CITY OF BLOOMINGTON
COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY

MEETING PACKET

McCloskey Conference Room — City Hall
Tuesday, February 10, 2026, 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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CITY OF BLOOMINGTON
COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY

NOTICE AND AGENDA

Tuesday, February 10, 2026, 6:00 p.m.
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https://bloomington.zoom.us/j/84327085962?pwd=naI8LVmKZSoinPUHbXuw3h7oqMyi5g.1
Meeting ID: 843 2708 5962 | Passcode: 034238

Note: *Agenda item times are approximate and subject to change*

Commission on Sustainability Members

Seat	Commissioner	Appointed By	Term
C- 1	Tara Dunderdale	City Council	1 Feb 2025 — 31 Jan 2027
C-2	Justin Vasel	City Council	1 Feb 2025 — 31 Jan 2027
C-3	Matt Austin	City Council	1 Feb 2024 – 31 Jan 2026
C-4	Christopher Miles	City Council	1 Feb 2026 — 31 Jan 2028
C-5	Zach Ammerman	City Council	1 Feb 2026 — 31 Jan 2028
C-Ex	Dave Rollo	City Council	Appointed 10 Jan 2024
IU	Quentin Gilly	IU Office of Sustainability	Appointed 21 Nov 2024
MCC	Ross Carlson	Monroe County Commissioners	Appointed 24 Nov 2025
M-1	Alex Jorck	Mayor	1 Feb 2026 – 31 Jan 2028
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 Ogrodowski	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: January 13, 2026

5. Public Comment — **6:05 pm** (10m)
up to 3 minutes per person

6. Reports from Commissioners — **6:15 pm** (15m)
- A. Chair (Justin Vasel) — 6:15 pm (5m)
- B. Waste Management Working Group (Matt Austin) — 6:20 pm (5m)
- C. Council Ex-Officio (Dave Rollo) — 6:25 pm (5m)

7. Discussion of Topics Not the Subject of Resolutions — **6:30 pm** (40m)
- A. Grant Report: Grandview Hills Pollinator Garden (Tara Dunderdale) — 6:30 pm (10m)
- B. Election Planning (Justin Vasel) — 6:40 pm (10m)
- C. O'Neill Capstone Statement of Work & Presentation Scheduling (Alex Jorck) — 6:50 pm (10m)
- D. BCOS and Earth Day 2026 — 7:00 pm (10m)

8. Resolutions for Second Reading and Discussion — **7:10 pm** (5m)
- A. Resolution 2026-01: To Applaud The City's Response To The 2025 Lapse In Federal Funding Of SNAP Benefits

9. Resolutions for First Reading and Discussion — **7:15 pm** (10m)
- A. Resolution 2026-02: Concerning Automated License Plate Reader

Surveillance Technology And Its Implications For Social Sustainability, Community Resilience, And The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

10.	**Report from Staff Liaison** (Shawn Miya)	**7:25 pm** (5m)
11.	**Member Announcements**	**7:30 pm** (0m)
12.	**New Business**	**7:30 pm** (0m)
13.	**Adjournment**	**by 7:30 pm**

Next Regular Meeting: March 10, 2026 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.

FOR APPROVAL

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON
COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY

Minutes

Tuesday, January 13,2025 6:02pm

McCloskey Conference Room — City Hall

1. **Call to Order:** Chair called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm
2. **Roll Call:**

Members

Commissioner	Present	Virtual	Note
Tara Dunderdale	☑	☐	
Justin Vasel	☑	☐	
Matt Austin	☑	☐	
Dave Rollo	☐	☐	
Quentin Gilly	☑	☐	
Alex Jorck	☑	☑	
Jami Scholl	☑	☐	
Annalise Janke	☑	☐	
Diana Ogrodowski	☑	☐	
Chenghuai Xu	☑	☐	
Zero Rose	☑	☐	
Zach Ammerman	☑	☐	
Ross Carlson	☑	☐	

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COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY

City Staff

Shawn Miya

Jolie Perry

Audrey Brittingham

3. **Approval of Agenda**

ACTION: Matt moved to Approve the agenda. Diana seconded.

Action: Justin moved to amend the agenda to move the item 7b to before reports from commissioners. Zach seconded. Motion passed with a roll call vote of 10-0-0

Vote to approve agenda passed with a voice call vote of 10-0-0

4. **Approval of Minutes: Dec 9, 2025**

   ACTION: Ross moved to approve the minutes Zach seconded.

   Motion passes with a roll call vote of 9-0-1

5. **Public Comment**

   No Public Comment

7b. **Counting Miles: methods for estimating transportation-related GHG emissions (Zach Ammerman; Expert Guest: Wes DiSivestro)**

Wes DeSilvestro gave a brief explanation of a greenhouse gas emissions inventory.The city's upcoming inventory will utilize suggestions from the report.

Question from Tara about google starting to charge or self the project - unlikely in the short term based on the field.

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Question from Alex about change in focus to scope 2 emissions - Wes and Zach said that is not likely to be an immediate concern. We shared an important goal is year over year comparability of the data to measure policy impacts.

Alex asked about the commission's role in using this presentation.

Shawn recommended the commission launching an anti-idling campaign.Projects for the Bloomington Enegery works like EV charging or company fleet transition could be promoted. The city is planning to use the recommended method from this presentation in the upcoming inventory.

Tara asked about retroactive application - Wes confirmed they will be applying it back to the 2018 baseline.

Tara asked about timeseries data - not available with the EIE may be available with private data serieses.

Question from Ross about if electric vehicle emissions are measured at the power level - Zach and Wes confirmed that the model uses the generation.

Jami asked about the raw materials impact of shifts to solar panels, batteries, and other tech. Chengui shared some examples from the EU of how these are considered.

6. **Reports from Commissioners**
    a. **CHair's report:**

        Jami, Zero and Annalise's terms are ending this month.

FOR APPROVAL

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First class for the capstone project meets this week. Justin and Alex are attending, other commissioners should not attend to avoid quorum.

Scheduling a full day retreat - discussion of a planning survey.

Shawn said that staff has to be present at public meetings. Audrey from city legal said this is city rule to ensure open door violations and quorum issues. Sub groups might need to be noticed separately from the full meeting. Justin asked where the policy is written in the city - Audrey said it is a practiced by every board and commission but was not sure if and where this policy is documented. Justin raised concern that the city could prevent BCOS meetings from occuring. Audrey clarified that the requirement is that the from the city and onus is on the city to provide staff at any meetings that BCOS sets. BCOS is not prevented from scheduling this meeting.

Elections are coming up in March - Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, from municipal code - Vice chair is from our bylaws. We can choose a chair and vice chair or co-chair. Review of officer rules and their duties.

There is flexibility in how we run the elections - can be decided formally at the February meeting in advance of the March annual meeting.

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b. Waste group no report

c. Councilmember Rollo is not present - no council report.

7. Discussion of Topics Not the Subject of Resolutions

    a. Dissolution of ad hoc committee. Justin moves to dissolve the committee. Tara Seconds - Vote passes with a roll call vote of 10-0-0. Tara commented that the process gave us information for a resolution and a lot of lessons were learned about the challenges of working collaboratively outside of business meetings while staying in compliance with open door law.

Justin moves to extend the meeting to 7:35. Jami seconds. Motion passes with a roll call vote of 10-0-0.

