not hear back. Discussions may need to take place when equity planning/outreach is further along.	Underway	
BP-1	Solar Partnership with MidAmerican	1	1.5	Apr-20	Brought forward one project to City Council in April 2020 and was not approved. Assessing opportunities as locations or chances present themselves. Since Oct. report, City and Commission moved ahead with JCED partnership proposal to create a solar feasibility study for Iowa City to plan for potential solar sites and engage community in conceptual conversations. Mapping, technical information gathering, and work plan development has started with a community-led committee of stakeholders. Anticipated study completion in July 2021.	Elements of the JCED solar feasibility study include equity measures, engagement efforts, and actionable measures to go forward with concepts for solar infrastructure and placement. *New* Survey planned for release in late April/early May to define community sentiment and barriers/benefits.	Underway	Upon completion of JCED study project, Commission may choose to offer additional feedback and recommendations
BP-2	Net-Zero Public Housing	2	1.1 & 1.7	Jan-22	Must determine where this project would take place or be retrofitted. Discussions underway at a staff level to identify possible location.		Not Started	

Action		Phase	Plan Alignment	Time to Initiate	Workplan	Equity Focus	Status	Commission Notes
Transportation								
TE-1	Significant Transportation Education and Outreach Campaigns	1	2.3	Aug-20	The Climate Ambassador program included segments about transportation. Must continue to identify how we will engage all residents. A significant portion of this effort will come from a combination of the developing climate action communications strategy and coordination of marketing by the Transportation Services Department. Transportation reporting metrics are defined.	Review equity Report to identify groups and locations to focus attention. Explore language translations. Components of public messaging to be part of upcoming development of Communications Strategy. Commission and Working Group recommendations and feedback needed.	Underway	Commission may want to contribute ideas and suggestions for initiatives, partnerships, and outreach
TE-2	Launch an Eco-Driving Campaign Alongside Employers	3	2.5	Jul-21	Grants planned for employer installation of EV charging ports. Paired with an informational campaign and car-free week. Education campaigns must be coordinated with employers. Post-pandemic expand to shared driving or transit campaign.		In Development	
TI-1	Incentivize Public Transit Options	2	2.2	Sep-21	Coincide any education with Transportation Services rollout and preparation for system changes. Can accompany passes for riders, celebrations/thank you's to dedicated riders, and supplement transit facility or stop improvements.	Community feedback may be gained during outreach stage of Communications Strategy development.	Not Started	Commission may choose to provide recommendations, work on this as a project, or suggest example programs from outside Iowa City
TR-1	Review Parking Regulations and Consider Innovative Ways to Encourage Alternative Modes of Travel	2	2.6	Fall 2021	Start with NDS review. Some issues may be identified during the development of the updated affordable housing action plan, starting 2021.	Considerations include pricing models, transit alternatives, physical access to housing and work, last mile options.	Not Started	
TCP-1	Establish an Electric and Fuel-Efficient Vehicle Purchasing Policy	1	2.2	May-20	Written policy completed in Sept. New text includes preference for EVs, describes process by which new vehicle purchases are considered and directs purchase when multiple factors determine EV appropriate option and available for needs. Included in Nov 2020 CAC agenda for reference. *New* Four electric buses on order for delivery in fall 2021.	Although every vehicle the City purchases cannot be EV at this time, continually increasing the presence of non-emitting vehicles creates a healthier air quality as City vehicles move about and provide services in the community.	Complete	Monitor as desired

