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**2025**

# **ANNUAL REPORT**

**project 46**  
SOUTHERN INDIANA REGIONAL  
**CLIMATE ALLIANCE**

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# INTRODUCTION

## Who We Are

Project 46, the Southern Indiana Regional Climate Alliance (Project 46), was started by the City of Bloomington, Town of Nashville, and the City of Columbus with engagement and support from a variety of local and regional organizations. Project 46 unites its members to leverage opportunities to reduce regional costs and increase economic opportunities, while also addressing the pressing challenges posed by increasing extreme weather events. Project 46 is distinguished by its bipartisan, cross-sectoral approach and aims to pool resources and efforts to achieve better climate outcomes in the region.

The Steering Committee consists of the Mayor of Bloomington, Mayor of Columbus, and the Town Manager of Nashville. Current Advisory Members include Cummins, Inc., the IU Environmental Resilience Institute, Electron Charger, and Sierra Club Winding Waters.

Project 46 is supported through the in-kind contributions of members' staff, with primary coordination by Shawn Miya, Assistant Director of Sustainability from the City of Bloomington, and facilitation and specific workstreams supported by Farallon Strategies, LLC and ICLEI USA.

## Why We Were Created

The rationale behind a regional collaborative, as opposed to individual city efforts, is the enhanced capacity to tackle challenges more effectively and efficiently. A key advantage of such collaboration is the ability to apply for grants together, significantly increasing the likelihood of securing funding. By presenting a united front, our region can demonstrate a larger impact potential to funding bodies, including state and federal programs, making our applications more competitive.

# HISTORY

## **October 2022 - Regional Climate Convening**

The 2022 Bloomington and Columbus city mayors hosted a Regional Climate Convening, which brought together 100 representatives from Bartholomew, Brown, and Monroe counties in the private, public, and nonprofit sectors to address climate change and explore preparation, adaptation, and mitigation measures in our region.

## **March 2023 - Regional Leaders Announce Launch**

Jim Lienhoop (Columbus Mayor), Sandie Jones (Nashville Town Manager), and John Hamilton (Bloomington Mayor) gathered to announce Project 46's launch and next steps of a bipartisan, cross-sector, multi-county effort to tackle climate change.

## **April 2023 - Resolution Approvals**

A resolution approving Project 46 was passed by the cities of Bloomington, Columbus, and Nashville, and the Monroe County Council.

## **September 2023 - Steering Committee Kickoff Meeting**

Steering Committee members and Advisory Committee Members held a kickoff meeting. Meetings are quarterly, addressing Project 46's visibility and influence, and votes on significant projects proposed by subcommittees.

## **March 2024-2025 - Formal Organization Activities**

The consulting firm, Farallon Strategies, who specializes in building regional climate collaboratives, was hired to provide guidance to formalize organizational activities and provide deliverables such as identifying priorities, tracking funding opportunities, and developing a regional greenhouse gas inventory with subconsultant ICLEI USA.

**Since September 2023, Project 46 has held 10 quarterly meetings and 14 Subcommittee meetings.**

## **Present Day (Ongoing) - Funding Opportunities**

Project 46 pursues state, federal, and foundation funding opportunities for initiatives such as green infrastructure projects, renewable energy and energy efficiency projects, electric vehicle adoption and charging infrastructure, and to implement regional climate education and outreach projects.

# GOVERNANCE

On July 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025, Project 46 voted to approve Bylaws and Organizational Structure.

## **Bylaws**

### *Mission*

The Cities of Bloomington and Columbus and the Town of Nashville formed Project 46 to address shared climate challenges solutions, specifically to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and mitigate negative economic, environmental, and health impacts caused by climate change.

### *Scope*

Project 46 leverages historic state, federal, and philanthropic funding to strengthen regional climate resilience. Project 46 focuses on Monroe, Brown, and Bartholomew Counties in Indiana, with potential for future expansion.

### *Activities*

Key activities of Project 46 includes tracking and reporting GHG emissions, coordinating local investment opportunities, setting goals, promoting best practices, and publishing an annual community report.

### *Membership*

Details about membership include eligibility, categories, representatives, participation, termination terms, limitations, and application requirements.

### *Member Dues and Contributions*

The bylaws outline membership dues for the various membership levels and other requirements.

