



# Indiana County

Sustainable Economic Development Task Force

# History



The Indiana  
County  
Commissioners  
held the first  
“Sustainable  
Economy Summit”

April 2017

May 2017

September 28,  
2017



Indiana County  
Commissioners  
Baker, Ruddock,  
and Hess  
established the  
Task Force

April 2017

May 2017

September 28,  
2017

Evergreen  
Conservancy





The Indiana  
County  
Sustainable  
Economic  
Development Task  
Force is publicly  
launched

May 2017

September 28,  
2017

September 2017 -  
September 2018

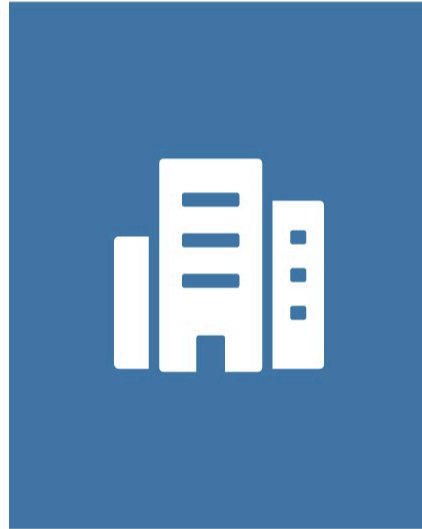
**“The mission of the Task Force was to identify new opportunities in four sectors . . .”**



**Sustainable Agriculture**



**Renewable Energy**



**Building Construction & Materials**

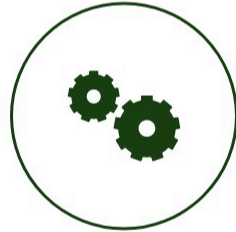


**Environmental Restoration & Stewardship**

**“Each group was to develop recommendations for the three pillars . . .”**



**Economic Development**

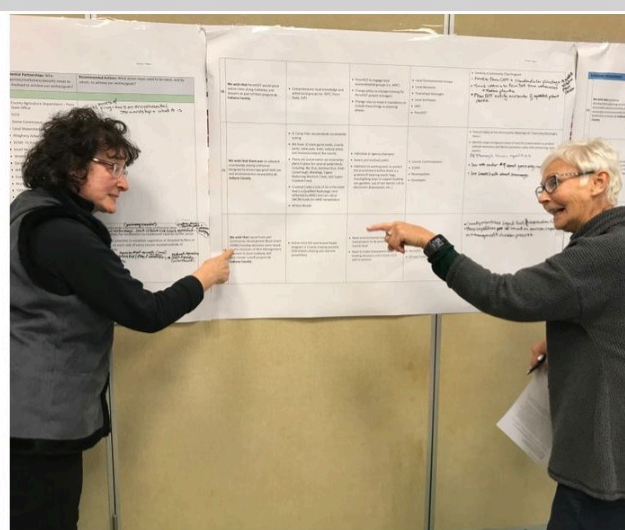


**Workforce Development**



**Citizen Education**







### **A New Mission**

Rank the recommendations in the current report, determine their feasibility, develop a timeline, and work with the community to implement



### **An Office of Sustainability**

Overseen by an advisory body, staffed, and tasked with implementing the recommended actions



### **Annual Sustainable Economic Summits**

Continue to meet annually to demonstrate our progress and commitment



### **Incorporate the Report into Long-Range Plans**

Incorporate into the Indiana County Economic Development / Work Force Development Plan



### **Broadband Access**

Support efforts to improve broadband access throughout Indiana County

Report available at [sustainableindianacounty.org](https://sustainableindianacounty.org)



# Summit II

## Sept. 28, 2018



# Local Foods Local Places: Action Plan Launch!





# Community Efforts





**A New Mission**



**Incorporate the Report into  
Long-Range Plans**



**An Office of Sustainability**



**Broadband Access**



**Annual Sustainable  
Economic Summits**



# Sustainability Coordinator & Sustainability Assistant





**A New Mission**



**Incorporate the Report into  
Long-Range Plans**



**An Office of Sustainability**



**Broadband Access**



**Annual Sustainable  
Economic Summits**

# Broadband Efforts



**“Five miles from the county seat and we have no signal...How do we call an ambulance? We don’t. People are at risk. When you’re in a public park, you’re at risk. We need an action plan and we need it now. Let’s get it done.”**