Action		Phase	Plan Alignment	Time to Initiate	Workplan	Equity Focus	Status	Commission Notes
Transportation								
TCP-2	Track Adherence to City Idling Policy	1	2.7	May-20	AVL equipment provides idling data. 37 vehicles currently have the technology and another AVL for another 60 will be ordered in FY2021. Reformatting reports to make it easier to read for improved use and analysis. Staff will compile data and CAO will assist with reporting. Transportation Working Group needs to define and clarify their recommendation before staff can pursue exploration of technology.		Underway	Monitor as desired
TPP-1	Complete the Transit Study and Implement Recommendations to Bolster Service and Increase Ridership	1	2.1	Ongoing	Completed study in early fall 2020; was somewhat delayed from Covid-19. Presentation of proposed measures went to City Council for initial discussion on October 6, 2020. Interest in moving forward with recommended system route changes, more information coming for consideration of service expansions and rate changes. Primary implementation of recommendations beginning in late summer 2021. Information booth held last week of April at interchange, along with additional open house and marketing information shared in spring 2021.	Dependent upon study recommendations and selected actions for implementation. Goal is to serve residents most needing transit service. Components of public messaging to be part of upcoming development of Communications Strategy. Commission and Working Group recommendations needed.	Underway	May want to provide feedback on proposed Transit system recommendations and planned system changes
TPP-2	Complete Electric Vehicle (EV) Readiness Plan and Implement Recommendations	2	2.2	Jul-21	Project is on track. Stakeholder meeting will be held in January and final report should be delivered in summer 2021.	Recommendations to come from Study.	Underway	Based on study results, may offer Commission feedback and recommendations/support
TPP-3	Achieve Gold Friendly Bicycle Friendly Community Status and Begin Work Toward Platinum Status	2	2.3	Aug-21	Bicycle infrastructure continues to be a focus of the City and the network has grown considerably in the last few years. Unfortunately, the pandemic year prevented some of the planned bicycle education and enagement components that are standard for Gold-level Bicycle Friendly Communities and therefore the application was delayed by one year. The City plans to apply for a Gold designation again in August 2021.	Education and access components include equity practices.	Underway	May want to provide suggestions or support for local bicycle initiatives

Action		Phase	Plan Alignment	Time to Initiate	Workplan	Equity Focus	Status	Commission Notes
Waste								
WE-1	Engage the Public to Compost Organic Waste	1	3.2	Jun-20	Resource Management and NDS engaged in composting education. Course materials created for educators Expand opportunities with local businesses. Ties into carbon sequestration project underway. An education unit for Climate Ambassadors focused on waste. *New* direct mailed postcards have been successful, plans to continue. Started a composting collection point at Iowa City Farmer's Market for market-goers and downtown residents that can drop off small amounts of compostable organic materials on Saturdays. Vendors encouraged to use compostable food serviceware, and plan to go 100% zero waste in 22.	Focus is reliant upon meetings with staff, current efforts, working Equity Working Group, equity report, translations services available, and outcomes from Communications strategy.	Underway	Feedback or direction welcome
WE-2	Education Campaigns for Neighborhoods to Reduce Waste/ Consumption at the Source	1	3.3	Jul-20	Staff continues to coordinate efforts with Neighborhood Planner, local schools, and other City staff to share information. Specific messaging about reduced consumption or minimizing waste at the source forthcoming, including Repair Cafes; ideas are welcome. An education unit for Climate Ambassadors focused on waste.	Focus reliant upon meetings with staff, current efforts, working Equity Working Group, equity report, translations services available, and outcomes from Communications strategy.	Underway	Feedback or direction welcome
WR-1	Develop a Policy/Ordinance Requiring Specific Demolition or Deconstruction Recycling Standards/	2	3.4	Feb-21	Although some initial discussions and research have started at a staff level, this initiative requires further discussion. Policy examples and research are needed, as well as exploration of programs that can assist with meeting requirements of recycling and diversion policies.		In Development	Commission may choose to provide recommendations, work on this as a project, or suggest example programs from outside Iowa City
WR-2	Mandating Signage to Assist Waste Collection	2	3.1	Jan-21	Staff continues to field calls from multi-family areas that do not feel they either have access to recycling or are witnessing improper use of waste containers. Many times, this is traced back to a lack of simple signage. Staff applied for a grant (hope to hear back in spring 2021) and is working directly with haulers to get voluntary, uniform labeling on waste and recycling containers. After this effort is made, staff will assess whether any legal requirements will be necessary.	Ensuring signed containers in multi-family properties will help renters with access to recycling, preventing additional trips, and recycling stream contamination. Additional emphasis will be put on language accessibility. Some suggestions may rise from development of Communications Strategy. Often, households move from one rental area to another with different recycling and waste containers, leading to confusion about proper disposal.	Underway	
WCP-1	Require All Park/Public Space Rentals to Recycle and Use "Green" Event Best Practices.	2	3.5	Jun-20	Staff finalized simple agreements for sports organizations renting athletic facilities. Community education needed. Testing results with athletics first but the next step to general facility rental requirements will require community and equity input. Full assessment on sports facilities delayed because of pandemic. Regular field use resuming 2021.	Must assess whether new requirements impact populations differently. Working Group recommendations needed.	Underway	Review new contracts for parks athletics use and provide guidance for general parks rentals, including equity review

