

## Progress update on "Accelerating Iowa City's Climate Actions"

Action	New/ Next Step	Plan Alignment	Month Initiate	to	Workplan	Equity Focus	Status
<b>Buildings</b>							
BPP-1	Solar Partnership with MidAmerican	New	1.5	April	Brought forward to City Council in April and was not approved. No next steps planned at this point. Will assess opportunities as locations or chances present themselves.		Closed
BE-3	Encourage the Local Realtor Community to Include Energy Performance in the Multiple Listing Services (MLS) Property Inventory	New	1.1 & 1.6	May	Buildings Working Group indicated initial conversations were in motion with local realtors about value of this action. Staff checked with the group members about where this stands. CAO/CMO can offer support as needed. Example programs elsewhere need to be presented. More research and education needed on realtor and homebuying/selling, paired with engagement with ICAAR. Concerns include an inability to sell inefficient properties.	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.	In Development
BI-4	Launch a TIF-funded climate action incentive program aimed at reducing industrial energy consumption *(New)	New	1.2 & 5.4	May	Economic Development finalizing requirements. Pursuing initial Council approval steps for establishing and approving Urban Renewal Areas in summer 2020.		Underway
BCP-1	Advocate for State Adoption of Advanced Energy Codes *(New)	New	1.1 – 1.4	May	Inquire at State about progress for rule making process. Determine whether additional actions necessary, including letters to elected officials. Covid-19 delayed meetings in spring 2020. Timing may require advocacy efforts expanded into 2021.	Could support these efforts with help from education and advocacy from underserved groups that directly benefit from housing improvements.	Underway
BCP-2	Advocate for Aggressive Energy Code Development and Adoption *(New)	New	1.1 – 1.4	May	Eligible staff voted for adoption of new IECC codes earlier in 2020. This action also requires letters to and engagement with elected officials. Advocacy efforts expanded into 2021.	Could support these efforts with help from education and advocacy from underserved groups that directly benefit from housing improvements.	Underway
BE-1	Promote Energy Efficiency and Performance Tips to the Public	Next	1.1 – 1.2, 1.6	June	Initiate planning and needs assessment; feedback from Commission working group. 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)	Imperative. Review of equity report and assistance from EHR staff essential. Commission and Working Group recommendations and feedback needed.	In Development
BE-2	Partner with Stakeholders to Promote Green Building and Rehabilitation	New	1.1-1.4	June	Initiate introductions to organizations, CAO staff understanding of goals and example programs necessary. Meetings with City development staff. Develop group of stakeholders to discuss barriers and interest in pursuing green build strategies to better partner and build new alliances/education opportunities. Support eventual actions with strategy from 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. Commission and Working Group recommendations and feedback needed.	In Development
BI-2	Enhance Energy Standards for City Rehabilitation Projects	Next	1.1	June	Need updated report from NDS on current activity and efforts. Explore 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. Education components necessary - communications strategy outcomes.	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.	Underway

