



CITY OF BLOOMINGTON

COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY

MEETING PACKET

McCloskey Conference Room — City Hall
Tuesday, November 18, 2025, 6:00 p.m.

Or virtually at:

<https://bloomington.zoom.us/j/84327085962?pwd=naI8LVmKZSoinPUHbXuw3h7oqMyi5g.1>

Meeting ID: 843 2708 5962

Passcode: 034238

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- 2. Minutes: July 8, 2025**
- 3. Minutes: October 14, 2025**
- 4. Working Group Grant Application: Community Food Waste Education & Network Development** (letter & revised proposal)
- 5. Resolution 2025-04: To recommend including “Resilience” in the Commission's name** (second reading; memo & draft language)
- 6. Resolution 2025-04 Amendment 1** (amendment language, change view, “as-amended” view)



CITY OF BLOOMINGTON

COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY

NOTICE AND AGENDA

Tuesday, November 18, 2025, 6:00 p.m.
McCloskey Conference Room — City Hall

or virtually at

<https://bloomington.zoom.us/j/84327085962?pwd=na18LVmKZSoiPUHbXuw3h7oqMyi5g.1>

Meeting ID: 843 2708 5962 | Passcode: 034238

Note: Agenda item times are approximate and subject to change

Commission on Sustainability Members

<u>Seat</u>	<u>Commissioner</u>	<u>Appointed By</u>	<u>Term</u>
C- 1	Tara Dunderdale	City Council	1 Feb 2025 — 31 Jan 2027
C-2	Justin Vassel	City Council	1 Feb 2025 — 31 Jan 2027
C-3	Matt Austin	City Council	1 Feb 2024 — 31 Jan 2026
C-4	Zero Rose	City Council	1 Feb 2025 — 31 Jan 2027
C-Ex	Dave Rollo	City Council	Appointed 10 Jan 2024
IU	Quentin Gilly	IU Office of Sustainability	Appointed 21 Nov 2024
M-1	Alex Jorck	Mayor	1 Feb 2024 — 31 Jan 2026
M-2	Jami Scholl	Mayor	1 Feb 2024 — 31 Jan 2026
M-3	Evan Nix	Mayor	1 Feb 2025 — 31 Jan 2027
M-4	Chenghuai Xu	Mayor	1 Feb 2025 — 31 Jan 2027
M-5	Annalise Janke	Mayor	1 Feb 2024 — 31 Jan 2026
M-6	Diana Ogradowski	Mayor	1 Feb 2025 — 31 Jan 2027

- 1. Call to Order** **6:00 pm**
- 2. Roll Call**
- 3. Approval of Agenda**
- 4. Approval of Minutes: July 8, 2025**
Approval of Minutes: October 14, 2025
- 5. Public Comment** **6:05 pm (10m)**
up to 3 minutes per person
- 6. Reports from Commissioners** **6:15 pm (25m)**
 - A. Chair (Justin Vassel) 6:15 pm (15m)
 - B. Waste Management Working Group (Matt Austin) 6:30 pm (5m)
 - C. Council Ex-Officio (Dave Rollo) 6:35 pm (5m)
- 7. Discussion of Topics Not the Subject of Resolutions** **6:40 pm (20m)**
 - A. Working Group Grant Application on “Community Food Waste Education & Network Development” (bokashi) 6:40 pm (20m)
- 8. Resolutions for Second Reading and Discussion** **7:00 pm (20m)**
 - A. VOTE: Resolution 2025-04 to recommend incorporating “resilience” to the Commission’s name 7:00 pm (20m)
ACTION: VOTE TO ADOPT
- 9. Resolutions for First Reading and Discussion** **7:20 pm (0m)**
N/A

- | | | |
|------------|---|----------------------|
| 10. | Report from Staff Liaison (Shawn Miya) | 7:20 pm (10m) |
| 11. | Member Announcements | 7:30 pm (0m) |
| 12. | New Business | 7:30 pm (0m) |
| 13. | Adjournment | by 7:30 pm |

Next Regular Meeting: December 9, 2025 at 6 pm

As a quorum of the Commission or its committees may be present, this gathering constitutes a meeting under the Indiana Open Door Law (I.C. § 5-14-1.5). For that reason, this statement provides notice that this meeting will occur and is open for the public to attend, observe, and record what transpires.



CITY OF BLOOMINGTON COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY

Minutes

Tuesday, July 8, 2025, 6:00 p.m.

McCloskey Conference Room — City Hall

1. **Call to Order:** Justin Vasel called the meeting to order at 6:01 PM

2. **Roll Call**

Members present: Justin Vasel, Zero Rose [virtual], Tara Dunderdale [virtual], Dave Rollo [virtual], Jami Scholl, Matt Austin, Diana Ogradowski, Annalise Janke, Jon Eldon, Evan Nix, Quentin Gilly [virtual]

Members absent: Chenghuai Xu, Evan Nix

City staff present: Shawn Miya, Jolie Perry

3. **Approval of Agenda**

ACTION: The agenda was approved by voice vote.

4. **Approval of Minutes: April 8, May 13, June 10 2025**

The Chair noted that none of the minutes were ready for approval. The next meeting is anticipated to have four sets of minutes ready for approval.

5. **Public Comment**

None.

6. **Report from Commissioners**

a. **Chair Report** (Justin Vasel)

The Chair provided an organizational update, noting that two vacancies remain (Monroe County Commissioners and a Mayoral M-1 appointment). The Commission bid farewell to Hunter Hawley (M-1) and welcomed two new members, Annalise Janke (M-5) and Diana Ogradowski (M-6), bringing the total number of filled seats to 12.

New Commissioner Introductions:

Annalise Janke stated her background is in project management at the Center for Rural Engagement at IU, focusing on taking community projects to reality, and noted her future goal is to attend law school to work on compliance law related to sustainability.

Diana Ogradowski shared her background in the non-profit sector, specifically housing, homeless services, and case management for low-income families. She hopes to bring a perspective of economic sustainability and accessibility for vulnerable community members to the Commission.