Action		Phase	Plan Alignment	Time to Initiate	Workplan	Equity Focus	Status	Commission Notes
Adaptation								
AE-1	Develop Climate Ambassador Team	1	4.2	May-20	Two cohorts are successfully complete and third is beginning in May. Continued, regular engagement with the Ambassadors is planned. A short break in bringing on new classes of Ambassadors is planned over summer, to make sure that Ambassadors have resources needed to stay engaged and support City initiatives.	Development of program includes application process not reliant upon technology to participate. If tech is necessary, funding available to purchase tablets or other device to loan to ambassador participants for training activities. Special attention paid to connection with local groups that can recommend ambassador applicants. Initial cohorts varied in background and experience.	Complete	
AE-2	Establish "Resilience Hubs"	2	4.2	Apr-21	Begin with consultation between public health and community stakeholders. Plan to hold events at these identified resilience hubs to connect them as places for help, security, and comfort for nearby residents. Likely will get feedback during Communications Strategy outreach and development. Climate Action grant awarded to assist with engagement and support for establishing community resilience hubs.	Ideally, the community stakeholders will identify their own preferred resilience hub and this project will include their ideas and feedback, as well as the buy-in from the property itself. Language accessibility, cultural competence, and geographic proximity all play roles in this effort.	In Development	Support efforts to establish resilience hubs through research, meetings, event planning, promotion, etc.
AE-3	Educate and Coordinate with Local Agencies on Health Impacts	2	4.7	May-21	Staff held preliminary meeting with Invest Health partner to identify current needs and to explore co-benefits of climate action projects centered on public health issues. Stakeholder group would serve as connection for further meetings with Johnson County Public Health, University of Iowa, etc. Meeting date yet to be set but stakeholders agree to reconvene this initiative.	Equity reach will become more clear with agency coordination and partnering. Can use equity scale/report to identify starting agency discussions. If full stakeholder meeting held for Invest Health with focus on climate issues, will seek participation from Commission.	Underway	Attend invitation to public health stakeholder meeting (unscheduled); consider guidance about ideal projects, or other partners
AE-4	Concentrated Education Campaign for Private Properties about Native Plantings, Permeable Pavement, Rain	2	4.5	Apr-21	Staff led campaign, will align with developing communications strategy. Budgeted promotional materials and activities. Green Iowa AmeriCorps plan to hold rain barrel program, in addition to their standard educational programs and activities and Parks and Recreation native prairie planting education opportunities. Additionally, City and University staff have discussed crossover native planting education and volunteer opportunities for	Equity involved in rain barrel initiatives, as well as educational opportunities. Geographic analysis required prior to planned activities. BYA designed garden area for City property rehabilitation project, to encourage education and access to edible and pollinator plants.	Underway	Provide feedback and recommendations for existing natural areas and stormwater management programs
AE-5	Coordinated Efforts with Local Emergency Agencies and Utility Agencies Providing Critical Infrastructure	2	4.3-4.4	Mar-21	Discussion must be scheduled for further development of actions. Discussions with utilities ongoing, meetings with EMA have been delayed due to pandemic management.		Not Started	Identify priority issues to be brought up with emergency management - specifically equity concerns

