February 2019





Sustainability Progress Report City of Bloomington • 2018





The City of Bloomington took a number of actions in 2018 to grow and strengthen sustainability initiatives, reduce our environmental footprint, and provide beneficial programs for the community. We released our first <u>Sustainability</u> <u>Action Plan</u>, establishing clear goals and priority actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, energy and fuel use, water use and waste; address food insecurity; support economic opportunities for local growers; improve ecosystem health; and lead by example in City operations. These efforts will help mitigate and prepare for climate change and enrich the quality of life for all city residents.

This 2018 Sustainability Progress Report highlights key initiatives and achievements related to our sustainability goals. While this report showcases general achievements, the 2019 Progress Report will include a summary of progress for specific goals outlined in the Sustainability Action Plan, which was adopted on October 31, 2018. We look forward to working with the Bloomington community to do even more to enhance our environment and local quality of life in 2019!

CLIMATE, ENERGY, AND THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Solarize Bloomington

In January 2017, the City launched an effort to diversify the energy supply for our facilities and invited city and county residents to do the same with a group-buy discount through the Solarize Bloomington Initiative. To date, more than 180 homeowners have installed over 1.2 MW of solar capacity via the Solarize Program. In 2018, approximately 300 interested residents attended information sessions led by the Solar Indiana Renewable Energy Network (SIREN), and 48 solar installations were completed on local homes, anticipated to generate over 515,000 kWh of electricity per year.



Indiana Solar for All Indiana Solar for All (ISFA), an initiative of the nonprofit Center for Sustainable Living, worked with the City's Solarize Bloomington campaign in 2018 to make grants to eight area homeowners with fixed or limited incomes to install rooftop solar systems. In addition

to income qualification, ISFA selection criteria include relevant skills in construction, project management, fundraising, and communications. Homeowners selected for participation defray the cost of installing their solar system through sweat equity, by helping with several installations besides their own, and by helping to grow and maintain the program. Priority is given to households that have already taken steps to improve energy conservation and efficiency. Volunteers who satisfy





the work commitments but do not meet the income guidelines can purchase equipment from ISFA's supplier and save money on installation costs. In 2019, ISFA anticipates funding 12 additional solar installations.

City Solar Installations

Solar photovoltaic systems were installed at 30 City buildings and facilities in 2017 and 2018, estimated to provide 2.8 MW of solar capacity for municipal operations. Combined with Solarize Bloomington installations, that brings our community total for solar capacity up to 4 MW! In 2018, solar panels at City facilities generated over 1.9 million kWh of electricity. Increased solar capacity is expected to be online at additional City of Bloomington Utilities facilities and the Dimension Mill in 2019. For real-time and historic solar electricity generation data at City facilities, visit the new online <u>dashboard</u>. You can find a current map of solar project locations <u>here</u>.

City Hall LEED Certification

City Hall submitted data for certification with the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Existing Building Operation and program in late 2018. City Hall achieved LEED certification in



2012 and increased that designation to LEED Gold in 2018 with a score of 60/100, using the Arc platform. Arc generates a Performance Score based on actual metrics in five key categories: energy, water, waste, transportation, and human comfort. Originally built in 1910, the 2-story, 60,000 sq. ft. office building scored particularly well in several of Arc's performance categories:

- Waste: City Hall earned 7 out of 8 total points in the Waste category for the building's recycling and composting programs, which help divert 78% of waste generated at City Hall from the landfill.
- Transportation: City Hall earned 12 out of 14 total points in the Transportation category, based on employee commuting patterns, captured via survey.
- Energy: City Hall earned 20 out of 33 total points in the Energy category, based on building energy consumption.

Community Sustainable Building Efforts

In 2018, three buildings in our community were recognized for sustainable building and/or energy efficiency achievements. University Elementary School earned designation as an ENERGY STAR K-12 School with a score of 82 points. A score of 75 or higher signifies that the buildings perform in the top 25 percent of similar facilities nationwide for energy efficiency and meet strict energy efficiency performance levels set by the EPA. Two IU Bloomington buildings also received Gold certification with LEED for New Construction: the new SPEA addition and the Ray E. Cramer Marching Hundred Hall. LEED is a performanceoriented rating system where building projects earn points for satisfying criteria designed to address specific environmental impacts inherent in the design, construction, operations, and management of a building. The City is also designing 11,000 square feet of rental banquet



and festival indoor/outdoor space at the new Switchyard Park (currently under construction) to LEED Silver standards.

