

from: **Paul Berland** pnb3210@gmail.com
to: Nicholas Zettel <nicholaszettel@the1stward.com>
cc: Cheryl Brumbaugh-Cayford <cbrumbaughcayford@gmail.com>,
Vince Hardt <vvince2001@hotmail.com>,
Daniel La Spata <daniel.laspata@cityofchicago.org>,
Matthew Martin Chicago Alderman ward47@cityofchicago.org
date: Sep 10, 2020, 9:56 AM
subject: Re: 5 Year Action Plan Request
mailed-by:gmail.com

Nick,

Congratulations to you and your team for getting the Drive Clean Chicago legislation passed!

That should help.

I am wondering if you and your team had any further thoughts on my idea of a mailer to all the residents of Chicago to help bring more people to our side and to lessen the opposition when it comes time to make larger measures that are needed to address the climate emergency?

Paul

On Wed, Aug 26, 2020 at 9:41 AM Paul Berland <pnb3210@gmail.com> wrote:
Nicholas Zettel,

Thank you for providing the wealth of information regarding the proposals to launch a feasibility study of modifying the current Com Ed contract, the efforts to expand clean energy fleets, and the spreadsheet on current Chicago environmental efforts! Some of that may be useful in Elgin as well, and I have forward a lot of this to Elgin City officials.

I am still wondering if you have any further thoughts regarding my ideas for getting to net zero emissions faster, as I think is warranted based on the timeline presented by the UN two years ago, and requires first a mass education campaign so that there is more support and less opposition to the measures that are needed, some of which will be very uncomfortable to large segments of the society if we don't prepare them for this first?

Paul

On Fri, Aug 21, 2020 at 11:37 PM Paul Berland <pnb3210@gmail.com> wrote:
Nicholas Zettel and Daniel La Spata,

In support of my argument that we need to do much more work on education of the entire city, please see the following article that Cheryl sent me:
<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2020/aug/20/gas-industry-waging-war-against-climate-action>

In this article, you can read the story about how Seattle 350 was making great strides making Seattle more sustainable, but when they came to a measure to stop natural gas in all new housing developments, they hit a brick wall. That is because corporations started fighting hard against them and defeated their ability to make progress.

That is why I think we need to lay groundwork and education to the people in the city (the public, corporations, and the politicians) so that when we start introducing more ambitious and aggressive measures such as no natural gas in new heating installations, no fracking, etc., then we will be able to overcome the opposition that is sure to crop up.

Do you see what I mean?

Paul

On Fri, Aug 21, 2020 at 10:44 PM Paul Berland <pnb3210@gmail.com> wrote:
Nicholas,

I have read all the E-mails on this thread including you and I see what your office and the city is doing.

Respectfully I disagree with Vince and think that we need to start making some sacrifices if we are actually going to meet our goals of net zero emissions.

I also believe that your current trajectory isn't going to get us to net zero emissions even by 2030. For example, when it comes to more serious measures such as gasoline taxes, banning of fracking, and banning of natural gas connections on new housing, I think you may hit a brick wall if you don't first get the public more on board with our program. For that to work, I think you will need to be sending out careful letters and E-mails to all the people in the city explaining the urgency of this effort and the necessity for certain sacrifices to be made of the public and expenditures to be made to avert the crisis. If these letters and E-mails are not sent out to the entire public, I think we will hit a brick wall when we arrive at more aggressive and ambitious measures. Do you agree?

Paul

On Fri, Aug 21, 2020 at 12:25 PM Nicholas Zettel <nicholaszettel@the1stward.com> wrote:
Good afternoon, Paul,

Alderman La Spata has made environmental policy a top priority, and we are working on numerous items at the moment:

-We are working with activists and organizations across the City to discuss decarbonization, building performance standards, and clean energy requirements.

-We are working with the Committee on Environmental Protection and Energy, as well as its recently established Energy subcommittee, to pass numerous Ordinances and Resolutions (attached). There are nearly two dozen items we are working on the Committee to bring to passage.

-Alderman La Spata introduced a resolution to expand grant funding for the Drive Clean Chicago program, which would bring clean fuel incentives to our industrial corridors. (Available

here: <https://chicago.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=4540448&GUID=67F12471-6A61-42F9-9FED-5C758B5FB2FA&Options=Advanced&Search=>)

-Alderman La Spata introduced Orders to study the feasibility of a municipal acquisition of ComEd (which would allow us more flexibility in sourcing clean energy for our grid), and to call for a one-year renewal of the Franchise Agreement (while the City considers its alternatives to ComEd). (See

here: <https://chicago.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=4070311&GUID=88C763F6-7A84-47C9-90ED-E9AC5135E34A&Options=Advanced&Search=>) (And also

here: <https://chicago.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=4572670&GUID=74C7B50F-774F-4003-BD2A-68840791AAD0&Options=Advanced&Search=>)

-Alderman La Spata, along with others, has called for structural budget and departmental Ordinances that establish a Department on the Environment, or some similar department.