Upcoming Events: The IU Economic Development Summit (Aug 12) and the Earth Charter Indiana Climate Leadership Summit 10 (Sept 5, Indianapolis) were announced. Commissioner Matt Austin endorsed the Climate Leadership Summit.

Funding & Awards: The current working group grant funding available is \$10,000, with \$0 spent to date. The deadline for final approval of working group grant proposals is the November meeting.

News & Updates (Hopewell Strategy Shift): The City rejected all previous developer proposals for Hopewell South Blocks 9 & 10 (June 2025) and shifted strategy toward a "by locals for locals" approach with Flintlock LAB, focusing on pre-approved designs and community-centered development. The Chair noted this presents an opportunity to address housing affordability but involves a risk that the urgency for "shovels in the ground" might compromise deeper sustainability goals. Commissioners discussed existing issues with high vacancy rates in new market-rate developments and the need for BCOS oversight on permanent affordability and measurable sustainability outcomes. The Chair committed to finding a speaker to discuss the Hopewell project in more detail at the next meeting.

New Legal Obligations: Effective July 1, 2025, new Indiana law requires Commissioners' terms and appointing authorities on all notices, and all Commission meetings, including working groups and work sessions, must be recorded and posted on the City's website. Additionally, formal statements of opinion (e.g., resolutions) must include a disclaimer stating that the Commission does not speak on behalf of the City.

Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs): The Chair introduced SOPs as non-binding guidance/best practices to streamline internal processes. BCOS-SOP-5: "How to Submit An Agenda Item" was presented as the first SOP, intended to guide Commissioners through defining action, preparing materials, estimating time, and submitting requests no later than 7 days before the meeting.

Resolution Adoption Process: The Chair reviewed the BCOS two-reading process for policy resolutions: the First Reading is for introduction and discussion only, followed by a voice vote to advance. The Second Reading includes full discussion, amendments, and a final adoption via roll-call vote.

b. Waste Management Working Group (Matt Austin)

Commissioner Austin reported on the Bokashi food waste fermentation project.

- i. An interest meeting was held at a Unitarian Universalist church, confirming that faith groups are valuable partners.
- ii. Bokashi is an anaerobic, cold fermentation process that retains 90–95% of minerals and nutrients, unlike traditional composting, and can handle meats, dairy, and oils.
- iii. The group has partnerships with the Bloomington Community Orchard and the Taste of Bloomington. Fermented food waste from the Taste of Bloomington will be utilized at the Will Demer Community Garden.
- iv. Pilot programs are underway at four local schools (Harmony, Templeton, Marlin, and discussions with The Project School).
- v. Austin encouraged Commissioners to attend the Plan Commission meeting (July 14 and August 11, 5:30 p.m.) to support proposed UDO changes for Urban Agriculture Commercial, which would allow teaching gardening on private farms.
- vi. Austin reported on a meeting regarding MakeSoil.org, a promising application and platform that pairs residents who want to compost their food waste with

those who already compost, recommending that community members sign up for the free service to show demand for potential City or Waste Reduction District funding.

- c. **Ad-Hoc Committee: Sustainability Assessment Report** (Tara Dunderdale)
Vice Chair Dunderdale reported that Commissioner Evan Nix had shared his section of the assessment. The plan is to consolidate the documents and use the upcoming work session (July 29th) for tweaking and refining, aiming for an August or September agenda item.
- d. **Council Ex-Officio** (Dave Rollo)
Council Member Rollo reported that the City Council was currently on break. He detailed the upcoming budget hearings, which he stressed will be important due to state legislation (SB1) restricting taxation and influencing the city's revenue stream. Budget hearings are scheduled for August 18, 19, 20, 25, and 27, from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

7. Discussions of Topics Not the Subject of Resolutions

- a. **Local Food Resilience Strategy** (Jami Scholl)
Commissioner Jami Scholl presented the core points of her comprehensive Local Food Resilience Strategy.

Background: The strategy is informed by vulnerabilities (e.g., 3 days of grocery inventory, reliance on "just-in-time" supply chains) and volatile national conditions (e.g., federal food program cuts, AI displacement in various industries, and climate disasters).

Goals: Bloomington has failed to meet the previously set goal of 20% self-provisioning. The strategy aims to build resiliency and aligns with UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Strategic Priorities: Included Regional Food System Cooperation (with Monroe County), expanding Urban Agriculture (e.g., designated urban farm at RCA Park, zoning updates), establishing Neighborhood Food Hubs for access and emergency preparedness, and developing a Local Seed Bank Network.

Actionable Steps: Scholl noted immediate opportunities through available grant funding (like USDA Urban Agriculture Grants closing August 15th) and policy changes, such as the proposed Scalable Poultry Flock Size Model.

8. Resolutions for Second Reading and Discussion

None.

9. Resolutions for First Reading and Discussion

- a. **Resolution 2025-01: To Adopt a Scalable Poultry Flock Size Model** (Jami Scholl)
Commissioner Scholl explained that the resolution aims to amend the Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) and Animal Ordinance to allow poultry flock sizes scaled to lot area. The proposed model is:

* ≤ 5,000 sq ft lots: up to 5 hens (current standard)

- * 5,001–10,000 sq ft lots: up to 8 hens
- * 10,001–20,000 sq ft lots: up to 12 hens

The resolution also recommends allowing flocks in mobile home parks and agri-villages. The flock sizes are based on the entire lot size. Council Member Rollo, the original sponsor of the 2006 chicken ordinance, endorsed the update.

The Chair reminded the Commission that a vote to advance is not a vote in favor of the resolution and that amendments should be reserved for the Second Reading.

ACTION: Zero Rose moved to advance Resolution 2025-01 for first reading, and Matt Austin seconded. The motion was approved by voice vote.

10. Report from Staff Liaison (Shawn Miya)

Staff Liaison Shawn Miya announced that the City of Bloomington was selected to move forward on a Municipal Investment Fund grant proposal, anticipating an award of \$250,000.