Carbon Disclosure Project

The City submitted greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions data to the Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP) for the first time in the summer of 2018. The CDP provides cities, states, and regions with a standardized and internationally recognized way of recording their environmental actions. Bloomington community data was pulled from the 2016 Community GHG Emissions Inventory, and City operations data was obtained from the 2015 Local Government Operations Energy Use and Emissions Inventory. The City plans to complete an updated community GHG emissions inventory in the summer of 2019 with more recent data for submittal to the CDP.

Monroe County Energy Challenge (MCEC) Updates

MCEC members trained 17 high school students from two schools to lead "Solar, Wind, and Watts Roadshow" presentations focused on renewable energy and energy efficiency concepts. In 2018, presentations took place at four local elementary schools, reaching 76 students. The MCEC energy bus also made an appearance at several community events, providing hands-on opportunities for children and adults to learn more about renewable energy and energy efficiency measures. MCEC is looking at opportunities to work with small businesses on energy conservation in 2019.

Environmental Resilience Institute at IU

The City actively engaged with the <u>Environmental</u> <u>Resilience Institute</u> to develop the Sustainability Action Plan and address climate change issues specific to municipalities. The Institute is part of Indiana University's \$300 million <u>Grand</u>. <u>Challenges Program</u>, and works to predict the impacts of environmental change and develop solutions that prepare Indiana businesses, farmers, communities, and individuals for those impacts. City staff have engaged with the Institute on work related to Urban Green Infrastructure, climate communications, climate adaptation planning, and the Environmental Resilience Institute Toolkit an interactive resource to help local governments effectively deliver services to their communities even as the climate changes.

TRANSPORTATION

Pace Bikeshare

The City of Bloomington and IU partnered to launch the dockless Pace bike share service in June 2018. This bike share program gives residents, students, and visitors an affordable and sustainable on-demand transportation option. In 2018, more than 3,500 members took over 9,500 bicycle trips on 150 bikes.

In September 2018, electric scooters also arrived in Bloomington, via Bird and Lime. Community response to the initial deployment of approximately 650 scooters has been mixed. City administration has been eager to support innovation, while maintaining public safety, and required both companies to sign an interim agreement in November 2018 to establish a fee structure that compensates the City for costs incurred by the operation of scooters in its parks and right-of-way, including those related to enforcement and infrastructure maintenance. The agreement also stipulates parameters for the



use and parking of e-scooters in Bloomington; establishes requirements that the rental company provide locally relevant education for riders and communication with the general public on multiple platforms; identifies liability in the case of injury or damage to property; and assesses fines for the improper arrangement or parking of the vehicles. City officials are also considering adopting an ordinance to regulate the use of electric scooters in Bloomington.

Bloomington Transit Service

Bloomington Transit (BT) carried approximately 3.1 million riders in 2018 and had the highest per capita ridership in Indiana, averaging around 36 passenger trips per capita. BT also installed solar panels on the canopies at the Downtown Transit Center; tested a zero-emission, battery-electric bus; and secured \$1 million in federal grants and local funding to add one electric bus and charging station to the system's fleet in the near future. Electric buses help reduce greenhouse gas emissions, are quieter, get approximately three times more miles per gallon, and require less maintenance than diesel buses.

Bike-Friendly Community Designation

In December 2018, the League of American Bicyclists recognized the City with a Gold Level Bicycle Friendly Community (BFC) award. Bloomington's Gold Level status was renewed for the second time for a number of assets that contribute to bike-friendliness, with particular distinction in the following categories: share of transportation budget spent on bicycling, active bicycle advisory committee, and bicycle-friendly laws and ordinances.



