

Complete Analysis of Overlap Between Elgin's Sustainability Action Plan (2011-2017) and Global Warming and GHG Emission Mitigation Goals

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This analysis is an answer to Vivienne's question to find out what has already been done by the City of Elgin with regards to our proposals that can be found in the shared Google doc link that was E-mailed out to everyone earlier that included all of our ideas and proposals.

The short summary I gave is "very little overlap". Here is a complete report (at least I intended it to be complete) based upon my analysis showing all of the points of overlap:

From "ESAP Recommendations by Category_CosentinoA_Updated November 2016.pdf" provided by Sandy Kaptain via E-mail to members of Elgin Green Groups 350 in 2016 (I am not sure I am at liberty of sharing this document as it is an internal city memo that also includes completion statuses for each task that does not seem to be available online):

- Goal IV-1 under "Alternative Energy":

"Track the effectiveness of alternative fuel vehicles within the municipal fleet, encourage the use of alternative fuel vehicles."

Progress at end of 5-year sustainability plan (2016/2017): "Ongoing/In Progress"

Note: It is not clear what was actually done on this one yet; requires more research/answers.

- Goal II-1 under "Green Building Technology":

"Develop and implement employee training workshop program(s) on sustainability."

Progress report is shown as "not started".

This is similar to a part of our #1 goal (educate people/city staff).

- Goal I-3 under "Green Infrastructure":

"Create ongoing education for the general public in the form of programs, as well as reference material, through websites or brochures for residents to refer back to as needed."

Progress is shown as "Completed: Provided in Neighbor Newsletters and completed with NPDES permit".

Note: I've lived here since 2003 and never received any Neighbor Newsletters; just an observation. There is information online from the County about recycling, but I'm not sure what else.

This is similar to a part of our #1 goal "continuing efforts to educate the public at large" although the methods used are none of the ones that we picked.

· Goal III-2 under "Green Infrastructure":

"Increase accessibility to open areas, bike trails, neighborhood parks, etc."

Progress is shown as "In Progress/ On-Going"

Note: There are visible signs that this has improved over the years.

This is very similar to our proposal #25: "continuing the improvement of roads by use by bicyclists".

· Goal I-1 "Recycling and Waste Management":

"Within the next two years, develop and implement a comprehensive recycling and waste reduction education program for local businesses".

Progress is shown as: "Not Started"

This is similar to a part of our #1 ask "educate the public...about what each person needs to do..."

· Goal II-1,2 of Recycling and Waste Management:

(curbside composting and organics collection)

Progress: "In Progress: Provision for pilot program in Waste Management contract".

Note: I haven't seen any notices of city service compost collection in my neighborhood but I did notice recently seen separate compost garbage cans in St. Charles.

This is similar to a part of our #11 goal "composting bins for households and commercial food establishments".

· Goal II-9 of "Recycling and Waste Management":

"Within two years, implement a recycling education program in local schools to educate students on the importance of recycling, composting, and waste reduction."

Progress: "Not Started"

This is similar to part of our #17 goal "mandated classes or educational programs in public schools".

Note: Educator Deb McMullen has on her own started to implement a nationally recognized education program in the U-46 school district which includes Elgin that does include some education around global warming and environmental issues. Mainly this involves teaching basic science in an organic manner including the water cycle, a method of scientific study, but it is not until high school years that actual issues involving global warming are taught. However Deb should be commended in trying to teach people empowerment and how to think for themselves regarding scientific matters.

· Goal III-2 of "Recycling and Waste Management":

"Educate business and community residents about the value of using products made from recycled goods."

Progress: "Complete".

Note: I am not sure how this was completed. I have lived in Elgin this whole time and did not receive this education, although there were handouts at Elgin Green Groups 350 meetings, which very few people in Elgin that I've met know about.

This is similar as a part of our #1 goal "educate the public...about what each person needs to start to do..."

· Goal II-3 under "Transportation and Mobility":

"Facilitate creation of charging stations for electric vehicles (EV) in an effort to reduce 'range anxiety' and make electric vehicle usage more convenient for average citizens.

Progress: "Complete"

Note: As a practical matter, there is 1 charging station with 2 ports in the parking garage near the center. After the sustainability plan was over, another charging station has been installed at ECC (Elgin Community College) with 2 ports. The charging station that was installed near the Center of Elgin is often fully utilized. I talked to one frequent user of this charging station and he said there are about 20 people who use this on a regular basis. So more charging stations are probably in order. There are a large number of electric or partially electric vehicles in Elgin, compared to other municipalities. A new charging station was recently installed at ECC as well. Other than that, you have to go the BMW or the Nissan dealer, or to Springhill Mall. But obviously more charging stations would be helpful.

This is a part of our #9 goal which includes "EV chargers wherever possible", although our #9 goal is more about mandating chargers at new business locations through ordinances. I have heard that to install a ChargePoint charger for a business costs about \$700, which doesn't seem to me to be that much money for a business. I think you can find this on the ChargePoint website.

· Goal II-4 "Encourage investment from public and private sectors to add livability infrastructure to encourage use of public transportation (train, bus, vehicle/ride sharing) and non-motorized transportation (walking, biking)"

Progress: "In Process / On Going"

Note: I am not sure what was done already. As I have said I have been in Elgin this whole time and have not seen evidence of this although they did paint bike lanes down some streets.

This is part of our #9 "aggressive promotion of the use of public transportation" and our #25 "continuing the improvement of roads for use by bicyclists".

· Goal III-1 "Transportation and Mobility": "Educate the public and businesses on the benefits of alternative forms of transportation and mobility to reduce pollution and energy consumption".

Progress: "Complete/On-Going: Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee".

This is part of our #1 "educate the public...about what they should do..."

· Goal III of "Urban Design": "Responsible Land Use"

"Focus and guide development of the built environment...[that] conserves important natural resource...features"

Progress: "In Progress - Where possible, like the regional park and Elgin Mental Health property the city preserves open space or utilizes it for recreational purposes"

This is similar to #7 "taking effective measures to protect existing acres and bodies of water that are still in a natural state", but the note supplied does not appear to be enforced or in writing, just understood implicitly, and it doesn't apply to entities outside the city's direct control, and it is not clear whether the city might change its mind in certain cases.

[Here is a link](#) to the list of ordinances that the newly formed 2020 Elgin Climate Emergency Work Group is proposing. Many of these would have much more far-reaching effects towards mitigation of Climate Emergency causes than I've seen on the former Elgin Sustainability Action Plan, but would require a much more extensive campaign. These were arrived at independently by a Elgin Citizen's Coalition and is not based on the "Greenest Compact" that many of the US cities sustainability plans are based on.