



Indiana County Sustainable Economic Development Task Force Monthly Newsletter

Riparian (Stream-Side) Tree Planting Event

The Western Pennsylvania Conservancy has organized several tree-planting events throughout the month of April. Previous events included plantings west of Indiana near Rte. 286, and one near Creekside. The next tree-planting will take place on Wednesday, April 24th.

If you plan to participate, contact Alysha Trexler at (724) 471-7201 or ATrexler@paconserve.org

April 24, 2019, Wednesday
Stewart Site:
3800 Pollock Road
Marion Center, 15759
Little Mahoning Creek Watershed,
Indiana County.
Located about 30 minutes from
downtown Indiana.
Volunteers can arrive at 9:00am.



Funding Approved for New ICCD Building

The Indiana County Conservation District (ICCD) received approval to build a headquarters on the grounds of the Indiana County Technology Center on Hamill Road after the County Commissioners agreed to borrow funds for construction of the new building.

“The mission of the Conservation District is to promote sustainable agriculture while wisely protecting the natural resources of Indiana County”

According to District Manager Doug Beri, Jr., part of that mission is to get students to understand their role in environmental issues in Indiana County.
For more information about Conservation District programs, visit www.iccdpa.org.

Source: Ross, C. (2019, March 01). Funding approved for new ICCD building. Retrieved from https://www.indianagazette.com/news/funding-approved-for-new-iccd-building/article_f7b3f1a8-3c33-11e9-964a-d7867125ee67.html



Solar Co-Op Installer Selection, February 27th, 2019.

The Indiana Solar Co-Op

The Indiana County Solar Co-Op has successfully selected a solar-panel installer. Installations may begin later this month. This marks the end of an education effort and selection process that began in November of 2018. Since then, over 55 members have joined the co-op with homes deemed eligible for producing solar energy. Workshop events held to educate residents on the benefits and limitations of solar energy were held in Indiana, Homer City, and Blairsville. The last day to sign for installations through the Solar Co-op is April 26th.

For more information, contact:
pateam@solarunitedneighbors.org or visit
www.solarunitedneighbors.org/IndianaCounty

Happy Earth Day!!



INDIANA COUNTY OFFICE OF PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

Issue 1
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Full Task Force Gathering Results: Goals Selected for 2019



AGRICULTURE

Build connections and understanding between producers and consumers



RENEWABLE ENERGY

Introduce solar energy on selected county sites



BUILDING CONSTRUCTION & MATERIALS

Solidify and promote plans for an innovation center



ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION & STEWARDSHIP

Promote and organize riparian zone restoration and enhancement efforts

On March 27th members of the Task Force gathered into their four Focus Groups to select a priority for the 2019 year. Each priority was selected from a list of recommendations recorded in the 2018 Report of the Indiana County Sustainable Economic Development Task Force.

More information on the gathering results and progress on Task Force initiatives will be shared on the Task Force website at <http://sustainableindianacounty.org/>.

Local Foods Local Places Launches Action Plan

The Sustainable Economic Development Task Force launched the Local Foods Local Places (LFLP) Action Plan on Thursday, February 28, 2019. Over sixty participants including farmers educators, agencies, businesses, and community members gathered to review the Action Plan and identify projects and initiatives that coincide with the values and goals of the organization. The LFLP Action Plan is a 5-point plan that was created last year through the efforts of over 40 community members with the goal of boosting economic opportunities for farmers and businesses, while expanding access to locally produced food.

For more information, visit <http://sustainableindianacounty.org/>. or contact Kay Snyder at kayannsnyder@gmail.com.



LFLP Action Plan Launch Event, February 28th, 2019.

New Additions to the Sustainability Team!

In accordance with the goals listed in the 2018 Report, the Task Force has recruited two part-time staff members funded through The Marcellus Legacy Fund, created by PA Act 13 of 2012. The positions include a Sustainability Coordinator and a Sustainability Assistant, who will operate out of the Indiana County Office of Planning and Development.



Sustainability Coordinator Molly Sarver

is a senior Regional Planning major with a Political Science minor at IUP, originally from Blairsville, PA. She was drawn to this field by her desire to revitalize local communities and to create places that fit the needs of its people. Her professional interests include urban design, community engagement, and sustainability studies.



Sustainability Assistant Gabriella Millette

is a junior Geoscience major with a Sustainability minor at IUP from Monongahela, PA. She felt this field would give her a toolkit to assess various environmental threats and gauge restoration efforts for a more sustainable future. Her professional interests include groundwater protection, stormwater education, and sustainability studies.

The purpose of this Newsletter is to provide readers with a quick update on the activities of the Indiana County Sustainable Economic Development Task Force, and other sustainable initiatives in Indiana County. We hope that through the release of this newsletter, interested parties will continue to participate and support the Task Force.