

# Commission on Sustainability



## MICHIGAN CITY INDIANA

Thursday, June 8, 2023, 4:30 pm  
City Hall, EOC Room Downstairs  
Agenda

**Michigan City Sustainability Commissioners:** Tim Bauer (Assistant Chair), Michelle Basta, Laura Henderson (Secretary), Clarence Hulse, Andie Jahnz-Davis (Chair), Daisy Lee (Treasurer), Nancy Moldenhauer (Immediate Past 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 May 11, 2023 Minutes
- III. Welcome—Michelle Basta, Mayoral Appointment
  
- IV. Project Teams
  - A. **Solar Power Options for City Government**—Tristan Bogart [Launch of MC Electric Vehicle Charging Station Survey; solar panel array plan update for installation of solar panels at remaining buildings]
  - B. **Electric Municipal Vehicle Fleet**—Tristan Bogart & Bailey Chavis [Introduction, discussion, then vote of launching an exploratory project for MC Police Department]
  - C. **Funeral Homes & Crematoriums with Plant a Tree Opportunity:** Bailey Chavis [update on Plant a Tree option; article for Facebook and press release]
  - D. **Waste Reduction/"Garbology"**—Daisy Lee, Tim Bauer, Bailey Chavis, Angela Reynolds, & Mary Cate Neary [update on the progress of pilot project in Washington Park Beach which would include fun, colorful recycling collection containers of native species, like frogs; explore IDEM grant for recycling projects up to \$100,000; collaborative effort with Sacha Gee Burn of LP Co. Solid Waste District, Shannon Eason of MC Parks & Rec Dept., and Robin Kohn of MC. Public Art Committee; contact NIPSCO for potential funding will be approached when plan available; *Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory for carbon footprint reduction indicates MC 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/> ]
  - E. **Continue Promoting SolSmart Silver Designation with Partner Indiana University Resilience Cohort**—Laura Henderson, Tristan Bogart, Angie Reynolds, & Nancy Moldenhauer [to begin review of programs for missed points to apply for Gold Designation in 2024; what could we do to continue leveraging SolSmart Silver Designation besides getting logo posted on Michigan City Government website?; 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*—available on line; exploring possibility of offering book discussion at Northwest Indiana Green Drinks in fall; who needs to schedule an assessment, get an update for their home to become carbon neutral, or set up a monthly contribution with Daniel Poynter, Executive Director and Founder of CNI? About: <https://www.carbonneutralindiana.org/book> ; Order: <https://store.carbonneutralindiana.org/> ]

- G. **U.S Department of Energy’s National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL)**—Ed Shinn, Tristan Bogart, Bailey Chavis, Laura Henderson, & Nancy Moldenhauer [Summary of various options we've considered from Nov. 2021 to Nov. 2022 to be reviewed; after discussion, need to schedule a 7<sup>th</sup> meeting as a Task Force with our consultant Scott Belding of NREL; continue to pursue solar array powered electric-vehicle charging stations in the planned newly reconfigured rectangular parking lot directly across from the zoo; zoo will pursue possibility of installing solar panels on their buildings; to be determined if any power from a solar panel array parking lot installation would potentially be shared with the zoo or other structures in Washington Park; *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 funds provided by the Federal Government.*]
- H. **NWI Climate/Resilience Action Planning Work Group**—Nancy Moldenhauer, Laura Henderson, & Andie Jahnz-Davis [Intern from Indiana University for roll out has been assigned to Kathy Sipple of Earth Charter Indiana, not NIRPC; best practices and model programs to reduce greenhouse gas emissions were created]
- I. **Soul Power**—Donnita Scully, Faye Moore, & Nancy Moldenhauer [Solar Panel Installers NABCEP Certified—7 successfully completed with 2 to re-test; grant being written for Professional Installers which requires service hours, can do survey and design work, could start own company; additional grant to be written to install solar panels on roof of Hope Community Center; as with the first grant, Nancy will provide consultation services to strengthen submissions. *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; 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 [Dan Robinson is collecting names and contact information of interested persons for potential Round 3 of installation being offered possibly Fall 2023 at [drobinson@solarunitedneighbors.org](mailto:drobinson@solarunitedneighbors.org) ; [https://public.courts.in.gov/Decisions/api/Document/Opinion?Id=cXVRn9I4RRuo6Alo0z2K0A1N5fw-Ckt\\_Co-Uav-jyv8MF9JXI8sz\\_6h2\\_6XWAIK0](https://public.courts.in.gov/Decisions/api/Document/Opinion?Id=cXVRn9I4RRuo6Alo0z2K0A1N5fw-Ckt_Co-Uav-jyv8MF9JXI8sz_6h2_6XWAIK0) <https://www.solarunitedneighbors.org/indiana/> ; <https://www.solarunitedneighbors.org/indiana/go-solar/>
- K. **“Caught YOU Being Green” Engagement**—Andie Jahnz-Davis & Tim Bauer [Social media posts & press releases; Nora L. Schultz Memorial Award nominations now for July award; Climate Leadership Summit 8, co-sponsored event with Earth Charter Indiana, request ALL attend for Sustainability Round Table, Friday, Sept. 8th with opening event, Thurs., Sept. 7th, Indiana University Northwest; Drive Clean Indiana Annual Conference & Expo, Wed., Aug. 23rd, desire table of 10 again (?) with opening reception, Tues., Aug. 22nd]
- V. **Vote**--Coal Plant Wastewater Standards (ELGs) Sign-On Letter with <https://cleanwater.org/>  
Our organizations urge EPA to finalize the strongest possible wastewater treatment standards for steam electric power plants, as required by the Clean Water Act. We also urge EPA to finalize the proposed rule as quickly as possible and to require compliance with the new standards within three years. To achieve the Clean Water Act’s national goal of eliminating water pollution, facilities are required to use the most modern and effective pollution control technologies to treat wastewater, known as best available technology or BAT, before discharging into “Waters of the United States.”
- VI. Commissioner Comments
- VII. Public Comments
- VIII. Announcements
- IX. Adjournment

