



25 July 2017

Metro Council Committee on Public Works, Parks, Sustainability and Transportation
In care of the Honorable Cindi Fowler, Chair
601 West Jefferson Street
Louisville, KY 40202

Dear Committee members,

The Louisville Climate Action Network consists of 12 local and state non-profit groups, five for-profit businesses and six local religious organizations and hundreds of individuals. We are very concerned about climate change—public safety and health, and Louisville's heat island.

Public Safety and Productivity—Extreme heat poses serious threats to the health and safety of the sizeable portion of area residents who work outdoors. Taking proper precautions against heat-related illnesses understandably lowers their productivity, raising the costs of doing business.

Public Health—As temperatures soar, so does the use of air conditioning, leading to higher electrical demand and bills, and more air pollution from coal-fired power plants, including carbon pollution and triggers for asthma, heart and brain (strokes) attacks. Running automobile AC systems harder, means yet more pollution and hotter roadways. This viscous cycle logically leads to new federal sanctions limiting local industries' options for expansion.

Louisville's extreme rate of tree loss—estimated to average 54,000/year—
factors heavily into these problems.

Trees are a simple, low cost way to mitigate our heat island. Trees shade our homes, schools, commercial buildings and roadways, keeping them cooler, reducing the use of air conditioning and reducing our heat island. Less AC use means lower utility bills—especially important to most Louisville ratepayers. And trees improve property values.

The trees within the public rights-of-way should not be vulnerable to the ad hoc whims of individuals who mistakenly believe a healthy tree might fall on their homes or businesses who want their business to be more visible to passers-by—both very common in Louisville.

Louisville CAN urges you to pass this ordinance out of committee and send it to the full council—with a copy of this letter of support.

Cooperatively,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sarah Lynn Cunningham".

Sarah Lynn Cunningham, PE
Executive Director

**I can, you can,
Louisville CAN!**

Louisville Climate Action Network
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