



Meeting Minutes

Meeting Details

Meeting Details	
Project Name	Meeting Date & Time
Indiana Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Public Meetings	11.02.2023 6:00 PM
Meeting Venue	Duration
Northern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC) - Lake Michigan Room	1 hour 45 minutes
Meeting Purpose	Minutes Recorded By
Gather public input on CPRG Climate Action Plan for State of Indiana	ClimeCo

In Attendance

Attendee's Name	Dept./Organization
Commissioner Brian C. Rockensuess, Chief of Staff Parvonay Stover, Scott Deloney, Susan Bem & Jessica Murray	IDEM
Amanda Mast, Caroline Kelleher, Noah Godrey & Kamayani Barshilia	ClimeCo
In-person () & virtual () stakeholders	-

Agenda Item

Agenda Item	Owner
Welcome	ClimeCo
Grant Overview	ClimeCo
Opportunities to Participate	ClimeCo
Public Comment	All



Meeting Minutes

Discussion

Meeting Notes
State Representative Pat Boye <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concerned about the speed of implementation
Kathy Payne – Highland Neighbors for Sustainable ___ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Microplastic pollution is a concern in the Great Lakes Petrochemical plants should be addressed Suggested to focus on increasing recycling Suggested to implement a plan for refusal of single-use plastic items Suggested that public water refill areas could be a good addition to the plan Suggested that rain barrels are a good solution
Cristina – Sherville <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Educator working with college, high school, middle school, and students Suggested engaging with Purdue University – reach out to engineering students as they all have a senior project to graduate
State rep Jackson from Hammond – 1st district <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pointed out that there were many Justice 40 grants for charging stations this summer Question: How does this grant differ from those grants?
Susanne – Nature Conservancy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Making sure there are good incentives for Hoosiers to participate in climate action See more research on the benefits of green infrastructure, forestry carbon sequestration, assessing green space and forests, and how they can help Indiana
Jenny Reterham- Resident of Gary – Gary advocates for responsible development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expressed concern around carbon sequestration in the state – concerned that the pipelines leak CO2. Suggested that there is a group consensus against carbon sequestration pipelines She wants to see more climate action from the heavy polluters Suggested to engage with industry to create a plan that will successfully reduce carbon Requested better funding for public transit Explained that Gary has public school career centers. This could be an opportunity to revitalize the ‘green conservation corps’. Suggested the CAP should prioritize career training. Focus on the communities in areas where there is high unemployment. Focus on getting these skills in younger people.
Mellissa Hernandez – Highland area resident <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Request funds be used to assist existing community programs Doesn’t want any funds to be used for industry greenwashing and wants funding to go to communities Request for increased transparency
Calley Kotchala – Highland Neighborhoods Group <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Calley Suggested three action areas: 1- Reducing pollution and waste. NW Indiana has participated in the IU resilience group in 2021. Suggested the necessity to make reductions in the energy and transportation sectors. Using things like increasing energy efficiency in existing buildings, requiring better energy



Meeting Minutes

efficiency in new building, protecting natural areas for better carbon sequestration, amplifying clean energy availability (rooftop solar, community solar), better agricultural practices (cover crops), implementing curbside compost selection, electrify state and municipal fleet, expanding public transport options (local and regional), reducing noise and light pollution for quality of life improvement (like sky compliant lighting and discouraging leaf blowers), discourage factory farming and promote factory farming

- 2- Increasing natural habitat and protecting biodiversity. Such as expanding tree canopy in the community, updating building codes that include environmentally friendly requirements (green roofs, native landscaping, bird-safe windows), education on reducing invasive plants, and instituting programs to replace invasives with native plants.
- 3- Education (students, municipal officials, public) implement grade-appropriate environmental education, host communication programs to teach homeowners about native landscaping, implement public policies to ban things like artificial

Chuck Burter – St Joseph county

- Tier 1: utility energy generation – wants to see more emphasis on community solar. Explained how there are low-income communities who want to do the right thing and implement solar. However, Chuck expressed concern that there are many barriers preventing solar for homes.
- Chuck suggested the CAP should prioritize community solar, which can make the grid more resilient and reduce pollution. These efforts will help to manage peak demand and reduce the need for new power plants
- Tier 2: RNC buildings – increase building efficiency – LED – can increase efficiency. Suggested that LED can reduce light pollution and increase road safety.
- Suggested that LEDs are a near-term and implementation-ready solution
- Expressed desire for dark night skies. Suggested that the CAP should consider light pollution.
- Discourages the use of low-carbon fuel sources. Does not recommend prioritizing carbon-based fuel sources.