*- Mamula, K. B. (2019, August 8). 'How do we call an ambulance? We don't.' Indiana County official pleads for help with broadband dead zones. Pittsburgh Post-Gazette.*



**A New Mission**



**Incorporate the Report into  
Long-Range Plans**



**An Office of Sustainability**

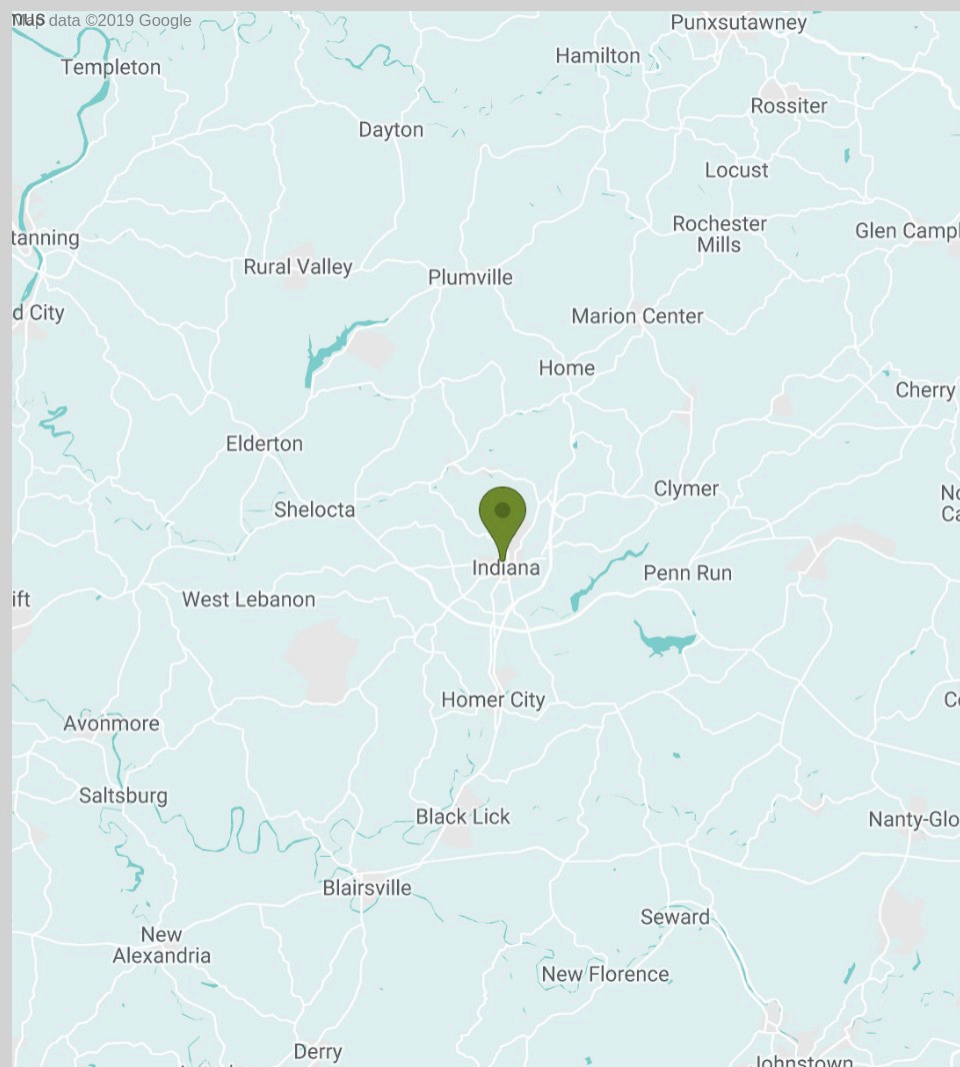


**Broadband Access**



**Annual Sustainable  
Economic Summits**





# Contact Us

Attn: Molly Sarver, Sustainable Economic Development  
Task Force, 801 Water St. Indiana, PA 15701



(724) 465-3870 ext. 3162



sustainableindianacounty@gmail.com



sustainableindianacounty.org



**Indiana County Sustainable Economic Development  
Summit III, Reinventing Rural America**

**EVALUATION FORM**

PLEASE FILL OUT THIS FORM AND TURN IT IN BEFORE YOU LEAVE.