Use of Funds: The funding will be used to hire an engineering design firm and financial consultant to provide free technical assistance (design and financial analysis) to building owners and developers for solar or energy efficiency projects. It will also establish an Energy Navigator program utilizing community volunteers.

EV Charging Study: A portion of the grant will fund a consulting firm to conduct an EV charging study for the community.

Equity Focus: 50% of the planned projects identified by the program must be located within Low-Income and Disadvantaged Communities (LADCs) census tracts.

Timeline: The goal is to develop a list of projects to attract up to \$2 million in low-cost private capital, but all work must be completed within a short time frame of six months. The announcement is preliminary, as the contract has not yet been signed.

11. Member Announcements:

None

12. Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 PM.

NEXT MEETING:
AUGUST 12, 2025 6PM



CITY OF BLOOMINGTON
COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY

Minutes

Tuesday, October 14, 2025 6:00pm

McCloskey Conference Room — City Hall

- 1. Call to Order:** Justin called the meeting to order at 6:07 pm
- 2. Roll Call:**

Members

Commissioner	Present	Virtual	Note
Tara Dunderdale	X		
Justin Vasel	X		
Matt Austin	X		
Dave Rollo		X	
Quentin Gilly	X		
Alex Jorck	X		
Jami Scholl	X		
Evan Nix		X	Cannot Vote
Annalise Janke	X		
Diana Ogradowski	X		
Chenghuai Xu		X	
Zero Rose			

City Staff

Jolie Perry



CITY OF BLOOMINGTON

COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY

Shawn Miya

3. Approval of Agenda

ACTION: Justin moved to move agenda item 7b to after item 5 and before item 6
Dave Rollo seconded. Motion Passed with a Roll Call vote of 9-0-0.

4. Approval of Minutes: Aug 12, 2025 and April 12, 2025

ACTION: Analise moved to adopt both minutes Matt seconded. Motion Passed
with a Roll Call vote of 8-0-1.

5. Public Comment

No public comment

6. Reports from Commissioners

A. Chair (Justin Vasel) - Commissioner Jon Eldon seat has expired. The city has one application already. Next meeting is Nov 18th to account for the holiday. Nov 4 or 10 are possible options for a special meeting if we need to vote on items. The commission is 20 - October 25, 2005 was the first meeting.

B. Waste Management Working Group (Matt Austin) - Grant application is in process and should be available for the next meeting. The state is working on waste reduction. Waste reduction district meeting this Thursday has a speaker from a composting company who is seeking restaurant food waste. The meeting is 5:30 October 16, 2025 in the county offices. There will be a virtual option and streamed on CATS. ESD has the list of restaurants that participated in composting with Earth Keepers that can be shared.



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C. Cob Bench Project Update (Evan Nix, Zero Rose) - Evan is relocating and will resign seat and needs a new project manager for the bench project. Current grant project needs to be completed by December 31, 2025. A no cost extension could be applied for - there would need to be a new project manager before the no cost extension could be sought. The remaining work is coordinating the scheduling with Redbud books and communicating with volunteers. 811 call has been completed.

- Bench would be built over 3 sessions, digging and setting foundation and roof, then build the cob needs to sit and cure, then plastering.

If another commissioner wants to take over the city needs the no cost extension by December 1 and a reconfirmation from all the partners, with the new project manager in place.

Build likely needs to wait until spring. April at the earliest. Midnovember would be the latest this year it could be built and cure properly.

Justin will send the proposal for commissioners to review. Anyone wanting to take it on should respond to Justin by October 21, 2025 to begin the no cost extension application otherwise steps will be taken to return the funds.

D. Sustainability Forum Recap (Chenghuai Xu) - Data manager from Indiana Conservation Voters spoke about her work. Attendance was sparse- lessons learned around other possible avenues for outreach for future talks. Future talks need to be noticed to ensure quorum issues if commissioners attend.

E. Council Ex-Officio (Dave Rollo) - no report this week



7. Discussion of Topics Not the Subject of Resolutions

- a. **Resilience Strategy:** first round comments - comments can be made using the version in the packet from this week. Will be added as a topic for conversation at the next working session.

- b. **BCOS-Sponsored O'Neill School Capstone Project - Vote to approve project description (Alex Jorck).** Alex shared a proposal for a capstone project in partnership with the O'Neill school on the feasibility of a municipal electric utility. No cost to BCOS or the city.

Only commitment is a BCOS point of contact and potentially feedback from other commissioners. Alex will serve in that role.

City involvement may include occasional questions for city staff from students or the BCOS point of contact. Students will share the report and make a presentation available. Management of the students would be done by the professor (John Rupp). BCOS would field questions and direct them to the city.

Meeting could be at a commission meeting in the spring.

ACTION: Alex moves to Roll call vote to approve BCOS as the client for this capstone project. Passed with a Roll Call vote of 9-0-0.

C. Working Group Grant: Sustainability Education & Outreach (Tara

Dunderdale) - Grant has been reviewed by ESD staff - has some follow up waiting from legal department. The application should be available for the next business meeting.



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COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY

8. Resolutions for Second Reading and Discussion

- a. N/A

9. Resolutions for First Reading and Discussion

- a. **Resolution 2025-04 to recommend adding “resilience” to the
Commission’s name**

ACTION: Councilmember Rollo moved to advance the resolution to a second reading. Matt Austin seconded. Motion Passed with a Roll Call vote of 9-0-0.

10. Report from Staff Liaison

Sustainability Spooktacular - next event is a tree planting with Canopy
Bloomington in Butler Park. Has full staff of volunteers. October blockparty
following on October 25.

Sustainability homes rebates have been fully expended.

No sustainable neighborhood grants so far.

11. Member Announcements

Nov 4th is a workshop in the community orchard on Bokashi 1-2:30.

Work session is on November 4th and next meeting is 7:30

12. New Business

13. Adjournment

7:30 pm.