### *Organizational Structure*

Project 46 operates through a steering committee, advisory committee, officers, subcommittees, and a (future) coordinator. Members are responsible for attending meeting, building consensus, and supporting collective decisions. At the December 2025 Steering Committee meeting, the Steering Committee selected Shawn Miya to serve as Chair and Sandie Jones to serve as Vice Chair, each for the next two years.

### *Financial and Administrative Provisions*

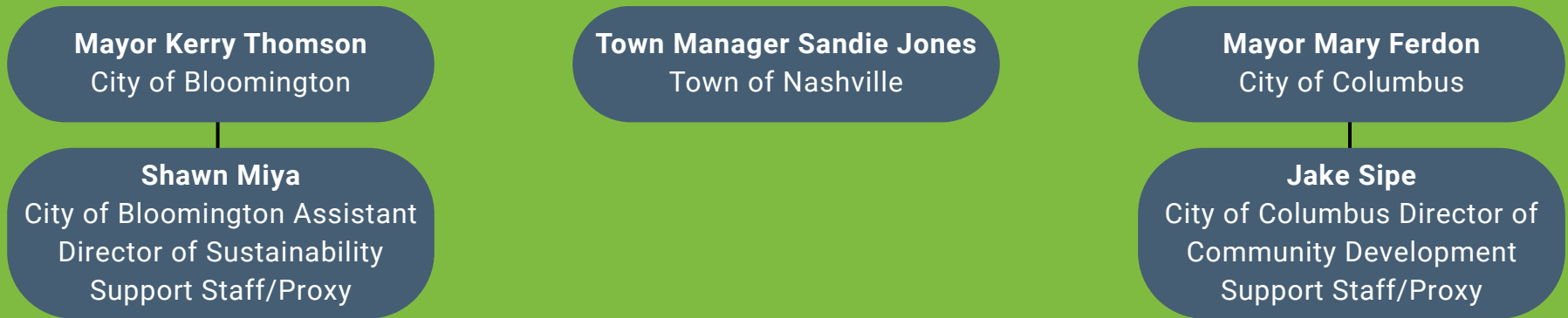
The bylaws outline fiscal management and oversight, define fiscal year and record-keeping practices, and specify how amendments to the bylaws may be approved by the Steering Committee.

## **Organizational Chart**

The current organizational chart, as of September 2025, is depicted in the following page:

# PROJECT 46 REGIONAL CLIMATE ALLIANCE

## Organizational Chart Steering Committee Members



## Advisory Committee Members

Elected Government Body	Nonprofits	Businesses	City/County Departments
Columbus City Council	IU Environmental Resilience Institute	Cummins	City of Columbus
Bloomington City Council	Sierra Club Winding Waters	Electron Charger	City of Bloomington
Nashville Town Council		Gnarly Tree Sustainability Institute	Town of Nashville

# CURRENT MEMBERSHIP

## Current Steering Committee Members

All Steering Committee Members provide \$0.50 per capita in annual membership dues

- City of Bloomington
- Town of Nashville
- City of Columbus



## Current Advisory Committee Membership and Dues

- Cummins, Inc.
  - Provides \$10,000 in annual membership dues
- Indiana University Environmental Resilience Institute (ERI)
  - Provides in-kind support
- Electron Charger
  - Provides \$10,000 in annual membership dues
- Sierra Club Winding Waters
  - Provides \$1,000 in annual membership dues
- Gnarly Tree Sustainability Institute
  - Provides \$1,000 in annual membership dues



