

MINUTES
CITY OF BLOOMINGTON
COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY

Tuesday, January 11, 2011
6:00 pm McCloskey Room, City Hall, 401 North Morton Street

Next Meeting: February 8, 2011 McCloskey Room City Hall at 6:00 p.m.

Roll Call:

Members present: Dave Rollo, Andy Davis, Cynthia Schultz, Toby Strout, Janice Lilly, David Parkhurst, Melissa Clark, George Huntington, Ted Mendoza, Amy Countryman, Heidi Russell Wagner,

Regrets: Maggie Sullivan, Bill Brown

Staff: Jacqui Bauer, Patrick Shay (Planning)

Vice Chair Andy Davis called the meeting to order at **6:03** pm.

Three representatives from Bloomington Cooperative Plots and Bart Ford (Coca Cola) were present as members of the public.

Approval of the minutes:

The minutes from the December 2010 meeting were approved.

Bloomington Cooperative Plots:

Pat Shay gave a brief presentation on the proposed Bloomington Cooperative Plots project. The petition is very early in the process so Planning does not yet have a great deal of detail.

The project will involve cooperative housing on a plot that has been purchased—located at the end of 8th St, near JB's Salvage. The petitioners are proposing a PUD—there is no use classification for this type of development so Planning is working with them to accommodate what they are trying to achieve.

The process will involve a pre-application process, review by the development review committee (city staff), then review by the Plan Commission at 2 separate meetings. Ultimately approval will be decided by City Council. It's early in the process but Pat conveyed some confidence that they would be able to come to some agreement—Planning will need to talk to council members, neighbors, and others before they can have a good understanding of what all the issues will be. Fire Dept access and utility issues may also be concerns in the process.

Danny Weddle from the Coop also spoke briefly about the project. In response to commissioner questions he noted that if the cooperative were unsuccessful, the land would likely revert to Bloomington Cooperative Living (a not-for-profit) or be donated to a land trust like Sycamore Land Trust.

Dave Rollo expressed support for the project as a model for a community approach to development.

Heidi suggested including a public education component as part of their petition.

If the commission wants to comment on the project, Pat recommended that commissioners attend the council and plan commission meetings. A letter of support would also be helpful. The project will be considered at the March and April Plan Commission meetings.

A motion was made and seconded to support the language that was shared over email. The recommendation was approved and will be shared with the Plan Commission and City Council.

Announcements:

Melissa has a student who is eager to do a documentary/media project. Commissioners may send ideas to Melissa.

Energy efficiency upgrades—Heidi followed up on a question from the last meeting about assessed value of energy improvements. There were no additional questions following the email that clarified the issue.

Report from the Sustainability Coordinator:

Jacqui described recent meetings regarding home energy efficiency, including one with Habitat and one with Earthcare. She is hoping to pull together the local groups working on this topic at a meeting in the near future. The purpose of the meeting would be to discuss each group's focus and to develop and agree upon community goals for energy efficiency. She would like BCOS to have a presence in this effort as well.

Ted suggested getting in touch with Christie Cappel from Indy Habitat since they have built several efficient homes that may be of interest to the local chapter.

It was also suggested that we should follow up with participants in recent efficiency initiatives to get an estimate of what emissions impact has been. Jacqui will be following up again in a few months so could try to gather this information. To get a better response, we might send out postcards to warn people that we will be asking them to evaluate impacts of improvements on usage. Cynthia may also have information on how to estimate impacts of different improvements.

Dave P. noted concerns about radon if houses are made tighter.

We might also see if there's a way to have HAND look more closely at energy efficiency and other sustainability issues during their regular inspections. They might gather better information on utility usage, etc.

Jacqui also discussed an upcoming visit by biking consultant Mia Birk. BCOS has been asked to sponsor lunch. Sponsorship was approved up to up to \$250 with one abstention.

Committee Reports:

Jacqui talked about the potential to have a BCOS representative on the Environmental Commission's Planning Committee. The EC will meet soon to discuss this idea officially, so BCOS can address this next month.

Energy: Has not met since last meeting; having some trouble getting all members together.

Food: There will be a meeting of the group working on the food policy council at the Green Bean this Friday at 8:15.

Water: Nothing to report. The committee doesn't have many members—Melissa will send out info to all members; Jacqui can also share with the Volunteer Network to try to get membership outside the commission.

Communications: The Green Network News website (www.gnnbloomington.com) is up and running. It needs some improvement but it's got the basics.

STAR: Cynthia noted that the committee would like to expand the report. Jill Minor (one of Bill's students) is interested in working on the report. She has met with Jacqui and will start working on the report soon, starting with the energy section.

On the topic of joint marketing campaign—Jacqui suggested postponing until the committees have time to meet and talk about their goals for the year.

New Business:

George noted that Bob Bent (a former commissioner) passed away and suggested that BCOS send a card. Jacqui and George will coordinate.

Andy raised the issue of formula funding for buses. IU ridership is not being counted in the city's calculations so we are missing out on federal funding. He suggested having someone from IU come to talk about the details of this issue so BCOS can decide whether to take action. Andy will share some information on the topic.

Dave R. suggested scheduling an update on the Platinum Bike Task Force

Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm.

MINUTES
CITY OF BLOOMINGTON
COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY

Tuesday, February 8, 2011
6:00 pm McCloskey Room, City Hall, 401 North Morton Street

Next Meeting: March 8, 2011 McCloskey Room City Hall at 6:00 p.m.

Roll Call:

Members present: Maggie Sullivan, Bill Brown, Andy Davis, Janice Lilly, David Parkhurst, Heidi Russell Wagner, Amanda Figolah, Dave Rollo, Amy Countryman, George Huntington, Ted Mendoza, Cynthia Schultz. Advisory member Michael Beczkiewicz was also present.

Regrets: Melissa Clark, Toby Strout

Staff: Jacqui Bauer

Chair Maggie Sullivan called the meeting to order at **6:02** pm.

Representatives from IU Transit and Bloomington Transit were also present

Buff Brown discussed the visit by biking expert Mia Birk, scheduled for March 1.

Michael Beczkiewicz discussed the Duke Energy Go Green program, and mentioned some concerns about the amount of money that goes to overhead. He is continuing to look into this more and wants to make sure the public is aware.

Approval of the minutes:

The minutes from the January 2011 meeting were approved.

Announcements:

Bill attended a meeting of the Big Ten community/campus sustainability directors last week. He will prepare a report, but found the meeting very informative.

Jacqui announced several organizational meetings taking place this week

Transit discussion:

BT director Lew May gave a presentation on the connection between public transit and sustainability. He showed a strong record of growth from 1984 to present—nine-fold over 25 years. First year to break 1m riders was 1999, 2m mark broken in 2003, 3m mark in 2009. He credited their partnership with IU for this exponential growth, in particular IU's adoption of a mandatory transit fee. Ridership on IU's campus system is about 3.5m, so a total of about 6.5m for both systems.

For comparison—Indianapolis has the largest transportation system in the state, and have a ridership of about 8m, so Bloomington ridership is very high.

Lew also discussed BT's use of hybrid-electric buses. Has seen 40% increase in efficiency over traditional diesel buses. Now have a total of 6 hybrid-electric buses. The second purchase of buses (made in 2010) has shown even better efficiency results than the first buses purchased in 2007. Return on investment for the hybrid buses has been If fuel prices are at \$4 or higher, the additional investment required for hybrids will pay for itself; there are also impacts on air quality and noise that should be considered. Regarding maintenance costs, BT only has 3 years of experience with hybrids, but anticipates some small maintenance savings. No data yet on how long the NiMH batteries will last.

BT is also planning a new downtown transit facility. They have proposed to include the City/County Policy 911 Emergency Dispatch Center in the 2nd story of the new building. They will try for a LEED Silver certification on the building. Currently waiting for approval for the change in scope from the grantor, but expect to move forward on construction in 2012.

Other topics: expansion of geographic coverage, increased frequency, late night service, and night-owl service. In the future: hope to expand Sunday service, further increase frequency, expanding geographic coverage, and reducing travel time; also of interest are advanced technology (including improved fuel technologies as well as Nextbus technologies and other computer-related enhancements).