November 17, 2025

Bloomington Commission on Sustainability

Justin Vassel, Member

Tara Dunderdale, Member

Matt Austin, Member

Annalise Janke, Member

Alex Jorck, Member

Evan Nix, Member

Zero Rose, Member

Diana Ogrodowski, Member

Jami, Scholl, Member

Chenghuai Xu, Member

Quentin Gilly, IU Office of Sustainability, Member

Dave Rollo, City Council Ex-Officio

RE: Bloomington Commission on Sustainability Bokashi Education and Festival Working Group Grant Proposal

Thank you for all of the hard work you have put into your working group grant proposals.

While we appreciate the goals set by BCOS' working group on waste management, the Economic and Sustainable Development Department cannot move forward with funding the Bokashi Education and Festival proposal due to the appearance of impropriety. It has come to our attention that this project would provide public funding to GardenQuest, an entity owned and operated by the sibling of a commission member. Not only does the conflicted-commissioner sit on the working group advocating for this proposal, they are also responsible for proposing and spearheading the project's progress through BCOS.

The City of Bloomington strives to avoid even the appearance of impropriety. These situations have a detrimental effect on the City's relationship with its residents, and we are dedicated to building a culture of trust and transparency.

If any commission member has further questions about conflicts of interest, the appearance of impropriety, or other ethical concerns, please feel free to reach out to myself or Jolie Perry.

Thank you, again, for your work on the BCOS.

Best,

Shawn Miya, MPH

Assistant Director of Sustainability

Economic and Sustainable Development Department

TO: Shawn Miya, BCOS Staff Liaison & Assistant Director of Sustainability
Economic and Sustainable Development Department

FROM: Justin Vasel, Chair, Bloomington Commission on Sustainability

DATE: November 9, 2025

RE: **Amended BCOS Working Group Grant Proposal: Community Food Waste Education & Network Development**

The following Bloomington Commission on Sustainability (BCOS) Working Group Grant proposal is an amended version of what has already been submitted to the City of Bloomington for review and approval prior to a vote by the Commission.

This revised proposal is being submitted based on the guidance provided by ESD on October 31, 2025. While we requested additional clarification on October 31, November 3, and November 6 regarding any requirements beyond the removal of labor costs, we have not yet received that information.

To meet the November 18 BCOS meeting deadline and allow adequate time for City review, we are proceeding with revisions that address all known concerns. We remain available to make any additional modifications that may be required.

Substantive Changes

- **Project team restructured to address conflict of interest concerns:** Justin Vasel now serves as Lead/Sponsor; Matt Austin moves to Advisory role
- **All labor costs eliminated per ESD requirements:** Removed \$3,800 in hourly wages from budget
- **Budget reduced by 54%:** Total request decreased from \$6,999 to \$3,199 (supplies only)
- **Festival component now optional:** Core project objectives fully achievable without Taste of Bloomington collection; festival activities contingent on securing external labor funding
- **Title refocused:** Changed from "Community & Festival Food Waste Pilot Project 2.0" to "Community Food Waste Education & Network Development" to reflect primary education/network-building mission

Non-substantive Changes

- Reformatted to comply with grant SOP template requirements
- Clarified language throughout for concision and impact
- Restructured goals to reflect core vs. optional components

I appreciate ESD's continued review and look forward to bringing this proposal before the Commission on November 18.

Respectfully submitted,



Justin Vasel, Ph.D.
Chair, Bloomington Commission on Sustainability

BCOS Working Group Grant Application

Proposal Title: Community Food Waste Education & Network Development

Date: November 9, 2025

Project Team:

Project Lead: Justin Vasel, BCOS Commissioner
Project Advisor: Matt Austin, BCOS Commissioner
Primary Vendor: GardenQuest

Project Description

The Community Food Waste Education & Network Development Project will establish Bloomington's first decentralized bokashi fermentation network, providing residents with training, equipment, and support to divert food waste from landfills. Working groups will deploy 36 bokashi fermentation systems through a "Try-It Program," conduct community workshops, develop partnerships with faith-based organizations and neighborhood associations, and train Bokashi Community Captains to support neighborhood-level networks.

This project directly addresses Bloomington's lack of organic waste diversion infrastructure following EarthKeepers' 2023 closure. Building on GardenQuest's existing pilot that has already diverted 6,000+ pounds of food waste across 20 households and 4 neighborhoods, this expansion will create sustainable, community-led food waste solutions that transform waste into soil amendments for local gardens.

Optional Enhancement: Should additional sponsorship be secured for labor costs, the project will expand to include festival food waste collection at Taste of Bloomington 2026.

This is a 12-month project with five goals:

Goal 1: Establish new community partnerships. Identify and present to interested groups and organizations, including neighborhood associations, non-profits, businesses, and faith-based organizations; develop additional partnerships through training and consultation.

Goal 2: Develop education materials, demos, and trainings. Create educational materials; recruit and train volunteers; run an educational demonstration booth at Taste of Bloomington 2026; host community bokashi workshops; market and manage a "Try-It" program, where residents can borrow fermentation buckets.

Goal 3: Grow community networks and recruit community captains. Recruit Bloomington residents to become Bokashi Community Captains who manage and support a small network of participating households; provide on-going support as needed to Bokashi Community Captains.

Goal 4: Evaluate impact. Collect, analyze, and disseminate data regarding total waste diversion, fertilizer/compost output, and efficacy of recruitment/training efforts; evaluate program sustainability.

Goal 5 (optional): Taste of Bloomington 2026 collection. Should additional sponsorship be secured for labor costs, this project will include festival food waste collection at Taste of Bloomington 2026 (see Attachment 2: *Taste of Bloomington 2026 MOU*). In that case, some of the fermentation buckets that would be lent to residents will be used for festival waste. No additional expenses or modifications to this proposal will be incurred.