Solar panels on Bloomington Transit bus station canopies



Bloomington currently has 29 miles of trails and shared paths, including the B-Line and Clear Creek trails and the multi-use side paths parallel to the street that are designed for walking and bicycling. A recently approved \$10 million Bicentennial Bond will fund a number of major projects to deepen the City's commitment to an integrated, sustainable, multi-modal transportation system and to extend its trail connectivity. Among other projects, the bond funds a protected east-west bike lane along 7th Street downtown and a new trail on the city's west side that links Switchyard Park, RCA Park, Weimer Road, and Wapehani Mountain Bike Park.

Bicycle and Pedestrian Events

The City helped sponsor a number of community bicycle and pedestrian events in 2018, engaging more than 6,000 community members. The City also helped promote two rides hosted by the Bloomington Community Bike Project, and organized two pedestrian-focused bicentennial events: the Street Fair on Kirkwood and the Bicentennial on the B-Line.

- February 24: Terrible Horrible Ride, in partnership with Lennie's and the B-Town Free Parking Squad
- May 1: Bikes Month Kickoff Happy Hour, in partnership with Monroe County Planning and Indiana University Bikes
- May 10: Women's Ride, in partnership with Monroe County Planning
- May 14: Bicycle Train to BBQ Train lunch ride, in partnership with Monroe County Planning and Indiana University Bikes
- May 18: Bike to Work Day Celebration, in partnership with Friendly Beasts, Monroe County Planning, and Indiana University Bikes

- June 4: Beginner Bike Ride, in partnership with Monroe County Planning and Ron Brown of the BBC
- June 28: Bikecentennial Ride, in partnership with Cardinal Spirits

WATER

Leak Survey

In 2018, CBU hired a contractor to conduct a leak survey of the entire drinking water transmission and distribution system. The contractor used sonic listening devices to pinpoint the location of 48 leaks in the distribution system. CBU crews repaired the leaks, which were resulting in the loss of approximately 235 million gallons of water and costing the utility over \$91,000 per year.

Water Conservation Kits

CBU distributed 50 Water Conservation Kits to community members in 2018, along with hundreds of individual conservation devices — such as faucet aerators, low-flow showerheads, and leak detection dye tabs — at community events.





SSO and Inflow and Infiltration Reduction

The South Central Interceptor Sewer was constructed through the Switchyard Park site to eliminate the Sanitary Sewer Overflow (SSO) at Micro Motors and The Herald Times. The \$6.87M construction project consisted of 11,900 feet of new interceptor pipe, much of which was 42" in diameter. The project was completed in August 2018 and no overflows have occurred at the either of the old chronic SSO locations since then. CBU also hired a contractor to rehabilitate over 25,000 feet of old vitrified clay sewer pipe in other areas of the city, using cured-in-place-pipe to reduce inflow and infiltration into the sewer system.

Stormwater and F.O.G. Education

CBU staff maintained an education and outreach presence at local events, including Leonard Springs Nature Days, Bicentennial celebrations, the Lotus World Music and Arts Festival, Peden Farm Children's Festival, and the Monroe Lake Shoreline Cleanup. Three new groups were inducted into the Adopt-a-Stream program in 2018, and CBU staff trained and worked closely with local schools on water quality monitoring programs, and on the World Water Monitoring Challenge. CBU also worked with local property management companies to distribute hundreds of "Fight Fats, Oils, & Grease (F.O.G.)" and "It's a Toilet, not a Trash Can" educational pamphlets to residents.







Friends of Lake Monroe

In 2018, CBU, The Nature Conservancy, and the Friends of Lake Monroe (FLM) joined to explore the feasibility of a Water Fund for Lake Monroe the drinking water source for Bloomington, IU, and Monroe County. Water Funds enable downstream



Lake Monroe friends make fish flags and learn about water clarity at the CBU water treatment plant anniversary celebration

water users (like cities, businesses, and utilities) to invest in upstream land management to improve water quality and quantity, and generate long-term benefits for both people and nature. which was submitted in August 2018 to the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM). That grant application was supported by a commitment from CBU for \$37,500 in matching funds to hire a watershed coordinator. Monroe County committed an equal amount. CBU also provided office space and a computer for the watershed coordinator. The application was rated highly by IDEM and recommended to the EPA for funding. The final decision on funding is expected in Spring 2019, with funding available in the final quarter of 2019.