Andy Davis raised the question of formula monies and other funding availability. Grad student Ray ?? spoke about his work with the Student Transportation Board?? at IU. The board came up with the Night-Owl service idea, and also helped implement the GPS tracking system for IU buses. The board is very interested in exploring PMTF funding (Public Mass Transportation Fund); BT is currently eligible for this funding. 70% of BT ridership is IU students.

Ray explained that there is a federal allocation to the PMTF pool in each state, and all transit systems in the state draw on those funds based on ridership and other factors. Lots of potential to expand our share of the funding if IU/BT better coordinate their efforts. Ray indicated that discussions on this topic are continuing. The 2010 allocation for Bloomington was about \$2m; if IU ridership were added, it would likely increase this amount. Concerns: since state pool is limited, it could be problematic for other systems if we begin taking a bigger percentage.

Lew said that BT is in negotiations with IU for a fully unified system, including unified policy making and other aspects. BT has made proposals to IU, and is hopeful that they will move forward. He echoed concerns that other transit systems will be affected by this. The fund is currently funded by a fixed percentage of sales tax, so the state legislature may need to find ways of augmenting this pot of money or finding other ways to address this concern.

In response to a public question: Lew outlined BT's initiatives to appeal to younger riders, including summer passes for minors. One idea is to make transit free to minors. Ray indicated that he didn't anticipate a reduction in funding if IU joins PMTF, and also that merging the systems may expand additional funding opportunities. Lew added that he has encouraged IU not to reduce revenue from student fees if they do join PMTF.

Are there ways BCOS could support BT/IU's efforts to improve their systems? BT needs support in talking to policymakers and elected officials at all levels of government to emphasize desire for improvements for all modes of transportation.

Are we ready for fuel shortages and rising oil prices? Are we prepared? They are exploring expanding fuel storage, hoping to continue to expand hybrid bus fleet, looking at other ways of purchasing fuel that will result in better prices for fuel.

Is light rail a possibility? Probably a better option in larger communities. Federal funding would be key.

Report from the Sustainability Coordinator:

Jacqui gave updates on the effort to LEED-certify City Hall and the related sustainable purchasing policy.

She also asked for representatives from BCOS to attend the lunch (sponsored by BCOS) being held in conjunction with bicycling consultant Mia Birk's visit. Bill, Heidi, Dave R. (on behalf of the Platinum Bike Task Force), Cynthia, and Maggie all volunteered. Jacqui will share a digital copy of the flier about the event.

She also discussed efforts to organize the 2nd Hoosier to Hoosier Community Sale, and mentioned efforts to jointly market the event with several other reuse-themed events taking place at that time as the "Bloomington Resale Trail." This year volunteer recruitment will focus more on organizations adopting volunteer days, so she encouraged BCOS to consider adopting one day. Amanda also mentioned that the South High School environmental club would be interested as well.

Committee Reports:

ECPC: explained proposal for Andy to serve as primary representative with Heidi as an alternate. The proposal was approved unanimously.

STAR: Committee is meeting every 2 weeks, working with SPEA intern Jill Minor. Hoping to complete data collection by end of semester, with writing over the summer. Tackling energy section first. Jacqui outlined logic behind approaching the plan this way, including a delay in putting together a more comprehensive sustainability plan that will necessitate an interim plan.

*Dave mentioned need to emphasize liquid fuels, especially emphasizing shortages; Mike mentioned impacts of diesel shortages/prices on ability to move coal around

Water: The committee is working on possible rain barrel and local school outreach programs.

Energy: working on STAR report.

Food: Continuing to work on efforts to establish a food policy council. There will be another steering committee meeting

Larger public meetings will be quarterly; subgroups will be monthly.

Hoping to look at starter garden program again soon.

Communications: there will be a meeting to discuss the Green News Network website at 3:15 Friday at the Courthouse.

Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned at **7:45** pm.

MINUTES
CITY OF BLOOMINGTON
COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY

Tuesday, March 8, 2011
6:00 pm McCloskey Room, City Hall, 401 North Morton Street

Next Meeting: April 12, 2011 McCloskey Room City Hall at 6:00 p.m.

Roll Call:

Members present: Maggie Sullivan, Bill Brown, Andy Davis, Janice Lilly, David Parkhurst, Amanda Figolah, Amy Countryman, Ted Mendoza, Cynthia Schultz. Advisory member Michael Beczkiewicz was also present.

Regrets: George Huntington, Dave Rollo, Heidi Russell Wagner, Melissa Clark, Toby Strout

Staff: Jacqui Bauer, Jill Minor

Chair Maggie Sullivan called the meeting to order at **6:02** pm.

Approval of the minutes:

The minutes from the February 2011 meeting were approved.

Public comment:

None.

Announcements:

Bloomington Community Orchard is accepting self-nominations for its board until March 31. Also, its second planting day will be April 9, using the funds from the Tom's of Maine grant.

USGBC will be offering webinars on green building issues. There will be a small fee. Dates will be publicized soon.

The Seed Swap will be at the Winter Farmers Market this Saturday.

GNN Bloomington—the Green Network News website is about ready to be launched. Heidi asked BCOS members to start using the site, sending in events and comments, etc. The website: www.gnnbloomington.com

IU was one of 20 campuses recognized this year as a Bike Friendly Campus at the Bronze level.

May 12-14 will be e-waste days on campus; May 14 is open to the public.

The Energy Challenge kickoff will be March 23.

An ordinance to create a county sustainability commission is going to the county commissioners on Friday, so they will be moving forward with that soon. Cynthia suggested

that we make sure we connect with the new commission—perhaps with an ex-officio member.

Report from the Sustainability Coordinator:

Jacqui discussed the recent visit by national biking expert Mia Birk. A number of City bike infrastructure and education initiatives are likely to evolve out of this event.

City Hall's Energy Dashboard was announced at the State of the City address, and has been made available on the City's website. This allows facilities staff and others to track building energy usage by the hour, day, week, month, and year.

Jacqui is continuing to work on the City's new purchasing policy, and finding challenges in how to minimize the use of bottled water and of Styrofoam.

*Amanda noted the huge amount of waste generated each day during lunch at South High School. The school no longer has the ability to wash dishes, so trays and dishes are all Styrofoam. This would be a good project for a small group of BCOS members.

For Hoosier to Hoosier: Amanda's Environmental Club will take May 21; BCOS will adopt July 9, afternoon is preferable

Committee Reports:

ECPC: Andy's first meeting with the Environmental Commission's Planning Committee will be March 10. Current projects include Bloomington Cooperative Plots and the Renwick project.

STAR: Committee continuing to meet every 2 weeks, working with SPEA intern Jill Minor.

*have set draft energy targets; borrowed heavily from Philadelphia's Greenworks Plan.

Agreed upon goals, to be met by 2014:

- *lower city govt energy consumption by 15%

- *reduce city-wide building energy usage by 10%

- *retrofit about 5% of housing stock—365 homes/year

- *increase renewable energy generation and purchasing to 5%

*Some challenges with Duke and Vectren data sets

*How to address rental units? Will be exploring how to target landlords and renters

*Weatherization—the committee will try to gather data from the many groups who are working on weatherization to show how

*the group will also look for sources of money to help defray the cost and/or provide loans of weatherization improvements

The group voted to approve these targets. The STAR committee will work with Communications to publicize them.

Water: The committee has met a few times and targeting a rain barrel workshop in mid- to end of April. Jacqui will work with Melissa to find a place to store and to transport the barrels.

They are holding off on further work on the "Little Drip" until CBU moves forward with their water conservation position. The costume is on hold.

Energy: working on STAR report.

Food: Has not met. Janice will be coordinating a future meeting.

The next Food Policy Council meeting is on April 13th. Location is uncertain.

Communications: See the announcement above about the GNN website.

Maggie asked if there were any follow-up on the transportation discussion during last month's meeting. The group discussed the possible advantages of BCOS taking a stand on the issue. Andy will compose a proposed resolution for discussion at the next meeting.

Maggie also lead a discussion of BCOS's direction for the next year. Possible projects of interest include simple activities like adopting an H2H volunteer day or more complex undertakings like tackling transit system issues, helping the MCCSC with their waste issues, etc.

Cynthia commented that it would be great to attach BCOS's undertakings to specific targets outlined in the STAR report.