Purpose

This project advances Bloomington's sustainability goals across environmental, social, and economic dimensions by creating community-based infrastructure that ensures future generations inherit effective waste management solutions rather than mounting landfill burdens. The project's objectives directly align with BCOS's mission and multiple UN Sustainable Development Goals:

Environmental Sustainability: Diverts organic waste from landfills, reducing methane emissions and creating nutrient-rich soil amendments (SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production; SDG 13: Climate Action)

Social Sustainability: Builds inclusive neighborhood networks through free equipment loans and multilingual workshops, ensuring equitable access regardless of economic status (SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities; SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities)

Economic Sustainability: Provides cost-free alternatives to expensive composting services while creating value from waste through soil enhancement for local food production (SDG 2: Zero Hunger; SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth)

The project also aligns with City Plans:

Climate Action Plan: Directly reduces greenhouse gas emissions through organic waste diversion

Sustainability Action Plan: Establishes decentralized, resilient waste management infrastructure

Comprehensive Plan: Strengthens neighborhood connections and community self-sufficiency

By training Community Captains and establishing permanent neighborhood networks, this project creates self-sustaining systems that will continue serving Bloomington residents long after the grant period, embodying the principle of meeting today's needs without compromising tomorrow's capacity.

Amount Requested

The total amount requested for this project is **\$3,199.00**.

Item	Qty	Unit Price	Total Cost
Bokashi Fermentation Systems <i>90-ml-thick food-grade BPA-free buckets; Spigot systems, nuts and washers; tamper plate; table-top sieve; gamma lid, rim, and O-ring; waterproof stickers with logos and QR code for instructions & support.</i>	36 (See: Attachment 1)	\$78.00	\$2,808.00
Bokashi Workshop Signage <i>Signs for workshops and introductory educational; sign will include supporting organization logos.</i>	3	\$12.50	\$37.50
Food Waste Festival Sign <i>Will include supporting organization logos.</i>	10	\$12.50	\$125.00
A-Frame Sign Board	1	\$140.00	\$140.00
Festival Supplies <i>Nitrile gloves</i>	1	\$16.50	\$16.50
Bokashi Bran	18 qt	\$4.00	\$72.00
		Total	\$3,199.00

Vendors

Primary Vendor: GardenQuest

GardenQuest is a local non-profit with unparalleled bokashi expertise in Bloomington, having pioneered the city's only successful food waste fermentation network. Under founder Ellee Spier's leadership, GardenQuest has:

- Developed and refined bokashi systems specifically adapted for Indiana's climate and soil conditions since 2022
- Successfully diverted over 6,000 pounds of food waste through established pilots in 4 Bloomington neighborhoods (20+ participating households)
- Implemented bokashi programs at three Bloomington schools (Marlin, Harmony, and Templeton) and the Bloomington Community Orchard
- Trained residents through workshops at Master Gardeners Fair, People's Market, Earth Day, and community organizations
- Secured competitive grants from the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) and Monroe County Waste Reduction District (MCWRD), demonstrating credibility and fiscal responsibility
- Conducted Bloomington's first festival food waste collection pilot at Taste of Bloomington 2025

GardenQuest's proven infrastructure includes established volunteer networks and existing relationships with soil amendment recipients like Will Detmer Gardens. Their demonstrated ability to scale from single households to neighborhood networks to institutional partners makes them uniquely qualified to execute this community-wide expansion.

Attachments

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| Attachment 1 | Addendum A: Answers to questions posed by ESD 10/8/2025
Responses to a series of questions posed by ESD via email on 8 October, 2025. |
| Attachment 2 | Taste of Bloomington 2026 MOU
Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between GardenQuest and Jordan Davis regarding the collection of food waste and educational demonstrations at the Taste of Bloomington 2026 festival. |
| Attachment 3 | Addendum B: GardenQuest Team Hours/Activity Chart
Historical breakdown of hours spent by GardenQuest staff associated with educational and demonstration efforts at public events, and the hourly rates at which that labor is valued. |

Note: this attachment concerns hourly rates for purposes of compensating labor, which is not addressed by this proposal. It is only included in this version of the proposal because it was included in a previous version.

Addendum A

Answers to Questions posed by ESD 10/8/2025

1. Describe the bokashi fermentation system components and how you arrived at the number 36.

We have 14 buckets with spigots purchased through an Indiana Department of Environmental Grant and 50 buckets without spigots purchased through a grant from the Monroe County Waste Reduction District. When buckets are not in use for a festival, they rotate into the Bokashi Try-It program. Currently all spigoted buckets are in use and there is a waiting list of people, neighborhoods, and organizations who would like to experiment with both versions of the fermentation buckets prior to making the decision to incorporate them into their household waste management structure. 36 acquired through the BCOS working group grant will bolster the Try-It Program to have an equal number of buckets with and without spigots so that residents can borrow one of each.

2. What exactly does the "festival food waste pilot" line item represent and how did you determine the \$2,000 cost? Is it operational/staff time or any other components? Please include bill rates and number of hours if it does represent time.

Our 2025 rate is \$40/hour. Our 2026 rate is \$45/hour and estimating 45 hours of work (based on 2025 Taste) equals \$2,025. We are only requesting \$2,000 to keep the grant request at \$7,000. See *Addendum B* for specific # of hours per activity.

This amount of hours does not include any of the volunteer hours as noted on *Addendum B* as 'in-kind' donation.

For the Taste of Bloomington, introductory educational sessions, and bokashi workshops, we spent more time than estimated in the funding agreement with the MCWRD. For details, please see *Addendum B*.