WASTE REDUCTION

Hoosier to Hoosier Community Sale

The City hosted a group of AmeriCorps NCCC volunteers (pictured below) who assisted with the 2018 Hoosier to Hoosier (H2H) Community Sale — a partnership among the IU Office of Sustainability, the City of Bloomington, and Cutters Soccer to encourage reuse of common household goods. NCCC volunteers played a critical role in the success of the volunteer-led H2H sale, helping to clean, repair, and sort items,

Available data for assessing Lake Monroe water quality trends were analyzed, confirming the need for an integrated water monitoring plan, a watershed management plan, and a watershed coordinator. With guidance from federal, state, and local water managers, an integrated monitoring committee formed. It is now working toward developing an integrated monitoring plan. FLM worked with IU SPEA to write an application for a section 319 grant



2018 AmeriCorps volunteers



and assist with sale-day activities. The 2018 sale attracted more than 3,100 shoppers, diverted an estimated 80 tons of waste from the landfill, and raised \$48,000 to support local non-profits and sustainability programs. The same day, the annual Junk in the Trunk community rummage sale at the Frank Southern Ice Arena engaged 77 sellers and more than 1,340 attendees. Stay tuned for more information on the 2019 H2H sale at https:// sustain.iu.edu/programs/h2h/index.html.

MCPL Fix-It Fair

The August 2018 Fix-It Fair at the Monroe County Public Library invited community members to bring in items to be repaired by a local "fixer" and to participate in the fixing session in order to learn new skills. The following items were accepted for repair: toys, lamps, kitchen appliances, electronics, clothes and textiles, books, jewelry, bikes, skateboards, tools and knives (for sharpening), and musical instruments. More than 100 participants attended the event and approximately 50 items were repaired. Individual volunteers and representatives from the following organizations



City code requires commercial businesses to receive permission before offering sanitation-related services to residents on City Sanitation routes, which include single-family homes and apartment buildings with four units or fewer. Green Camino (August 2018) and JB's Salvage (January 2019) were recently authorized to pick up food waste from City Sanitation customers for composting during a two-year pilot. During that time, the City will evaluate whether curbside collection of food waste is something the City could offer via the Sanitation Division or a contractor.



"Zero waste" station at summer city employee luncheon

participated as "fixers" in 2018: Bloominglabs, Discardia, Ardent Instruments, With a Grain of Salt, Lilly Library, Rhett's Skateboard, Bloomington Bike Project, and Artisan Alley. A 2019 Fix-It Fair is currently being planned to help reduce waste, encourage library patrons to learn new skills, and strengthen community connections.

City Hall Composting Pilot Project

City Hall launched a composting pilot project with Green Camino in June 2018 to help divert materials from the landfill. Sealable 5-gallon compost buckets were placed in each employee



kitchen for weekly collection and additional buckets were made available for City employee luncheons. More than 500 pounds of organic resources were diverted from the landfill in 2018 and taken to a local farm and to the Green Earth compost facility, to create soil-enriching compost.

City Sanitation Services

In 2018, the Sanitation Division collected more than 3,400 tons of recyclables and more than 6,700 tons of trash from Bloomington residents, with 34% of collected materials diverted from the landfill. The amount of recyclables collected in 2018 increased 16% compared to 2017, while the amount of trash collected increased by 19%. The number of houses served by Sanitation also increased in 2018. A new online form for scheduling large item pickups was launched in May 2018 and over 544 forms have been submitted. Sanitation crews collected 83 tons of yard waste, 307 appliances, and over 47,000 large



items. To learn more about recycling options and Sanitation services, visit <u>https://bloomington.</u> in.gov/sanitation/recycling.

City Hall Employee Recycling Program

City Hall employees helped divert materials not commonly collected in residential recycling programs from the landfill by using City Hall "recycling stations." These stations collect alkaline batteries, compact fluorescent lamps, pop can tabs, energy bar wrappers, and electronics for recycling and reuse. (See the table on the next page for 2018 recycling station totals.)