Action		Phase	Plan Alignment	Time to Initiate	Workplan	Equity Focus	Status	Commission Notes
Adaptation								
AI-1	Partner with Project Green on a Tree Planting Partnership; Incentives for Private Tree Planting	1	4.6	Jul-20	Root for Trees tree planting program began in October with high interest and over 250 vouchers requested. This spring, another 250+ vouchers were distributed. Residents are able to use a voucher for a discount on tree purchase from Iowa City nurseries. Low income residents are permitted greater discount for tree purchase. Parks and Recreation Department is managing program and conducted targeted interpersonal and neighborhood outreach. Green Iowa AmeriCorps will assist with planting the purchased trees to ensure they get to homes and in the ground. Connected student group with Project Green on volunteer maintenance project. Staff in discussions with local partner to identify opportunity for a forestry job training pilot, access to transportation an identified challenge.	Commission provided recommendations and feedback on program proposal. Income eligible properties will be permitted a greater discount. City is tracking planting addresses to monitor geographic distribution. Additionally, staff engagement will be focused in areas that have less tree canopy than other parts of town. Engagement will also provide an opportunity to inform about the utility discount program. Program participation is included as a layer in the GIS Equity Map.	Underway	Could restart/initiate discussions with Project Green, Master Gardeners, etc. to plan additional projects
AR-1	Street Tree Ordinance	1	4.6	Aug-20	NDS will draft ordinance. Research started but needed a meeting with stakeholders in fall. Drafting beginning in 2021, based on staff capacity and wrap up of prior projects.	New Ordinance will apply to new developments.	In Development	Identify or provide feedback on priority issues for City to consider in landscaping standards
AR-2	Increase Tree Planting Requirements in Landscaping, Parking Lots, and Upon Renewal of Rental Permits	2	4.6	Fall 2021	Initial research and planning required by NDS.		Not Started	
AP-1	Develop Review Standards for New City Facility Construction and Major Rehabilitation Adaptation	2	5.7	Jan-22	Initial research and planning required by NDS and PW. Supplemented by analysis by Climate Action Analyst. Possible that a City facility construction or improvements could be made earlier than 2022, with sustainable design review and engineering.		Not Started	Provide recommendations for developing review standards for new or improved City buildings
ACP-1	Flood Mitigation and Stormwater Management Programs/Projects; Buyouts	1	4.5	Jun-20	Met with Stormwater Team. Collected and reviewed current volunteer lists. Assessed if we need to promote existing program. Streamlined City operations for managing creek clean ups and volunteer processes. *New* A few small cleanups took place in spring 2021; City working on a simple but formalized process for managing volunteer events or acknowledging privately organized events benefitting public areas.	Involving various community groups dependent on makeup of existing volunteer listing and schedules. Review equity report to verify benefits and participation equitable. Recent stormwater management projects are included as a layer in the GIS Equity Map.	Underway	

Action		Phase	Plan Alignment	Time to Initiate	Workplan	Equity Focus	Status	Commission Notes
Adaptation								
ACP-2	Continue Implementation of the Natural Areas Management Plan	1	4.5-4.6	May-20	Work agreement executed with AES in May 2020. Significant follow up with neighborhoods required during process. Planned concentration on intensive maintenance in neighborhood park prairies. Education needed about purpose, need and care for natural areas; build community partnerships with advocacy groups. About 60 acres of public land areas were prepared for prairie plantings in fall 2020. Discussions held between staff and the University of Iowa about additional opportunities to expand support for natural areas and onsite education.	Geographic distribution, education variables dependent on groups impacted. Engage natural area advocacy groups that can assist with public education.	Underway	
ACP-3	Expand Public Tree Planting	1	4.6	Sep-20	Provided Tree Canopy memo in 9-17-20 Information Packet for Council review and discussion; demonstrates need for incremental tree canopy replacement activities. City Parks and Forestry had 2021 plantings approved by Council. Plans are to plant 1000 trees, double the annual allotment of trees (500) through a series of partnerships and coordinated events, as well as the addition of Forestry staff needed to care for the new plantings.	Review inventory maps, locate areas in need, target workplan outreach accordingly. Emphasis on benefits of tree canopy in low-mod neighborhoods. Opportunity for discussion with impacted groups - residents, landlords, City staff, businesses or development. Address negative perceptions through modifications or education.	Underway	

