

Commission on Sustainability



MICHIGAN CITY INDIANA

Thursday, July 13, 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 June 8, 2023 Minutes
- III. Welcome—Michelle Basta, Mayoral Appointment
- IV. Nora L. Schultz Sustainability Tribute Award Winner Announcement
- V. Project Teams
 - A. **Solar Power Options for City Government**—Tristan Bogart [Launch of Michigan City Electric Vehicle Charging Station Survey-vote for approval to post on social media; solar panel array plan update for installation of solar panels at remaining city buildings, Zoom meeting set for July 14, 2023 to discuss the next steps of solar for city government] https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScPTx-aul3nuiFc5bbM3cN9zgEz3UOym31tLjnj_mLpBjjVQ/viewform
 - B. **Electric Municipal Vehicle Project: Michigan City Police Department (MCPD) & Transit Department**—Tristan Bogart & Baily Chavis [Exploring the possibilities of adding electric vehicles to the MCPD fleet, presentation]
 - C. **Homes & Crematoriums with Plant a Tree Opportunity:** Bailey Chavis [update on thank you letters to homes with "Plant a Tree" option; result of contact with Geisen-Carlisle headquartered in Crown Point for adding "Plant a Tree" memorial 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 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/>]
 - E. **Continue Promoting SolSmart Silver Designation with Partner Indiana University Resilience Cohort**—Laura Henderson, Tristan Bogart, Angie Reynolds, Andie Jahnz-Davis, & Nancy Moldenhauer [to

begin review of items in Fall 2023 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; Daniel has been contacted by Andie about possibility of offering book discussion at Northwest Indiana Green Drinks the first Thursday in October; 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? <https://www.carbonneutralindiana.org/book> ; Order: <https://store.carbonneutralindiana.org/>] **U.S**
- G. **Department of Energy's National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL)**— Ed Shinn, Tristan Bogart, Bailey Chavis, Laura Henderson, Faye Moore, & Nancy Moldenhauer [Nancy sent Scott Belding's summary of various options we've considered from Nov. 2021 to Nov. 2022 to be reviewed for what considerations are missing by Tristan and Bailey; need to schedule a 7th meeting as a Task Force with our consultant Scott 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 and work stations with electronic device chargers around the 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. **Climate/Resilience Action Planning Work Group**— Nancy Moldenhauer, Laura Henderson, & Andie Jahnz-Davis [Kathy Sipple of Earth Charter Indiana is currently working with her intern from Indiana University on community engagement and roll out of NIRPC developed best practices and model programs to reduce greenhouse gas emissions]
- 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; Donnita is actively seeking grant opportunities 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 has resigned from his position as Indiana Program Associate at SUN which is seeking qualified applicants to replace him; we want to gratefully thank him for his dedicated partnership and wish him well as he becomes a pastor to a congregation in September; he is collecting names and contact information of interested persons through August for potential Round 3 of installation at drobinson@solarunitedneighbors.org] https://public.courts.in.gov/Decisions/api/Document/Opinion?Id=cXVRn9l4RRuao6Alo0z2K0A1N5fw-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 [Press Releases, Social Media & engagement; FaceBook, Caught YOU being Green 'shout outs', Next feature will be Nora L. Schultz Tribute award recipient, Plastic Free July posts daily, Elle Salon at 113 W. Eighth St. has become what is thought to be the first small business to install solar panels on their roof in the Uptown Arts District, owner Elle Hook

thanked Nancy and Sustainability Commission for information provided which helped them with installation; 3rd Annual Earth Month Extravaganza-location secured, fee waved, picking date; Green Halloween-costume exchange, wrapper recycling. Region Neighbors For Sustainability is hosting a meeting for Shererville residents to discuss sustainability commissions on July 31, 2023, Andie will be a guest speaker; Climate Leadership Summit 8, co-sponsored event with Earth Charter Indiana, request ALL attend for Sustainability Round Table, Friday, Sept. 8th with opening event, Thursday, Sept. 7th, Indiana University Northwest; Drive Clean Indiana Annual Conference & Expo, Wednesday, Aug. 23rd, desire table of 10 again with opening reception, Tuesday, Aug. 22nd]

- VI. **Vote**—Strengthened EPA Protections at Coal Ash Legacy Sites with Earthjustice Sign-On Letter:
"Protective safeguards must be extended to all coal ash dumps, including all coal ash ponds, regardless of whether they still contain water; all coal ash landfills regardless of when they last received coal ash and whether they are located at retired plant sites and plant sites that no longer burn coal; all and coal ash fill sites distinct from power plant properties where coal ash was used improperly as a substitute for clean fill, including importantly in residential areas."
- VII. Commissioner Comments
- VIII. Public Comments
- IX. Announcements
- X. Adjournment