

## Meeting Details

Meeting Details	
Project Name	Meeting Date & Time
Indiana Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Public Meetings	24.10.2023 6:00 PM
Meeting Venue	Duration
Ivy Tech Community College, Fort Wayne, <b>Room CC1640</b> 3800 N. Anthony Blvd., Fort Wayne, IN 46835	1 hr 30 min
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
Chief of Staff Parvonay Stover, Scott Deloney, Susan Bem & Jessica Murray	IDEM
Amanda Mast, Caroline Kelleher, Noah Godrey & Kamayani Barshilia	ClimeCo
In-person (28) & virtual (11) participants (See appendix 1 for list of participants. The list is not exhaustive.)	-

## Agenda Item

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

## Discussion

<b>Meeting Notes</b>	
Opening remarks were shared by the Commissioner, IDEM	
ClimeCo team presented the draft actions for Priority CAP	
Following public Comments were shared:	
<b>FWY1</b>	<p>Gowri Sundaram, US Composting Council Resiliency Coordinator, Circular Indiana Board Member</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Why is food being wasted? 1/3 of food is being wasted</li> <li>• EPA just published the food waste hierarchy yesterday and composting is considered one of the best practices.</li> <li>• Q: Indiana SB 1383 – other states have a good food rescue system; how will this grant be used to fund organic food diversion?</li> <li>• I’m working on reforming the Indiana food scrap coalition group, and Indiana state council for US composting council</li> <li>• We want a dashboard for the survey response so that the data is transparent and accessible to us.</li> </ul>
<b>FWY2</b>	<p>Megan Masterson – representing local community composting organization (Downtown Composting)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How does one get funding? Is there eligibility for how the funding can be used?</li> </ul>
<b>FWY3</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This CPRG funding is an important moment for Indiana. Indiana is a major source of GHG, but Indiana can be a leader in slowing down the climate crises.</li> <li>• Like: Green transit, environmental justice, sustainable agriculture</li> <li>• One year ago, took a group to ask the mayor to put in place a climate action plan (April 2023) – Fort Wayne moved on some things pertaining to city buildings</li> <li>• Here to represent black and brown communities 76803, 76816– has been overlooked for the past decades. There has been no development in these communities.</li> <li>• We should focus on helping cities access these federal funds</li> <li>• We should reject false carbon solutions – fossil fuel based hydrogen, nuclear, carbon capture</li> <li>• Wants to see resources focused on access to solar. Fort Wayne recently applied for a solar furlough grant.</li> <li>• Make sure that we take advantage of resources from other federal sources (eg. DOT)</li> <li>• This CPRG process need accessibility and transparency to get everybody's opinion</li> <li>• Access is one of the biggest issues with this process. So many people from disadvantaged communities couldn’t access transportation to get here.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Our community would like to be a pilot program as Fort Wayne and make sure we get our piece of the pie</li> </ul>
<b>FWY4</b>	<p>Dr. J.B. Pressey – NE Fort Wayne, Midwest Building Organization, Indiana, Clean Energy Organization (black-owned CBO in IN)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CBO was designed for one purpose – to make sure that federal funds are driven to disadvantaged communities</li> <li>• Here to recommend : 1) equity commission to represent disadvantaged communities, 2) looking at MI, IL, OH&lt; - affordable housing, protect customers from higher utility rates</li> <li>• Wants Indiana to have a better image throughout the nation. Doesn't want to be seen as the state that has the highest energy rates.</li> <li>• Wants to propose a model: equitable clean energy future for all, hold utility companies accountable and ensure affordable energy bills and expand consumer protection, convert coal to solar, and transition fossil fuel workers to solar</li> <li>• Are we going to take this plan to the state legislature? Who is going to do this?</li> <li>• Develop an advisory to what IDEM is hoping to accomplish so that voices from our community are represented.</li> <li>• A 900 pages long Illinois' Climate and Equitable Job Act was shared as a recommended template for Indiana's Climate Action Plan. The act document focused on 1) building an equitable clean energy future for all 2)holding utilities accountable 3) ensuring affordable energy bills and expanding consumer protection 4) coal to solar transition for communities and workers and 5) creating and protecting good paying carbon free jobs (see appendix 2 for more information).</li> <li>• Our legislators have let us down. We want to have more faith in the process.</li> </ul>
<b>FWY5</b>	<p>Community Member (woman)– 46737 zip code</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I really need IDEM and have waited a long time for your attention.</li> <li>• Have a joint collaboration process</li> <li>• Land of 101 lakes – water pollution problems (e. coli) from agricultural problem, and from algae blooms cause by runoff from agriculture</li> <li>• There are public parks that might be closed because the water is so dangerous</li> <li>• Action plan: focus on public health and quality of life</li> <li>• We would like to see a balance between the things that that we've presented and the priorities of this grant.</li> </ul>
<b>FWY6</b>	<p>Steve Schroder – President of a lake council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In the last several years, we have seen that lakes are taking a big hit (non-swimmable lakes). We trace the pollution back to the source and it goes back to farms very frequently. There is a manure problem. Concerned</li> </ul>