LOCAL FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

USDA Grant for Local Food Promotion

The City of Bloomington was a partner on a successful 2018 Purdue University and Indiana University grant application from the USDA Local Food Promotion Program. The grant will provide funding to hire, train, and support four Value Chain Coordinators in the state in early 2019 including one with the City — for three years. Coordinators connect farmers with the support and resources needed for market readiness, and collaborate with distributors to connect farmers to local and regional retail and wholesale markets. Coordinators will receive training from the Wallace Center at Winrock International and create demand in various markets for locally raised or produced foods, while simultaneously supporting increased capacity among local producers.

Bloomington Community Farmers' Market and Gardens

More than 250,000 visitors attended the City's Farmers' Market in 2018. The market contracted



MATERIAL RECYCLED	AMOUNT RECYCLED	RECYCLING PROGRAM
Batteries	70 lbs	Monroe County Solid Waste
Pop can tabs	6,000+ tabs	Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central Indiana: collected pop tabs are recycled, generating funds to support the House and the nearly 5,000 families served each year.
Energy bar wrappers	2 buckets	<u>TerraCycle</u> : wrappers are cleaned and melted into hard plastic that can be remolded to make new recycled products.
Electronics	19 chargers 1 food scale 1 GPS unit 2 cameras 1 electric razor 1 flashlight 19 cell phones	Monroe County Solid Waste
CFLs	19	Monroe County Solid Waste

with 126 farm vendors representing 19 Indiana counties and offered a venue for 19 prepared food vendors and/or small food businesses to sell their products. Over \$26,000 in SNAP and Double Market Bucks were distributed at the Saturday and Tuesday Farmers' Markets, increasing access to locally grown foods and keeping more food dollars in the local economy. Members of the public rented a total of 187 garden plots at Willie Streeter and Butler Park Community Gardens in 2018; construction was finished on 10 new raised beds at Willie Streeter Community Garden; and the Parks and Recreation Department offered eight garden education classes, co-sponsored by Hilltop Garden at IU.

ECOSYSTEM HEALTH

Invasive Species Removal and Native Plantings

The City hosted a group of AmeriCorps NCCC volunteers who assisted the City's Vegetation Management team with removing Asian Bush Honeysuckle, a harmful invasive plant species, from 10 acres in Upper Cascades Park. NCCC volunteers also contributed several hours to Community Garden locations, assisting with ongoing efforts to keep plots well-maintained and accessible to local gardeners. In total, Parks and Recreation staff worked to treat the following invasive species on City properties: over 42 acres of Asian Bush Honeysuckle, more than 200 acres of



Stiltgrass, approximately 10 acres of Purple Winter Creeper, and more than 32 acres of Garlic Mustard.

Staff also planted more than 3,000 native tree saplings from the Indiana Department of Natural Resources nursery (donated by a local business, Eco Logic LLC); installed more than 4,800 native plants; sowed 13.6 acres with native seed; diverted over 300 cubic yards of green waste to a local composting operation; and expanded the Griffy Shoreline Stabilization project.

Habitat Preservation

In late 2018, 20 acres of forested land were donated to expand the Griffy Lake Nature Preserve. The Weimer Dam was removed from Wapehani Mt. Bike Park and 417 trees were planted in the former lake bed. The bioswale at Ferguson Dog Park was also reconstructed and planted with native trees, shrubs, and herbaceous plants. In 2018, volunteers also provided over 222 hours of work to maintain habitat via the Adopt-a-Stream and Adopt-a-Trail programs. The Adoptan-Acre program was suspended for 2018 for redesign but is expected to open again in 2019.

Environmental Education

Parks and Recreation hosted a number of events to educate community members and help them explore our natural environment.

- The 2018 Leonard Springs Nature Day provided a full-day, experiential environmental education program for 859 sixth graders from 13 schools. Volunteers and staff led hands-on activities that engaged students in the natural processes of the park to foster learning and stewardship.
- Griffy Lake Nature Day provided a similar full-day program for 815 fourth-grade students from 13 schools in 2018. Staff and partners led students through activities and games





that reinforce state education standards and connect kids to parks and natural areas.