Action		Phase	Plan Alignment	Time to Initiate	Workplan	Equity Focus	Status	Commission Notes
Sustainable Lifestyle								
SLE-1	Host Sustainability Forum and Events	1	5.5	Sep-20	Climate Festival held week of Sept 19-25, 2020. Activities included digital and written storytelling, coordinated individual/community activities, and expanded local partnerships. Feb. 2021 held <i>Climate Action and Communities of Color</i> online speaker. *New* Planning for 2021 Climate Fest in early stages. Launched new public information campaign Project 51, to share positive news on the climate front and celebrate the 51st Earth Day.	Intentional outreach with underserved groups to ensure access to awareness, education, and participation. Staff, planning committee, and CAC Working Group to connect with local organizations willing to partner on activities, promotion, or hosting remote event. Efforts underway to include translated festival materials in digital and print formats.	Complete	Commission may provide feedback and suggestions for events last year and planned in 2021 (Climate Festival, Earth Fest, other education and events)
SLE-3	Local Procurement Campaign - Buy-in from Local Commercial Groups	2	5.3	Jun-21	City staff in discussion with community partners about local consumption/reduced consumption campaign. Small budget of funding to promote and support local economy and resident access to goods and services.	May be able to identify equity issues through research on existing similar programs.	In Development	Working group feedback and recommendations welcome.
SLI-1	Expand Community Climate Grants	1	5.4	Nov-20	Specified non-profit and business categories at higher denominations (\$10,000). Introduced new Student category (\$500). Increased grant total to \$60,000. Applications closed April 1; received 25 applications and over \$188,000 in requests. Seven member committee of staff and Commission members awarded grants on 4/23; press release with public announcement coming first week of May.	Applications ask specifically what populations will be served by grant projects. Greater weighting for serving populations with higher risk to impacts of climate change. Outreach plan is to connect with community orgs serving highly impacted groups. Translated promotional information to encourage community members to apply.	Complete	Staff open to feedback and suggestions from Commission regarding these grants and other funding opportunities or community projects.
SLP-1	Community Garden Expansion/ Additions	1	5.5	Sep-20	Currently no plans to expand existing community garden areas because of the recent expansions. Staff review plot rentals each year to weigh current and future demand. Opportunity to expand gardens by the private sector or other community partners installed for community use. City provides info to groups that want to begin their own gardens. Could benefit from research or example programs to expand formally. *New* Iowa student working on an assessment of community gardens.	City has mapping tools for plot rentals. New Analyst will identify gaps in geographic coverage and gaps in possible access for certain groups. Need focused outreach to see where needs might be to connect unresourced individuals with plot availability in upcoming years; will assist in identifying needs/potential for pocket gardens in ROW, or working with local organizations that may host new garden plots on private property.	In Development	Commission may choose to provide recommendations, work on this as a project, or suggest example programs from outside Iowa City
SLCP-1	Develop a Green Procurement Policy	2	5.3	Jul-22	City Purchasing division went through recent re-organization and needs a little time before they're able to support the development of such a policy. In the meantime, there may be opportunities internally to start gathering existing procedures and modifying, with local and sustainable acquisition principles in mind.	Currently, City has a local preference in procurement policies, along with preference for organizations exceeding minimum wage pay.	Not Started	Commission may choose to provide recommendations or suggest example programs from outside Iowa City
SLCP-2	Develop a City Sustainability Operations Guide and Make Available to public	2	5.7	Aug-21	Plan to have City's internal staff Climate Committee and CAO staff to collect best practices and develop an outline for the guide. Research may result in an existing guide from another location that could be modified to meet the needs of our community.		Not Started	Commission may choose to provide recommendations or suggest example programs from outside Iowa City

April 5, 2021

Mayor and City Council Members:

On behalf of the Iowa City Climate Action Commission, I would like to convey the commission's thoughts and recommendation regarding the recently completed Biogas Utilization Feasibility Report.

The members of the commission unanimously agree that this feasibility Report provides important insight for future greenhouse gas emissions reductions scenarios. The report acts as a benchmark against which other climate investment alternatives can be judged, while providing a comprehensive understanding of the opportunities available in the landfill and wastewater facilities.

While this study is valuable to the ongoing work of the commission and the City, it is the recommendation of this commission that the city should not pursue any of the capital project scenarios laid out in the feasibility study at this time. Rather, the commission suggests that we continue to investigate alternatives for meeting the city's ambitious climate commitments in the coming months and years.