8. Resolutions for Second Reading and Discussion

    a. n/a

9. Resolutions for First Reading and Discussion

    a. Resolution 2026-01 - Resolution applauding the city's efforts to provide funding for food security during the lapse in federal funding. Justin moved to move the resolution to a second reading. Matt seconded. Motion passed with a roll call vote of 10-0-0

10. Report from Staff Liaison

    a. Some local businesses have applied for technical assistance, submitted projects, or have scheduled upcoming meetings with ESD

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staff. There are volunteer opportunities linked to the project for canvassing, group presentations and home

11. Member Announcements

n/a

12. New Business

n/a

13. Adjournment

n/a

7:34

Grandview Hills Pollinator Gardens

Sustainable Neighborhoods Grant Report to BCOS

Project Plan

$1000 Grant +

$242.40 Neighborhood match

=

240 plants for gardens in 6 homes

Additional Resources Required

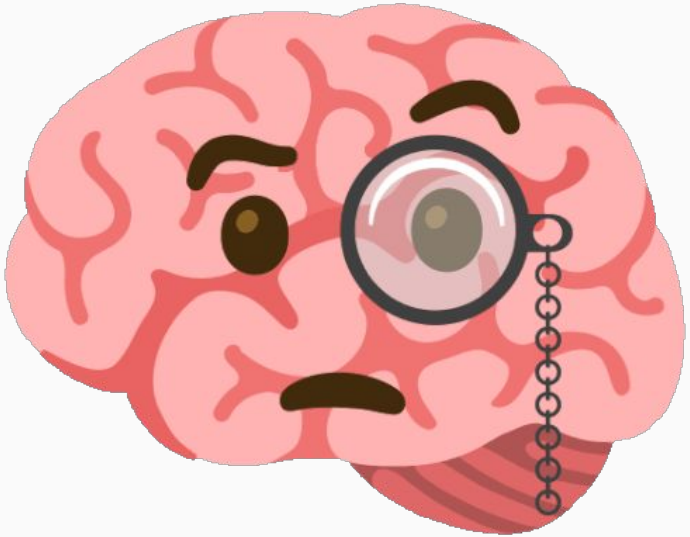
Time and Labor

- Grant application and follow-up
- Neighborhood Communication
- Bed preparation
- Garden planting
- Weeding
- Watering
- Documenting progress

Money

- Mulch
- Water
- Professional support
- Additional Materials

Knowledge



- Grant application and follow-up
- Plant care
- Weed identification
- Pest control
- Documentation

The Gardens

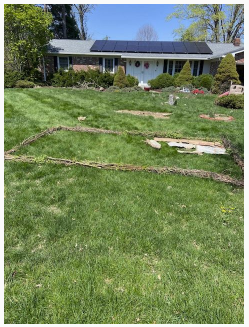
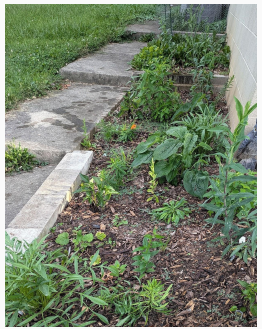
Site Selections

Progress

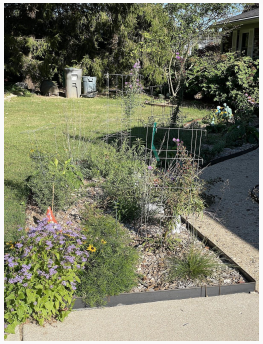


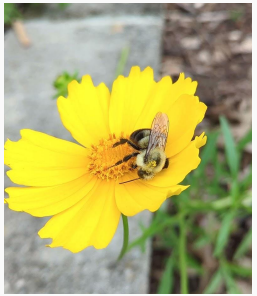





Blooming





Results

83%

Of plants in the 6 gardens survived as of October 2025

Reflections

“**I should have flagged them**…as some of my wildflower packets grew in there as well.”

“**I think my biggest difficulty was keeping other weeds out, even with mulch.**” I'm excited for the opportunity to tend it again as it emerges in the spring, hopefully hitting the target windows to curb the worst weeds.

she removed all the invasive vines she could before planting, many grew back, choking out some of the new plants. Health issues also made it difficult to keep up with yard work.

“This summer was hot and humid, which made it difficult for me to get outside to do any yard work. Weeds nearly choked the garden in July, but I was finally able to get them under control and save most of my plants in August.”

“**I had to do a lot of weeding early on and again mid summer** but the plants did so well they bullied a lot of stuff out.”

Reflections

“I **have never seen so many butterflies**--one day we counted seven feeding on the native plants at the same time! There were also a variety of bees--bumblebees and honeybees, and some insects I have never seen before.”

“The new plants have brought **joy and beauty** to owners and neighbors alike”

“I saw **monarch caterpillars** on the milkweed and have had some **hummingbirds** hanging out in my yard for the first time this year. Lots and lots of **milkweed bugs** (who ate many of those yellow aphids) and tons of bumble bees.”

“I have seen more butterflies, including **monarchs** and spicebush **swallowtails**, as well as a lot of **bumble bees and honey bees** (and probably other types of bees!) this summer.”

“This pollinator garden gave me so much more than pollinators this summer. It gave me education, joyful flowers, and hope for a future food garden. **Most importantly though, I am glad we did this as a group.** We haven't gathered at every step, but we have been able to share info and celebrations along the way. Being part of this common goal has helped me **feel more connected to the community of our neighborhood**, and I am beyond grateful for that. I look forward to more projects in the future!”

Conclusion

Growing native species and **sharing the experience with different gardeners** enabled various levels of successful outcomes.

A variety of factors – shade versus sun, wet versus dry site, various styles of gardening techniques and cultivation methods, time available to tend the plots, weather constraints, soil types, previous use of yard plots, and individual family needs – all worked together to yield **different but quite successful and mostly enjoyable end results**.

The benefit of dispersing the grant between multiple neighbors, and over a wide variety of site conditions, provided different outcomes. These differences underscored the **benefits of spreading the risk of planting native plots among many people**. This approach ended up working to our advantage.

This grant provided a model for sustainable steps forward, and the opportunity to build on this neighborhood experience and community in the near future.

PAUL H. O'NEILL
SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AND
ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS
INDIANA UNIVERSITY

Statement of Work:
Feasibility Analysis of Enacting a Sustainable Energy Utility

Prepared for: Bloomington Commission on Sustainability (BCOS)

Prepared by: SPEA-V 600 Capstone, Spring 2026

Faculty Advisors: Professor Emeritus John Rupp and Professor Nikos Zirogiannis

February 6, 2026

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Introduction

Project Background and Strategic Intent

In 2021, the City of Bloomington, Indiana published its Climate Action Plan (CAP), with goals of reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions "25% below 2018 emissions levels by 2030" and achieving "carbon neutrality by 2050" (City of Bloomington, 2021). One of the eight focal areas or sectors of the CAP is Energy and the Built Environment, which accounts for the most substantial portion (77%) of the city's GHG emissions (City of Bloomington, 2021). Bloomington established five Energy and Built Environment sector goals aimed at improving energy efficiency and accelerating the transition to low- and no-carbon electricity sources. Shifting to greener sources of electricity generation and reducing overall energy consumption are vital approaches toward meeting the established CAP goals and moving towards carbon neutrality.

Problem Statement: Structural and Economic Barriers

Despite clear targets and strategic intent, Bloomington faces significant structural and economic barriers to implementation of the CAP goals. Bloomington is located within the service territory of a regulated investor-owned utility (IOU) which may influence the extent to which the city can play a role in electricity generation, pricing, and infrastructure investment decisions. Duke Energy serves as the community's IOU; however, the degree of influence from Duke Energy remains an open question. According to Duke's most recent Integrated Resource Plan (IRP), Duke Energy's energy mix currently relies heavily on coal (74.7%) followed by natural gas (21.4%) (Duke Energy, 2024). The company projects a 20-plus-year outlook in which coal remains part of the energy mix, with plans to phase it out while expanding natural gas around 2030. Solar energy, however, remains stagnant until 2039 (Duke Energy, 2024). Due to these circumstances, the Bloomington Commission on Sustainability (BCOS) advocates investigating alternative models that could advance the city's CAP goals.

