

Commission on Sustainability



MICHIGAN CITY INDIANA

Thursday, November 10, 2022, 4:30 pm
City Hall, EOC Room Downstairs
Agenda

Michigan City Sustainability Commissioners: Tim Bauer, Laura Henderson (Secretary), Clarence Hulse, Andie Jahnz-Davis (Assistant Chair), Daisy Lee (Treasurer), Nancy Moldenhauer (Chair), Faye Moore, La'Tonya Troutman

Student Commissioners: Tristan Bogart, Bailey Chavis, Mary Cate Neary, Angela Reynolds

City Council Liaison: Bryant Dabney

- I. Roll Call
- II. Approval of October 13, 2022 Minutes
- III. Project Teams
 - A. **Solar Power Options for City Government** —Tristan Bogart [solar panel array update; email being sent to identify department ownership of six government buildings to geospatial intelligence systems (GIS) service representative who was recommended by Michigan City Planning Department; to introduce plan for installation of solar panels for remaining city buildings as part of American Rescue Act Funding granted to municipal government]
 - B. **Funeral Homes & Crematoriums with Plant a Tree Opportunity:** Bailey Chavis [future contact with Geisen-Carlisle headquartered in Crown Point via written communication in process for adding "Plant a Tree" memorial option]
 - C. **Waste Reduction/"Garbology"**—Daisy Lee, Tim Bauer, Bailey Chavis, Angela Reynolds, & Mary Cate Neary [PepsiCo Recycle Rally on Nov. 15th, explore preparation and timeline for next round of IDEM grant for recycling projects up to \$100,000; emailed "Gobi" fish photos from Asia to Commissioners to inspire ideas for an artist commissioned native fish sculpture to collect recyclable plastic bottles and aluminum cans at Washington Park Beach in collaboration with Sacha Gee Burn of LaPorte County Solid Waste District and Shannon Eason of MC Parks & Rec Dept.; contact within NIPSCO for potential funding will be approached when plan available; *Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory for carbon footprint reduction indicates Michigan City and NWI are extremely high for sending trash to landfills instead of practicing reduction and recycling* <https://www.in.gov/idem/recycle/resources/indiana-community-recycling-grant-program/>]
 - D. **"Caught YOU Being Green" Engagement** —Andie Jahnz-Davis & Tim Bauer [Upcoming social media posts for Recycling Day on Nov. 15th; Update on Earth Month Extravaganza 2023, Saturday, April 29th, Krueger Memorial Hall]
 - E. **Continue Promoting SolSmart Silver Designation with Partner Indiana University Resilience Cohort** —Laura Henderson, Tristan Bogart, & Nancy Moldenhauer [Case study was published last week with photo of Commissioners holding our SolSmart plaque on national blog by U.S. Department of Energy on the Michigan City SolSmart experience focusing primarily on the Soul Power aspect of how we received our SolSmart Silver

Designation; what could we do to continue leveraging SolSmart Silver Designation besides getting logo posted on Michigan City Government website?; share new article posted on Blog and keep sharing our link "Getting Started with Solar" found on Sustainability Commission Michigan City Government website page: <https://www.emichigancity.com/1214/Sustainability-Commission> ; <https://solsmart.org/news/soul-power-equitable-solar-workforce-development-in-michigan-city-indiana/>]