Jennifer Demistrop – Environmental Sustainable Commission for Porter

- Question: Can we use this grant money to avoid the development of polluting industries in NW Indiana?
- Questions: Can this grant help to curb the plastic pollution crisis? Explained that there is a statewide ban on plastic bans

Porter

- Suggested community solar as an addition to the CAP as it has seen it successful in IL – allows disadvantaged families to lower their energy bills.
- Focus on job creation

David Porticliealis (76342)

- Suggested to focus on fugitive emissions – this is a big chunk of the pie chart in NW Indiana.
- Wants a focus on environmental justice communities
- Wants to see a metric set for carbon reduction that uses science-based targets to determine what the tempo of reduction should be
- Analysis and implementation should focus on the areas that would create the largest impact

Sandy O'Brien – Sierra Club Leader

- Soil carbon sequestration – cover crops and regenerative farming and grazing
- Also would address topsoil loss and increase soil carbon contact



Meeting Minutes

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Wants to see regular burning of grasslands as it should be to promote healthy ecosystems
Doreen Corey – City of Gary – Gary Advocates for Responsible Development
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Suggested concern for funding “green projects” that have questionable outcomes

Follow up Tasks
N/A

Next Meeting

Meeting Details	
Project Name	Meeting Date
Indiana Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Public Meetings	08.11.2023
Meeting Venue	Meeting Purpose
Ferdinand Branch Public Library Community Room	Gather public input on CPRG Climate Action Plan for State of Indiana

Meeting Minutes

1



NexTrex Recycling Challenge

How does the challenge work?

- Register on NexTrex.com to obtain access to the Trex Portal
- Determine a 12-month collection time period
- Collect a minimum of 1,000 lbs.
- Report recycling totals at my.trex.com
- Weigh, record and attached pictures
- Deliver the collected plastic film to a participating retailer (see list) for recycling

Stores prefer smaller and more frequent amounts in the provided bin. Please contact store ahead of time with larger amounts.

What does Trex provide?

- Up to three recycling bins
- Posters











What can I win?



Trex Bench

What can be recycled?

All plastic must be clean, dry and free of food residue.

 Grocery bags	 Bread bags	 Bubble wrap	 Dry cleaning bags	 Newspaper sleeves	 Ice bags	 Plastic shipping envelopes
 Ziploc & other reclosable food storage bags	 Cereal bags	 Case overwrap	 Salt bags	 Pallet wrap & stretch film	 Wood pellet bags	 Produce bags

Register on the website NexTrex.com

Meeting Minutes

We will then take them to an animal sanctuary in Hobart. We are also collecting candy wrappers to be recycled.

We just partnered with TREX and are collecting plastic film that cannot be put in residential curbside recycle bins. Items like: plastic grocery bags, bread bags, ice bags, shipping bags (with labels removed), cereal liners, case overwrap, and sandwich bags.

It's not enough to reduce, reuse & recycle—we need to REFUSE single use plastic.

- REFUSE single use plastic items.
- Use refillable water bottles.
- Bring your own grocery bags.
- Use real silverware for your lunch and when ordering food.
- Bring your own container for restaurant leftovers. I leave mine in the car so I remember to bring them.
- Lobby for water refill stations in your community. In the parks and in the schools.

We need to make better choices to reduce the microplastics in our water and in our bodies.

Rain Barrels

It looks like more rain is in our future and more rain means the potential of more flooding. I have not been able to find data on this, but wouldn't rain barrels reduce the possibility of flooding?

I have 3 50 gallon rain barrels on my property which is not much to avert flooding. If everyone had rain barrels, would that not have an impact on the amount of water in a heavy rainfall?

I like to envision a future where our roofs are working way harder. They can collect rainwater and support solar panels. This is solving 2 problems without taking up any more land.