One alternative for the integration of clean energy in Bloomington is the development of a Sustainable Energy Utility (SEU). SEUs are organizational models designed to advance energy efficiency, renewable energy, and other sustainability objectives through locally tailored programs and financing mechanisms (Houck & Rickerson, 2009). Rather than replacing traditional utilities, SEUs operate alongside existing providers, where they focus on distributed generation and community-based energy solutions. Ann Arbor, Michigan - another mid-sized college city with an ambitious climate action plan serviced by a regulated IOU (DTE Energy) – is piloting an SEU as a means of accelerating progress towards climate goals while also maintaining energy reliability and affordability (The City of Ann Arbor, 2021).

Statutory authority, regulatory oversight, and policy considerations within Indiana's Code will shape the feasibility of establishing an SEU in Bloomington. Understanding the legal, financial,

technical, and social dimensions of creating and then implementing such a municipal utility is essential before pursuing any significant change to Bloomington's energy landscape. For this reason, a comprehensive feasibility analysis is necessary to evaluate the practicality, functionality, and benefits of an SEU, alongside any alternatives that could advance the City's CAP goals within existing constraints.

This Statement of Work outlines the scope, objectives, and methodology for a multidisciplinary feasibility analysis of an SEU and other potential sustainable energy scenarios for the City of Bloomington. Through coordinated research across legal, policy, financial, technical, environmental, and social domains, the analysis will assess the viability of an SEU and comparable alternatives using the five attributes, hereafter called Pillars, of electric service utility per IC 8-1-2-0.6: reliability, affordability, resiliency, stability, and environmental sustainability (Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission, 2023). The findings of this analysis will inform a set of actionable recommendations for Bloomington's Commission on Sustainability to support Bloomington's long-term energy and climate goals.

Primary Project Objective & Research Questions

Primary Research Questions

The main objective of this project is to determine the feasibility of a Sustainable Energy Utility (SEU) for the City of Bloomington, Indiana. The primary research questions are:

1. How feasible is implementing a Sustainable Energy Utility in the City of Bloomington, Indiana, considering relevant constraints and opportunities in legal, financial, technical, environmental, and social domains?
2. Are there viable alternative scenarios that could support Bloomington in making progress on energy-related carbon emission goals without creating an SEU?

The Five Pillars of Electric Utility Service (IC 8-1-2-0.6)

To complete a robust analysis of Bloomington's options for increasing energy sustainability, the project team will also evaluate alternative scenarios to a parallel SEU ranging from options closer to the status quo to more assertive strategies. This assessment will involve analyzing the current federal and state policies involving energy generation, transmission and distribution in Indiana, the impact and influence of relevant stakeholders, and the financial and technical implications of each potential scenario including an SEU. This information will be compiled and used to evaluate scenario alignment with the five Pillars of electric utility services listed above. Additional risk and stakeholder analyses will be performed to add depth and better inform decision-making. This will result in a detailed understanding of each alternative scenario and their impacts on Bloomington's goals as well as their likelihood of successful implementation, which will be used to develop recommendations for the client to weigh. This feasibility project will culminate in a written report

comprising the research, analyses, and recommendations for the client along with a presentation that will be given in late April of 2026.

Research and Analytical Methodology

Key Project Phases

1. Literature Review and Background Research
2. Analysis
3. Reporting of Results

Phase 1. Literature Review and Background Research

The project team will conduct a literature review and perform background research within four main disciplines or domains: Legal and Policy, Financial, Technical and Environmental, and Social. The focus and objectives of each research group are described in more detail below. Research teams working within each area will prepare information based on existing literature, reports, and expert consultants that will serve as input for the analysis during Phase 2. While the team will divide into groups to focus on each topic, internal communication will be frequent and will enable flexibility and collaboration.

Task 1.1 Familiarization with Client Sustainability Goals and Potential Scenarios

All project members will familiarize themselves with the sustainability goals of the City of Bloomington as well as background on SEUs and more traditional utility structures. This process will enable the project team to determine energy scenarios to analyze in Phase 2.

Task 1.2 Perform Background Research on Facets of Energy Generation and Distribution

The project team will divide into groups to conduct research on how each domain interacts with utilities, energy generation, transmission, distribution, and energy use. These groups and their objectives are outlined below.

1.2.1 Legal/Policy Research

Objectives:

a. Determine limiting factors in Indiana's utility regulation that may inhibit the realization of sustainable energy policies/utility models.
b. Identify areas of regulatory uncertainty to determine and clearly define potential pathways for the successful implementation of an SEU under Indiana law.
c. Evaluate local ordinances and consider associated implications in relation to the implementation of an SEU in Bloomington.
d. Assess federal and regional policy frameworks concerning generation and transmission and their implications regarding the implementation of an SEU in Bloomington.

1.2.2 Financial Research

Objectives:

a. Review existing SEU initiatives to identify potential financing mechanisms (loan, grant, public–private roles), their challenges and benefits.
b. Identify potential funding sources that may be viable for Bloomington: federal, state, city programs, philanthropic, and foundation funding (pros, cons, constraints).
c. Evaluate the financial cost-effectiveness of SEU initiatives by calculating and comparing their Levelized Cost of Energy (LCOE) across different scenarios.
d. Quantify existing electricity costs in Bloomington and compare them with projected costs under proposed SEU scenarios.

1.2.3 Technical and Environmental Impact Research

Objectives:

a. Evaluate the City of Bloomington's technical readiness to support a city-led SEU in ways that complement Duke Energy and improve the electricity grid's overall reliability for Bloomington constituents.
b. Identify the electrical, digital, and physical infrastructure requirements necessary for an SEU that provides measurable co-benefits for the City of Bloomington and Duke Energy.
c. Analyze which distributed energy resources (DERs) best align with the City of Bloomington's emissions goals while also supporting utility-scale system needs.
d. Assess the environmental impacts of alternative pathways to an SEU, including benefits for both the City of Bloomington and Duke Energy.

1.2.4 Social Support and Impact Research

Objectives:

a. Identify key community stakeholders and whether they would be likely to support green energy initiatives in Bloomington.
b. Determine factors anticipated to assist or hinder community acceptance of an SEU and strategies by which to facilitate greater acceptance of an SEU or alternative pathway.
c. Evaluate potential equity implications associated with SEU implementation, particularly as they relate to socially vulnerable populations, along with potential strategies for orienting SEU development towards social equity co-benefits.

d. Assess the community resilience implications of SEU development and alternate approaches to local renewable energy growth as they relate to energy insecurity and exposure to climate change impacts.

Task 1.3 Draft Report Background Research Section

During Phase 1, the research groups will compile and synthesize their findings into a draft of the background section to be included in the report.

Phase 2. Analysis

Task 2.1 Scenario Comparative Analysis

Utilizing the information obtained during Phase 1, the team will define and analyze each scenario considering the five key pillars of electric utilities outlined in the Indiana Code. Prior research, along with tools including but not limited to cost-benefit analysis, risk analysis, and comparison to city carbon emissions reduction and equity goals, will inform the work in Phase 2.

2.1.1 Scenario Outlining

Alternative scenarios, including an SEU, will be refined and defined based on the legal, policy, financial, technical, environmental, and social research completed in Phase 1.

2.1.2 Scenario Alignment with Pillars of Electric Utilities

The option of implementing an SEU, along with alternative scenarios for Bloomington, will be evaluated based on the five Pillars and ranked for each attribute from poor to excellent. A matrix modeled after Table 1 will be produced to enable visual comparison.