	about the future of having a huge manure problem. We want action. IDEM should inspect these farms without giving any notice.
<b>FWY7</b>	<p>Student of Fort Wayne Sustainability Project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Draft action: showing support, emphasize electricity generation, renewable energy, public transport and other diverse option, and waste and materials management, promotion of biogas as renewable energy efforts</li> <li>• Reemphasizing the need for</li> <li>• Who conducted the GHG inventory?</li> <li>• What is funding amount for phase two of the grant?</li> <li>• What is IDEMs next step if phase two of the grant is not awarded?</li> </ul>
<b>FWY8</b>	<p>Architect on Indiana Architecture Committee on the Environment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Building sector is such a huge component (construction and operations)</li> <li>• Question: how will Indiana catch up to how far behind the building codes are? (to be answered later)</li> <li>• We are available and here to offer support.</li> </ul>
<b>FWY9</b>	<p>Confront the Climate Crisis (statewide coalition of high school students)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Focused on bill in Indiana general assembly to create statewide climate action plan and task force</li> <li>• Developed bill with legislator – focus on dishing out funding locally</li> <li>• Each community will know best what projects are possible and can be available</li> <li>• Solar panels for schools and school gardens (education, and promoting local food systems)</li> <li>• Funding for environmental projects for schools and local communities</li> </ul>
<b>FWY10</b>	<p>Linda Durril – community activist with a building organization</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Please elaborate on the state level practices that were screened (to know more about the jobs that will be produced in 2024)</li> <li>• Please elaborate on the initial action screening, job creation potential. What are the green jobs that would be created?</li> <li>• How, when, and where are you considering Justice 40 (you are supposed to be making jobs in these communities)?</li> <li>• Where is the money, when will BIPOC get the money, and when will the pipeline be loaded?</li> <li>• When are people going to be trained in the green jobs?</li> </ul>
<b>FWY11</b>	<p>Kathryn Lisinicchia- Resilience Coordinator for Earth Resiliency Indiana</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For rural communities: started doing the work of climate planning</li> <li>• Would like to see more support for regional trails for both recreation and for getting between places</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No till and cover cropping – agricultural producers need support to do this</li> <li>• Youth advocate – want green school programs – powered by EVs, electric busses, school gardens, environmental education</li> </ul>
<b>FWY12</b>	<p>David Van Gildier – Hooser Environmental Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5 priorities: build climate resiliency into low income and disadvantaged communities. Prioritize GHG reduction, expand workforce development programs, include natural form of carbon sequestration, support alternative transport</li> <li>• HEC is a statewide environmental advocacy organization</li> <li>• This is an opportunity to not fail and show young people that we are taking action now</li> <li>• There are headlines about massive projects – want to make sure that the regulatory bodies of IDEM are paying attention to these massive projects. Want climate resiliency to be imposed on these shiny new projects</li> </ul>
<b>FWY13</b>	<p>Brian Floury – Solar United Neighbors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reducing the barriers to families and individuals going solar</li> <li>• Supports all measures</li> <li>• Local and community solar need to be included – benefit everybody</li> <li>• Create jobs that you cannot outsource (cannot outsource solar installers)</li> <li>• Currently IN does not have community solar programs</li> <li>• Proactive local solar policy to be available to low income &amp; BIPOC families</li> <li>• Reduce barriers to local solar</li> <li>• Must not promote carbon sequestration technologies or nuclear</li> </ul>
<b>FWY14</b>	<p>Solar United Neighbors, EO of solar solutions company</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 46803 – reduce utility bill, charge your electric vehicles, - does not think the current grid can provide enough energy for everybody to have electric vehicles charging</li> <li>• Opportutniy to support solar and reduce some of the barriers -Net metering went away last year – negative impact on solar business</li> <li>• Affordable loans to allow more people to be able to afford it</li> <li>• Need more solar friendly policies and reduce alliance on grid energy</li> </ul>
<b>FWY15</b>	<p>Community Member</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rooftop solar – sees immense savings</li> <li>• Gentleman sees programs in other states where you can have solar installed for little or no cost (e.g. PA) – how can we get these great programs to IN that will save people money?</li> <li>• Need to be able to access money through affordable loans.</li> <li>• We can replicate Fisher’s robust solar program.</li> </ul>
<b>FWY16</b>	<p>Doug Barrow Monine, Resident</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At what point does the process become political?</li> </ul>