Taking on specific projects like the recent recommendation for reformatting of the water bill to provide better information to customers may be a good strategy—specific and targeted projects. Another specific project is the 45/46 bypass—Heidi noted that Milestone (the contractor) is not implementing erosion control as they should. BCOS may be able to encourage more responsibility.

Maggie asked people to come to the next meeting with activities

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at **7:06** pm.

MINUTES
CITY OF BLOOMINGTON
COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY

Tuesday, April 12, 2011
6:00 pm McCloskey Room, City Hall, 401 North Morton Street

Next Meeting: May 10, 2011 McCloskey Room City Hall at 6:00 p.m.

Roll Call:

Members present: Maggie Sullivan, Bill Brown, Janice Lilly, David Parkhurst, Amanda Figolah, Amy Countryman, George Huntington, Toby Strout, Ted Mendoza, Cynthia Schultz. Advisory member Michael Beczkiewicz was also present.

Regrets: Dave Rollo, Heidi Russell Wagner, Melissa Clark.

Staff: Jacqui Bauer.

Chair Maggie Sullivan called the meeting to order at **6:04** pm.

Approval of the minutes:

The minutes from the March 2011 meeting were approved.

Public comment:

None.

Announcements:

Andy Davis has stepped down from BCOS and will be moving to S. Korea. If anyone has other possible members who might be interested, please send them to the Clerk's webpage to apply for consideration, and also share names with the Chair.

Toby suggested that we do a gap analysis to determine what areas are underrepresented. We have a number of members who are interested in food already, so other areas of interest might be appropriate.

The Community Orchard Planting Day was cancelled last week due to weather, and has been rescheduled to Saturday 4/16.

Bill Nesper from the League of American Bicyclists will be visiting Bloomington on Thursday, 4/14. There will be a press conference at 1:30 on the B-line and a public talk at 7pm.

The Farmers Market Coalition is planning a national food day in October. Cynthia will share information on this.

There will be a rain barrel and compost bin sale on April 30; the BCOS water committee will also do a rain barrel workshop on the same day from 2-4pm at Harmony School.

SIREN will do a presentation on solar options on Wednesday, May 18. The location is TBD.

Hoosier to Hoosier will have multiple volunteer days from May 2-6 and May 9-10 if anyone is available to volunteer.

Report from the Chair:

Maggie asked to postpone the report on member areas of interest until next month to allow her to meet with all members.

Report from the Sustainability Coordinator:

Jacqui gave an overview of the bike infrastructure initiative (allocating ~\$2m to bike and pedestrian projects) and the new downtown recycling drop off center announced by the mayor.

She also discussed the Task of the Month home energy efficiency initiative started by Earth Care, and efforts to start using the toolkit in neighborhoods and other groups.

Committee Reports:

STAR: some discussion ensued after the announcement of the 4 targets at the last meeting, and the committee decided to revisit the last target. The goals announced last month:

- *lower city govt energy consumption by 15%
- *reduce city-wide building energy usage by 10%
- *retrofit about 5% of housing stock—365 homes/year
- *~~increase renewable energy generation and purchasing to 5%~~

The committee agreed to modify the last to an increase of 20% of current renewable energy generation. Good data doesn't exist to establish a baseline, but the committee is working on gathering info from local installers, SIREN, and others.

The committee is also looking at transitioning to a web-based report to allow for easy updates.

The committee will start looking at transportation and other topics, and examining possible targets for those categories.

Bill indicated that IU will be adding 46 kilowatts of renewable power generation this year, so that may mean we will get pretty close to the last target just based on their contribution.

The goals were approved unanimously. Ted will revise the press release and send it to the chairs.

Energy: Discussions have been taking place around the possibility of installing solar PV on City Hall. We will keep the commission posted on these efforts.

Water: The committee will host a rain barrel workshop on April 30 as discussed above.

Food: the committee met to discuss a starter garden program to get more people to grow vegetables, and to discuss what gardens are already in existence. They met with Stephanie Sullivan at Mother Hubbard's Cupboard to brainstorm ideas. They also suggested choosing a Saturday in May to have an "opening of the gardening season" at the farmers market—they have discussed this idea with Marcia Veldman as a possibility of next year.

Jacqui also shared a report from a student class last fall that the committee reviewed—the report found that people decide to garden based on being exposed to gardening through neighbors, family, or friends. This may be a basis for a program in the future.

Dave P. also talked to James Farmer, who conducted a survey last fall on gardening and community-supported agriculture.

ECPC: Since Andy is departing, Maggie will talk to Heidi about stepping up from the alternate position to serve as BCOS's primary representative

Communications: The GNN website is continuing to develop. The person who has been doing many of the updates is leaving, and he suggested that we look for another student who can work on the website as a resume-builder.

New Business:

Bike Summit: BCOS was approached with a request for funding to support the Platinum Bike Task Force Bike Summit. Amy suggested that we might tie our support to providing local food at the reception.

The commission agreed unanimously to donate \$100 with the contingency that the caterer provides local food as part of the menu.

Food survey: A second request came from the Food Committee to support a gardening survey as part of the efforts of the Assessment Committee of the Food Policy Council. They want to figure out where food gardens are already established. A computer survey could be sent through the Master Gardener Program, the Local Growers Guild, the Community Orchard, other groups.

A suggestion was made to involve the Extension Service in the effort, as well as working with someone with expertise in surveys to make sure the survey is effective.

The commission agreed to donate up to \$100 to cover printing and postage where needed.

Waste at South High School: Andy Davis toured South High School with Amanda and the head custodian there to evaluate the generation of waste in the cafeteria. The visit raised many questions, and revealed the complexity of trying to address the problem. Taking on the project would be a huge undertaking—1000 Styrofoam trays are generated per day. Maggie and Amy both indicated an interest in following up.

Cool roofs: Dave P. reported on a speaker at SPEA recently on the fact that urban areas are heating up much faster than other areas, often with catastrophic results. The speaker recommended both planting trees and installing white/cool roofs. Austin TX has an ordinance requiring cool roofs, and Dave suggested that the commission explore working with the council to require this for new buildings. He will work on more details for a future meeting.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at **7:20** pm.

MINUTES
CITY OF BLOOMINGTON
COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY

Tuesday, May 10, 2011
6:00 pm McCloskey Room, City Hall, 401 North Morton Street

Next Meeting: June 14, 2011 McCloskey Room City Hall at 6:00 p.m.

Roll Call:

Members present: Maggie Sullivan, Bill Brown, Heidi Russell Wagner, Melissa Clark, David Parkhurst, Amy Countryman, George Huntington, Toby Strout, Ted Mendoza.

Regrets: Janice Lilly, Dave Rollo, Amanda Figolah, Cynthia Schultz, Michael Beczkiewicz.

Staff: Jacqui Bauer.

Public: Ann Kreilkamp.

Chair Maggie Sullivan called the meeting to order at **6:05** pm.

Public comment:

Ann Kreilkamp asked for clarification of BCOS's mission.

Announcements:

The local chapter of USGBC is hosting its first webinar series starting this Thursday at Rachael's Café. Ted, Heidi, and Dave Gulyas (all members of the steering committee for the local chapter) will also be giving a green building class through People's University.

There will be a class on orchard pests at the Community Orchard on Saturday.

There will be a meeting on the Green Network News website this Thursday, 11am.

There will be a hearing at 3pm on the proposed county stormwater utility fee.

For National Bike to Work Day, Bloomingfoods will have food giveaways. Jacqui will also be guiding a targeted women's ride over lunch the same day (May 20). This will be a public event.

IU will be holding its annual E-waste day this Saturday, May 14.

SIREN and Earth Care will host an event on renewable energy on May 18 at First United Methodist Church.

There will be a workshop on raising poultry through Purdue Extension on May 19 and 26.

Approval of the minutes:

The minutes from the April 2011 meeting were approved.

Community Gardening/Yard sharing/Gift economy:

Ann Kreilkamp lead a short discussion about yard sharing (examples include www.yardsharing.org (in Portland), Hyperlocavore.com, sharingbackyards.com). This is a way to link people with land to people who are interested in gardening. She encouraged BCOS to find ways to develop this idea locally, either using these sites or another targeted more specifically at Bloomington.