Table 1. Example Scenario Pillar Alignment Table. Ratings given for example only.

Pillar	Baseline	Scenario 1	Scenario 2	Scenario 3
Reliability	Good	Fair	Fair	Poor
Affordability	Fair	Good	Poor	Good
Resiliency	Good	Poor	Good	Fair
Stability	Good	Good	Fair	Fair
Environmental Sustainability	Poor	Fair	Fair	Excellent

Task 2.2 Risk Analysis

The risk analysis will holistically evaluate the feasibility of implementing an SEU and alternative scenarios. Even if a scenario appears to meet Bloomington's needs and circumstances, real-world

application means that outcomes may differ from what is ideal. The risk analysis will explicitly outline the uncertainties of each scenario and clarify trade-offs that may influence decision-making.

2.2.1 Risk Identification

Using information gathered in Phase 1, team leads from each research domain will present potential risks and uncertainties and will inform the risk analysis. Included risks will be those that affect the feasibility of each scenario meeting expected outcomes rather than impact on actual implementation.

2.2.2 Risk Assessment Matrix

The risk analysis will assess the effect of possible risks on outcomes for each scenario, specifically the likelihood of occurrence, magnitude of impact, and degree of uncertainty of each risk that outlined in 2.2.1 above. This will result in a tabular depiction of each risk with factors ranging from low to high, an example of which is provided below.

Table 2. Example Scenario Risk Assessment Matrix. Rankings given for example only.

Scenario 1: (example)			
Risk	**Likelihood**	**Magnitude of Impact**	**Degree of Uncertainty**
Risk 1	Low	High	High
Risk 2	Medium	Medium	Low
Etc.			

Task 2.3 Stakeholder Impact Analysis

The team will investigate how each policy scenario would impact relevant stakeholders across the public, private, and nonprofit sectors. Anticipated stakeholder impacts will be represented with both direction and magnitude, ranging from strongly positive to strongly negative. Stakeholder modeling will augment these findings with information on stakeholders' level of interest in policy scenarios and influence over the policy domain, along with guidance on engagement.

2.3.1 Stakeholder Identification

Based on the specifics of each policy scenario and the range of potential impacts, a list of stakeholders will be compiled that includes their name, stance, level of interest, level of influence, value proposition, and engagement strategy. The more subjective aspects of this analysis such as stance and interest and influence levels will be based on publicly available information, including historical actions and positions, stated missions and viewpoints, along with other sources as available and appropriate. For stakeholders where public information is insufficient to determine stance and interest, direction and magnitude of anticipated impacts will be used as substitute metrics.

2.3.2 Stakeholder Modeling

Once relevant stakeholders for an SEU and identified viable alternative scenarios have been compiled, their impact will be assessed using a dual-axis model (Figure 1) representing stakeholders' level of interest (lowest to highest) in these scenarios on one axis and their level of influence (lowest to highest) in the relevant policy space on the other axis (Rocky Mountain Institute, 2026). This modeling will be augmented with information on potential impact on direction and magnitude per the descriptions above (Table 3). Based on the position of stakeholders within this model, stakeholder profiles and recommendations as to their prioritization and engagement will be provided in the final report.

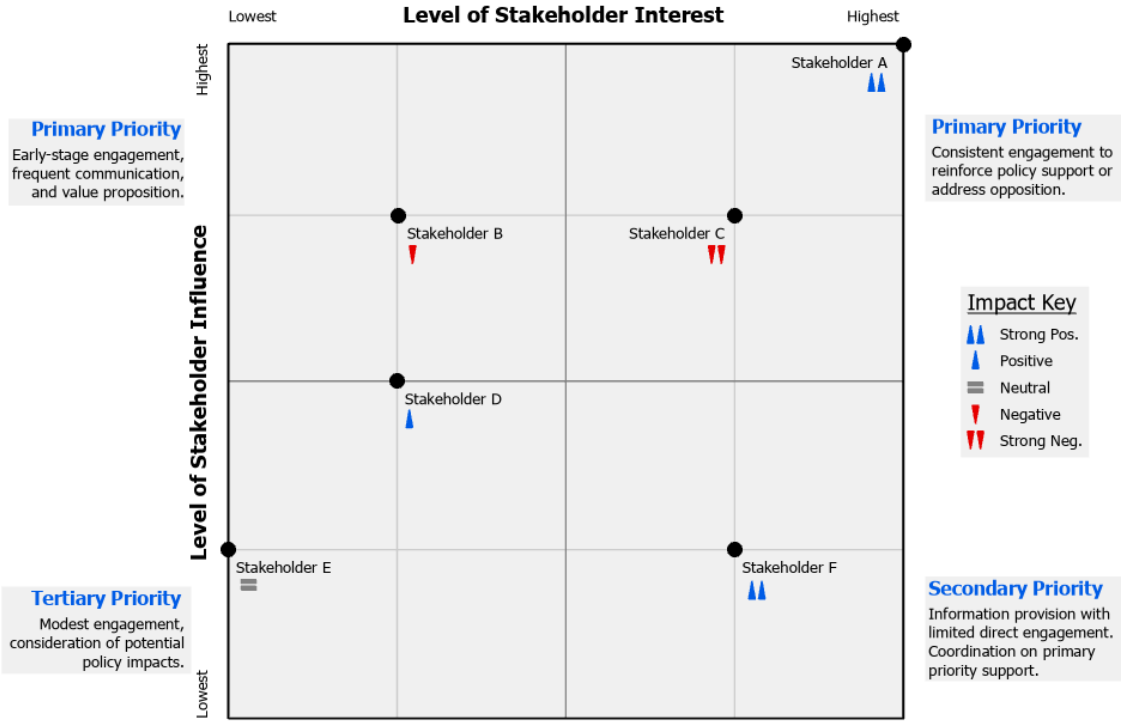

Figure 1. Example Stakeholder Interest Dual-Axis Model Visualization. Graphics and scoring metrics for impact/stance, interest, and influence are subject to change.

Table 3. Example Stakeholder Modeling Table. Scoring metrics are subject to change.

Stakeholder	Projected Impact/Stance	Level of Interest	Level of Influence
SH A	Strong Positive	Very High	Very High
SH B	Negative	Low	High
SH C	Strong Negative	High	High
SH D	Positive	Low	Moderate
Etc.			

Phase 3. Reporting of Results

Task 3.1 Report Writing

One of the main products of this feasibility study will be a written report delivered to the client for their consideration.

3.1.1 Draft the Report

The report draft will include Phase 1 background information on the characteristics, obligations, and limitations of scenarios within legal, financial, technical, and social domains. The report will present and discuss several possible scenarios to meet the goals of sustainable energy in Bloomington, and each will be analyzed based on attribute criteria, risk factors, and stakeholder impact. Finally, the report will present recommendations of courses of action for the client to consider based on the results of the presented analyses.

3.1.2 Edit the Report

The draft will be sent to internal advisors for review and may be sent to the client for comments. An expert with experience in the energy industry will review the draft to provide additional insights and verification of findings. The project team will edit the draft based on recommendations and additional requests.

3.1.3 Prepare and Deliver the Final Report

The edited report will be finalized and sent to the client for use at their discretion.

Task 3.2 Presentation of Recommendations to the Client

Upon completion of the final report, the team will present the findings of the project to the client.

Scope of Work

The scope of this project is that of a feasibility study and report. The project team will be performing research and analyses that will enable the completion of a written report and presentation regarding the feasibility of developing a Sustainable Energy Utility similar to that piloted in Ann Arbor, Michigan, along with alternative scenarios that could make progress towards Bloomington's energy-related carbon emission goals without creating an SEU.