<b>FWY17</b>	<p>Community Member</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recommendation – need to develop some type of advisory to make sure that their voices are actually being taken into account</li> </ul>
<b>FWY18</b>	<p>Community Member</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recommendation – we should share the document where we consolidate the comments</li> </ul>
<b>FWY19</b>	<p>Community Member</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recommendation – dashboard of the results of the survey to help with trust building</li> </ul>
<b>FWY20</b>	<p>Community Member</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pilot program for school solar and green school programs</li> </ul>
<b>FWY21</b>	<p>Community Member</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Education – community is uneducated on the importance of solar, the impact of animal agriculture, the importance of waste reduction</li> </ul>
<b>FWY22</b>	<p>Community Member</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Where is the chamber of commerce representation here?</li> <li>• Need the business community to show just as much concern on GHG reduction</li> </ul>
<b>FWY23</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fishers, Sand Creek Intermediate, Indiana – Supports a solar program with schools to teach students what positive benefits solar brings to them</li> <li>• Especially supportive of solar installation in public schools</li> </ul>
<p><b>Key Highlights</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need to educate communities and school children on the importance of solar and the impacts of animal agriculture.</li> <li>• The importance of waste reduction via composting was highlighted repeatedly</li> <li>• Need to reduce barriers to solar and incentivize its adoption</li> <li>• Water pollution from agriculture is a big issue for some residents</li> <li>• IDEM should emphasize the inclusion of disadvantaged communities and make sure local communities are involved in the implementation process</li> <li>• Some stakeholders are critical of nuclear, carbon capture and storage, and hydrogen</li> </ul>	

## Next Meeting

<b>Meeting Details</b>	
<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Meeting Date</b>
<b>Meeting Venue</b>	<b>Meeting Purpose</b>
Indiana Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Public Meetings	11.2.23
Northern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC), Lake Michigan Room 6100 Southport Rd, Portage, IN 46368	Gather public input on CPRG Climate Action Plan for State of Indiana

## Appendix 1: Non-Exhaustive List of Meeting Participants


	A	B
1	Name	Zip Code
2	Doug Barrow Monine	46815
3	Gowri Sundaram	46845
4	Dan Avery	46825
5	Kristi Burns	46825
6	Maick Brouch	46807
7	Vickie Lamb	46737
8	Michael Terronez	46819
9	Kathryn Lisinicchia	46750
10	Betsy Kashmer	46805
11	Steve Schroder	46737
12	Sheila Curry Campbell	46806
13	David Van Gildier	46748
14	James Masterson	46807
15	Megan Masterson	46807
16	Hannah Arthur	46802
17	Jodi Leamon	46802
18	Paul Smith	46845
19	Kerry Korpela	46808
20	Elise Jones	46802
21	DR. J.B. Pressey IECE-SUS	46802
22	Linda Durril	46804