BR-1	Create a More Robust Energy Code Inspection Program *(New)	New	1.1 -1.2	June	Staff is enrolled in energy inspections training. Additional inspector budgeted in FY21. CAO to meet with NDS staff to understand what staff will be looking at and for, addressing through compliance checks.	Commission/Working Groups should assist with how they would like to measure equity and what should be reported to show progress.	Underway
BI-5	Develop or Partner with Local Stakeholders on a Comprehensive Climate Action Rehabilitation Program	New	1.1 – 1.4	July	JCED applied for a small grant for neighborhood pilot program. Must define GIA involvement, capacity and scheduling. Explore RFQ for external partner/s to implement a program.	Approach to populations served critical. Commission and Working Group recommendations and feedback needed for further development.	In Development
BR-2	Incorporate Stricter Energy Standards into Tax Increment Financing Policies *(New)	New	1.3 – 1.4	Aug	Begin review of options, develop revisions to policy, introduce for Council adoption. Stakeholder process required. Buildings Working Group and Commission involvement in policy review.	Greater equity can be achieved through a geographic distribution of benefits. Education and advocacy could benefit populations impacted and served by policy implementation.	Not Started
BI-1	Offer Free Home Energy Assessments through Green Iowa AmeriCorps	Next	1.1	Sept	Mid Summer - Meetings with AmeriCorps, bringing in new team. Work must be finalized and coordinated with JCED's conceptual expansion of AmeriCorps responsibilities. May need to explore non-ameriCorps team to perform additional assessments and weatherization services.	AmeriCorps is focused on certain groups - seniors, low income, veterans. Not sure how they track or report these demographics. May need to get creative in how audits are performed in light of Covid-19. Education delivery and equipment installation/provision alternatives probably needed in short term. Establish a mapped GIS inventory of energy efficiency assessments and investments.	In Development
BI-3	Coordinate Neighborhood Energy Blitz Events	New	1.1	Fall	Coordinate efforts with Neighborhood Planner, Recreation, and community organizations; Support actions with strategy from communications plan (Action 5.1 - EDU); will likely align this action with introduction of Climate Ambassador program. Earlier rollout of small projects with summer activities like Parties in the Park.	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.	In Development
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<b>Transportation</b>							
TPP-1	Complete the Transit Study and Implement Recommendations to Bolster Service and Increase Ridership	New	2.1	Ongoing	Due to be completed in summer, may be somewhat delayed from Covid-19. Primary implementation of recommendations to begin in 2021.	Dependent upon study recommendations and selected actions for implementation. Goal is to serve residents most needing transit service. Commission and Working Group recommendations needed.	Underway
TCP-1	Establish an Electric and Fuel-Efficient Vehicle Purchasing Policy	New	2.2	May	Actions already in place but written policy needed. Collect EV policy models and evaluate City purchasing policy for applicable language, staff coordinating applicable data for tracking, will begin drafting policy late May.		Underway
TCP-1	Track Adherence to City Idling Policy	Next	2.7	May	AVL equipment provides idling data. Staff will compile data and CAO will assist with reporting formatting. Transportation Working Group needs to define and clarify their recommendation before staff can pursue exploration of technology.		Underway
TE-1	Significant Transportation Education and Outreach Campaigns	New	2.3	August	Define Transportation metrics. Develop a video in fall for Climate Ambassador Program which will also be available to public. Identify how we will engage all residents.	Review equity Report to identify groups and locations to focus attention. Somewhat reliant upon recommendations of transit study. Explore language translations. Commission and Working Group recommendations and feedback needed.	In Development

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<b>Waste</b>							
WCP-1	Initiate a Methane Feasibility Study	Next	3.7-3.8	May	Report presented at of May. Staff will determine next steps. Final cost estimates and recommendations nearing completion in summer 2020.	Consideration will be given, after final recommendations, to impacts on fiscal health of Enterprise funds and needs to supplement with rate changes over time.	Underway
WE-1	Engage the Public to Compost Organic Waste	Next	3.2	June	Meet with Resource Management. Need to assess current level of engagement with proposed engagement. Determine how to tailor it with equity in mind. Expand opportunities with local businesses. Tie into carbon sequestration project. Develop unit for climate ambassadors that focuses on waste.	Focus is reliant upon meetings with staff, current efforts, working Equity Working Group, equity report, translations services available, and outcomes from Communications strategy.	In Development
WCP-1	Require All Park/Public Space Rentals to Recycle and Use "Green" Event Best Practices.	New	3.5	June	Reconvene staff working on this project and finalize project details. Community education, possible stakeholder review.	Must assess whether new requirements impact populations differently. Working Group recommendations needed.	In Development
WE-2	Education Campaigns for Neighborhoods to Reduce Waste/Consumption at the Source	Next	3.3	July	Meet with Resource Management to assess current materials that have been developed. Coordinate with Neighborhood Planner.	Focus reliant upon meetings with staff, current efforts, working Equity Working Group, equity report, translations services available, and outcomes from Communications strategy.	Not Started
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<b>Adaptation</b>							
AE-1	Develop Climate Amassador Team	New	4.2	May	Program is in development. Modules developed over the summer to be launched in the fall. Will coordinate with Outreach and Equity Working Groups and Communications staff.	Development of program includes application process not reliant upon technology to participate. If tech is necessary, will 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.	Underway
APP-2	Continue Implementation of the Natural Areas Management Plan	New	4.5-4.6	May	Work agreement executed with AES in May. 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. Explore possibility of extended community education accompanying prairie plantings. Proposal drafted and in staff review.	Geographic distribution, education variables dependent on groups impacted. Engage natural area advocacy groups that can assist with public education.	Underway
APP-4	Equity Review of Neighborhood and Population Outreach; Develop Outreach Plan for Populations Highly Impacted by Climate Change	Next	4.1-4.2	May	Equity Working Group will review Equity Report and determine further action. Commission review of project equity review tool for City and other community climate projects. Staff initiated coordination of mapping tools/resources requested by Equity Working Group.	Emphasis on highly impacted groups, targeted outreach and collaboration for development and implementation of each climate action.	Underway
APP-1	Flood Mitigation and Stormwater Management Programs/Projects; Buyouts	Next	4.5	June	Met with Stormwater Team. Collect and review current volunteer lists. Assess if we need to promote existing program. Assess creek clean up volunteer process.	Involving various community groups dependent on makeup of existing volunteer listing and schedules. Review equity report to verify benefits and participation equitable.	Underway
AE-1	Partner with Project Green on a Tree Planting Partnership; Incentives for Private Tree Planting	New	4.6	July	Schedule meeting to revisit ideas discussed last year. Education and promotional campaign development will be needed.	Need more information about plans from Project Green to better define how equitable dispersion or availability of trees will be possible. Post- meetings with PG, explore development/expansion of program rollout. Commission and Working Group recommendations and feedback appreciated.	Not Started