- During summer months, participants in the Banneker summer food service program connected with nature through the **Summer Nature Days** program. A total of 640 total participants hiked, explored, and gained knowledge on weekly field trips to parks, local farms, and natural spaces in 2018.
- More than 700 local citizens of all ages participated in additional nature- and outdoor-oriented programs from Parks and Recreation in 2018.

Naturalist at the Market

Over 1,300 people visited the Naturalist at the Market table in 2018. This bi-monthly table hosts

naturalists from Parks and Recreation during the summer Bloomington Community Farmers' Market. These pop-up nature programs included topics such as Bloomington nature hikes, bird watching and identification, wild edibles, crafts, and games. Visitors were encouraged to sign up for programs, visit parks, or simply get outdoors and enjoy nature.

Urban Forestry

In 2018, the City planted over 400 new trees in public right-of-way and park locations. Contractors and private developers planted another 82 trees, and three memorial tree plantings were performed at Bryan Park. The majority of tree plantings consisted of Emerald City Tulip, Red Oak, Tulip, Bur Oak, Honey Locust, Kentucky Coffee, Patriot Elm, Red Maple, and Silver Linden trees. The City also partnered with volunteer groups — such as IU





SPEA students, the Bloomington Rotary Club, and a local Girl Scout troop and Cub Scout Pack — for additional tree plantings in 2018.

In celebration of the 2018 Bloomington bicentennial, the City sold a special Arbor Day Bicentennial poster, along with tulip trees for planting on private property, on City streets and parks, on the iconic Courthouse Square and at Monroe County Community School Corporation (MCCSC) schools. Over 1,000 public trees were also pruned as part of the City's tree maintenance program, and 221 public Ash trees received treatments to protect them from the Emerald Ash Borer. Bloomington also earned recognition as a National Arbor Day Foundation, Tree City USA for a 34th consecutive year.

GENERAL

Planning Initiatives

The City initiated and completed a number of long-term planning efforts in 2018.

- Comprehensive Plan: The Bloomington Comprehensive Plan was updated in early 2018 and serves as the City's long-range plan for land use and development. The 2018 updates include a strong focus on climate change mitigation by improving the efficiency of the built environment and green infrastructure, increasing renewable energy use, protecting air and water quality, encouraging waste diversion, and enhancing local food access.
- Sustainability Action Plan: The City completed its first Sustainability Action Plan in late 2018. The plan identifies both short- and long-term goals and actions in City operations and within the broader community in support of

a comprehensive community sustainability program that references environmental, economic, and equity elements.

- Unified Development Ordinance: The City is currently updating its Unified Development Ordinance (UDO). The UDO contains all of the land use and development regulations that apply to construction in the city, and includes incentives for both sustainable building practices and affordable housing. The UDO Consolidated Draft (March 2019) will include revised incentives based on public input for sustainability incentives, along with standard requirements for new developments, such as updated plant lists (e.g. prohibiting invasive species), and other environmental protections.
- Transportation Plan: The City is currently developing a multimodal transportation plan, anticipated to be adopted in early 2019. The plan will be used to help prioritize transportation projects, determine right-of-way widths, and shape transportation in our community for years to come.

Sustainability Newsletter

The City launched a sustainability newsletter in November 2018 to share information about sustainability-related programs, projects, achievements, and events in our community. To sign up for quarterly issues of this e-newsletter, visit this link.

Sustainability Interns

Four IU undergraduate and graduate students served as interns working on sustainability programs in the City's Department of Economic and Sustainable Development in 2018. Interns worked on a variety of projects and tasks,



including: entering energy and water use data into Portfolio Manager; conducting indoor air quality tests for LEED re-certification; analyzing survey results; submitting greenhouse gas emissions data to the Carbon Disclosure Project; conducting research on municipal renewable energy goals; participating in public education events; assisting with the creation of outreach materials; and creating social media posts. A big thank you to our interns for helping to strengthen and grow our community sustainability program!