She also raised the idea of finding ways to facilitate the sharing of items among community residents—perhaps a flatbed truck that shares vegetables, compost/mulch, healthy snacks, unneeded items. It could have a regular route to encourage people to donate and reuse.

Report from the Chair:

Maggie reported on her discussions with BCOS members on their interests. One suggestion was to have a mixer to help BCOS members get to know each other. Maggie tentatively suggested August 9.

Other ideas of interest are transportation, waste, green businesses.

Maggie asked if anyone is willing to work on a policy for BCOS members taking stances in public forums—eg for writing columns, etc. Toby will work with Maggie on this.

January Jones at WFHB has asked for regular input from BCOS for CATS Week. Heidi suggested that we start with energy and the newly adopted targets from the STAR committee. Cynthia would probably be the best person for this topic—Heidi will follow through with Cynthia and January.

The Communications committee might be a good next topic to kick off the GNN Bloomington website.

Monroe County is working to create a new sustainability commission, and is collecting applications. There will likely be an appointee from either the Environmental Commission or BCOS—this decision will be at the Mayor's discretion.

Maggie proposed (per a suggestion from Amanda) that BCOS invite the energy efficiency coordinator from the Monroe County Community School Corporation to a future meeting.

Report from the Sustainability Coordinator:

Downtown recycling drop-off center: the proposal went before the Plan Commission last night and should still be on target for a June opening.

Collections for the Hoosier to Hoosier Community Sale have kicked off and are going well. Since the venue and storage location have changed, it's difficult to compare the amount from the dorms to last year, but there have been many more off-campus requests for pick-ups.

Committee Reports:

STAR: The committee is continuing to pursue a web-based report to allow for easy updates.

The committee will start looking at transportation and other topics, and examining possible targets for those categories.

Bill indicated that IU will be adding 46 kilowatts of renewable power generation this year, so that may mean we will get pretty close to the renewable energy target just based on IU's contribution.

Water: The committee hosted a rain barrel workshop on April 30 at Harmony School. Twenty-nine were sold to participants and one was created for Harmony to use.

Melissa will now be focusing on the Little Drip, to encourage water conservation in the community through school curriculum.

Energy: No report from the committee beyond the STAR report, but Jacqui noted that there will be a meeting on June 1 to discuss community strategies for energy efficiency and renewables.

Food: Dave P. reported on the upcoming survey of existing food/vegetable gardens in the city. That will be going out soon.

He will also start participating in the Planning Department discussions about the updates to urban agriculture in the Unified Development Ordinance.

ECPC: We still need a representative. Maggie will fill in in the interim.

Communications: There will be a meeting this Thursday to finish up the Green Network News (www.gnnbloomington.com) website and get it ready to be made public.

Old Business:

Dawn Hewitt is almost done with her story on soil erosion on the 45/46 Bypass. Heidi and Maggie are working on a guest column to run at the same time on why erosion is important. It's expected to be published on Friday May 20.

New Business:

Cool roofs: Dave P. discussed the importance of reducing urban heat island effect, and how we could encourage cool roofs as a way to reduce this problem.

He shared proposed language on a recommendation BCOS could make regarding cool roof/white roof requirements. Members noted that there may be resistance to these regulations. The next steps are likely to include a discussion with Planning to determine how to proceed. Maggie and Dave P. will follow up with Tom Micuda.

Dave R. mentioned that the EC has also been interested in heat island effect and has inventoried trees as part of their efforts.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at **7:20** pm.



CANCELLATION NOTICE

The June meeting of the City of Bloomington Commission on Sustainability has been cancelled due to the lack of a quorum.

MINUTES
CITY OF BLOOMINGTON
COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY

Tuesday, July 12, 2011
6:00 pm McCloskey Room, City Hall, 401 North Morton Street

Next Meeting: July 12, 2011 McCloskey Room City Hall at 6:00 p.m.

Roll Call:

Members present: Maggie Sullivan, Bill Brown, Amy Countryman, Ted Mendoza, Janice Lilly, Cynthia Schultz, George Huntington.

Regrets: Toby Strout, Dave Rollo, Amanda Figolah, Michael Beczkiewicz, Melissa Clark, David Parkhurst.

Staff: Jacqui Bauer.

Chair Maggie Sullivan called the meeting to order at **6:05** pm.

Public comment:

Daniel McMullen commented briefly on constitutional rights.

Approval of the minutes:

The May 2011 meeting minutes were approved unanimously.

Report from the Chair:

Recap of cool roofs discussion with City Planning: Maggie and Dave P. met with Tom Micuda from City Planning. The City is in charge of zoning code, and the County handles building permits, which would be more appropriate for green roof requirements. Options include asking County Building to consider a mandate, or incorporating incentives into the City's green building incentives. Discussions will continue, but incentives were initially the preferred approach.

Are there any covenants that prohibit white/cool roofs?

BCOS budget: There are about \$1400 remaining in the 2011 budget, with about \$750 for supplies and the rest for event support. The Commission will discuss both possible uses for these funds and ways to make decisions about funds at the next meeting.

This led to a discussion of the bike summit—Jacqui will share the initial ranking of priorities with the Commission.

BCOS membership: The City Council is considering replacements for Andy Davis. Heidi Russell Wagner has resigned as the county's representative. Jacqui will approach the county to determine how to proceed with a reappointment.

Planning for outreach and communications: Maggie did an interview with January Jones from WFHB; Cynthia, Jacqui, and intern Jill Minor were interviewed by Rod Spaw from the Herald Times earlier today.

Maggie is working to get Drew Wood, the energy specialist from the MCCSC, to attend a future meeting.

Report on the BALLE Conference:

Cynthia and Jacqui attended the conference of the Business Alliance for Local Living Economies in mid-June in Bellingham, Washington.

Bellingham is similar in size to Bloomington and is also a college town. Sustainable Connections helped organize the conference, and is a possible model for “stitching together” the various sustainability organizations here in Bloomington.

Cynthia focused on the development of green jobs—she and Jacqui participated in a tour of manufacturing facilities that had implemented the “triple bottom line” value. Of particular was the idea of encouraging businesses not to think of labor as a commodity helps tie those businesses more to place.

Another topic discussed at the conference was the idea of community finance—an organization called RSF Finance was one of the sponsors of the conference. They offer opportunities for both institutional and individual investors, and a source of finance for local projects (including Bloomington businesses like Bloomingfoods).

An application was submitted by Local First for Bloomington to host the conference next year. We are still waiting for a decision.

Committee Reports:

ECPC: Maggie has been serving as the BCOS representative to the Environmental Commission Planning Committee. If other commission members are interested in serving in this position, please let Maggie know.

STAR: The committee is continuing to pursue a web-based report to allow for easy updates. Energy targets have largely been completed and are up online; water and housing are in progress.

The committee discussed the new webpages with Rod Spaw from the Herald Times today. Cynthia will talk to the county Building Department about possible ways to track green development as part of the report. The Environmental Commission has been asked for input on the water targets.

Water: No members were present.

Energy: No report from the committee beyond the STAR report.

Food: The Food Policy Council will meet this Thursday, and the steering committee will be sending out a food-related survey soon.

Communications: The website is up and running, and an intern is working to fill in additional information. There has also been a request for an advertising section on the website. It is unclear at this point where the money might go, but Ted is exploring options.

New Business:

Ted talked to Rafael Vega at the Monroe County Soil & Water Conservation District, who is interested in attending a future BCOS meeting to present on their programs.

Jacqui has also been approached by Coca Cola about converting donated barrels into rain barrels, decorating them, and selling them or auctioning them off as a fundraiser. She will follow up with Melissa to gauge her interest; Maggie will also support the effort if it moves forward.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at **7:13** pm.

MINUTES
CITY OF BLOOMINGTON
COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY

Tuesday, August 9, 2011
6:00 pm McCloskey Room, City Hall, 401 North Morton Street

Next Meeting: September 13, 2011 McCloskey Room City Hall at 6:00 p.m.

Roll Call:

Members present: Maggie Sullivan, George Huntington, Dave Rollo, Cynthia Schultz, Toby Strout, Melissa Clark, David Parkhurst, Caleb Steiner (new member), Janice Lilly, Ted Mendoza.