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Michael Terronez	46819
Kathryn Lisinicchia	46750
Betsy Kashmer	46805
Steve Schroder	46737
Sheila Curry Campbell	46806
David Van Gildier	46748
James + Megan Masterson	46807
Hannah Arthur	46802
Jodi Leamon	46802
Paul Smith	46845
Kerry Korpela	46808
Elise Jones	46802
DR. J.B. Pressey IECE-SUS	46802
Linda Durril	46804



**Appendix 2: Climate & Equitable Jobs Act Shared by Participant as a Recommended Template for Indiana's CAP**

## THE CLIMATE AND EQUITABLE JOBS ACT



The Climate and Equitable Jobs Act (SB2408) is a nation-leading comprehensive climate and equitable jobs bill. This new law has the support of environmental, consumer and public health groups, the clean energy industry, and organized labor.

### PROTECTS THE PLANET AND PUBLIC HEALTH


- Sets Illinois on a path to a 100% clean energy future by 2050, and delivers 100% carbon-free power by 2045, by closing coal and fossil gas on timelines that guarantee climate action, public health protection, and prioritization of environmental justice communities. This includes closing the 7th largest polluter in U.S. by 2045, with 45% emissions reductions by 2038.
- Funding to get from 9% to 40% renewable energy by 2030 and 50% by 2040, by building 3.5x more renewable energy each year than FEJA
- Commits up to \$80m per year over the next decade to electric transportation with 45% of benefits going to environmental justice and low income communities

### BUILDS AN EQUITABLE CLEAN ENERGY FUTURE FOR ALL

- Over \$80 million per year for workforce and contractor development programs targeted in equity focused communities, including 13 hubs throughout the state
- **Minimum diversity and equity requirements** for all renewable energy projects, and dedicated support for disadvantaged contractors to participate in the clean energy economy
- Creates new training programs for soon-to-be released people who are incarcerated for jobs in the solar and energy efficiency sectors
- Creates a Green Bank to finance clean energy projects and a Jobs and Environmental Justice Grant Program to provide seed capital for disadvantaged businesses

### HOLDS UTILITIES ACCOUNTABLE

- **Ends formula rates** and revolutionizes ratemaking to align utility spending with performance measures driven by reliability, equity, affordability, and clean energy goals
- **Rigorous new ethics standards** with restrictions on and transparency into utility lobbying and spending
- **New ICC ethics oversight division** to audit and enforce utility ethics compliance



The passage of CEJA demonstrates Illinois' commitment to an inclusive clean energy future.

### ENSURES AFFORDABLE ENERGY BILLS AND EXPANDS CONSUMER PROTECTIONS

- Creates a process for a new low-income rate and prohibits various late fees and customer deposits for low-income customers
- Increases the Illinois Solar for All program from \$10m/year to \$50m/year
- Creates new inclusive financing mechanisms for families to invest in energy upgrades

### COAL TO SOLAR AND TRANSITIONING FOSSIL COMMUNITIES AND WORKERS

- Establishes a \$40 M grant program for communities where nuclear or fossil fuel-generators and mines have or will close to grants to address the social and economic impacts.
- Establishes the Displaced Energy Worker Bill of Rights for fossil fuel plant workers
- Creates incentives to build solar generation and energy storage at the site of closed or soon-to-close coal generation

### CREATES AND PROTECTS GOOD PAYING CARBON-FREE JOBS

- Protects over 2,000 jobs in nuclear energy plants by providing financial carbon mitigation credits to 3 nuclear plants for a 5-year period, at \$5 billion less than Exelon demanded
- Immediately opens the closed solar incentive programs to save solar jobs, and creates thousands of new renewable jobs
- Expands labor standards to require project labor agreements on all utility scale projects

## THE CLIMATE AND EQUITABLE JOBS ACT

### **Appendix 3: Transcribed written feedback submitted by stakeholders (this feedback was voiced during the meeting)**

**1. *Brian Flourey, Northern Indiana Organizer for Solar United Neighbors***

Good evening. My name is Brian Flourey, and I am the Northern Indiana Organizer for Solar United Neighbors, a state and national non-profit organization. I would like to begin by thanking IDEM for accepting the funding to create the state's first ever climate action plan and thanking this committee for the opportunity to share my public comments.