Taste of Bloomington

Pre-Event Management =

1. Meetings with food reclamation organizations, festival staff and vendors, volunteers and volunteer leaders, in-kind donations of businesses
2. Email communication with volunteers and partnering organizations
3. Marketing the volunteer opportunity
4. Preparing food waste fermentation festival supplies
5. Mapping out location of existing trash/recycling bins
6. Mapping out travel & parking for food reclamation trucks & volunteers

Day of Event Preparation =

1. Transportation of Supplies
2. Set-up of Information Table & Tent
3. Set-up of Food Reclamation Area
4. Set-up Food Waste/Waste Management Stations

Event =

1. Managing the information/outreach/volunteer table
2. Running a food waste station
3. Managing all volunteers and supplies

Post Event Clean-Up =

1. Removing all tables, tents, waste stations, and bokashi supplies
2. Transportation of supplies back to GardenQuest HQ
3. Consolidating food waste
4. Cleaning food waste buckets

Bury the Food Waste =

1. Collect weight data
2. Remove liquid (used at Will Detmer)
3. Transport the buckets to Will Detmer & back
4. Burying the food waste
5. Cleaning the buckets

Post Event Management =

1. Evaluation
2. Thank you communication
3. Reporting

Additional Questions

3. Similar question about the community bokashi training workshops - what does the \$250 per workshop cost represent?
4. Similar question about the introductory educational - what does \$150 per each event pay for?

Intro Educational & Workshop

Pre-Event =

1. Communication and marketing
2. Preparing the supplies
3. Travel

Event =

1. Time teaching and answering questions
2. Signing up workshop participants for Try-It Program and distributing buckets & bran
3. Selling buckets to workshop participants who want to jump in 100% to the fermentation process. These buckets are purchased separate of any grant funds as residents have asked for a local supply. Residents are also provided a supply list and guidance to make their own, if that's the route they want to take.

Post-Event =

1. Clean-up from teaching
2. Travel home
3. Clean all supplies & store for next workshop
4. Follow up instruction and support by email & phone
5. Check in email 1 month post workshop

5. Finally, please also list a link or the name of where you get the bokashi bran.

Bokashi bran - We purchase the bokashi bran from www.bokashicycle.com in bulk 50-100 pounds at a time as part of our community cost-sharing program. We store the bran in our commercial walk-in fridge. While the cost of the bran includes the price of electricity, maintenance, and purchasing quart storage containers, the cost is much less than what a household would pay if purchasing individual quarts of bran. We are able to re-sell the bran

with all costs included at \$5.40/pound versus \$15.67 per pound, thus providing savings and community benefit.

11:52 AM Fri Oct 10

store.bokashicycle.com

FREE SHIPPING

Continental US & Canada

0 item(s) \$0

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HOUSEHOLD COMPOSTING BINS, FERMENTERS

BOKASHI PET CYCLE

BOKASHI CULTURE MIX SUPPLIES

SUPPLEMENTAL CONTAINERS

YARD WASTE BOKASHI PRODUCTS

OTHER ACCESSORY CONTAINERS

FARM & INDUSTRIAL BOKASHI PRODUCTS

REPLACEMENT PARTS

PRIVACY AND REFUND

Home > Bokashi Culture Mix Supplies > Bokashi Culture Mix

Prev



Bokashi Culture Mix 400 G (1 pound) packets



BOKASHI CULTURE MIX

★★★★★ 1 Review(s)

Your Price: \$15.67

In Stock

Part Number: BCM01

Choose Options

* Amount

1 month supply (+\$15.67)



Quantity

1

ADD TO CART

★ WRITE A REVIEW

savings and community benefit.

Dear Bloomington Commission on Sustainability & Dept. of Economic and Sustainable Development,

I am writing this letter to commit the support of The Taste of Bloomington 2026 to the Festival Food Waste Pilot Project organized by GardenQuest given that it is funded by the City of Bloomington's Commission on Sustainability (working group grant).

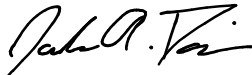
We are excited that GardenQuest will continue its outreach and exploration of the development of a festival food waste and reclamation template at the Taste of Bloomington in 2026. We received positive feedback from both the food vendors and the festival participants for GardenQuest's efforts in 2025. It is clear that there is a need for this as part of our waste management plan and process. Not only did GardenQuest & their volunteers manage our food waste & unused food, but they also helped festival participants correctly dispose of recyclables. This is a simple way for our organization to support GardenQuest efforts to continue to introduce Monroe County residents, food vendors, and out-of-town guests to a simple way to divert food waste generated at events from ending up in the landfill.

On our end, we will provide GardenQuest with:

1. A table to display information about the food waste fermentation process
2. A table located within the food truck/food vendor area for drop-off of unused food by vendors who clean-up early.
3. Signage for recycling and trash containers
4. Portions of a parking lot for food reclamation vehicles & food waste fermentation bucket removal.
5. Space for volunteer-operated stations near each trash and recycling receptacle

I highly recommend you support this project and approve the funding for the second year of this pilot. Our community needs to continue to take action on food waste and piloting at the 2026 Taste of Bloomington seems like a fantastic & logical way to tweak & improve the template.

Sincerely,



Jordan Davis
Director of Operations
The Chocolate Moose

GardenQuest Team # of Hours/Activity Chart

Date	Pre-Event Management	Day of Event Preparation	Event	Post Event Clean-up (includes distribution of Try-It Program buckets)	Bury Food Waste	Post Event Management	Total Hours	Subtotal Cost	# of County Residents	# Volunteers @ \$20/hour for 2 hours	Total # of workshop participants OR # that signed up at an event for more info			
5/15/25 - 9/3/25	Taste of Bloomington (Food Reclamation & Bokashi)	21.31	5.43	8.25	6.83	2.07	1.30	45.19	1807.6	9	59	42		
5/17/25	Will Detmer Garden Intro Educational	0.75	1.20	2.00	0.86	N/A	0.63	5.44	217.6	2		8		
5/31/25	Bloomington Farmer's Market									6	1	17		
6/9/25	Bokashi Workshop 1.0 Community Orchard	1.42	2.00	1.50	1.22	N/A	0.52	6.66	266.4	6		13		
7/5/25	Bloomington Farmer's Market									2	1	7		
6/29/25	Universalist Unitarian Church Intro Educational	1.20	0.50	0.85	0.80	N/A	3.33	6.68	267.2	1		16		
7/19/25	Bokashi Workshop 1.0 Community Orchard	1.33	0.00	0.00	0.00	N/A	0.00	1.33	53.2	Canceled		Canceled		
8/23/25	Bokashi Workshop 1.0 Community Orchard	1.00	1.50	1.50	1.66	N/A	1.00	6.66	266.4	2		11		
9/14/25	Bokashi Workshop 1.0 Community Orchard	1.10	2.50	1.50	1.73	N/A	1.37	8.20	328	5		21		
8/19/25	Rotary Club Intro Educational	0.25	0.66	2.00	0.22	N/A	0.00	3.13	125.2	?		36		
8/28/25	IU Student Involvement Fair									1	1.5	19		
Total hrs		13.79	17.60	13.32	2.07	8.15	80.16	34	125	190				
		Billing rate (hourly)						\$40.00		\$20.00				
GardenQuest Training & Management												\$3,206.40	In-Kind Donation	\$2,500.00