- F. **Carbon Neutral Indiana (CNI)** —Andie Jahnz-Davis, Laura Henderson, Daisy Lee & Nancy Moldenhauer [Carbon Neutral Indiana’s innovative book--entitled *Carbon Neutral Indiana: A Practical Guide to Climate Solutions*—is now available and can be ordered. Michigan City residents who were interviewed are Deborah Chubb (Indiana Women's Action Movement), Faye Moore (Indiana Department of Corrections), Larry Zimmer (No Place Like Home), and Nancy Moldenhauer (Michigan City Sustainability Commission). Our MC Sustainability Commission is given recognition too! Who needs to schedule an assessment or get an update for their home to become carbon neutral with Daniel Poynter, Executive Director and Founder of CNI? About the book: <https://www.carbonneutralindiana.org/book> ; To order: <https://store.carbonneutralindiana.org/>]
- G. **U.S Department of Energy’s National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL)** —Ed Shinn, Tristan Bogart, Bailey Chavis, Daisy Lee, Laura Henderson, & Nancy Moldenhauer [Generate ideas for survey regarding amenities in Washington Park related to solar arrays and electric-vehicle chargers; Will schedule our 6th meeting for this fall/winter with our consultant Scott Belding of NREL. In process of scheduling an exploratory meeting hopefully soon with Ed, Scott, and Jamie Huss, Washington Park Zoo Director. A decision needs to be made in collaboration with the Zoo whether we will go with primarily supplying solar energy to the zoo and/or focus solely on electric-vehicle charging stations in the parking lot. We are receiving FREE consulting, engineering, planning services for solar array installation, electric vehicle charging stations, and electronic device chargers for workstations at Washington Park, Beach, and Zoo. When completed, we will have choices to create a plan to submit for an extremely promising future with potential green energy funding to be provided by the Federal Government.]
- H. **NWI Climate/Resilience Action Planning Work Group** —Nancy Moldenhauer, Laura Henderson, & Andie Jahnz-Davis [Fifth meeting will be on Friday, November 18th, 1 pm, via Zoom.]
- I. **Soul Power** —Donnita Skullly & Faye Moore [Job training and certification program for solar panel installation in partnership with NAACP LaPorte County, IBEW-531, Ivy Tech Valparaiso, WorkOne, Just Transition NWI, and MC Sustainability Commission; conducting a six-week Solar PV Associate training with 11 participants, when completed on Nov. 10th, will be eligible to sit for the NABCEP PV Associate Exam to obtain NABCEP certification; Interested individuals can sign up here for future offerings: <https://www.laportecountynaacp3061.org/soul-power-project>]
- J. **Solar United Neighbors (SUN)** —Faye Moore & Nancy Moldenhauer [Plans in the making with Dan Robinson for Round 3 hopefully in 2023; Zach Schalk decided not to offer more installation opportunities at this time since net metering was ended by the Indiana Legislature; Nancy’s solar panel installation scheduled for Nov. as part of Round 1] <https://www.solarunitedneighbors.org/indiana/> ; <https://www.solarunitedneighbors.org/indiana/go-solar/>
- K. Invitation to sign onto letter [Tristan} received from Genevieve Cicchiello & Rahul Durai of Confront the Crisis (West Lafayette):

[DATE]

The Honorable Ed Charbonneau
200 W. Washington Street
Indianapolis, IN 46204-2785

Dear Senator Charbonneau,

We are a coalition of community organizations in your district, and we have a common mission of

improving the environment and economy in northwest Indiana. We care about our well-being, our environment, and the economic futures of our communities. We are writing to ask you to co-author upcoming legislation to create a statewide climate change task force.

As Hoosiers in District 5, we have always been burdened with substantial industrial pollution, which increases children's asthma and dirty water in the Calumet River. We have become increasingly concerned for our public health with the growing threat of climate change. According to research, our water supply will be more threatened as Earth continues to warm up and we will experience more negative health effects. We appreciate your support on IN SB0271 on small modular nuclear reactors but our community needs greater assistance that a climate task force could provide.

In Indiana's 2022 Legislative Session, bipartisan legislators led by Senator Ron Alting (R-Lafayette), introduced Senate Bill 255, a bill championed by Indiana's youth to create a statewide climate task force. The task force would have brought several important stakeholders to the table to study innovative solutions that the Indiana General Assembly can implement to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, adapt to the effects of climate change, and simultaneously enhance economic development for our communities. This bill is likely to be introduced again in the 2023 Legislative Session, and we hope that you will be a co-author on the upcoming bill.

We believe in an Indiana where our environment is protected, and sustainable industries are developed. This bipartisan climate task force legislation will allow our state government to work towards these goals by creating a plan for Indiana to mitigate and adapt to climate change. For these reasons, we strongly urge you to co-author this bill.

Thank you very much for your time and service to Indiana. We look forward to hearing back.

Sincerely,
[list of names]

- IV. Commissioner Comments
- V. Public Comments
- VI. Announcements
- VII. Adjournment