-Internally, we have spent the summer researching building performance standards, energy benchmarking, and other built environment policies, and are ready to bring an agenda related to decarbonization to the Subcommittee working Group on Energy.

We are excited to continue advancing these policy goals, and I am confident that our work on this Committee will result in policies that help us speed the City along to a 100% Clean Energy future.

Best,

-Nick

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On Fri, Aug 21, 2020 at 12:13 PM Cheryl Brumbaugh-Cayford

[<cbrumbaughcayford@gmail.com>](mailto:cbrumbaughcayford@gmail.com) wrote:

Hello all - I really appreciate being involved in this conversation, it is so important. I agree with the urgency of cities and municipalities taking immediate actions for the climate and environment, since we have frittered away so much time and have lost many opportunities already. This is something that keeps me awake at night, it is so obvious that our world is at the brink. And we have to start doing the most we can at once.

Here is my personal list of actions I think municipalities can take immediately to help our environment (because this crisis is not just about climate but about all of the environmental destruction we are seeing - loss of species and habitats, plastics and chemical pollution, destruction of the oceans, etc. etc.):

--Purchase 100 percent renewable energy in aggregate as whole municipalities

- Stop using herbicides and pesticides on municipal properties and strongly discourage their use by residents and businesses within the municipality
- Ban the sale and use of neonicitoids within municipal limits (the pesticides that are killing off bee populations)
- Prioritize the protection and maintenance of trees
- Prioritize the protection of land and water in a natural state
- Strongly discourage the "development" and building over of land that is still in a natural state or that may easily be returned to a natural state, and institute incentives to "developers" to look instead at land that already has been built over for new projects
- Strongly encourage and incentivize or at best require the installation of solar panels and/or the creation of green spaces (such as natural prairies) on all appropriate roofs within the municipality, in particular flat-roofed large business and warehouse facilities
- Install solar panels and/or create green spaces on all appropriate roofs of buildings owned and operated by the municipality
- Shift a majority of grass lawn on municipally-owned land (that is not actively used for recreation activities) to natural prairies or oak savannas or pollinator gardens
- Stop purchasing throw-away plastic items for use by the municipality and its staff and programs, and shift to environmental friendly alternatives, and strongly encourage and incentive such a shift by residents and businesses

Etc.

--Cheryl Brumbaugh-Cayford

On Fri, Aug 21, 2020 at 11:31 AM Vince Hardt <vvince2001@hotmail.com> wrote:
Hi, all,

We need balance here. I have to dissent from banning planes. That would lead to isolationism. As a person with close international family ties, my life would be affected negatively. Getting beyond myself, I also know the value of international educational and social contacts. Even "mission projects" are beneficial if the participants from the developed nations lose their arrogance in the process.

We should ban domestic flights under 500 miles immediately, and gradually increase the distance. The corollary to that is that we must develop a network of high-speed rail similar to China's. But, we will always need trans-oceanic flights.

Vince

Sent on my Samsung Galaxy S8.

----- Original message -----

From: Paul Berland <pnb3210@gmail.com>
Date: 8/20/20 7:53 PM (GMT-06:00)
To: Daniel La Spata <daniel.laspata@cityofchicago.org>
Cc: Nicholas Zettel <nicholaszettel@the1stward.com>, Matthew Martin Chicago Alderman <ward47@cityofchicago.org>, Vince Hardt <vvince2001@hotmail.com>, Cheryl Brumbaugh-Cayford <cbrumbaughcayford@gmail.com>
Subject: 5 Year Action Plan Request

Daniel La Spata,

Thanks for taking the time to talk to me in person.

Regarding your request for a 5 year action plan: I think this is a little beside the point in a way. When your house is burning, you basically start throwing any water you can get at it. You don't stop to see how many tanks of water you got; you start straight away and try to put it out with everything you got.

What I am talking about is that we need to immediately consider plans such as:

1. banning all airplanes
 2. escalating taxes on gasoline
 3. banning fracking
 4. banning nuclear power
- etc.

But for any of these "real" plans to work, you first have to inform the public at large (the people, the corporations, and the politicians), otherwise you will encounter fierce opposition.

That is why I explained that the first step always has to be education and public inclusion. Please let us have frequent public forums held by the city to discuss this.

My ideas of mailers would include 3 components:

1. explaining the urgency (we are seriously running out of time; hence the 5 years I talked about)
2. explain that by working together, we really can accomplish this (this means **everyone working together**)
3. starting frequent public forums for discussion and debate and getting on the same page

Here are some realistic, real-world action plans that I see are of the caliber that could actually solve this problem:

Mine: https://www.envmatters.org/loc/Plan_of_Action.php

Indigenous-led: <https://www.ienearth.org/regenerativeeconomy/>

Note that these do not include timelines but highlight immediate, bold, radical action.

Other types of plans like CEJA, the Biden plan, etc., are far too gradual and will not solve the problem, unfortunately.

We have to start getting realistic about this very real crisis.

Me and my team would love to help with a mailer to the people of Chicago.

Can we please work together?

Paul

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Nicholas Zettel, AICP Candidate

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