Should the client consider the results of this feasibility analysis favorably and proceed toward implementation of an SEU, additional work will be required. This additional work would consider how the creation of an SEU would be accomplished in structure, timeline, detailed costs, and staff capacity requirements. However, such work is outside the scope of this preliminary feasibility analysis. Surveying stakeholders or otherwise gathering direct input from the community is also outside the scope of this project. Additional requests made by the client after the approval of this Statement of Work will be considered but not guaranteed for the satisfactory completion of this feasibility project.

Project Personnel and Responsibilities

Role	Name	Responsibilities
Advisors	**John Rupp and Nikos Zirogiannis**	Provide guidance to project team, find expert consultants, and advise direction of feasibility report
Project Manager	**Bronwyn Meldrum**	Manages the organization and execution of class meetings, oversees work performed, finalizes deliverables, and ensures project deadlines are met; compiles progress reports
Research Lead Manager	**Laura Schairbaum**	Organizes and oversees research teams. Guides research questions, analysis, and production of reports
Internal Liaison	**Vincent (Vinny) Zarlengo**	Facilitates communication with the project team, gathers collaborative information from research teams
External Liaison	**Evelyn (Evie) Sellers**	Communicates with consultants and contacts outside of the project team, serves as a point of contact for the client
Data Archivist	**McKenzie Jones**	Oversees organization of digital files, preserves past versions of documents, and compiles the bibliographic reference list produced by research teams.

Phase 1 Research Teams		
Role	**Name**	**Responsibilities**
Legal and Policy	**Lead: Trent Stocum** McKenzie Jones Miles Powell	**Directs and oversees research on legal and policy factors relevant to feasibility analysis and final deliverables.** Retrieves and organizes information on legal and policy factors to meet objectives outlined in Section 1.2.1
Financial	**Lead: Arista** Laura Schairbaum Joshua Pine Noel Baker	**Directs and oversees research on financial factors relevant to feasibility analysis and final deliverables.** Retrieves and organizes information on financial factors to meet objectives outlined in Section 1.2.2
Technical and Environmental	**Lead: Sushobhan Bhattarai** Lauren McDonald Vinny Zarlengo Liv Myers Farah Vianda	**Directs and oversees research on technical and environmental factors relevant to feasibility analysis and final deliverables.** Retrieves and organizes information on technical and environmental factors to meet objectives outlined in Section 1.2.3
Social	**Lead: Eveline Gordon** Liv Myers Farah Vianda Noel Baker Evie Sellers	**Directs and oversees research on social factors relevant to feasibility analysis and final deliverables.** Retrieves and organizes information on social factors to meet objectives outlined in Section 1.2.4

Phase 2 Analysis Teams		
Role	**Name**	**Responsibilities**
Scenario Comparative Analysis Lead	**Laura Schairbaum**	Compile research from Phase 1 and manages the creation of the scenario alignment table
Risk Analysis Lead	**Noel Baker**	Compile research from Phase 1 and manages the creation of the risk assessment matrix
Stakeholder Analysis Lead	**Evie Sellers**	Manage the identification and analysis of stakeholders and the creation of the stakeholder model
All other members	*One or more members from each Phase 1 research team will be assigned to an Analysis Team*	Contributes insights from domain specialty, supports organization of team's analysis and deliverables.

Phase 3 Working Groups		
Role	**Name**	**Responsibilities**
Report Writing	Liv Myers Vinny Zarlengo Arista Miles Powell	Responsible for the main authorship of the feasibility report using research from Phase 1 and analyses from Phase 2
Report Editing	Laura Schairbaum Bronwyn Meldrum Eveline Gordon	Manage the editing of the report based on consultant and advisor feedback, ensure formatting and writing are consistent
Layout and Graphic Design	Joshua Pine Farah Vianda	Prepare visual layout and graphics for the report, including textual explanations of tables and graphics.
Presentation Materials	Evie Sellers	Create slides for the client presentation
Presenters	Evie Sellers Bronwyn Meldrum Miles Powell Sushobhan Bhattarai	Present the findings of the feasibility report to the client at the conclusion of the project

Timeline

Phase	Deliverable	Date	Internal Deliverable	Client Deliverable
Phase 1	Draft Statement of Work & Organizational Plan	3 February 2026	X	
	Final Statement of Work & Organizational Plan	12 February 2026		X
	Project Progress Report	19 February 2026	X	
	Report Background Draft	24 February 2026	X	
Phase 2	Project Progress Report	5 March 2026	X	
	Analysis and First Draft Feasibility Report	26 March 2026	X	
Phase 3	Second Draft Feasibility Report	14 April 2026	X	
	Third Draft Feasibility Report	21 April 2026	X	
	Practice Final Presentation	23 April 2026	X	
	Final Presentation to Client & Delivery of Final Feasibility Report	28 April 2026		X

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City of Bloomington. (2021, March). *City of Bloomington Climate Action Plan*. https://bloomington.in.gov/sustainability/climate-action-plan

Duke Energy. (2024, November). *2024 Duke Energy Indiana Integrated Resource Plan (Volume I)*. https://www.duke-energy.com/home/products/indiana-integrated-resource-plan

Houck, J., & Rickerson, W. (2009). *The Sustainable Energy Utility (SEU) Model for Energy Service Delivery.* Bulletin of Science, Technology, and Society, 29.

Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission. (2023). *General Administrative Order of the Indiana Regulatory Commission*.

Rocky Mountain Institute. (n.d.). *RE+ City Cohort Action Guide. Stakeholder Mapping Matrix.* RMI. Retrieved https://rmi.org/rental-toolkit/prepare/identify-stakeholders/.

The City of Ann Arbor. (2021). *Ann Arbor's Sustainable Energy Utility. Technical Report*.

DRAFT

MEMORANDUM

TO: SPEA-V 600 Capstone Team; Professor John Rupp; Professor Nikos Zirogiannis
FROM: Bloomington Commission on Sustainability, Client
DATE: February 10, 2026
SUBJECT: Feedback on Statement of Work: Feasibility Analysis of an SEU

First, let me commend the team on a very professional, structured, and expansive Statement of Work (SOW). The roadmap you have laid out aligns well with the Bloomington Commission on Sustainability's (BCOS) high-level objectives and gives me confidence in a high quality final product.

To ensure the final report provides the highest level of actionable value for the City, I would like to suggest the following specific feedback and revisions to the scope of work. These adjustments focus on improving how actionable the final report is.

1. Hard-Coding Metrics for the "Five Pillars"

The SOW currently proposes a qualitative assessment (e.g., "Fair" or "Good") for the Five Pillars of Electric Utility Service. While this style of comparison is commonly seen in utility IRP proceedings, it is limiting for additional comparison and analysis. To hold the most weight with City Councilmembers, we recommend moving to **quantitative** indicators.

Examples:

- **Affordability:** Defined as a specific percentage deviation from Duke Energy's current and projected Schedule RS rates.
- **Resiliency:** The number of hours/days a proposed SEU microgrid can operate in "island mode" (independently of the Duke grid) using local storage and generation.
- **Environmental Sustainability:** Measured in metric tons of CO_2 avoided relative to the 2024 Duke Energy IRP baseline.

2. Financial Modeling Considerations

A. Moving Beyond LCOE in Financial Research
    a. While Levelized Cost of Energy (LCOE) is a common metric, it is increasingly viewed as an incomplete way to measure the value of clean energy, and doesn't normally include the cost of capital for a municipality or the administrative overhead of running a new utility department.
    b. Consider using a metric such as Value-Adjusted LCOE to more completely model the value (or lack thereof) of SEU assets (see research by CATF for details).
B. Incorporating Projected Electricity Costs
    a. The SOW currently mentions analyzing "existing electricity costs" in Bloomington. However, a feasibility study looking toward 2050 cannot rely on today's rates alone. Duke Energy's rates are expected to fluctuate significantly based on their 2024 Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) and planned capital investments.

   b. Please expand Task 1.2.2 to include **Projected Electricity Costs**. The SEU's value proposition should be measured against where Duke's rates are *going*, not just where they are *now*. This will provide a much more realistic "avoided cost" calculation for the City.