SIERRA CLUB  
HOOSIER CHAPTER  
WINDING WATERS GROUP



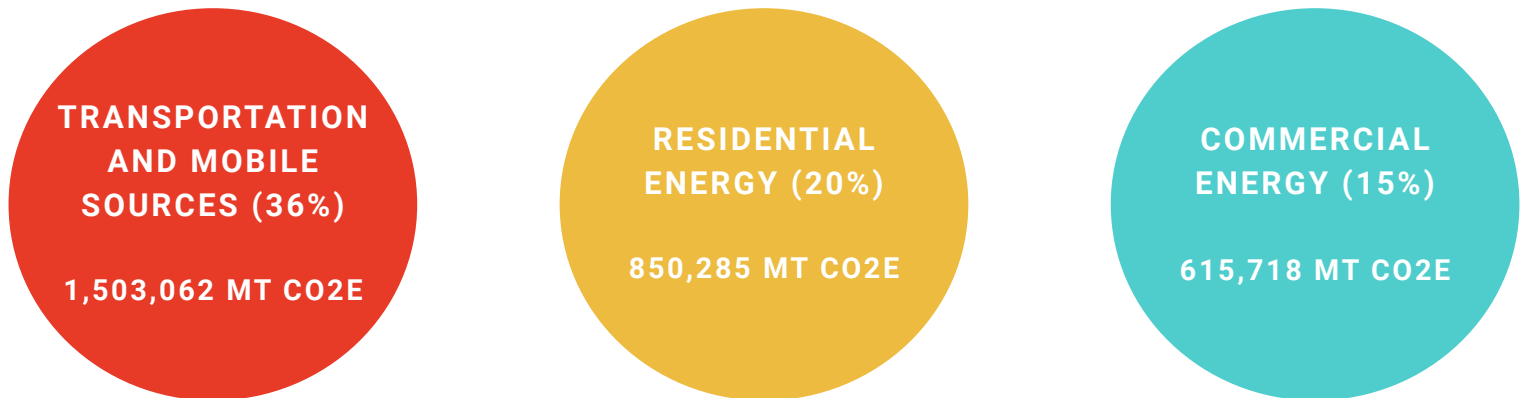
GNARLY TREE  
SUSTAINABILITY  
INSTITUTE

# GHG INVENTORY AND HIGH IMPACT ACTION ANALYSIS

In Spring 2024, Project 46 contracted with Farallon Strategies and ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability to prepare an Inventory of Community-Wide Greenhouse Gas Emissions and High Impact Actions Analysis to determine the primary sources of GHG emissions in the region in 2022 and identify which actions would have the greatest impact for reducing GHG emissions.

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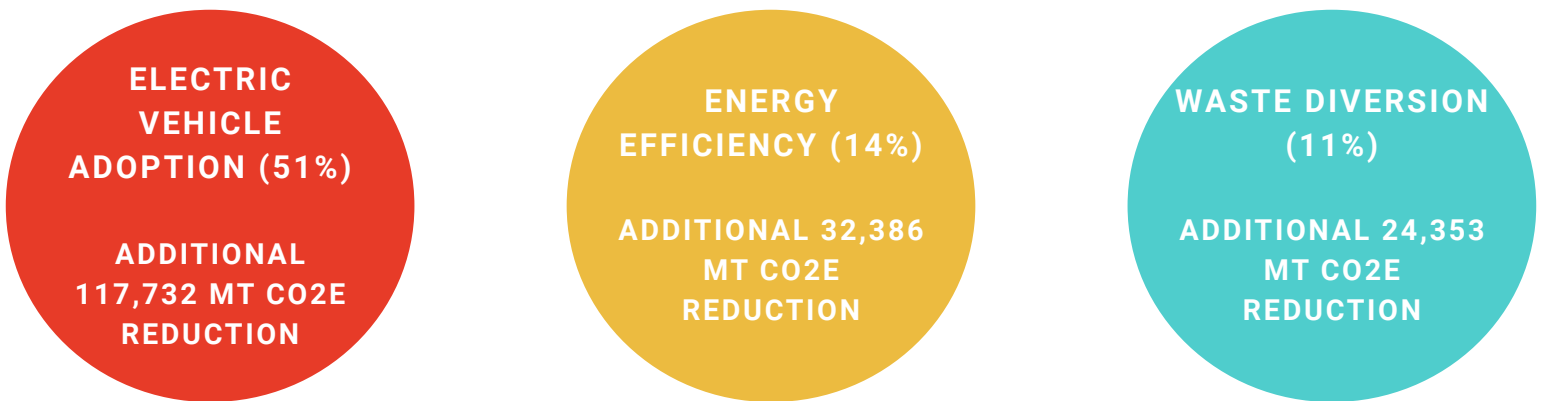
The Project 46 region produced 4.2 million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (MT CO<sub>2</sub>e) in 2022. The sectors contributing the most to these emissions were:



The other 29% of emissions came from industrial energy, solid waste, process and fugitive emissions, agriculture, forestry, water and wastewater, and other land use.

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The GHG inventory projected that GHG emissions will decrease 33% by 2030 due to projected population growth, vehicle fuel efficiency and electric grid improvements, market conditions, and current policies. The region, however, can achieve an additional 6% reduction by implementing high-impact actions. These high-impact actions include:



Other actions, totalling 24%, include tree canopy, vehicle travel, solar photovoltaic systems, and electrification.