Clockwise from upper left: Andrew Martin, Savannah Rodrigue, Ben Bell, Victor Burrell

BCOS Activities

The Bloomington Commission on Sustainability (BCOS) worked in 2018 to create greater opportunities for focused involvement and to heighten the spirit, collaboration, value, and inclusiveness of the Commission. Key accomplishments include:

- Reporting to City Council on 2017 accomplishments and future Commission goals.
- Providing extensive review and feedback on development of the Comprehensive Master Plan, Sustainability Action Plan, and Unified Development Ordinance updates; several BCOS members participated in working groups and sessions for all three planning efforts.
- Participating in international conferences. BCOS Chair Gwen White was invited to make two presentations about Bloomington's sustainability initiatives at the ICLEI Resilient Cities Conference 2018 in Bonn, Germany. She spoke about city and community sustainability initiatives, as well as metrics used to measure the city's progress.
- Collecting data for 40 indicators with the ISO 37120 standard for sustainable cities and communities — indicators for city services and quality of life.
- Working with local high school students from Bloomington North and South High Schools and the Academy of Science and Entrepreneurship to develop a climate action resolution, a.k.a. the YES (Youth for Environmental Sustainability) Resolution for Environmental Responsibility and Improvement. Students presented their work to City Council in May 2018 and have been working with commissions, City



Councilmembers, and other organizations and schools to bring the Resolution to the City Council for a vote of approval in 2019.

- Hosting the first annual BCOS Sustainability Awards, which recognized individuals and organizations with significant initiative, impact, and innovation. Award statues were made of 100% bio-based recycled waste materials by Ryan Mandell, Digital Fabrication Labs Coordinator at IU. Award recipients included:
 - Individual Award Madeline Hirschland for her work on clean energy initiatives
 - Business Award One World Enterprises, founded by Jeff Mease and Lennie Busch, for their work and initiatives in growing locally and providing support for a sustainable Bloomington Food System
 - Nonprofit Award Center for Sustainable Living (CSL) for their long-term and continued development of several community-based and sustainabilityoriented projects

Environmental Commission Activities

In 2018, the Environmental Commission announced the publication of its latest report, The Bloomington Habitat Connectivity Plan, a wide-ranging document that details how to strengthen biodiversity throughout the City of Bloomington. The purpose of the plan is fourfold: to improve the level of genetic diversity among pollinators and native plant species by (1) conserving greenspace where development could occur, (2) enhancing stable areas of greenspace, (3) expanding greenspace to promote habitat and reduce habitat fragmentation, and (4) improving habitat connectivity.

The Environmental Commission also conducted the seventh annual Eco-Heroes Contest. The contest seeks to draw a creative connection between the community and our natural environment, through artistic works. The theme of the 2018 Eco-Heroes Contest was "Protecting our Pollinator Pals" and included work from over 70 talented artists, highlighting the importance



2019 BCOS members



of pollinators within our natural world. Entries included drawings, acrylic paintings, sculptures, stained glass, quilts, poetry, and more. A ceremony recognizing the winners was held on April 21, 2018 at City Hall.

Community Volunteer Hours

Volunteerism and community engagement is an important part of a sustainable community. Individuals and groups can help mobilize constituencies, leverage community resources, and implement sustainability activities. In 2018, the City of Bloomington Volunteer Network's Annual Partner Organization Survey reported 11,026 volunteers engaged with 35 sustainabilityfocused organizations in our region, representing areas such as sustainable transportation, waste reduction, energy conservation, habitat restoration, and food services. More than 178,000 volunteer hours were applied to sustainability-related causes in the Bloomington community, with an economic value of more than \$4,200,000. For more information on local, sustainabilityfocused volunteer opportunities, visit <u>www.</u> <u>BloomingtonVolunteerNetwork.org</u>.

Nonviolent Civic Engagement Initiative

The City of Bloomington Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Celebration Commission and the Safe and Civil City Program partnered with Monroe County Public Library, Bloomington United, and various IU programs to create the Nonviolent Civic Engagement Initiative in 2018. The mission was to help organizations initiate progressive social change through more effective civil discourse strategies. Partners hosted the "Purposeful



2018 Eco-Heroes Contest winners



Encounters: Initiating Civil Dialogue" community event to encourage an open discussion about nonviolent social change, with more than 100 community participants. The event featured a video presentation, a discussion with musician and author Daryl Davis, and a workshop on building relationships and engaging in conversations despite differences.

