

Resolution that the Bloomington Commission on Sustainability Convene
a Multi-Stakeholder Community Meeting for the Consultant
Environmental Justice Solutions to Present on their Municipal Racial
Equity Impact Assessment & Tool

Co-sponsor(s): Colin Murphy, Jerrett Alexander, Nejla Routsong

Whereas, the Bloomington Common Council unanimously authorized a citywide Climate Action Plan (CAP) on 21 April 2021 with the goals of achieving carbon neutrality by 2050; enhancing climate resilience; ensuring a healthy and equitable standard of living for all residents; and protecting the city’s most vulnerable populations, among others;¹ and,

Whereas, multiple provisions in Bloomington’s CAP address equity concerns, including EB1-B-4 (expand countywide solar access, especially for low- and moderate-income households), EB2-B-5 (energy efficiency upgrades for multifamily residents), EB2-B-15 (mitigate the heat island effect, with preference for trial in low-income or at-risk communities), TL1-C-3 (identify and implement micro-transit options to improve transit system access for underserved and vulnerable populations), TL1-C-5 (prioritize high-vulnerable population bus routes for time equity/parity improvements), and many more; and,

Whereas, the Bloomington Commission on Sustainability is the primary citizen-body that the Common Council and Climate Action Plan have charged with supporting the CAP’s implementation, with the delegated responsibility of coordinating with City staff “in all relevant departments to receive updates on City projects and progress;”² and,

Whereas, the Bloomington Climate Action Plan has identified the need to mobilize community members and generate coordination with organizational,

¹ *Bloomington Climate Action Plan 2021*, Executive Summary.

² *Bloomington Climate Action Plan 2021*, 123.

jurisdictional, and institutional partners to facilitate climate action plan implementation;³ and,

Whereas, the statutory mission of this Commission is “to promote [the] sustainable socio-environmental-economic well-being of Bloomington and all its inhabitants;”⁴ and,

Whereas, members of the Bloomington Commission on Sustainability have expressed enthusiasm about inviting Environmental Justice Solutions (hereinafter “Consultant” or “EJS”) to present to a group of community stakeholders on the 90-page Racial Equity Impact Assessment and Tool (REIA) that EJS developed for the City of Oakland’s 2030 Equitable Climate Action Plan, which the City of Oakland adopted bindingly in 2020. BCOS commissioners are interested in sourcing best practices from Oakland’s REIA should they prove useful for application during Bloomington’s CAP implementation; so,

Therefore Be It Resolved That the Bloomington Commission on Sustainability commits itself to organizing an inclusive, multi-stakeholder community meeting per the attached REIA Proposal Option #2;

Be It Further Resolved That the Bloomington Commission on Sustainability will decide on the presentation date at a time that works best for the Consultant, BCOS commissioners, and key invitee-stakeholders, with an eye towards holding the presentation sometime in February 2022;

Be It Further Resolved That upon approval, BCOS will transmit this resolution to the Bloomington Common Council, Office of the Mayor, and Monroe County Board of Commissioners, notifying them of BCOS’s intention to organize this community meeting.

³ *Ibid.*

⁴ City of Bloomington Municipal Code, Chapter 2.12: Ord. 08-02 § 1, 2008; Ord. 05-15 § 1, 2005.

Proposal for the City of Oakland, California’s Racial Equity Impact Assessment & Tool (REIA) Authors to Present their Findings and Best Practices in Conversation with the Bloomington Community

September 2021

Summary & Rationale

Every city approaches the question of equity and justice differently. Research suggests that there are a wide array of approaches to integrating equity and justice frameworks into climate action plans at all governmental levels. Cross-pollination of ideas when it comes to best practices for integrating equity into climate action plans (CAPs) on the one hand, and implementing said plans on the other, is a worthy endeavor on which this proposal seeks to execute. Since BCOS is charged with assisting the City in its implementation of its CAP, a powerful product from this project could be a set of best practices from Oakland that BCOS could leverage, *ad hoc*, to assist in helping Bloomington implement its climate action plan.

Objectives

- ★ *Answer the following question(s):
 - What elements of Oakland’s Equitable Climate Action Plan do you think would be more (or less) applicable to a smaller Midwestern city like Bloomington?
 - What are some racial justice best practices for BCOS to consider employing as we help implement the CAP?
 - What potential exists, if any, to advance the conversation around racial equity in Bloomington’s CAP?
- ★ Expand upon the community conversation around the equity and justice aspects of Bloomington’s climate mitigation and adaptation plan.
- ★ Explore tangible action(s) and/or material gain(s) for the community in the spirit of just transition that could result from this project. Report back to BCOS on findings.
 - *Devise a list of ways we can leverage the REIA conversations to enhance both Bloomington CAP implementation and our oversight work in furtherance of said.

*Asterisked aims are SMART goal-able.

Proposed Budget

For an adequate presentation length, the consultant suggests at least one hour. To ensure the consultant has sufficient time to present and the audience to ask questions, we propose a budget allocation of one and one half to two times the hourly rate for both the Principal and Senior Associate.

Commented [1]: One idea: Could we have a short objective statement and/or a series of questions/aims we want out of this presentation? I know that the audience may come with questions, but perhaps there's some questions we as BCOS want to develop, prioritize, and ask that these presenters include as part of their presentation.

Brainstorming, but one example: "What elements of Oakland's Equitable Climate Action Plan do you think would be more (or less) applicable to a smaller, Midwestern city like Bloomington?"

Commented [2]: I like your idea, Kristy. I've added your question to a new section. I think it could be useful if we discuss which questions commissioners would like to add or amend, if any.

Commented [3]: Discuss and finalize as a Commission.

<i>Consultant</i>	<i>Rate (\$)</i>	<i>Option 1: 1.5 hours</i>	<i>Option 2: 2 hours</i>
Marybelle Nzegwu Tobi	275.00	412.50	525.00
Colin Miller	225.00	337.50	450.00
TOTAL COST		750.00	975.00

Potential Partners

- I. NGOs
 - A. NAACP Monroe County Branch
 - B. Hoosier Environmental Council
 - C. Sunrise Bloomington
 - D. Black Lives Matter Btown
 - E. Neurodiversity Coalition at IU
 - F. The Language Conservancy
 - G. Indiana Recovery Alliance
 - H. National Association on Mental Illness (NAMI), Greater Bloomington Area
 - I. Middle Way House
 - J. Sycamore Land Trust (maybe?)
- II. City of Bloomington
 - A. Common Council - Climate Action Committee
 - B. Department of Economic & Sustainable Development
 - C. Human Rights Commission
 - D. Commission on Hispanic and Latino Affairs
 - E. Commission on the Status of Black Males
 - F. Environmental Commission
 - G. Council for Community Accessibility
 - H. Commission on Aging
 - I. Community Advisory on Public Safety (CAPS) Commission
- III. County of Monroe
 - A. Environmental Commission
 - B. Monroe County Council
 - C. Monroe County Board of Commissioners
- IV. Business
 - A. Gnarly Tree Sustainability Institute
- V. IU
 - A. Professor Sanya Carley
 - B. Professor David Konisky

- C. SPEA Energy Justice team
- D. SustainIU

Resources

1. [Plan to Advance Racial Equity v.2](#) (City of Bloomington)
2. [Monroe County Library - Civic Organizations Database](#)