

# Commission on Sustainability



## MICHIGAN CITY INDIANA

Thursday, January 13, 2022, 5:30 pm

Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81524771432?pwd=NjhrcGo5RkowSDRlVU53aks5UEh2UT09>

### Agenda

- I. Roll Call
- II. Approval of December 9, 2021, Minutes (must be re-approved at February 10, 2022, Meeting if in person or our next face-to-face meeting)
- III. Welcome and Introduce Mary Cate Neary, Marquette High School Commissioner
- IV. Project Teams
  - A. **Solar United Neighbors (SUN)**— [Have 44 interested individuals signed up in the FREE cooperative. Thirteen are in Michigan City. Satellite review and solar energy systems installer visit completed on 31. Site visit scheduled for 1. Proposal submitted to 7. Opportunity lost on 5. 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. 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/>
  - B. **Indiana University Resilience Cohort for SolSmart Designation & Electric Vehicle Charging Station Plan**—Laura Henderson, Tristan Bogart, Daisy Lee, & Nancy Moldenhauer [Do we continue to pursue SolSmart Silver Designation or do we settle for Bronze? Couple of documents were signed by our MC Planning and Inspection Department and submitted to consultant. Have contacted Michigan City IT Department regarding the need to establish a tab or solar landing page on the Michigan City Government website. Middle of December, we were selected by the U.S. Department of Energy to be included in their National Renewable Energy Lab (NREL) after having a Zoom meeting with Ed Shinn, Superintendent of MC Parks and Recreation Department, and Nancy for FREE consulting, engineering, and planning services for solar array installation, electric vehicle charging stations, and electronic device chargers at Washington Park, Beach, and Zoo. Ed Shinn is very excited about this opportunity to provide ground breaking electrical amenities and positively improve visitor experience. 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.]
  - C. **Carbon Neutral Indiana (CNI)**—Andie Jahnz-Davis, Laura Henderson, Daisy Lee & Nancy Moldenhauer [We have partnered with Larry Zimmer, MC Planning Commission President, to have a "friendly competition" between Tryon Farms, Shoreland Hills, and other neighborhood associations this winter-spring for subscribers. Who needs to schedule an assessment or get an update with Daniel Poynter, Executive Director and Founder of CNI?] <https://www.carbonneutralindiana.org/> ; <https://www.facebook.com/carbonneutralindiana>

- D. **Opportunity to Set Sustainable/Resilience Goals and Actions:** [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 countries 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. Our's would have been completed Summer of 2020, yet support was not obtained from our Mayor, and COVID-19 made it challenging for those municipalities participating to engage their communities meaningfully.]
- E. **“Caught You Being Green”**—Andie Jahnz-Davis [meeting with Ed Shinn, feature article on Nora L. Schultz posted, social media posts on holiday tips, Earth Day Extravaganza, April 2022, progress]
- F. **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 Facebook page for posts and updates also. So far, there are positive bills and negative bills already being introduced that we must monitor closely then contact our State Representative and Senator when needed to ensure another SAB 389, Anti-Wetlands Law, is not allowed to happen this year!

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