TO: Members of the Bloomington Commission on Sustainability
FROM: Commissioner Jami Scholl, Bloomington Commission on Sustainability
DATE: October 1, 2025
SUBJECT: Add Resilience to the Bloomington Commission on Sustainability Name

Background & Opportunity

Bloomington has long been a leader among mid-sized cities in building local food system resilience and advancing sustainability initiatives. However, recent federal policy shifts—including program cuts and changes in how resilience is defined and communicated—create both challenges and opportunities.

This moment provides Bloomington with the chance to reaffirm its leadership by continuing to frame sustainability as inseparable from community resilience. Federal changes are already impacting residents, and local government can play a vital role in helping neighborhoods and the broader community adapt.

Resilience can be understood as *the capacity of a system to withstand change and continue to develop, using shocks and disturbances as catalysts for renewal and innovative thinking*. Sustainability and resilience are intertwined, with resilience serving as a crucial component for achieving sustainability by enabling systems to adapt, withstand, and recover from disruptions, thus ensuring long-term functionality and meeting future needs.

By focusing on robust, adaptable systems and proactive, holistic planning, both concepts contribute to creating durable, environmentally and fiscally responsible infrastructure that can thrive in the face of uncertainty and change. This capacity to include the holistic view of integrated resilient systems is essential for Bloomington's future and is not currently addressed—or could easily be adopted—by any other City board or commission.

Core Assessment

Converging Issues:

- Job loss and food system vulnerabilities
- Peak oil and renewable energy transitions under threat
- Job displacement from AI
- Farmland and water resources at risk from large-scale data centers and other industries
- Shifting political language around “sustainability” and “resilience”
- Potential disruptions to the currency system

These converging pressures highlight the need for Bloomington to adopt a long-term, resilience-focused approach to sustainability. Emergency management, while critical, is oriented toward short-term crises (e.g., tornadoes, fires) and does not fully incorporate local residents in planning for structural change.

Drawing on the insights of Neil Howe (*The Fourth Turning*) and Ray Dalio (*The Big Cycle Theory*), it is clear that society faces dramatic generational and economic shifts. Bloomington's Sustainability & Resilience Commission is uniquely positioned to respond.

Opportunity for Action

By explicitly including resilience within its scope, this Commission can integrate sustainability, equity, economic development, and preparedness into a coherent framework. This positions the City not only to advance practical, near-term policy but also to make long-term community investments that will ensure Bloomington's continued leadership and relevance in a rapidly changing landscape.

Jami Scholl CHWC
Commissioner, Bloomington Commission on
Sustainability



CITY OF BLOOMINGTON
COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY

Sponsor(s):

Jami Scholl

Dave Rollo

Passed X-Y-Z

RESOLUTION 2025-04

**TO CHANGE THE NAME OF THE BLOOMINGTON COMMISSION ON
SUSTAINABILITY TO THE “BLOOMINGTON COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY
AND RESILIENCE”**

WHEREAS, to more clearly recognize that resilient systems are necessary for sustainability to be possible; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of significant past and potential near term disruptions such as climate induced droughts and destructive winds, economic downturns and changes to the monetary system, AI job displacement, food system disruptions, federal policy changes, and pandemics can threaten current systems; and

WHEREAS, in recognition that current systems do not go through regular or planned stress-testing to measure resilience and therefore sustainability.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE BLOOMINGTON COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY, THAT:

SECTION 1. The Bloomington Commission on Sustainability requests for Bloomington City Council to add the word “Resilience” to the current Commission name to be henceforth known as the “Bloomington Sustainability & Resilience Commission”.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Bloomington Commission on Sustainability upon this XX day of [MONTH], [YEAR].

JUSTIN VASEL, Chair
Bloomington Commission on Sustainability



CITY OF BLOOMINGTON COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY

Resolution Amendment Form

Resolution #: 2025-04
Amendment #: 01
Submitted by: Justin Vasel
Date: 17 November 2025

Proposed Amendment:

1. The first WHEREAS clause shall be rewritten as two separate clauses which define the distinct-yet-interrelated concepts of sustainability and community resilience, such that it reads as follows:

WHEREAS, sustainability seeks to maintain and enhance the long-term integrity of the integrated socio-ecological and economic system to ensure human and environmental wellbeing; and

WHEREAS, resilience refers to the capacity of this integrated system to absorb disruptions, maintain its core functions and structures, and adapt to and transform in the face of both short-term shocks and long-term uncertainties, making it essential for achieving sustainability; and

2. The second WHEREAS clause shall be rewritten for clarity and to maintain grammatical and format consistency with the other clauses, such that it reads as follows:

WHEREAS, recent and foreseeable disruptions—including climate-induced droughts and destructive weather events, economic instability, artificial intelligence-driven workforce displacement, food system vulnerabilities, shifts in federal policy, and public health crises—threaten the integrity of community systems and demand resilient infrastructure capable of maintaining essential functions under stress; and

3. The final WHEREAS clause shall be deleted in its entirety because recognizing the need for regular stress testing of current support systems is a broader policy recommendation and not a direct argument in support of renaming the Commission. It shall be replaced by the following two clauses, which reference the fact that Ordinance 2025-05 expanded the Commission's operational philosophy to include community resilience, and that incorporating this concept into its name will facilitate in public education and collaboration:

WHEREAS, Ordinance 2025-05 amended Bloomington Municipal Code (BMC) paragraph 2.12.100(8)(B) to integrate "community resilience" into the operational philosophy of the Bloomington Commission on Sustainability; and

WHEREAS, including a more complete definition of the Commission's areas of work will facilitate the Commission's ongoing efforts in public education and identifying mission-aligned community partners.