C. Affordability of Utility Operations
   a. While a simple comparison of LCOE to "current electricity costs" will result in an analysis telling us if the energy is cheap to produce, a more useful analysis would examine if the utility is affordable to run.
   b. A pro forma cash flow model may be outside the scope of work, but it would be amazing to include.

3. Reframing Stakeholder Benefits

The current SOW mention of identifying benefits to both the "City of Bloomington and Duke Energy." I would like to clarify the framing of this research.

- While it is important to understand the *impact* on Duke Energy, our primary objective of this study is the benefit to the **City of Bloomington and its residents**.
- The SEU is a potential alternative to the status quo; therefore, your analysis should focus on the **public interest**. Duke Energy is the incumbent utility whose business model may be challenged by this transition, rather than a co-beneficiary of the SEU's implementation. Please pivot the language in the SOW to focus on "Managing Regulatory and Utility Friction" rather than "Providing Benefits to Duke Energy."

I fully expect that the report as described in the Statement of Work would have been highly valuable and authoritative. Incorporating these shifts will only increase the potential utility, especially in making it more practical for and impactful to City Councilmembers and other stakeholders.

I look forward to seeing your work and engaging with you throughout the semester.

Best regards,

Alex Jorck
Commissioner, Bloomington Commission on Sustainability

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON
COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY

Passed X-Y-Z

Sponsor:
Justin Vasel

RESOLUTION 2026-01

TO APPLAUD THE CITY'S RESPONSE TO THE 2025 LAPSE IN FEDERAL FUNDING OF SNAP BENEFITS

WHEREAS, community resilience—the capacity to anticipate, withstand, and recover from disruptions—is a critical component of sustainability; and

WHEREAS, the federal government shutdown in late 2025 led to a lapse in appropriations for the USDA's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), threatening food access for more than 16,000 individuals within the Hoosier Hills Food Bank's six-county service area, including Monroe County; and

WHEREAS, on November 3, 2025, the City of Bloomington provided $46,000 in emergency funding to Hoosier Hills Food Bank to help sustain food access for residents across south-central Indiana, enabling the food bank to purchase and distribute approximately 330,000 pounds of food—the equivalent of 275,000 meals—through its mobile pantries and 84 partner agencies; and

WHEREAS, materials included in the Bloomington Common Council's November 5, 2025 meeting packet shared critical resources for finding food and contributing to mutual aid efforts, and called upon residents, businesses, civic groups, and neighborhood associations to join in a "Bloomington Food Resilience Effort" by committing to regular food bank donations, organizing mutual aid networks, volunteering consistently, amplifying local needs through social, professional, and faith-based platforms, and staying informed and connected; and

WHEREAS, the meeting packet also included a letter to Mayor Thomson expressing support for additional emergency appropriations to meet rising community needs, including potential use of the Jack Hopkins Social Services Fund.

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

SECTION 1. The Commission applauds Mayor Kerry Thomson and the Administration for acting swiftly to provide emergency funding to Hoosier Hills Food Bank in response to the federal government shutdown.

SECTION 2. The Commission applauds the Common Council for directing affected residents to critical food access resources and for encouraging those with means to support local food assistance organizations through donations, volunteering, and mutual aid.

SECTION 3. The Commission recognizes that local action in times of federal disruption exemplifies the community resilience essential to a sustainable Bloomington.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Bloomington Commission on Sustainability upon this 10th day of February, 2026.

_____

JUSTIN VASEL, Chair
Bloomington Commission on Sustainability

The views expressed here are solely those of the Bloomington Commission on Sustainability, as approved in their public meetings, and do not necessarily reflect the views, policies, or positions of the City of Bloomington. Only the Office of the Mayor has the authority to issue policy statements on behalf of the Executive Branch of the City of Bloomington.

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON
COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Bloomington Commission on Sustainability
From: Justin Vasel, Alex Jorck, Zach Ammerman
Date: February 5, 2026
Subject: Introduction of Resolution 2026-02 Concerning Automated License Plate Reader Surveillance

Purpose
We are introducing Resolution 2026-02 for the Commission's consideration at its upcoming meeting. This memo provides context for the resolution and summarizes its recommendations.

Why This Belongs on Our Agenda
BMC 2.12.100 establishes this Commission to advance sustainable policies across environmental, social, and economic dimensions, with the UN Sustainable Development Goals guiding our work. Resolution 2026-02 addresses the social dimension of sustainability—specifically, how mass surveillance technologies affect community trust, democratic participation, and the transparent governance that SDG 16 requires. Our statute also empowers us to advise on policies affecting community resilience, which depends on residents feeling safe to organize, attend public meetings, and engage in civic life.

What the Resolution Does
The resolution makes findings that mass surveillance implicates social sustainability and falls within our statutory mandate, and that the national record demonstrates policy safeguards have proven insufficient to prevent misuse.

It recommends that the Common Council conduct a public hearing on the Flock deployment and adopt a Community Control Over Police Surveillance (CCOPS) ordinance, modeled on the ACLU's April 2024 Model Bill, requiring Council approval before any city agency funds, acquires, or uses surveillance technology.

It recommends that the City Administration disable the cameras, decline to renew the contract, and disclose camera locations, data-sharing arrangements, and a full accounting of system usage.

A Statement of Values section acknowledges legitimate public safety concerns while clarifying that our concerns are structural—about participating in a

nationwide surveillance network—rather than directed at the Bloomington Police Department.

Why Now?
The national landscape has shifted significantly. At least 23 municipalities have canceled, paused, or rejected Flock contracts since February 2025. Federal legislators have requested an FTC investigation. Security researchers documented 51 vulnerabilities, and journalists demonstrated cameras were exposed to the open internet. Illinois found Flock violated state law by sharing data with federal immigration authorities. We believe the Commission should make its voice heard while there is still an opportunity to influence the City's approach.

Our Request
We ask that commissioners review the resolution before the meeting and come prepared to discuss. We welcome questions, suggested amendments, and debate.

Justin Vasel, BCOS Chair
Alex Jorck, BCOS Commissioner
Zach Ammerman, BCOS Commissioner

Encl: BCOS Resolution 2026-02 (Draft)

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON
COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY

Passed X-Y-Z

Sponsors:
Justin Vasel
Alex Jorck
Zach Ammerman

RESOLUTION 2026-02

CONCERNING AUTOMATED LICENSE PLATE READER SURVEILLANCE TECHNOLOGY AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR SOCIAL SUSTAINABILITY, COMMUNITY RESILIENCE, AND THE UNITED NATIONS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

WHEREAS, Bloomington Municipal Code Section 2.12.100 establishes the Bloomington Commission on Sustainability to "promote and advance sustainable policies and practices in Bloomington across environmental, social, and economic dimensions"; and

WHEREAS, BMC 2.12.100 further provides that "The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) provide a more detailed and comprehensive framework for organizing and prioritizing sustainability goals and actions" and that "The SDGs shall guide the commission's work"; and

WHEREAS, BMC 2.12.100(8)(B) empowers the Commission to "advise and make recommendations to the Bloomington Common Council, city administration, and city boards and commissions on policies and programs that infuse the work of city government with an operating philosophy based on sustainability and community resilience"; and