I have lived in Fort Wayne for 16 years and my daughter was born here. What our state does for the climate in the present and future matters a great deal to me. Our current climate trajectory is unsustainable, and I worry for the state and the planet children like my daughter will inherit as they build their own lives and raise their own families. I changed careers over the past year, and this was an important reason why.

At the same time, these conversations for a state Climate Action Plan present a tremendous opportunity, especially if we are able to focus our priorities on people and the planet more than on corporate profits. Among the ten potential priorities listed in the slide deck presentation this evening, I was grateful to see the first five slides, each given individual standing - enhancing energy efficiency, accelerating the electric vehicle transition for private and public use, enhancing high occupancy vehicle options and use, incentivizing composting efforts, and expanding clean energy generation like local solar and distributed battery storage.

I am supportive of each of these five but want to emphasize one in particular - Local solar. Local solar must be included in Indiana's climate action plan. Policies like distributed rooftop and community solar benefits everyone by: Directly reducing carbon and other harmful air pollutants negatively impacting Hoosiers; creating jobs that cannot be outsourced; and saving consumers money by cutting bills for solar owners and making electric service more efficient and lower cost by producing reliable clean energy close to where it's needed.

Currently, Indiana does not have a community solar policy. Community solar enables subscribers to receive credits on their electric bill for part of the energy produced by a local solar panel array. It allows all Hoosiers to enjoy the benefits of local solar energy regardless of their housing structure or financial means.

Likewise, we need a community solar policy that is proactive and abundantly available to benefit low- and moderate-income households. Historically, low-income and BIPOC communities have been the most negatively impacted by fossil fuel-based energy generation policies. Indiana's Climate Action Plan needs to specifically include input from these communities and eliminate barriers that limit the equitable distribution of benefits from the renewable energy transition.

Let me conclude my comments by stating that Hoosiers deserve genuine climate solutions that address their concerns. Indiana's climate action plan must prioritize practical and effective approaches to reduce carbon emissions and other harmful air pollutants and not prioritize unproven carbon sequestration technologies or put the majority of our proverbial energy eggs into a nuclear fueled basket. It is my hope

that once this part of the process is completed, the state will also commit to pursuing the federal funds needed to effectively implement the climate action plan. Without funding, the plan is aspirational rather than actual.

We call Indiana the crossroads of America. Our state is at a climate crossroads and our children will reap the benefits or the burdens of our choices. Please, let us choose wisely. Thank you.

2. *Kathryn Lisinicchia, Huntington, IN*  
*Resiliency Coordinator, NEIN, Earth Charter Indiana*  
*Chair, Mayor's Advisory Council on Environmental Stewardship, City of Huntington*

Thank you for the opportunity for the community to share input on the State Climate Action Plan and for sharing a draft of the action list on the IDEM website.

I look forward to seeing how these actions are prioritized in our State CAP to address our largest carbon emissions by sector, meaningfully drawing down greenhouse gas pollution from energy, buildings, transportation, and waste.

The action items below coincide with actions currently listed in the Draft Action List, including:

- Removing barriers to the implementation of renewable energy at all levels - utility-scale, commercial, community and residential - to include policies that allow for community solar, power purchase agreements for non-profits and more favorable net metering terms for residential solar.
- Electric vehicles for municipal fleets and public transportation and expanded EV charging infrastructure across the state to support both EV adoption and to bring visitors into Hoosier communities.
- Protecting and expanding conservation of our forests, wetlands and natural resources, including implementing policies to reduce widespread logging in our State Forests.
- Support for municipal mulching and composting programs to divert organic waste and reduce methane emissions from landfills.

In addition, the following actions place special emphasis on rural communities and youth:

- There are a number of communities like mine who have begun the work of climate resiliency and pollution reduction including GHG inventories and climate action planning. These municipalities need funding and support to initiate and sustain significant and meaningful action towards those plans and goals.
- Continued and increased support for trails not just for recreation but to provide real options for alternative transportation and accessibility to work, school, commerce and places of worship.
- Support for the adoption of no-till and cover cropping. Agricultural producers need support to transition to these practices, including technical assistance, to help ensure initial successes and minimize financial risks or other barriers.

