Sustainability Commission

Create a commission to address environmental issues

Benefits

Save Money

Prevent damage to property and infrastructure from flooding and storms

Avoid anticipated costs to public health caused by climate change

Create more opportunities for residents to save money on their utility bills

Accomplish More

Increase staff's capacity and accomplish more with talented residents

Staff is limited - but we have many passionate and talented residents!

Make Money

Improvement to quality of life will **attract** more businesses and talent, which will **increase** tax revenue

Enhanced environmental amenities will **increase** tourism of our waterfront and parks

Increase Engagement

Build stronger relationships and understanding with residents - develop a deeper sense of community!

Improve collaboration with neighboring municipalities and their residents

Enhance Livability

Reduce household expenses, **improve** air and water quality and public health, **keep and retain** residents, young people, and businesses

Challenges We Face

Flooding and heavy storm events

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Rising utility bills

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Increasing risks to public health

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Littering, poor recycling rate, lack of environmental awareness

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Attracting new businesses, employees, residents

Who has a commission on sustainability/environment?

Many communities large and small have a commission that focuses on the environment

   Examples in Indiana: Michigan City, Bloomington, Richmond

➡ **Why not us?** ⬅

What are some examples of accomplishments?

Michigan City
- Assisted with SolSmart designation in creating a solar ready community
- Promoted learning your carbon footprint with Carbon Neutral Indiana
- Collaborated with Parks Department, LaPorte County Solid Waste District, and local 7th graders to upgrade park trash cans to include recycling
- Promoted local organizations and businesses that are going green

Flossmoor
- Created seed library that encourages growing your own food and the importance of saving seeds for biodiversity
- Educated the community about recycling at Homewood Farmer's Market
- Implemented with the local high school a recycling program in lunchrooms and classrooms. They also stopped purchasing and using styrofoam in the cafeteria.
- Held annual 2019 Community Clean Up had that had around 90 volunteers that planted trees, picked up litter, and sorted seeds

Park Forest
- Held annual RecycleFest that since 2016 has diverted over 152,000 pounds of hard to recycle materials from going to the landfill
- Promoted growing local fresh food, meeting neighbors, and reducing stormwater runoff through community garden and rain garden program
- Encouraged through an annual sustainability award residents and businesses to become more green