WHEREAS, the social pillar of sustainability encompasses equity, justice, democratic participation, community cohesion, and the protection of human rights, all of which are necessary conditions for achieving environmental and economic sustainability goals; and

WHEREAS, United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 16 ("Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions") calls upon signatories to "promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all" (Target 16.3), to "develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels" (Target 16.6), to "ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels" (Target 16.7), and to "ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms" (Target 16.10); and

WHEREAS, the City of Bloomington contracted with Flock Group Inc. ("Flock Safety") for the deployment of roughly 40 automated license plate reader (ALPR) cameras and associated subscription services; and

WHEREAS, Flock Safety operates a nationwide surveillance network comprising more than 80,000 cameras across more than 5,000 communities in 49 states, performing more than 20 billion vehicle scans monthly, with more than 75 percent of its approximately 5,000 law enforcement agency customers participating in cross-jurisdictional data sharing that allows officers to search license plate records captured anywhere in the network without a warrant; and

WHEREAS, Flock's technology captures not only license plate numbers but also detailed vehicle characteristics including make, model, color, body type, bumper stickers, damage patterns, and whether plates are missing or covered, enabling searches by vehicle description even without plate information; and

WHEREAS, federal inquiries and security experts have identified significant cybersecurity vulnerabilities within Flock Safety's infrastructure, including at least 35 compromised customer accounts, 51 separate security vulnerabilities[1], and documented negligence in protecting sensitive data from unauthorized access or manipulation[2]; and

WHEREAS, Senator Ron Wyden and Representative Raja Krishnamoorthi requested a Federal Trade Commission investigation of Flock Safety in November 2025[3], citing compromised accounts and negligent cybersecurity practices; and

WHEREAS, the consolidation of sensitive movement data into a vulnerable, privately-managed network creates a systemic risk of exploitation by unauthorized parties, which can facilitate stalking, harassment, or other criminal activities, thereby undermining the community trust and resilience essential to sustainable governance; and

WHEREAS, investigations by the Electronic Frontier Foundation, 404 Media, Senator Ron Wyden, and other researchers have documented that federal agencies including Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)[4], the Secret Service, and the Naval Criminal Investigative Service have accessed Flock's nationwide camera network[5], despite Flock's ongoing assurances to local customers that no such federal access exists[6]; and

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[1] *Examining the Security Posture of an Anti-Crime Ecosystem v1.2-PR,* GainSec (Nov 11, 2025) (Online at https://github.com/GainSec/anti-crime-ecosystem-research/blob/main/whitepaper/GainSec_Whitepaper_AntiCrimeEcosystem.pdf)

[2] *Flock Exposed its AI-Powered Cameras to the Internet. We Tracked Ourselves.,* 404 Media (Dec 22, 2025) (Online at https://www.404media.co/flock-exposed-its-ai-powered-cameras-to-the-internet-we-tracked-ourselves/)

[3] Letter from Sen. Wyden and Rep. Krishnamoorthi to FTC Chair (Nov 3, 2025) (Online at https://www.wyden.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/wyden_letter_to_ftc_on_flockpdf.pdf)

[4] *ICE Taps Into Nationwide AI-Enabled Camera Network, Data Show,* 404 Media (May 27, 2025) (Online at https://www.404media.co/ice-taps-into-nationwide-ai-enabled-camera-network-data-shows/)

[5] *ICE, Secret Service, Navy All Had Access to Flock's Nationwide Network of Cameras,* 404 Media (Oct 16, 2026) (Online at https://www.404media.co/ice-secret-service-navy-all-had-access-to-flocks-nationwide-network-of-cameras/)

[6] *Does Flock Share Data with ICE or Federal Agencies?*, Flock Safety Blog (Jan 6, 2026) (Online at https://www.flocksafety.com/blog/does-flock-share-data-with-ice-or-federal-agencies)

WHEREAS, documented uses of Flock camera data nationally include: tracking of a woman suspected of obtaining an abortion in Johnson County, Texas[7]; monitoring of political protests and demonstrations in Tulsa, Oklahoma and elsewhere[8]; searches using discriminatory and ethnically derogatory language[9]; and stalking of individuals by law enforcement officers[10], including a Georgia police chief arrested in November 2025 for using Flock cameras to harass multiple victims[11]; and

WHEREAS, data from Oak Park, Illinois revealed that 84% of Flock-related traffic stops involved Black drivers in a community where Black residents comprise only 19% of the population[12], raising serious concerns about racially disparate impacts; and

WHEREAS, the State of Illinois found that Flock violated state law by allowing Customs and Border Protection access to Illinois ALPR data[13], prompting the City of Evanston, Illinois to terminate its Flock contract in August 2025[14]; and

WHEREAS, at least 23 municipalities have canceled, paused, or rejected Flock contracts since February 2025[15], including Austin, Texas[16]; Cambridge, Massachusetts[17]; Eugene and Springfield, Oregon[18]; and Sedona, Arizona[19], citing concerns about federal data sharing, civil liberties, transparency, and community trust; and

WHEREAS, sustainable governance requires that residents feel safe to organize, attend public meetings, speak at hearings, and engage in civic life without fear of surveillance, and the Commission's own work on food resilience, climate action, housing, and

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[7] *Flock Safety and Texas Sheriff Claimed License Plate Search Was for a Missing Person. It Was an Abortion Investigation.,* Electronic Frontier Foundation (Oct 7, 2025) (Online at https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2025/10/flock-safety-and-texas-sheriff-claimed-license-plate-search-was-missing-person-it)

[8] *How Cops Are Using Flock Safety's ALPR Network to Surveil Protesters and Activists,* Electronic Frontier Foundation (Nov 20, 2025) (Online at https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2025/11/how-cops-are-using-flock-safetys-alpr-network-surveil-protesters-and-activists)

[9] *License Plate Surveillance Logs Reveal Racist Policing Against Romani People*, Electronic Frontier Foundation (November 3, 2025) (Online at https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2025/11/license-plate-surveillance-logs-reveal-racist-policing-against-romani-people)

[10] *Sedgwick police chief tracked ex-girlfriend 164 times using license plate cams,* KAKE (Aug 18, 2024) (Online at https://www.kake.com/home/sedgwick-police-chief-tracked-ex-girlfriend-164-times-using-license-plate-cams/article_21fdfdba-5dc5-11ef-95c4-8be8baa3f10c.html)

[11] *Georgia police chief charged with using license plate readers to stalk and harass people,* Associated Press (Nov 20, 2025) (Online at https://apnews.com/article/georgia-plate-readers-stalk-harass-chief-arrested-39adb6f89fc2074da61f2801fef3f180)

[12] *84% of drivers stopped by Oak Park police in Flock traffic stops were Black*, Freedom to Thrive Oak Park (Apr 16, 2024) (Online at https://www.freedomtothriveop.com/blog/84-of-the-drivers-stopped-by-oak-park-police-in-a-flock-traffic-stops-were-black)

[13] *Giannoulias' Audit Finds License Plate Reader Company in Violation of State Law: Flock Safety Shared Illinois Data with U.S. Customs and Border Protection. Secretary Orders Flock to Shut off Data Access,* Illinois Office of the Secretary of State (Aug 25, 2025) (Online at https://www.ilsos.gov/content/dam/news/2025/august/250825d1.pdf)

[14] *City Deactivates Flock Cameras & Terminates Contract*, City of Evanston, IL Press Release (Aug 27, 2025) (Online at: https://www.cityofevanston.org/Home/Components/News/News/6676/249)

[15] *Procurement Power—When Cities Realized They Can Just Say No: 2025 in Review*, Electronic Frontier Foundation (Dec 28, 2025) (Online at https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2025/12/procurement-power-when-cities-realized-they-can-just-say-no-2025-review)