Regrets: Amy Countryman, Amanda Figolah.

Staff: Jacqui Bauer.

Chair Maggie Sullivan called the meeting to order at **6:05** pm.

Public comment:

Buff Brown from Bloomington Transportation Options for People spoke about the City's transportation budget, specifically focusing on the scale and cost of the proposed roundabouts.

The 17th and Arlington roundabout will serve 10,000 cars/day; Sare and Rogers 15,000 cars/day. He gave examples of other roundabouts that are smaller in size but handle a higher volume of cars.

He also expressed concern that the city is exhausting all of its federal transportation funds for these projects, and will not be able to meet our goal of becoming a Platinum Bike community by 2016. This funding comes from federal sources that could be used for bike and ped infrastructure

Dave R. suggested that BCOS write a letter critiquing the budget and asking for the priorities to be reexamined.

Buff will share a draft set of comments with Toby, and she will use this information to compose a letter from BCOS to the Mayor and Council reflecting BCOS's questions about the scale and cost of the proposed projects, and their impact on the community's desire for a balanced transportation system.

BCOS voted unanimously to share this letter with the Council and the Mayor.

Announcements:

*Dave R. reported that the Platinum Bike Task Force is wrapping up its report and there should be a draft to review by September. The Deer Task Force is also beginning to draw some conclusions—namely, the deer population is severely impacting the Griffy Lake

watershed, and deer are also impacting the social carrying capacity of the community. Dave will soon share the results of a survey that was done regarding how deer impact the community.

*Janice announced that 3 groups will do the Northwest Institute discussion course “Menu for the Future.” This includes 6 sessions, to begin in early October.

*The USGBC has a webinar this Thursday. Indiana Historic Landmarks is doing a window restoration workshop in Bedford tonight—Ted suggested that we try to have more events like these locally.

*Maggie announced the upcoming Simply Living Fair on September 10.

*Jacqui talked about the B-Line opening celebration and B-Line Express event, all occurring on September 8.

*Cynthia announced an upcoming 350.org event on September 24. BCOS may want to see if there’s a way to get involved. She’ll look into it and send details.

Approval of Minutes:

The July minutes were approved unanimously.

Presentation by Drew Wood, MCCSC:

Drew is in charge of water and energy efficiency efforts at the Monroe County Community School Corporation (MCCSC). He focuses on conservation efforts, on working with utilities to make sure they’re getting the best rates. They’ve been very successful so far—the program began in March 2010 and has already saved \$1.6m.

According to the database they use to track all energy usage, the MCCSC would have used 240k MMBTU, but with the program used only 150k MMBTU.

What were the top methods to achieve these savings?

- 1) Addressing HVAC efficiency—Drew has focused on building relationships with facilities manager to find ways to reduce usage in partnership with Honeywell. They have reduced run times in hot and cold weather; ensured that equipment is running as efficiently as possible; and have rezoned buildings. They are now able to schedule when systems are on in different areas of the building instead of turning all systems on at once.
- 2) Remotely shutting down computers when students aren’t there.
- 3) Closer review of utility bills—finding errors on bill, tracking more carefully that charges are correct.
- 4) Tracking humidity in different areas of buildings to make sure mold/mildew are not a problem.
- 5) Identifying leaks.

BHSN has saved 24% compared to the baseline, and BHSS has saved 41%.

The MCCSC has entered the National Building Competition; Jackson Creek Middle School is in the top three performers nationwide.

What are next steps? They've done most of what they can with tweaking HVAC systems. Need to focus more on classroom behavior modification, and examining what uses can be eliminated. They'll also begin introducing concepts into the curriculum—encouraging kids to bring this information back to their own homes. He plans to coordinate with Amanda Figolah and Jean Schick and other teachers interested in these issues.

Energy Education, Inc has provided the background info that allows the Corporation to achieve these savings. The MCCSC pays \$32,000 each month for the contract for 48 months.

They have not yet looked at ways to improve fuel efficiency in their fleet. Their busses all have GPS units so they can track how they are used, so this may provide opportunities for future improvement.

BCOS Budget:

BCOS interns—there is no money for interns this fall, and BCOS's budget was cut in the 2012 budget. Dave R. said he is willing ask for more money in ESD's budget for BCOS to have an intern—Cynthia will prepare a list of needs and estimated costs.

Future needs: trainings for BCOS members, additional money for interns

Other possible uses of funds for 2011: support for Food Policy Council assessment efforts (approved already up to \$100); sponsor urban agriculture tour as part of Food for Thought week in the fall (possibly \$300?); rain barrel kits; support for the public roll-out of the Green Network News website.

The Commission voted unanimously to approve \$225 for the Food for Thought event.

Pizza X composting initiative:

Pizza X has proposed a composting initiative and is asking BCOS to co-sponsor it. The group voted unanimously to support this effort.

The rain barrel initiative was tabled until next month.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at **7:33** pm.

MINUTES
CITY OF BLOOMINGTON
COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY

Tuesday, September 13, 2011
6:00 pm McCloskey Room, City Hall, 401 North Morton Street

Next Meeting: October 11, 2011 McCloskey Room City Hall at 6:00 p.m.

Roll Call:

Members present: Maggie Sullivan, Dave Rollo, Cynthia Schultz, David Parkhurst, Amy Countryman, Amanda Figolah.

Regrets: Bill Brown, Melissa Clark, George Huntington, Janice Lilly, Ted Mendoza, Caleb Steiner, Toby Strout.

Staff: Chris Bentley.

Chair Maggie Sullivan called the meeting to order at **6:05** pm.

Public comment:

Darrell Boggess, affiliated with SIREN (Southern Indiana Renewable Energy Network) commended BCOS for their work.

Approval of Minutes:

The August minutes were approved unanimously.

Report from the Chair:

Update on transportation letter/discussion from last meeting

a. Q & A with Adrian Reid, City Engineering

- Adrian sent a very thorough email, explaining the design and other details of the roundabouts from an engineer's perspective.

Key concerns expressed by BCOS members:

- Size of the roundabouts especially the one at Sare/Rogers.
- Pedestrian friendliness of the roundabout.
- Concern that we are encouraging more motor vehicle traffic when Bloomington is trying to lower vehicular traffic.
- Housing crisis means banks probably won't support development there anyway.
- Data shows that this area is one of the fastest growing areas and so roadways need to address that potential growth especially since this is a federal aid project.
- Roundabout design makes biking confusing and dangerous
- Development is too close to the Monroe Watershed

Positive Aspects of roundabouts:

- Roundabouts are traffic calming and so slowing motor traffic makes it a lot safer for bikes.
- Added side ramps in all four sides to increase safety.

- Right of way for the building of the roundabout has already been purchased so City is ready to build
 - County plan might lead to increased traffic whether or not this new development happens.
 - Roundabouts increase efficiency by decreasing wait times and idling.
 - Engineering has tried to be sensitive on land.
 - The Sare and Rogers project will include \$1 million in storm water maintenance upgrades.
 - Possible options for BCOS:
 1. Increase level of language in letter
 2. Make a proposal
 3. Thank Adrian for time and not proceed further
- Next Steps:
- Design is 99% complete for the roundabout
 - Construction would be next
 - Put in 2013 budget so wouldn't start until then.

Additional Questions:

- *How was this funded?* MPO transportation enhancement funds and Highway safety improvement funds.
 - *What does complete streets mean?* Complete street policies have been in force in Bloomington since the 80's. They include considerations for sidewalks, bike paths, bike lanes, bus pull offs, crosswalks, and safety striping. Dave R. mentioned that \$300,000 was allocated for this year's budget.
 - *Would cars need to stop when entering roundabouts or for pedestrians?* Indiana is a yield state. Motorists would have to yield to pedestrian. No pedestrian fatalities at roundabouts have occurred in the entire country. Adrian referred to the Indy Keystone project as a successful roundabout project. If we build the roundabout this way, we don't have to deal with it for 20 years. Dave R. would prefer that funding go to focus on a rail system study. Get matching funds from MPO.
 - *How much would cost to redesign?* Adrian estimated \$50-100,000. Bloomington has already spent \$300,000 designing this project.
 - *What can we do as a commission?* Could support Dave's initiative, but Maggie is concerned that we're so late in the process that she doesn't want to approach city council with changes at this point.
 - *Are there projects we should know about?* Tapp Rd. and Rockport is a project to keep on your radar screen
- ACTION ITEMS:** Maggie will draft a letter requesting a seat at the table earlier in the planning of future road projects.

b. Discussion of possible rain barrel sale

- This was skipped since Melissa and Jacqui are gone.

c. Reschedule of May 2012 meeting (conflict with primary election): the group voted to move the May meeting to May 15.