AR-1	Street Tree Ordinance	Next	4.6	August	NDS will draft ordinance. Outreach and communication needed to educate the public, make aware.	New Ordinance will apply to new developments.	Not Started
APP-3	Expand Public Tree Planting	Next	4.6	September	Report our proposed planting for upcoming year for municipal tree management. Identify stumbling blocks ahead of new plantings. Possible small group discussion with impacted groups - residents, landlords, City staff, businesses or development groups. Address negative perceptions through modifications or education.	Review inventory maps, locate areas in need, target workplan outreach accordingly. Emphasis on benefits of tree canopy in low-mod neighborhoods.	In Development
AE-2	Educate and Coordinate with Local Agencies on Health Impacts	Next	4.3	October	Outreach meetings with Johnson Co. Public Health, University of Iowa, etc.	Equity reach will become more clear with agency coordination and partnering. Can use equity scale/report to identify starting agency discussions.	Not Started
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<b>Sustainable Lifestyle</b>							
SLP-2	Launch a Green Business Program: "Climate Action at Work"	Next	5.5	June	Pilot program initiated but rebooted with a modified structure (awards/recognition program). Awards program will introduce new program and seek first applications in summer 2020. Component of recognition program will also be to build a network of businesses with climate interests that can support additional demand and resources for infrastructure and policy upgrades. Networking model in development with partnering business advocacy groups.	Initial program relies heavily on voluntary participation. Potential for granted funding tied to participation. Will need to make a greater effort to identify and work with businesses with less access to resources. Geographic access and type of business should also be taken into account. Will map geographic participation. Need assistance from Economic Development staff, Equity & Outreach Working Groups, and other econ dev and small business assistance groups.	Underway
SLPP-2	Develop a Climate Action Strategic Communications Plan	Next	5.5	June	Build RFP for consultant to develop marketing plan; draft in review (June), plan for late summer release. Plan will be focused on Iowa City attributes, alignment with current initiatives, focused attention to branding, models for promotional rollout schedules, template materials for modification by project or program, equity and "language" for how to frame climate activities as broadly appealing content.	Encourage selection of firm to develop this plan/materials. Application of equity principles will be part of process. Feedback from Commission welcome prior to receipt of RFP responses.	In Development
SLP-1	Host Sustainability Forum and Events	Next	5.5	September	Climate Festival is in planning stages for an online event to be launched in September. Activities include digital and written storytelling, coordinated individual/community activities, and expanded local partnerships. Planning in May, outreach in June/July, finalizing steps in August, gear up for promotion late August - Festival in Sept.	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.	Underway
SLPP-1	Community Garden Expansion/Additions	Next	5.5	September	Working with Parks Department to see if there are plans for additional community garden areas.	Equity mapping for plot rentals exists. Need to review 2020 rentals, identify gaps in geo 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.	Not Started

SLI-1	Expand Community Climate Grants	Next	5.4	November	Consider adding non-profit and business categories and define what the new program will look like next year. Identify how grant program ties into other City funding initiatives. Could move project earlier in the year to address direct and coordinated support for Covid-19 recovery.	Follow Equity Report recommendations to identify and connect with preferred applicant agencies from first tier needs. Community organizations geared towards underserved and disadvantaged groups could also fall into this expansion or, the next year's funding could be introduced specifically to certain groups from equity report and an info session can be held by invitation for these groups, like HRC and HCDC have done.	Not Started
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