[16] *Hays County Votes to Terminate Flock Safety Contracts in 3-2 Vote,* KXAN (Oct 14, 2025) (Online at https://www.kxan.com/news/hays-county-votes-to-terminate-flock-safety-contracts-in-3-2-vote/)

[17] *Statement on the Flock Safety ALPR Contract Termination,* City of Cambridge (Dec 10, 2025) (Online at https://www.cambridgema.gov/news/2025/12/statementontheflocksafetyalprcontracttermination)

[18] *Eugene and Springfield both announce end of Flock camera usage,* OPB (Dec 6, 2025) (Online at https://www.opb.org/article/2025/12/06/eugene-springfield-end-flock-cameras/)

[19] *Sedona Rejects License Plate Readers, Removes Flock Safety Cameras,* AZ Central (Oct 5, 2025) (Online at https://www.azcentral.com/story/news/local/arizona/2025/10/05/sedona-removes-flock-safety-license-plate-readers/86268179007)

other sustainability priorities depends upon robust community participation and advocacy; and

WHEREAS, peer-reviewed research has found that awareness of public surveillance cameras is negatively associated with perceived neighborhood cohesion, suggesting that surveillance infrastructure may accelerate the erosion of community social bonds,[20] and the International Association of Chiefs of Police has acknowledged that ALPR systems produce “a chilling effect on social and political activities”, and can cause people to "become more cautious in the exercise of their protected rights of expression, protest, association, and political participation because they consider themselves under constant surveillance"[21]; and

WHEREAS, the core principle of sustainability—meeting present needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs—applies not only to environmental resources but also to democratic institutions, civil liberties, and the relationship of trust between government and residents; and

WHEREAS, surveillance infrastructure, once deployed and normalized, is historically difficult to dismantle, and decisions made today about the acceptable scope of government monitoring will shape the civil liberties environment that future Bloomington residents inherit; and

WHEREAS, community resilience—a concept explicitly referenced in the Commission's statutory authority—depends upon trust between residents and government, social cohesion, and the willingness of community members to engage with civic institutions, all of which are undermined when residents reasonably fear that their movements are being tracked and their data shared with unknown agencies for unknown purposes; and

WHEREAS, environmental justice communities—those disproportionately burdened by environmental harms—are frequently the same communities subjected to disproportionate surveillance, and the Commission cannot credibly advance environmental equity while remaining silent on surveillance practices that burden the same populations; and

WHEREAS, the precautionary principle[22], widely embraced in sustainability practice, counsels that when an action raises threats of harm, precautionary measures should be taken even if cause-and-effect relationships are not fully established, and the documented harms associated with ALPR surveillance warrant precautionary restraint; and

WHEREAS, transparency and public deliberation are foundational to accountable institutions under SDG 16, and the procurement of surveillance technology through

[20] Takagi, et al (2020). *What Do Security Cameras Provide for Society? The Influence of Cameras in Public Spaces in Japan on Perceived Neighborhood Cohesion and Trust.* Journal of Experimental Criminology, 17, 477-464. https://doi.org/10.1007/s11292-020-09437-8

[21] *Privacy Impact Assessment Report for the Utilization of License Plate Readers,* International Association of Chiefs of Police (2009) (Online at https://www.theiacp.org/sites/default/files/all/k-m/LPR_Privacy_Impact_Assessment.pdf)

[22] *The Precautionary Principle,* International Institute for Sustainable Development (Oct 2022) (Online at https://www.iisd.org/system/files/2020-10/still-one-earth-precautionary-principle.pdf)

sole-source contracting without public notice or council deliberation does not reflect the participatory decision-making that sustainable governance requires.

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

SECTION 1. Findings

The Commission finds that:

(a) Mass surveillance technologies, including automated license plate reader systems, implicate the social dimension of sustainability and fall within the Commission's statutory mandate to advise on policies affecting sustainability and community resilience.

(b) The deployment of ALPR surveillance systems raises substantial concerns under United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 16, which the Commission is statutorily directed to apply in guiding its work.

(c) The documented national record of ALPR misuse—including immigration enforcement, reproductive healthcare surveillance, protest monitoring, racially discriminatory application, and abuse by individual officers—demonstrates that policy safeguards and audit mechanisms have proven insufficient to prevent harm.

(d) Participation in nationwide data-sharing networks creates risks that local policy controls cannot adequately mitigate, as data collected in Bloomington may be accessed by agencies and for purposes over which the City has no authority.

(e) The procurement of surveillance technology without public deliberation is inconsistent with the transparent, participatory, and accountable governance that SDG 16 requires and that sustainable policymaking depends upon.

SECTION 2. Recommendations to the Common Council

The Commission respectfully recommends that the Bloomington Common Council:

(a) Conduct a full public hearing on the Flock deployment, including testimony from civil liberties organizations, affected community members, and independent experts.

(b) Introduce and adopt a Community Control Over Police Surveillance (CCOPS)[23] ordinance modeled on the ACLU's April 2024 Model Bill[24], requiring Council approval before any city agency funds, acquires, or uses surveillance technology. The ordinance should apply retroactively, requiring approval of existing surveillance technology within 180 days or cessation of use.

SECTION 3. Recommendations to the City Administration

The Commission respectfully recommends that the City Administration:

(a) Disable all currently deployed Flock cameras in Bloomington, and do not renew contracts with Flock Safety.

(b) Publicly disclose the locations of all Flock cameras currently deployed in Bloomington.

(c) Disclose what data-sharing arrangements are currently in effect and which agencies have access to data collected from Bloomington cameras.

[23] Community Control Over Police Surveillance (CCOPS), American Civil Liberties Union (Online at https://www.aclu.org/community-control-over-police-surveillance)

[24] Model Bill: An Act to Promote Transparency and Protect Civil Rights and Civil Liberties With Respect to Surveillance Technology, American Civil Liberties Union (April 2024) (Online at: https://assets.aclu.org/live/uploads/2023/08/ACLU-CCOPS-Model-Bill-April-2024.pdf)

(d) Provide a full accounting of how ALPR data has been used since deployment, including the number of searches conducted, the purposes documented, and any instances of data sharing with federal agencies or out-of-state law enforcement.
(e) Ensure that any future consideration of surveillance technology procurement includes notification to relevant city boards and commissions and opportunity for public comment before contracts are executed.

SECTION 4. Statement of Values
The Commission affirms that:
(a) Safe communities are sustainable communities, and the Commission does not dismiss legitimate public safety concerns.
(b) However, public safety and civil liberties are not inherently in conflict, and Bloomington should pursue safety strategies that do not require mass surveillance of residents' movements.
(c) The Commission's concerns are not with the Bloomington Police Department's actions or intentions, but with the structural risks inherent in participating in nationwide surveillance networks controlled by private corporations and accessible to federal agencies.
(d) Intergenerational responsibility requires that we consider not only the immediate utility of technologies but also the long-term implications for the kind of community we are building and the civil liberties infrastructure we leave to future residents.

SECTION 5. Transmittal
The Chair is directed to transmit copies of this Resolution to the Mayor, all members of the Common Council, the City Clerk, the Corporation Counsel, the Chief of Police, the Board of Public Safety, and the Bloomington/Monroe County Human Rights Commission.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Bloomington Commission on Sustainability upon this ___ day of _____, 2026.

_____

JUSTIN VASEL, Chair
Bloomington Commission on Sustainability

The views expressed here are solely those of the Bloomington Commission on Sustainability, as approved in their public meetings, and do not necessarily reflect the views, policies, or positions of the City of Bloomington. Only the Office of the Mayor has the authority to issue policy statements on behalf of the Executive Branch of the City of Bloomington.