4. Draft ordinance language for effectuating the proposed name change shall be appended as Attachment 1.
5. Section 1 shall be reworded to reference Attachment 1 as follows:

SECTION 1. the Common Council consider adopting an ordinance, such as that found in attachment 1, which amends BMC § 2.12.100 to rename the Bloomington Commission on Sustainability as the "Bloomington Commission on Sustainability and Resilience".



**CITY OF BLOOMINGTON
COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY**

Sponsor(s):

Jami Scholl

Dave Rollo

Passed X-Y-Z

RESOLUTION 2025-04

**TO CHANGE THE NAME OF THE BLOOMINGTON COMMISSION ON
SUSTAINABILITY TO THE “BLOOMINGTON COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY
AND RESILIENCE”**

- WHEREAS, sustainability seeks to maintain and enhance the long-term integrity of the integrated socio-ecological and economic system to ensure human and environmental wellbeing; ~~and to more clearly recognize that resilient systems are necessary for sustainability to be possible; and~~
- WHEREAS, resilience refers to the capacity of this integrated system to absorb disruptions, maintain its core functions and structures, and adapt to and transform in the face of both short-term shocks and long-term uncertainties, making it essential for achieving sustainability; and
- WHEREAS, ~~recent and foreseeable in recognition of significant past and potential near term disruptions—such as including climate-induced droughts and destructive weather events winds, economic instability downturns and changes to the monetary system, artificial intelligence-driven AI workforce job displacement, food system vulnerabilities disruptions, shifts in federal policy changes, and public health crises pandemics can—threaten the integrity of community current systems and demand resilient infrastructure capable of maintaining essential functions under stress; and~~
- WHEREAS, Ordinance 2025-05 amended Bloomington Municipal Code (BMC) paragraph 2.12.100(8)(B) to integrate “community resilience” into the operational philosophy of the Bloomington Commission on Sustainability; and ~~in recognition that current systems do not go through regular or planned stress testing to measure resilience and therefore sustainability.~~
- WHEREAS, including a more complete definition of the Commission’s areas of work will facilitate the Commission’s ongoing efforts in public education and identifying mission-aligned community partners.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE BLOOMINGTON
COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY, THAT:

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PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Bloomington Commission on Sustainability upon this XX day of [MONTH], [YEAR].

JUSTIN VASEL, Chair
Bloomington Commission on Sustainability

**BCOS RESOLUTION 2025-04
ATTACHMENT 1**

DRAFT ORDINANCE LANGUAGE

**TO AMEND TITLE 2 OF THE BLOOMINGTON MUNICIPAL CODE ENTITLED
“ADMINISTRATION AND PERSONNEL”**

Re: Amending BMC 2.12.100 (Bloomington Commission on Sustainability)

- WHEREAS, sustainability seeks to maintain and enhance the long-term integrity of the integrated socio-ecological and economic system to ensure human and environmental wellbeing; and
- WHEREAS, resilience refers to the capacity of this integrated system to absorb disruptions, maintain its core functions and structures, and adapt to and transform in the face of both short-term shocks and long-term uncertainties, making it essential for achieving sustainability; and
- WHEREAS, recent and foreseeable disruptions—including climate-induced droughts and destructive weather events, economic instability, artificial intelligence-driven workforce displacement, food system vulnerabilities, shifts in federal policy, and public health crises—threaten the integrity of community systems and demand resilient infrastructure capable of maintaining essential functions under stress; and
- WHEREAS, Ordinance 2025-05 amended Bloomington Municipal Code (BMC) paragraph 2.12.100(8)(B) to integrate “community resilience” into the operational philosophy of the Bloomington Commission on Sustainability (BCOS); and
- WHEREAS, including a more complete definition of the Commission’s areas of work will facilitate the Commission’s ongoing efforts in public education and identifying mission-aligned community partners; and
- WHEREAS, the Bloomington Commission on Sustainability passed BCOS Resolution 2025-04 requesting that their name be updated to better reflect the full scope of their operating philosophy.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY ORDAINED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BLOOMINGTON, MONROE COUNTY, INDIANA, THAT:

SECTION 1. Section 2.12.100 of the Bloomington Municipal Code entitled “Bloomington Commission on Sustainability” shall be renamed “Bloomington Commission on Sustainability and Resilience”.

SECTION 2. Section 2.12.100 of the Bloomington Municipal Code entitled “Bloomington Commission on Sustainability” shall be amended by deleting the words “Bloomington Commission on Sustainability” in sub-part (1) and replacing them with the words “Bloomington Commission on Sustainability and Resilience”.

SECTION 3. If any sections, sentence or provision of this ordinance, or the application thereof to any person or circumstances shall be declared invalid, such invalidity shall not affect any of the other sections, sentences, provisions, or applications of this ordinance which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this ordinance are declared to be severable.

SECTION 4. This ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage by the Common Council of the City of Bloomington and approval of the Mayor.

PROPOSED



**CITY OF BLOOMINGTON
COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY**

Sponsor(s):

Jami Scholl

Dave Rollo

Passed X-Y-Z

RESOLUTION 2025-04

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SUSTAINABILITY TO THE “BLOOMINGTON COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY
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Bloomington Commission on Sustainability

BCOS RESOLUTION 2025-04
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