Meeting Minutes



Please elaborate
on the "Initial Action
Screening" ↓ What are some of
"green" jobs that will
be created
Job creation potential

- 1) How are you "loading" the pipeline? green jobs
- 2) How/When/Where are you including Justice 40?

Meeting Minutes



To: Indiana Department of Environmental Management
From: Chris Chyung, Indiana Conservation Voters
Subject: Submission of written comment for Climate Pollution Reduction Grant town hall in Portage
Date: November 2, 2023

Prioritization of mitigating industrial emissions is critical for a manufacturing-intensive state like Indiana. Legislation or regulations must be considered for the future to restrict industrial emissions and/or incentivize industrial emissions reductions technologies.

To support Indiana's steel mills' and their economic competitiveness, state government officials must consider maximizing federal incentives and regulations in combination with state and local incentives, planning, and action. Labor, industry, environment, and communities must be brought together under a climate pollution reduction plan to chart a future to keep Indiana's industrial backbone strong and prepared for a changing future.

Meeting Minutes

10/24/23

Hosier Environmental Council

wants to ensure that this funding:

- Prioritizes a reduction in GHG emissions,
- Builds climate resiliency in low-income and disadvantaged communities
- Expands workforce development programs
- Includes natural forms of carbon sequestration, and
- Supports alternative transportation

David Van Gelder

Sr. Policy & Legal Director

Meeting Minutes



Idea to implement: Mandate smog checks for vehicles, similar to California to reduce vehicles' contributions to poor air quality.

- Provide aid to help people get these done.

- HANNAH ARTHUR

Meeting Minutes

My name is Cathy Perrin. I am a member of Highland Neighbors for Sustainability.

Would you like a nice cold glass of micro plastic?

Plastic pollution poses a serious threat to the environment and could pose a threat to public health. More than 22 million pounds of plastic pollution end up in the Great Lakes every year, according to the Rochester Institute of Technology. Plastic never goes away. There is no such place as away. It just breaks down into smaller and smaller pieces known as “microplastics.”

Researchers have found alarming amounts of micro plastic in the five Great Lakes. These lakes provide drinking water for 40 million people. They’ve found microplastics in Great Lakes fish, drinking water, bottled water, and beer. They have also found microplastics in people.

It’s estimated that we each ingest about a credit card-sized amount of plastic each week. The building blocks of plastic are toxic in their own right. And once in the water, plastic fragments absorb toxic chemicals and can harbor potentially dangerous microbes.

Factories that produce plastics use a host of dangerous chemicals, emit highly toxic, cancer-causing emissions, and pose serious safety risks to the communities where they are located.

Highland Neighbors for Sustainability have been working hard on keeping recyclables out of the landfills and out of the water.

Last winter, we toured the facility that collects the Highland Recyclables so we could see the process first hand.

We collected (and dumpster dove) for cans, cups and bottles at St. James Festival, Highland 4th of July Festival, St. Mary Western Days Festival and the Highland BBQ fest. We collected more than 8 cubic yards at the 4th of July Fest – we had a dumpster specially for recyclables. For the other fests, we filled up Bill’s van each day.

This coming Saturday, we are sponsoring a Pumpkin Smash where people can bring their carved pumpkins and smash them into a truck.

Meeting Minutes



1

HNS

[Plastic debris in 29 Great Lakes tributaries: Relations to watershed attributes and hydrology | U.S. Geological Survey \(usgs.gov\)](#)

<https://greatlakes.org/great-lakes-plastic-pollution-fighting-for-plastic-free-water/>

<https://www.newcastle.edu.au/newsroom/featured/plastic-ingestion-by-people-could-be-equating-to-a-credit-card-a-week/how-much-microplastics-are-we-ingesting-estimation-of-the-mass-of-microplastics-ingested>

<https://esajournals.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/eap.2320>

<https://www.propublica.org/article/what-could-happen-if-a-9.4-billion-chemical-plant-comes-to-cancer-alley>

[What's The Solution To Microplastics In Lake Michigan? | WBEZ Chicago](#)

<https://greatlakes.org/2022/06/9-tips-for-a-plastic-free-holiday/>