Gather 'Round the Table

In October 2018, more than 40 members of the Council for Community Accessibility (CCA) came together for "Gather 'Round the Table: An Evening of Connections with Community Leaders." This event provides a unique opportunity for people with disabilities and advocates for people with disabilities to dine with community leaders who have the potential to facilitate systemic change in their organizations. Attendees shared a five-course dinner, and community leaders moved from table to table after each course. Each community leader talked about accessibility as it relates to their industry, and then participants had an opportunity to share their perspectives on accessibility issues. Participants included state legislature Representative Matt Pierce and representatives from the Greater Bloomington Chamber of Commerce, IU, MCCSC, Bloomington Transit, Bloom Magazine, and IU Bloomington Health.

Public Accessibility Surveys

The CCA regularly assesses local businesses and service providers to help them identify barriers that may prevent some members of the community from making full use of their facilities. In the summer of 2018, the CCA surveyed 18 MCCSC schools in the community to identify potential accessibility concerns. The assessment of each location sought to identify barriers that visitors to a school (e.g., parents/guardians, grandparents, prospective students, etc.) might face. Teams of two surveyors were sent to each location to assess the following: parking, paths of travel from parking to the building, entrances and doors, elevators, stairs and railings, common areas (e.g., cafeterias, gyms, libraries), and restrooms. Survey results indicated accessibility barriers at each site, and were shared with MCCSC. Many of the identified barriers are readily rectified at relatively low cost, such as parking signage and striping, restroom signage, and restroom fixture placement.

City Employee Giving

A sustainable community embraces and gives back to its community. City employees participated in a variety of events to help strengthen and give back to the Bloomington community in 2018. A sampling of those events is provided below.

- Takin' It to the Streets: This one-day neighborhood enhancement project, organized by the Housing and Neighborhood Development department, focused on the Waterman neighborhood for one day in September. Approximately 45 City employees, 8 community volunteers, and community members helped collect 5.55 tons of trash, 70 tires, at least 450 lbs. of metal and a massive amount of brush that was turned into mulch. Volunteers also helped trim vegetation, install smoke alarms, distribute information, and repaint fire hydrants.
- Soup, Sweets, and Salad Fundraiser: The Community and Family Resources Department (CFRD) staff and interns hosted the 16th Annual Soup, Sweets, and Salad event in December. CFRD staff provided homemade soups, salads, and desserts and invited employees to leave a donation for local



community groups. In 2018, employees raised over \$530 to be divided and donated to CASA Kids and Families, Shalom Community Center, and the Community Kitchen.

- United Way Drive: City employees increased overall giving to the United Way campaign by more than 16% and raised \$11,505. By increasing participation more than 5%, employees leveraged the full match by the Indiana United Ways (Lilly) to further the impact of donor support.
- Parks Treats Table: Each year, Parks and Recreation staff provide homemade baked goods for fellow employees, with donations going to local nonprofit organizations. Since 2013, employees have raised over \$1,900, including \$350 in 2018 for Grace Center, Inc., a non-profit organization operating a food pantry for Clear Creek, Indian Creek, and Polk Townships.



Below: Soups, Sweets, and Salad fundraiser



WHAT'S COMING IN 2019?!

- » Sustainability Action Plan implementation
- » Community GHG Emissions Inventory
- » Climate vulnerability assessment for the Bloomington community
- » LEED for Cities review and application
- » 2019 BCOS Sustainability Awards (April)
- » 2019 Solarize program and Indiana Solar for All
- » Community sustainability events and films
- » Quarterly sustainability e-newsletter
- » City employee green team
- » Composting at additional City facilities
- » Pilot neighborhood waste characterization study
- » Evaluation of curbside composting options
- » 2019 Hoosier to Hoosier Community Sale
- » Quarterly neighborhood food and wellness fairs
- » Evaluation of car share program expansion
- » Promotion of sustainable building programs and elements
- » Small business sustainability programs and incentives
- » Adoption of the updated Unified Development Ordinance, with incentives for sustainable building and affordable housing
- » Development of a Transportation Demand Management Plan

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