The commission is at your disposal to provide a more detailed explanation of the reasoning behind this recommendation should the City Council request it.

Thank You,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John H. Fraser". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly stylized font.

John Fraser
Chair, Iowa City Climate Commission

Program Summary – Residential Incentives Supporting Energy Efficiency (IC RISE)

The Climate Action and Adaptation Plan calls broadly for increasing energy efficiency in existing and new residential buildings and the Accelerating Iowa City Climate Actions Report includes a combination of actions that encourage the City to offer incentives for increasing energy efficiency in housing. Hence, City staff is developing a framework to initiate a residential incentive program that will provide direct assistance to Iowa City property owners and residents. A rebate program will also support our local economy and generate demand for energy efficient appliances and weatherization, potentially moving the market to offer these greener options as standard for replacement or improvements. A basic summary is offered below:

Program Purpose

The Iowa City RISE (name to be determined) program will offer a select set of incentives for residential properties. More rebate program types can be added as initial offerings are analyzed and additional needs determined.

Program Features

- Residential Insulation – *Insulation can greatly improve the comfort and efficiency of a home. Pays a portion of insulation upgrade needed in attic, wall, and lower level spaces. Program would begin with single-family properties (duplex and townhouse included) and extend to multi-family rental properties that require greater investment to complete building improvements.*
- Electric Vehicle (EV) Ready – *Installation of a 240V outlet in parking area or garage. Applies to existing and new homes. Installation costs can vary, based on distance to existing wiring and electrical boxes. Often, the charging port itself is less costly than the building or infrastructure preparation to support EVs; this would incentivize installation.*
- Tankless Water Heater – *Tankless water heaters are shown to be 20-50% more efficient than standard water heaters. These systems can be gas or electric, depending on the home's current water heater energy sourcing. Although the City would like to encourage conversion to electric, it recognizes that it may not be feasible at this time, due to technology, cost, weather climate, or existing laws, to convert all home appliances to electric. Making existing fixtures as efficient as possible, paired with a switch to electric when possible, will continue progress towards a reduction in use of non-renewable energy.*
- Programmable Thermostat – *In some homes, simply programming temperatures for efficiency can help lower bills and energy usage. A rebate would be provided for proof of installation of a programmable thermostat.*

Each program feature would offer a rebate (amounts to be determined) and may be compounded with other available rebates and tax incentives available through the utility or federal or state sources. A simple chart and explanation for each project type is attached as page 3. More in-depth information may be available by the May 3 meeting.

Developing a Program Framework

Staff will use feedback from the Commission in this initial stage and use the Root for Trees program, as a template for how to start another City-initiated rebate program. There are willing stakeholders in the homebuilding and trades community that can offer assistance, and the City has collected information from MidAmerican Energy, regarding incentive programs that used to be offered by the utility but have been discontinued in recent years. The next steps in this process will be to take Commission input, data analysis, and the information about existing or past rebate programs to construct a residential rebate program, planned for release later this year.

Equity

In May, the City's community-based social marketing study (Climate Action communications planning) will be meeting with community stakeholders and specifically addressing benefits and barriers to climate actions, including making household repairs and appliance upgrades. Insight gained from this process will also help inform and guide this new program from an equity standpoint. Staff is also discussing a tiered rebate structure, similar to the one used for Root for Trees, that would provide a greater level of funding to income-eligible households. Additionally, a graduate intern will be conducting analysis of each known climate action program or initiative proposed by the City, and they can start with review of this project, to ensure additional stakeholders or issues can be identified and incorporated. The Energy Assessments conducted by Green Iowa AmeriCorps may also offer insight to what areas already have expressed interest in energy efficiency, and which areas of the community have gaps in weatherization or related improvements.

Funding Source

The City's Emergency Levy dedicated to climate action initiatives will fund the program. Maximum amount of funding allocated has not been determined, but a minimum initial allocation of \$50,000 is dedicated to establishing such a program.