Committee reports

- a. Environmental Commission Planning Committee volunteer?

- i. Maggie will no longer be available to attend this meeting since her work conflicts. They meet Wednesday afternoons. They get to discuss construction jobs before they are finalized.
ACTION ITEMS: Dave P. volunteered
- b. STAR committee report
 - i. Cynthia: They reported 2 months ago and committee set energy targets. Topics have been compiled on the websites. There are links to 4 targets with individual pages for each target. Goals are set for 2014. We hope to have more aggressive goals each year. Housing has a page as well. Our overall goal is to reach out to departments working in those areas so talked to HAND. They're focusing on targets from STAR report. We'll be back next month to report other developments. The STAR report will be online from now on rather than once a year. This will allow greater flexibility and more updated data.
ACTION ITEMS: Motion to approve water targets—Dave motioned and unanimously approved
 - ii. *How did you come up with these numbers?* The committee researched other communities and looked at a report (Peak Oil Task Force report). They tried to set stretch goals but yet achievable ones. Ultimately, the numbers represent the best guess from a lot of people.
 - iii. Dave R.: Sewer rate increase is coming down the pipe. The important thing here is to study feasibility of anaerobic waste methane generation. He would love to be involved in studying this issue but representatives should sit down with the head of utilities to get fully educated in issues before gathering a committee to look into this possibility.
 - iv. *Are there resources through IU?* IU is exploring uses for food waste
- c. Reports from Water, Energy, Food, Communication
 - i. Water: Melissa and Jacqui are still looking into Coca-cola barrels
 - ii. Energy: The committee is working with SIREN to get together activities—Going Solar Conference last year generated 6 solar projects. Other possible future contacts: IU, Earthcare. Summer intern gathered data on projects. There are currently 100,000 kWhs of solar power generated in Bloomington through solar sources.
 - iii. Food: The committee is active in food policy council. Updated report is about two weeks away.
 - iv. Communication: Ted designed business cards for the new GNN website.
ACTION ITEMS: BCOS agreed unanimously to reimburse Ted for these expenses.

New Business

- a. Discussion of potential projects for Bill's students
 - Students present: Christy Hurst, Shawn, Chad, Rachel, Andrew, Ryan
 - What are the problems we're trying to solve?*
 - Food systems and waste water
 - Public events green certification programs
 - Economic impacts of bicycles
 - Incentives for green building
- b. Bill has 17 students, so class has been broken up into 4 groups. BCOS is thrilled to have someone working with the high school.

What resources can students use from BCOS? Fleshing out parameters of projects might be helpful. The students could look into what the City already has. For example, the Platinum bike committee would love to have analysis. Could be part of whole process.

Would this require expertise outside of BCOS? Possibly the Engineering department could help. A consulting firm will be looking at bike infrastructure locations. BCOS recommends the students get a hold of Scott Robinson from the City.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at **7:20** pm.

MINUTES
CITY OF BLOOMINGTON
COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY

Tuesday, October 11, 2011
6:00 pm McCloskey Room, City Hall, 401 North Morton Street

Next Meeting: November 1, 2011 McCloskey Room City Hall at 6:00 p.m.

Roll Call:

Members present: Maggie Sullivan, Cynthia Schultz, David Parkhurst, Amy Countryman, Janice Lilly, Ted Mendoza, Toby Strout, Melissa Clark, Caleb Steiner, Amanda Figolah.

Regrets: Bill Brown, George Huntington, David Rollo.

Staff: Chris Bentley, Jacqui Bauer.

Chair Maggie Sullivan called the meeting to order at **6:15** pm.

Approval of Minutes:

The September minutes were approved unanimously.

Announcements:

*Food Policy Council Meeting Local Grower's Build Fall Harvest Feast: Nov. 3, 2011

*Orchard Work Day: Sunday 16 Oct.

*Solar Tour: Sat. 15 Oct. @ noon starting at City Hall. Maps will be provided showing where solar installations are located throughout Bloomington. Details at siren website

*Greenest Football Game: Sat. Oct. 29th

*Alternative Energy project proposals are due soon.

Report from the Chair:

The roundabout project discussed last meeting was fully funded.

Monroe County is calling for nominations from the City of Bloomington for a member of the newly formed Sustainability Commission. Cynthia volunteered; Jacqui will contact the mayor's office to determine if they have been contacted.

Because of the challenges with keeping committees active, Maggie suggested the possibility of undertaking a project to implement every quarter. Some possible project ideas may include:

- Rain barrels
 - Coke is willing to donate barrels to be decorated and auctioned off
 - Potential funding source for the Sustainability Fund
 - Maybe kickoff the project around Martin Luther King, Jr. day?
- Work with greening school cafeterias
- Earth Day event
- Other possible themes?

Committee reports

Environmental Commission Planning Committee volunteer?

Dave P. discovered that his schedule is not compatible with the ECPC meeting schedule, but Maggie's schedule has changed again so she is available to participate instead.

STAR committee report

Cynthia: Hired a new intern (Andrew Rector), but he was in a car accident recently, which has slowed some progress. Andrew is especially interested in Transportation and so will be looking into that component.

ACTION ITEMS: Continue working on adding info and data to web pages

Water committee report:

Maggie inquired about the status of updates to City of Bloomington water bills, and Jacqui reported that they are exploring adding a 12-month chart of water use for each bill. She also noted that they will be adding a better explanation of the units of consumption to the bills.

In their recommendation letter last year, BCOS had also recommended transitioning to meters that reflect single gallons of usage (instead of the current 1000 gallon minimum). This is a long-term goal.

Energy committee report:

SIREN will be reporting to BCOS next month about solar installations

Food committee report:

Food Policy Council activities continue. In addition, the City is working with local stakeholders to develop urban agriculture provisions in the Unified Development Ordinance. These include:

- i. Where urban agricultural can exist
- ii. Increased fence height to discourage deer damage to vegetables
- iii. City Council is exploring modifications to the chicken ordinance and other livestock issues.
- iv. Outlining fruit/vegetable stand regulations

Other activities include a possible celebration to highlight the start of the growing season, a resolution on food to present to the City Council, exploring healthier food for schools, and gardening surveys.

Communication committee report:

Ted encouraged BCOS members to use the gnnbloomington.com website. Members can:

- i. Post on the calendar
- ii. Post topics and stories
- iii. Any member can sign-up to be a contributor

Ted is working on setting up a business sponsorship program for the site as it becomes more established. The group will also hold Happy Hours every other Thursday to spread the word about the site.

ACTION ITEMS: Contribute events and other information to the site.

New Business:

Jacqui reported on the Women's Ride. She was pleased with the turn out: 12 new women came to ride.

Maggie would like more information regarding the efforts of the Platinum Bike Task Force. Jacqui will follow up with the Planning Department.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at **7:10** pm.

MINUTES
CITY OF BLOOMINGTON
COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY

Tuesday, November 1, 2011
6:00 pm McCloskey Room, City Hall, 401 North Morton Street

Next Meeting: December 13, 2011.

Roll Call:

Members present: Maggie Sullivan, Cynthia Schultz, Ted Mendoza.

Regrets: Bill Brown, Melissa Clark, George Huntington, Janice Lilly, Caleb Steiner, Toby Strout, Dave Rollo, David Parkhurst, Amy Countryman, Amanda Figolah.

Staff: Chris Bentley, Jacqui Bauer.

Chair Maggie Sullivan called the meeting to order at **6:05** pm.

Announcements:

*USGBC will have a meeting to discuss a possible partnership with Habitat for Humanity on their new neighborhood development on Thursday, Kelly Room @ 11:30.

Approval of Minutes:

The October meeting's minutes will be approved at the December meeting since a quorum of commission members was not present.

