

Commission on Sustainability



MICHIGAN CITY INDIANA

Thursday, March 10, 2022, 5:30 pm

City Hall

Agenda

- I. Roll Call
- II. Approval of February 10, 2022 Minutes
- III. 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; Nancy obtained contact within Planning & Inspection Dept. for assistance in identifying department ownership of properties]
 - 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; announce date]
 - D. **Solar United Neighbors (SUN)** — [Sign up for Round Two of cooperative membership ended on February 28th. Had 53 interested individuals signed up in the FREE cooperative. Fifteen (15) are in Michigan City. Satellite review and solar energy systems installer visit completed on 27. Site visit scheduled for 1. Proposal submitted to 10. Five (5) disqualified by installer. Opportunity lost on 6. Signed contract with 4. One more grandfathered in from Round One and contract signed. <https://www.solarunitedneighbors.org/indiana/> ; <https://www.solarunitedneighbors.org/indiana/go-solar/>
 - E. **Indiana University Resilience Cohort for SolSmart Designation & Electric Vehicle Charging Station Plan** —Laura Henderson, Tristan Bogart, & Nancy Moldenhauer [All requirements for SolSmart Silver Designation have been met; Consultant submitted application to U.S. Department of Energy last week with 15 days to receive results. Check out our new link "Getting Started with Solar" on Sustainability Commission website page. <https://www.emichigancity.com/1214/Sustainability-Commission>
 - F. **U.S Department of Energy National Renewable Energy Lab (NREL)** —Ed Shinn, Tristan Bogart, Daisy Lee & Nancy Moldenhauer [We are receiving 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 had our second exploratory meeting on February 23rd. 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.]
 - G. **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. Daniel is looking for someone to person CNI's table at our Earth Day

Extravaganza. 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>

- H. **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--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. Nancy on NIRPC Committee with Kathy Sipple, yet have not heard anything regarding starting date.]
- I. **"Caught You Being Green"** —Andie Jahnz-Davis [Earth Day Extravaganza, April 23, 2022, 12 – 3 pm, Michigan City Public Library, requesting nomination submissions for Nora L. Schultz Tribute Sustainability Award in July.]
- J. **URGENT ACTION ALERT** : Two really harmful Bills need to be vetoed by Governor Holcomb. The IN Legislature passed Bills approving small nuclear reactors and carbon sequestration underground. First one SB 271, an expensive antiquated technology that utility users will have to pay for even if never used; the second HB 1209, an unproven and potentially dangerous technology with no corporate accountability! Why not focus on preventing pollution in the first place and turn to renewable clean energies instead?
<https://www.facebook.com/sierraclubhoosierchapter> ;
<https://www.hecweb.org/bill-watch-2022/> ; <https://www.facebook.com/hecweb> ;

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