Helpful Feedback

Staff requests that the Commission consider the following to assist with program development:

- 1) *Are the chosen rebate program features a good start to assisting residents with various appliance and household upgrades?*
- 2) *Is there a target the Commission would like to set that can help shape City marketing, strategy, program funding, or carbon emissions reduction goals?*
- 3) *Are there any program expectations or recommendations from Commission members that expand on or alter the information shared above?*

<u>Action Description and Benefits</u>		Reduces Energy Consumption	Increases Healthy Home	Staffing Impact	Economic Impact	Equity Impact
1	Install 240 volt electrical circuit in garage	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
2	Encourage construct/retrofit with electric and alternative fuel energy sourcing	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
3	Install/replace with higher efficiency rated equipment	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
4	Install higher or increase insulation values (attic/wall/LL)	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
<u>Explanation of Benefits</u>						
Reduces Energy Consumption: Intended to reduce energy consumption.						
Increase Healthy Home Initiative: Intended to provide a healthier living environment. (Indoor air quality, reduce asthma risks)						
Staffing Impact: Intended to identify if individual action would require staff to accomplish. It is not intended to identify if staffing is necessary to administer the program.						
Economic Impact: Intended to identify if the action will provide an economic benefit to the community.						
Equity Impact: Intended to provide opportunity to those with less access to traditional resources.						

BUILDINGS WORKOING GROUP, APRIL 9, 2021 report

The Buildings Working Group met with city climate action staff Sarah Gardner and Mohsen Vahidzadeh. Mohsen will be attending our meetings regularly.

The group discussed how homeowners receive energy data and how they can learn about the benefits of energy efficiency and conservation. Owners of privately owned properties can be asked to voluntarily share data. The city can share data about properties it owns and is rehabilitating (Accelerated goal BI-8)

The group also discussed the following accelerated actions: BE-1, BE-3, BI-3, BI-5 from the [March 2021 CAC packet](#) and in particular shared ideas on motivation and messaging of home energy savings. Ideas included friendly localized/neighborhood based competitions, very short videos, a focus on annual (not monthly) savings, and showing pathways for success on energy reduction and savings—maybe an app could be created to make that possible.

Climate Action Commission, Equity Working Group
Meeting Notes, March 16, 2021

Sarah Gardner
Matt Walter
Kasey Hutchinson
Eric Tate

What's the group status?

- Unclear role of working groups & streamlining. Need workplan and goals going forward
- We've been spinning our wheels since last summer. Irregular meetings

Group options?

1. Revitalize group by reaching out for new members & identify 1-2 projects for 2021
2. Stand down temporarily. Equity is cross-cutting and a responsibility of all groups

Recruiting new members

- How?
 - Maybe look at applicants to the Human Rights Commission
 - Truth & Reconciliation Commission
 - Our previous look at community orgs
- Strategies
 - Identify projects and mission (Matt)
 - We've had some good discussions, but lack a defined mission (Kasey)

The city has hired a new analyst (Mohsen Vahidzadeh)

Last summer we were working on two projects

1. Matrix of community orgs
2. Mapping climate action resources

Ashley Monroe suggested a role of high-level advising

1. Each meeting pick one of the actions slated for the sustainability office & weigh in with recommendations
 - (Eric) This would be more reactive than proactive, but (Kasey & Matt) also more defined
 - Focus on items in development or not yet started/underway
2. Create an equity process statement (mission statement). Principles for what we do as an office
3. Identify conversations with the community

Need a working group chair?

- Maybe not given the small size

- Need to set agenda

Sarah will set a recurring meeting for the 3rd Tuesday of April & May. Also will invite Mohsen to the next meeting

Equity spreadsheet

- Color coded, climate impacts on organization, clients served
- But it had too much information to actionable
- Diane (Americorps member) updated it with contact info
 - Sarah will send out
 - Also simplifying the report from Kuann Fawkes
- New member focus: individual interested residents

Action items

- Sarah
 - Send meeting invite, spreadsheet, and equity report
 - Hold off on applicants to the city commissions
 - Invite Mohsen to come to meeting
 - He wants to do survey work after the Energy Blitz to understand which renewable energy forms work best with different housing
- All
 - Set agenda for next meeting