*Continue on back if needed. We appreciate your help!*

(OPTIONAL) NAME & CONTACT INFORMATION:

**2. (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)**

- I am an Indiana County resident  
 I am a Task Force member  
 I am a Government official or staff
- I attended the first Summit (April 2017)  
 I attended Summit II (Sept. 2018)

**1. HOW DID YOU HEAR ABOUT TODAY'S SUMMIT?**

- Task Force Email  
 Social Media (Facebook)  
 Newspaper
- Radio  
 Other:

**3. WHICH TOPIC DISCUSSED INTERESTED YOU MOST?**

**4. WHAT WAS THE MOST IMPORTANT THING YOU LEARNED TODAY?**

**5. PLEASE CIRCLE WHAT BEST DESCRIBES YOUR ANSWER FOR EACH STATEMENT BELOW (AGREE, NOT SURE, DISAGREE)**

I learned something about sustainable development.	AGREE	NOT SURE	DISAGREE
I was given new information that I can use.	AGREE	NOT SURE	DISAGREE
The Rustic Lodge was a good site for the Summit.	AGREE	NOT SURE	DISAGREE
Indiana, PA was a good location for the Summit.	AGREE	NOT SURE	DISAGREE
I enjoyed the speakers.	AGREE	NOT SURE	DISAGREE
I feel I can make a difference in what happens.	AGREE	NOT SURE	DISAGREE
I'm going to tell others about the Task Force.	AGREE	NOT SURE	DISAGREE
I'm going to join with others to take action.	AGREE	NOT SURE	DISAGREE
I'm going to get in touch with elected leaders.	AGREE	NOT SURE	DISAGREE
I want to learn more about local sustainability initiatives.	AGREE	NOT SURE	DISAGREE

**6. What suggestions do you have for future sustainable Indiana County activities or for improving future Summits?**

7. Please let us know any exciting things that you or your organization are doing in your community that align with our focus groups and make Indiana County more economically sustainable. We would like to publicize your efforts in our newsletter and on our website!

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 Funded by the Colcom Foundation and The Heinz Endowments to the League of Women Voters of PA Citizen Education Fund, and the Indiana County Commissioners. Contact [sustainable@indianacounty@gmail.com](mailto:sustainable@indianacounty@gmail.com) with questions, comments, or concerns.



**Indiana County Sustainable Economic Development  
Task Force**

**JOIN THE TEAM!!**

Fill out this card if you would like more information, updates, event invitations, or to get involved.

*We appreciate your continued support!*

**NAME & CONTACT  
INFORMATION  
(PHONE OR EMAIL):**

**1. (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)**

- I am an Indiana County resident  
 I am a Government official or staff
- I am a current Task Force member  
 I have worked with the Task Force before

**2. (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY) HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO PARTICIPATE:**

- Receive emails about Task Force events like Summit III or our Solar Tour
- Receive our monthly newsletter (contains updates on projects and events)
- Attend meetings of interest to you (share your insight and opinion)
- Join the Task Force as a volunteer (help with projects that interest you)
- Join the Steering Committee (attend monthly meetings, vote on Task Force issues, actively contribute to projects)
- Become a Task Force Facilitator (attend Steering Committee meetings, coordinate group efforts, lead projects and meetings)

**3. (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY) WHAT TOPICS INTEREST YOU THE MOST?**

- Agriculture  
 Renewable Energy  
 Other:
- Building Construction & Materials  
 Environmental Restoration & Stewardship

**2. (CONTINUE ON BACK IF NEEDED) WHAT COMMUNITIES AND ORGANIZATIONS DO YOU REPRESENT?**

Please fill out your Evaluation Form

# Presentation Questions

- 1 What has your group done since the last Summit?
- 2 What do you want to see done in the community?
- 3 What has happened in the community relating to your focus?

# Environmental Restoration & Stewardship

## Priority Selection

- **Riparian Zone & Greenway Restoration**

- Investigate what buffer zones have already been planted
- Plan buffer zone plantings
- encourage the adoption of ordinances and plans that require the preservation and restoration of riparian zones

- **Citizen Education**

- Develop an education program
- Track all related programs

What we have done as a group



# Environmental Restoration & Stewardship

Riparian Buffer Zones & Greenways

- Funding
- Partnerships
- Sites
- Municipal Regulation, Zoning, & Policies
- Citizen Education
- Economic Growth

What we want to see done

# Environmental Restoration & Stewardship

Riparian Buffer Zones & Greenways

- Riparian buffer zone plantings
- Educational programs completed

What the community has done