- As the Resiliency Coordinator, I have had the opportunity to meet incredible young advocates who want to see meaningful action on climate resilience from their public and community leaders. Supporting the establishment of a statewide green schools' program would answer the call of many young advocates who want to see their schools powered by renewable energy, utilizing EV buses, growing food gardens, reducing waste and energy use and standing as hubs of community education and resilience.

**3.** *Brad Yoder*

*Testimony for Indiana Department of Environmental Management (DEM)*

*Indiana Comprehensive Climate Action Plan (CAP)*

*Public Meeting, Tuesday, October 10, 2023, 6:00PM, John Boner Neighborhood Center, 2236 E Washington Street, Indianapolis, IN, 46201*

I am Brad Yoder, from Hamilton County. First, I want to say thank you to those in the Indiana government who have chosen to participate in the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) Program. And I want to thank you also for actively soliciting public input from all of us around Indiana to make this the fairest, effective, and efficient plan to improve the quality of life for all Hoosiers.

Three years ago, our family decided to invest in a solar array, for the good of the Earth, for the good of our community, and to reduce our electric bill. We have been pleased with the results, and we hope to help to make that opportunity available for all Hoosiers, by the following.

- Indiana's climate action plan should emphasize practical and effective approaches to reduce carbon emissions and other harmful air pollutants for the good of all of us. This includes ensuring clean air, making clean and affordable energy available, promoting energy efficiency, and ensuring fair access to renewable energy for all.
- Indiana should direct resources to local governments and communities who have already developed and are working to implement existing local climate action plans
- We must be sure that the Climate Action Plan includes all Hoosiers. Too often low-income and BIPOC communities have been left behind by the renewable energy transition. All Hoosiers deserve energy which will improve their quality of life. We must identify and remove barriers that limit equitable distribution of benefits from the renewable energy transition. Indiana should be sure that we support the Justice 40 goals outlined by the federal government.
- Opportunities for local solar energy must be included in Indiana's climate action plan. All Hoosiers should be able to invest in, and benefit from, rooftop and community solar, to a) reduce carbon and other harmful air pollutants, b) create jobs that will stay in Indiana, and c) save electric customers money by producing reliable, clean energy close to where it's needed.
- Indiana's climate action plan should include ways to help communities be more resilient. Local solar and other supporting energy resources like battery storage, demand response programs, and energy efficiency, can improve a community's energy flexibility
- The state's climate action plan should include fair and equitable solar policies that empower Indiana's residents and provide fair credit for the electricity they produce. This makes renewable

energy more attractive to solar owners. The current policy for Excess Distributed Generation (EDG) is unfair to those whose production is not operated by investor-owned utilities.

- Community solar needs to be an integral part of the state's Climate Action Plan. Community solar allows subscribers to receive credits on their electric bill for part of the energy produced by a local solar panel array, including renters or partial owners of the array.
- The Indiana climate plan should create a state-based grant program for local schools to install solar (complementing the Environmental Protection Agency's Clean School Bus Program). This would achieve carbon reduction goals while also creating a win-win for students, schools, neighborhoods, and taxpayers.
- While the Indiana CAP is focusing on production and distribution of energy, it should be comprehensive by coordinating with other environmental issues such as water pollution from coal ash. I recently testified before the EPA about the fact that Indiana has more coal ash depositories than any other state, coming from our many coal-fired generators. We need to work comprehensively to improve the quality of life for all Hoosiers.

Thank you for your time and attention.

**4.**     *Lorraine Larsen-Hallock and David Cohen*

Indiana Climate Plan Public Meeting, Oct 10, 2030, Central Indiana, Indianapolis

Housing / business developments impact the consumption of electricity and grid capacity. Mitigation measures should include the following:

- Require that all Home Owner Associations (HOA) allow the installation of rooftop residential solar systems without undo restrictions. Any restrictions should not negatively impact the potential maximum capacity.
- Continue / increase incentives for homeowners/ developers / businesses to install solar systems.
- Provide funding to assist low-income homeowners to install solar systems.
- Require all developments (residential homes, apartments, and business) to install solar energy systems at the time of construction.
- Improvements to existing transmission grids by local or state entities

Our personal struggles with our community HOA denying us the right to install solar panels on the front of our home (south side), prevent us from getting the maximum use of solar power.