Public Comment:

Darrell Boggess, affiliated with SIREN (Southern Indiana Renewable Energy Network) announced that he had put solar panels on his house. He mentioned that solar panels had dropped 40% in cost. His meter is already running backwards even on cloudy days like last week. The best location for solar panels is on south facing roofs at a 40 degree angle. A forum on renewable energy will be held at the public library, Nov 9th 7 pm. Free.

Report from the Chair:

Janice will resign as of the end of January, so contact Sue Wanzer if you know of anyone interested in applying to be a part of BCOS.

We had planned on having an Earth Day Brainstorm, but that will be postponed until next month so more members can participate.

Maggie asked how things were going with the Energy targets for the STAR report. Cynthia explained that they are working on Transportation and Housing sections currently. Andrew has been contacting multiple people to gather statistics to create charts for the website. He has found some good data on bus ridership, trail use, etc. The STAR committee meets every other Tuesday from noon to 1pm if anyone is interested in joining in the discussion.

Committee Reports:

STAR Committee Report:

Cynthia explained that the purpose of the STAR report is to keep the City Council informed on sustainability issues. The STAR report must be made to the City Council every year. The report elements are in the process of being put online so as to facilitate ongoing updates. This way, the report will become more of a fluid document so it will be easy to report. The committee works with the Environmental Commission as well. More now than ever, BCOS think topically rather than departmentally so if the Environmental Commission is better suited to exploring certain things BCOS encourages this.

No other committees were represented.

New Business:

Terry Usrey Presentation:

Terry's report was focused on solar power sources only. They hope to add geothermal, wood burning, and ethanol figures in the future.

Solar furnaces: One system existed in 1986, and then there were no known new systems until 2008. There are 7 known systems in place today with a 7,000-watt capacity. All of the current solar air heaters are for residential use except for 1 commercial unit. SIREN breaks up installation into four categories: Institutional (school), local government, commercial, and residential. No schools have solar air heating units currently. Growth: Averaging about a 70% growth rate/year.

Solar water heaters: 20 in operation today in three sectors: 11 residential, 8 commercial, and 1 institutional. These units all together have a 81,000 watt capacity. 2009 and 2011 were banner years for solar water heaters. Growth: Averaging about 460%. These percentage growth increases are encouraging but the total number of systems is still quite low.

Solar photovoltaic: Elinor Ostrom recently installed 30 panels on her roof. 56 systems are known to be online today, and were installed over the past six years. These 56 systems have a capacity of 133,319 watts. Most growth has been seen in the residential category. 2009 showed the first local government installation. Bloomington South and IMU also have systems in place. Growth averaging about 200%.

Bloomington's overall potential capacity for energy production from solar power is around 323,126 megawatts. A very small number compared to whole consumption (around 1%) but it is a meaningful part since it represents clean, renewable energy.

State of Renewable Energy in Community: There are a number of private companies now offering solar services: MPI Solar, Solar Systems, Stumpner Building System, EcoSource, NuSun Solar, Energy Solutions, and Whole Sun.

Jacqui indicated that there are also 102 geothermal systems operating in the community—this is based on data from just one installer so is a conservative estimate. There is currently a range of capacities from 900,000-5.2 million watt range.

Terry encouraged policy decisions that will facilitate renewable energy use. Other forms of energy production should be looked into as well.

A member of the community asked Terry if the renewable energy increase was tied to tax credits? Terry said they definitely are. Terry definitely considered this when he put up his own solar panels. He doubts there would be nearly as many systems online today without the help of tax credits.

Is there a way of offering tax credits at a local government level? Prices keeps dropping which means they'll start paying for themselves. Other states have offered solar tax credit programs. In Berkeley, for example, homeowners were allowed to finance solar systems through their property taxes. Cynthia mentioned that renewable energy increases value of neighborhoods and increases community health.

Darrell said that people think buying solar panels is expensive, but solar can be a better investment than money in the stock market in the current economy. A citizen mentioned that he had to choose between two tax credit programs. Capping the options made it difficult. Terry mentioned that maybe next year he could take advantage of the other tax credit. Geothermal tax credit is the same as solar: 30%.

Terry concluded by stating that it's everybody's responsibility to attack climate change. Residents working on homes, businesses working on it at their facilities, and government trying to make their facilities as efficient as possible will lead to the best possible outcome.

Maggie explained that BCOS has set goals and targets for energy consumption cuts, and have also set a goal to increase local renewable energy capacity by 20 percent. It's a difficult economic situation to promote alternative energy use in, but solar power is more feasible now since the prices are coming down and other energy sources are becoming more expensive. Tax credits are in place at least until 2016.

Andrew Rector mentioned that he is working on a class project to come up with incentives for solar power use. Specifically, the class is looking at education and financial incentives that can be implemented on the local level. Next month his class will outline their ideas. Maggie explained that the green building incentives included in Bloomington's Unified Development Ordinance are being revised now. Green building incentives give developers the opportunity to build more units or units of greater densities if they incorporate certain green building principles.

Terry said he would share the PowerPoint with Ted so it can go on the Green News Network website once Terry has had the chance to automate some of the PowerPoint.

Terry explained that SIREN asks all contractors to report new solar installations, but there may be some that are not being accounted for. Jacqui explained that that Bloomington has considered solar panels for some time, but unless they can get grants to fund them, it's cost prohibitive.

Report from the Sustainability Coordinator:

Jacqui showed slides describing the results of the City's first energy inventory for city operations. She postponed her full report until more BCOS members can be present, but noted that water and wastewater treatment are the largest energy consumers. In order to really address reductions in energy use, water and wastewater treatment need to be part of

the conversation. Half of energy consumed at the treatment plant is used to pump the water up the hill from the lake to the plant. Water conservation isn't at the front of people's minds because we have so much water available, but water conservation still matters greatly since we are limited by expensive and vulnerable infrastructure and since so much energy is required to transport and treat water.

For the vehicle fleet, it is hard to calculate miles per gallon (mpg) for departments because of inaccuracies in the data collected. Instead, Jacqui used gallons used per vehicle for comparison. Sanitation and police use the most fuel per vehicle.

We'll be doing another MLK Day Energy Team project where we'll be visiting citizens in their home and showing them how they could make their homes more energy efficient. If anyone is interested in volunteering or participating in any way let Jacqui know. We will also be doing the Beat the Meter Blitz again this year where energy consultants will go into greater depth on specific ways that citizens can cut energy consumption.

The Bloomington Growth Policy Plan is being revised and will be approved in a year or two. This plan hasn't been revised since 2002, so this is a great opportunity to project what we'd like future development to look like.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at **7:00** pm.

MINUTES
CITY OF BLOOMINGTON
COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY

Tuesday, December 13, 2011
6:00 pm McCloskey Room, City Hall, 401 North Morton Street

Next Meeting: January 10, 2011

Roll Call:

Members present: Maggie Sullivan, Cynthia Schultz, Ted Mendoza, Bill Brown, Melissa Clark, Janice Lilly, Caleb Steiner, Toby Strout, Dave Rollo, David Parkhurst, Amy Countryman, Amanda Figolah, Ashley Skooglund.

Regrets: George Huntington.

Staff: Jacqui Bauer, Chris Bentley.

Chair Maggie Sullivan called the meeting to order at **6:05** pm.

Public Comment:

No public comments were made.

Announcements:

- Last community orchard work day, Saturday, 17 Dec. 1-5 pm
- Platinum Bike Task Force report approved by city council and mayor. To learn more about the bike taskforce visit Bloomington.in.gov/platinumbiketaskforce. BCOS might try to identify ways to support different recommendations of the report, like helping to increase the number of side paths.
- Deer task force is nearing the end. Should have report by March.
- USGBC is hosting a conference on May 16-18. Regional conference bringing in about 1,000 participants. Will be held in Indianapolis Convention Center. Ted will send out more information about this.
- IU Master Plan called for a transportation demand management plan. Will be conducting this through spring semester, and will explore how to reduce demand for single occupancy vehicles.
- Monroe County Community Energy Challenge will build a 50-watt solar photovoltaic installation on North Showers, and will also involve the Fairview, University, and Project Schools. The energy challenge will kick off on Earth Day.
- Ashley Skooglund, the new appointee to BCOS for the county, introduced herself. Works for the county. Previously was with the United Way working for flood recovery. Been active with CARES board and various other programs. Program development is her specialty. On Monroe County Environmental Quality & Sustainability Commission.

