

Commission on Sustainability



MICHIGAN CITY INDIANA

Thursday, February 10, 2022, 5:30 pm
Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88490818894?pwd=R1RpMFFOdzU4REQ5RDU2OjZIMTRxZz09>

Agenda

- I. Roll Call
- II. Approval of December 9, 2021 and January 13, 2022 Minutes (*roll call vote on both*)
- III. Election of Treasurer (*roll call vote*)
- IV. Project Teams
 - A. **Solar Power Options for City Government** —Tristan Bogart [solar panel array update; to introduce plan for city buildings as part of American Rescue Act Funding granted to municipal government]
 - B. **Funeral Homes & Crematoriums with Plant a Tree Opportunity:** Bailey Chavis [list and enrollment]
 - C. **Biking, Hiking, and Walking Culture** —Phillip Kohler & Tim Bauer [bicycle repair and ride along the new Singing Sands Trail to be rescheduled in the spring with MC Park & Recreation Department partnership]
 - D. **Waste Reduction/"Garbology"** —Daisy Lee, Tim Bauer, Bailey Chavis, & Angela Reynolds [city park recycling]
 - E. **Soul Power Project** —La'Tonya (Niki) Troutman [report on success of first course with added new partners of Ivy Tech and WorkOne]
 - F. **Solar United Neighbors (SUN)** — [LAST MONTH TO JOIN COOPERATIVE WITH NET METERING SCHEDULED TO EXPIRE IN JUNE 2022! Have 49 interested individuals signed up in the FREE cooperative. Fifteen (15) are in Michigan City. Satellite review and solar energy systems installer visit completed on 28. Site visit scheduled for 2. Proposal submitted to 6. Three (3) disqualified by installer. Opportunity lost on 6. Signed contract with 4. Solar Energy Systems out of Nappanee was chosen as the installer by cooperative members who volunteered to select. Kindly help spread the word and let your family, friends, neighbors, organizations, and communities in LaPorte, Porter, and Lake Counties know about this opportunity for FREE cooperative membership with DISCOUNTED equipment and COORDINATED installation. Enrollment will go through the end of February, 2022. Let me know if you'd like a sign to display in your yard!]
<https://www.solarunitedneighbors.org/indiana/> ; <https://www.solarunitedneighbors.org/indiana/go-solar/>
 - G. **Indiana University Resilience Cohort for SolSmart Designation & Electric Vehicle Charging Station Plan** —Laura Henderson, Tristan Bogart, Daisy Lee, & Nancy Moldenhauer [Consultation last Monday, revealed we have one more step of posting information on website for which designation? Have contacted Michigan City IT Department regarding the need to establish a tab on the Michigan City Government website.
 - H. **U.S Department of Energy National Renewable Energy Lab (NREL)** —Ed Shinn, Daisy Lee, Tristan Bogart, & Nancy Moldenhauer [Michigan City was one of three cities chosen in Indiana along with Bloomington and

Indianapolis. We will receive FREE consulting, engineering, and planning services for solar array installation, electric vehicle charging stations, and electronic device chargers at Washington Park, Beach, and Zoo. We're trying to set up our second exploratory meeting next week. When completed, we will have a plan to submit for an extremely promising future with potential green energy funding to be provided by the Federal Government. *Take a roll call vote on participation.*]

- I. **Carbon Neutral Indiana (CNI)** —Andie Jahnz-Davis, Laura Henderson, Daisy Lee & Nancy Moldenhauer [Daniel Poynter, Executive Director, will be announcing a fun activity to attract household subscribers with a culmination on Earth Day, April 22nd. CNI is becoming their own nonprofit and have announced their Board of Directors. Who needs to schedule an assessment or get an update with Daniel, Executive Director and Founder of CNI?] <https://www.carbonneutralindiana.org/> ; <https://www.facebook.com/carbonneutralindiana>
- J. **Opportunity to Set Sustainable/Resilience Goals and Actions** —Nancy Moldenhauer & Laura Henderson [Based on our Greenhouse Gas Emission Inventory of 2019, we would work collaboratively with NWI Region Resilience--from which Kathy Sipple coordinated the completion of Greenhouse Gas Emission Inventories for 9 municipalities and three counties in Northwest Indiana this summer--in partnership with Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC). It will be a lot less expensive working cooperatively than working individually with the Indiana University Resilience Cohort plus it would be regionally focused. We're behind proposed schedule on this due to staffing changes at I.U. *Take a roll call vote on participation.*]
- K. **Clean Removal of Coal Ash from NIPSCO Michigan City Generating Plant** —[Michigan City Common Council unanimously passed Resolutions 4812 & 4781 for a total coal ash clean up, discuss and decide if Sustainability Commission will support this. *If approved, take a roll call vote.*]
- L. **“Caught You Being Green”** —Andie Jahnz-Davis [Earth Day Extravaganza, April 23, 2022, 12 – 3 pm, Michigan City Public Library, nomination submissions for Nora L. Schultz Tribute Sustainability Award]
- M. **Action Alert:** Get signed up with Hoosier Environmental Council (HEC) to receive weekly and time sensitive actions via email for this 2022 Indiana State Legislative Session. Keep an eye on HEC's and Sierra Club Hoosier Chapter Facebook pages for posts and updates also. So far, there are fewer positive bills and more negative bills on the House and Senate floors to be voted on which require us contacting our State Representative and Senator to ensure another SAB 389, Anti-Wetlands Law, is not allowed to happen this year!
<https://www.hecweb.org/bill-watch-2022/> ; <https://www.facebook.com/hecweb> ;
<https://www.facebook.com/sierraclubhoosierchapter>

- V. Commission Comments
- VI. Public Comments
- VII. Announcements
- VIII. Adjournment