

## Environment Committee Meeting Revenue from Nature

Our natural assets bring so much value to our communities in enhanced quality of life and increased property values. Did you know that in some cases, they can also generate revenue for communities?

This Environment Committee meeting will focus on two innovative programs that could allow municipalities to sell credits for carbon sequestration and/or stormwater management.

### Meeting Details

**Topic:** Revenue From Nature

**Date:** Tuesday, Feb. 21<sup>st</sup>

**Time:** 10-11:30 a.m.

**Register:** Please register in advance for the Zoom meeting with the link that was sent to the Committee.

The [Chicago Region Carbon Program \(CRCP\)](#) is a region-wide carbon crediting program for tree planting and forest preservation projects. The goal of the program is to improve the health and canopy of the urban forest in the Chicago region through increased tree planting or preservation, while also generating revenue that can be reinvested in the canopy through the sale of Carbon+ Credit™ sales. Zach Wirtz, Chicago Region Trees Initiative ([CRTI](#)) Community Manager, will present information on the carbon crediting process, how to get involved in the CRCP, and share tips on how to submit a successful project. Resources from the CRTI and their carbon credit registry partner, [City Forest Credits](#), will be shared during and after the presentation.

[StormStore™](#) is the nation's first stormwater credit trading program for both stormwater detention and volume control, and tool that public landowners can use to accelerate investment in conventional and green stormwater assets. The [Metropolitan Planning Council](#), in partnership with [The Nature Conservancy](#), is currently supporting the [Metropolitan Water Reclamation District](#) in a five-year pilot. Ryan Wilson, who leads the StormStore™ initiative and is Senior Manager at Metropolitan Planning Council, will provide background on the program, including eligibility and how to get started, project examples from municipalities already taking advantage of the program, and he will suggest ways that municipalities in the region could bring stormwater credit trading to their communities.

Caucus staff will also briefly discuss [Project Sidewalk](#), a free, online tool that helps address the lack of sidewalk information and allows users to label sidewalks and identify problems by virtually walking/rolling through city streets. The UIC Department of Disability and Human Development and the Caucus are seeking municipalities interested in addressing accessibility barriers in their communities. An upcoming workshop on the topic will be held on [March 9th](#).

[GRC](#) goal and strategies: L+28 - Optimize tree planting and protect existing trees for maximum carbon storage/sequestration and energy savings. Optimize the use of natural and built systems to manage stormwater. W23 - Implement green infrastructure best practices on municipal properties.

[Climate Action Plan](#) objectives and strategies: Sustain ecosystems to sequester carbon. Grow and manage public landscapes to optimize ecosystem services and support biodiversity. Allow flexibility to meet stormwater requirements. Optimize tree planting and protect existing trees to maximize stormwater benefits.