Approval of Minutes:

The October and November meeting's minutes were approved.

Report from the Chair:

Trillium Horticultural Project:

Steve Hale—Introduced a project to utilize a portion of an 80-acre parcel of county property located in the Thomson site as a horticultural park. Key concern: peak oil. Mission statement: Working toward greater food security by increasing access to local organic food, compost and other soil. Potential uses: Large section for compost, farming co-op.

Opportunities: Community gardens, farm school, orchards, nurseries, surface water. Exactly the sort of thing we'd like to see happen (farm school). Members include Marie Fleming, Keith Johnson (Horticultural School), Michael Simmons (Food Policy Council), Gale and Stephen Hale (Volunteers)

Six steps to move ahead and develop a proposal to the county: 1) Develop partnerships, 2) Develop Trillium Park proposal to Monroe County Commissioners. Mark Stoops has agreed to spearhead this from county side. 3) Obtain permission 4) Develop and submit PUD, 5) Complete detailed site development 6) Park development.

Google Trillium Horticultural Park for more information.

BCOS membership:

The Commission welcomed Ashley. All other commission members should receive letters about being reappointed to BCOS. Those who are thinking of stepping down, please let Maggie know. Long-time member Toby Strout has indicated she will be stepping down. The Commission thanks her for her dedication and service.

Parks Switchyard Master Plan Committee:

Maggie will be serving on the Switchyard park planning committee. If BCOS members are interested in getting involved, please let Maggie know.

BCOS goal summary:

Maggie presented the idea of focusing on quarterly topics in 2012 rather than maintaining standing BCOS committees, and suggested the following initial topics: energy for the first quarter, food for the second, waste reduction for the third, and a yet-to-be determined topic for the fourth (possibly green business).

Janice has dates for Food Policy Council, and suggested an event at the Farmer's Market to kick-off the gardening season. Possible target dates: 4/7, 4/14, 4/21, 5/5, 5/19, or 5/26. Food council can get together to coordinate this effort. We should outline next steps.

BCOS needs to outline plans for this coming quarter's activities. One initiative is for MLK Day. Jacqui worked with IU to submit an MLK grant for the Energy SWAT Team initiative again in 2012. Last year we had high school students help install some measures to make homes more energy efficient, and are planning to work again this year with the South High School Environmental Club. Hope to have at least one experienced auditor for each team. If BCOS members are interested in helping out you should have knowledge of basic weatherization techniques.

Earth Care's Task of the Month may offer another opportunity. Jacqui has met with them and has tried to promote the program in neighborhoods, but hasn't had good follow

through from those who express interest at initial meetings. BCOS members might spearhead this effort within their neighborhoods.

ACTION: Follow up with neighborhood associations on Earth Care Task of the Month program.

Part of the quarterly focus approach will involve greater outreach, such as writing an article or speaking on the radio about energy. Ted volunteered. Write a one minute monologue and record in studio. Caleb also expressed interest in gathering info on renewable energy installations—Jacqui will share the data she already has.

ACTION: Ted will work with radio station to promote the BCOS energy focus.

BCOS could also support the county's solar grant. The County has setup a committee with SIREN and Bloomingfoods, and Bill Brown at IU.

Earth Day Brain storm ideas: Rain barrel project. Coke has 20-30 barrels to give. Decorate them and auction them off to support a sustainability fund that could support projects community wide. South Bend held a similar auction. Is there anyone willing to spearhead the decoration? Local artists?

ACTION: Assign captain overseeing the rain barrel decorations.

Ashley asked for help with Leaders of Today versus Leaders of Tomorrow Energy Challenge mentioned above. Will be meeting early January. to discuss possibilities. Project needs to come forth Apr. 1. Ashley is afraid that the kids will beat the county commissioners in the energy challenge. Hopefully this will become a tradition among families and will get bigger and bigger. Report back for 2013. Are specific dates for ongoing projects ready? Feb. 28 was mentioned as being a good date. BCOS will talk about it in our Feb. meeting. The County hopes to support student efforts through grants and other forms of support.

ACTION: Talk about the county's Leaders of Today versus Leaders of Tomorrow project at next meeting.

Report from Sustainability Coordinator:

City Energy Efficiency Data

See November minutes for more details about city energy efficiency. Nearly half of city energy use goes towards wastewater and water delivery. The largest expense is electricity, which is primarily coal based. Important because most people don't think that water is a scarce commodity, but energy implications should be considered as part of water conservation. Police uses a great deal of gasoline and Sanitation is a large user of diesel fuel.

This energy efficiency report hasn't been published yet, but Jacqui can share a draft with anyone interested. The report will be put on the Sustainable City website. This could be tied to the rain barrel projects since water is so tied to energy use. This is a huge problem because our peak in energy use is correlated with high water use (summer time especially).

Duke's bills come with breakdown of use. Energy peaks bring on the need for the lowest efficiency energy producing facilities to come online. Help people realize the need to not use energy during peak time. Duke and Hoosier Energy have programs where they will knock down price if citizens are willing to track energy use to keep peak energy use down. Lower peaks mean less required energy.

Peak oil means that liquid fuel shortages are the concern. Treatment plants are susceptible to power outages. We need to update the water treatment plant. Huge project but it would be worth it. Cincinnati has switched fleet to natural gas vehicles, which is a good transitional fuel. Expanding wastewater plants. We should switch to anaerobic process to capture energy. Hoosier energy can be a resource for looking into natural gas. May not be worth effort. Cost benefit analysis would be useful. Dave R. and Caleb will meet together to explore these options. The potential may be too small to make these kinds of efforts, but BCOS could check into this.

ACTION: Caleb will meet with Dave R. to explore anaerobic processing.

Committee reports:

Environmental Commission Planning committee

- a. Environmental Commission has been off schedule. The committee will report back next month.

STAR committee report

- a. Working on updating things. Reported to the mayor. The STAR report is a work in progress but that's the way it was designed. Several pages are up online. Would appreciate comments. Send a reminder out with agenda.

ACTION: BCOS members should look at updated pages online before the next meeting.

New Business:

Officer elections:

- a. Maggie volunteered to continue as chair. Vote approved.
- b. Cynthia volunteered to be vice-chair. Vote approved.

Funding request:

Little Rock conference, Feb 18-19. There are 5 optional fieldtrips. Dave P. would like to get support to go to visit school gardens. Will report back when he comes back.

What's the policy on funding commissioners to go to conferences? How do we decide who gets to go where? BCOS will have to determine this. Could allocate a small part of the budget towards conference. Funding was approved.

ACTION: Look at BCOS budget to see if BCOS can fund conference attendance.

Other Business

Student projects: Bill reviewed the findings of projects completed by his class.

Certify Green Businesses:

The process is a meaty and rigorous process but not so rigorous that businesses won't want to participate. Students looked at a lot of options and came up with a step-by-step process.

Green Event Guidelines:

Events in the city could be more sustainable. Students conducted a survey and held a pilot event. They wrote an actual green event guide. City of Bloomington should work with IU cooperatively to come up with checklist to score events for sustainability.

Renewable energy options for Bloomington:

Looked at solar energy options and energy efficiency. What is the pay back? How much renewable energy is being used today? Students compared other cities against Bloomington in energy efficiency measures.

Greening the lunchroom:

South High School was the site for this project. Looked at the sustainability levels of the cafeteria within budgetary restrictions. Biggest issue: Styrofoam trays. Not possible to shift to renewable trays since hiring a dishwashing staff would cost thousands of dollars. Students looked at reducing waste: Fewer recycling bins are located in the cafeteria than trash receptacles. Biodegradable trays cost twice as much. Paper trays were not considered. Local food and organic food are the biggest things the kids want. Biggest challenge is dealing with administration. Dave R. recommended showing Synthetic Sea. Could energy savings through HVAC upgrades go towards funding this? Savings from geothermal are just going to General Fund, so pushing for reallocations to sustainable measures. Bill can email more research on this.

ACTION: Bill will email BCOS more information about reallocating savings towards sustainable measures.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at **7:25** pm.