

Commission on Sustainability



MICHIGAN CITY INDIANA

Thursday, August 10, 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 July 13, 2023 Minutes
- III. Nora L. Schultz Sustainability Tribute Award Winner Presentation
- IV. Project Teams
 - A. **Solar Power Options for City Government**—Tristan Bogart [Launch of Michigan City Electric Vehicle Charging Station Survey-update; solar panel array plan update for installation of solar panels at remaining city buildings, update on Zoom meeting from July 14, 2023 to discuss the next steps of solar for city government] https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScPTx-aul3nuiFc5bbM3cN9zgEzZ3UOym31tLjnj_mLpBjVQ/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, contacting regional and national police departments, obtaining reports from department who have switched from combustion to electric, set up future meetings with those departments, contacting Zero Motocycles]
 - C. **Homes & Crematoriums with Plant a Tree Opportunity:** Bailey Chavis Bailey Chavis [Thanks to Bailey's commitment and determination Geisen-Carlisle headquartered in Crown Point added "Plant a Tree" memorial option on their Michigan City and Crown Point websites; 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 [Nancy to contact Department of Energy 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 accepted Andie's invitation to a book presentation at Northwest Indiana Green Drinks on Thursday, October 5th, 6:30 pm, with book being on sale at a discount beforehand; 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 [Tristan and Bailey to review Scott Belding's summary of various options we've considered from Nov. 2021 to Nov. 2022 for what considerations are missing; 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 charging work tables or benches 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. **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--extended through December 2023--on community engagement and roll out of NIRPC developed best practices and model programs to reduce greenhouse gas emissions; while she awaits handover of materials from NIRPC, we will pursue enrolling individuals, churches, schools, and parks in pollinator sanctuary certification with National Wildlife Federation for Northwest Indiana to become the first region in Indiana]
- I. **Soul Power**— Donnita Scully, Faye Moore, & Nancy Moldenhauer [Solar Panel Installers NABCEP Certified—7 successfully completed with 2 to re-test; NAACP LaPorte County Chapter preparing to host NAACP State Conference, November 2nd - 5th, thus most efforts have been redirected; 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 [SUN Indiana is seeking qualified applicants for Indiana Program Associate to replace Dan Robinson; he is collecting names and contact information of interested persons through August for potential Round 3 of installation at d Robinson@solarunitedneighbors.org] <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, At Franciscan Health Michigan City Equity Advisory Committee on July 24th, Andie and Nancy presented on Sustainability Commission, and received word from Nila Williams, Community Health Improvement Coordinator, she would contact Dean Mazzoni, President and CEO, directly about the removal of electric vehicle charger from in front of their hospital installation: *3rd Annual Earth Month Extravaganza*-location secured, fee waved, picking date; Green Halloween-costume exchange, wrapper recycling. Speaking engagement with Region Neighbors For Sustainability who hosted a meeting for Shererville residents to discuss sustainability commissions on July 31, 2023-well received, about a dozen in attendance-including Shererville Town Council’s President and Vice President, You must REGISTER YOURSELF AT NO COST to attend Climate Leadership Summit 8--co-sponsored event with Earth Charter Indiana--requesting ALL Commissioners attend the Sustainability Round Table session, Friday, Sept. 8th, with opening event including two documentaries in collaboration with NWI Green Drinks, Thursday, Sept. 7th, Indiana University Northwest; <https://www.earthcharterindiana.org/climate-leadership-summit> ,Drive Clean Indiana Annual Conference & Expo, Wednesday, Aug. 23rd, reserved table of 10 again which still has space with opening reception, Tuesday, Aug. 22nd, email Nancy if you desire to attend so she can register you plus indicate your lunch choice of chicken piccata, pasta genovese, or specify special diet;

L. **Re-Use Room**—Michelle Basta [Exploring the possibility of dedicating a space to the housing of materials for people to borrow/trade-commonly referred to as a Re-use Room. Sacha Burns of LaPorte County Solid Waste has been contacted for collaboration. A visit to Lake County’s ReUz Room is planned. Brainstorming sessions to be planned]

- V. **VOTE**- Allow elected officers of Michigan City Sustainability Commission (Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer) to make decisions between meetings to sign onto letters and petitions with other organizations on behalf of our Commissioners regarding issues or policies that have been considered and voted in favor of previously.
- VI. Public Comments
- VII. Announcements
- VIII. Adjournment