**5.**     *Tuesday, October 10, 2023*

*John Boner Neighborhood Centers*

*2236 East 10th Street*

*Indianapolis, IN 46201*

*Re: **Comments from Solar United Neighbors** at CPR Community Engagement Public Meeting on October 10, 2023, at the John Boner Neighborhood Centers*

*To the Indiana Department of Environmental Management CPR community engagement team,  
10 RIGI*

Thank you for the opportunity to share our input into the state's developing climate action plan. Solar United Neighbors (SUN) is a national, grassroots 501(c)3 nonprofit organization dedicated to meeting the needs and interests of solar owners and supporters. Since launching our Indiana program in 2019, we've helped more than 270 families, businesses, and nonprofits around the state install more than 2 MW of small scale solar along with other behind the meter distributed energy resources (DERS) like battery storage and electric vehicle chargers. We envision a clean, affordable, and equitable energy system that directs benefits and control back to local communities, with rooftop solar as the cornerstone. This improved energy system is essential for reducing carbon emissions and other harmful pollutants while also improving community resiliency to mitigate the worst impacts of climate change.

We submit the following comments on behalf of the thousands of SUN members around the state who want to see IDEM develop an effective and impactful climate action plan, and a commitment to work with communities around the state to fully implement that plan.

General points about the plan...

- Hoosiers deserve genuine climate solutions that address their concerns. Indiana's climate action plan must prioritize practical and effective approaches to reduce carbon emissions and other harmful air pollutants without relying on accounting gimmicks. This includes ensuring clean air, making clean and affordable energy accessible, MOL promoting energy efficiency and ensuring fair access to renewable doSS energy for all.
- The state should direct resources to local governments and communities who have already developed and are working to implement existing local climate action plans.
- We must ensure the Climate Action Plan promotes the inclusion of all Hoosiers. Historically, low-income and BIPOC communities have been left behind by the renewable energy transition. But all Hoosiers deserve better. Indiana's Climate Action Plan needs to specifically include these communities and eliminate barriers that limit the equitable distribution of benefits from the renewable energy transition. At a minimum, the state should align with the Justice 40 goals outlined by the federal government.

Solar specific points...

- Local solar must be included in Indiana's climate action plan. All Hoosiers should be able to invest in and benefit from local solar. Achieving fair and equitable access to local solar can be accomplished through the implementation of fair policies. Rooftop and community solar benefits everyone by:
  - Directly reducing carbon and other harmful air pollutants negatively impacting Hoosiers;
  - Creating jobs that cannot be outsourced; and
  - Saving electric customers money by cutting bills for solar owners and making electric service more efficient at a lower cost by producing reliable clean energy close to where it's needed.
- Indiana's climate action plan should include ways to help communities be more resilient. Local solar and other supporting energy resources like battery storage, demand response programs,

and energy efficiency, can strengthen the electric system and improve resilience. These tools provide lower-cost solutions while preserving flexibility in the electric service reliability.

- Solar owners deserve fair credit for the electricity they generate. The current model for Excess Distributed Generation (EDG) unfairly gives less value to solar production that is not operated by investor-owned utilities.

The state's climate action plan should include fair and equitable solar policies that empower Indiana's residents and provide fair credit.

- Community solar needs to be an integral part of the state's Climate Action Plan. Community solar enables subscribers to receive credits on their electric bill for part of the energy produced by a local solar panel array. It allows all Hoosiers to enjoy the benefits of local solar energy regardless of their housing structure or financial means.
- Create a state-based grant program for local schools to install solar (complementing EPA's clean School Bus program). This would achieve carbon reduction goals while also acting as a win-win for students, schools, neighborhoods, and taxpayers.

**6.** *David Van Gilden, Senior Policy Legal Director, Hoosier 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 forms of carbon sequestration and supports alternative forms of transportation