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# BUDGET SUMMARY

This budget summary outlines the financial performance: revenue, support, and expenses for the Fiscal Years 2023, 2024, and 2025.

## Fiscal Year 2023

Project 46 was formed in 2023, and therefore had \$0 in revenue and expenses for Fiscal Year 2023.

## Fiscal Year 2024 & 2025

		FY 2024	FY 2025
	Beginning Balance	\$0.00	\$82,723.32
<b>Revenue</b>	<i>Steering Committee Membership</i>		
	Town of Nashville	\$640.00	\$640.00
	City of Bloomington	\$80,000.00	\$40,000.00
	City of Columbus	\$26,000.00	\$26,000.00
	<i>Advisory Committee Membership</i>		
	Cummins, Inc.	\$27,360.00	\$13,333.00
	Sierra Club	\$0.00	\$333.33
	Gnarly Tree Sustainability Institute	\$0.00	\$1,000.00
	Electron Charger	\$0.00	\$3,333.00
	<i>Investment Income</i>	\$57.12	\$42.29
	<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	\$134,057.12	\$80,348.62
<b>Expenses</b>	<i>Consultant</i>		
	Farallon Strategies	\$51,333.80	\$77,007.81
	<i>Website</i>	\$0.00	\$276.00
	<i>Conference</i>	\$0.00	\$2,500.00
	<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	\$51,333.80	\$79,783.81
	<b>Ending Balance</b>	\$82,723.32	\$87,621.13

# FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

## Grant Applications Submitted

### 1. Climate Pollution Reduction Grant

- a. Project 46 crafted proposals for the Environmental Protection Agency's Climate Pollution Reduction Grant program in 2023. This grant would increase energy efficiency and renewable energy access through projects such as solar, EV charging, battery storage systems, and more.
- b. Project 46 submitted 11 proposals to the Indiana Department of Environmental Management who pooled state submissions and submitted grants proposed on their behalf. IDEM selected eight of Project 46's proposals.
- c. Status: IDEM/Project 46 not selected for funding
- d. Project 46 continues to seek funding for these projects

### 2. Great Lakes Thriving Communities

- a. "Clear Creek Corridor Renewal Project"
- b. The City of Bloomington Utilities partnered with Project 46 to develop this application in April 2025. The \$230,000 grant would fund a transformation of the Clear Creek Corridor by implementing nature-based stormwater control measures after identifying blighted properties along the creek's course in Southern Bloomington. The grant funding would be used for environmental assessments, land acquisition studies and purchasing, and design work to form the area into a natural riparian zone which reduced flood risk, boosts economic vitality in the region, improve water quality, and more.
- c. Status: To be determined

# IN THE NEWS

## Project 46 has been in the news!

- Indiana Economic Digest: In September 2025, Indiana Economic Digest (The Republic-Columbus) reported on Project 46's Greenhouse Gas Analysis and some of the report's main findings.
- The Republic: In September 2025, the Republic published an article discussing Project 46 and the regional greenhouse gas inventory, high impact actions analysis and its implications for the region.
- WFIU Noon Edition: In July 2025, Shawn Miya (from the City of Bloomington's Assistant Director of Sustainability) spoke on Project 46 and climate action in the region.
- The Herald-Times: In July 2025, The Herald-Times wrote an article outlining the current status of Project 46 and its implications for Bloomington, IN in particular.
- Press Conference: In March 2023, a Press Conference was held to help answer questions surrounding the purpose and goals of Project 46, with remarks from Columbus Mayor, Jim Lienhoop, Nashville Town Manager, Sandie Jones, and Bloomington Mayor, John Hamilton.
- Climate Convening: In October 2022, Mayors of Bloomington (John Hamilton) and Columbus (Jim Lienhoop) hosted a Regional Climate Convening to bring together 100 critical players from Bartholomew, Brown, and Monroe Counties.

# WEBSITE LAUNCH

In the summer of 2025, Project 46 launched its website, a hub for all things Project 46!



## Key Components

- Informational details about Project 46
- Membership details
- Contact information
- General information about climate in our region
- Greenhouse gas inventory
- Google forms
  - On our website, there are multiple Google Forms which are used to increase membership:
    - [Advisory/Steering Committee Interest Form](#)
    - [Project 46 Newsletter Sign Up Form](#)

[Click here to view the website!](#)