



# **Indiana County Sustainable Economic Development Summit II**

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**September 28, 2018 at the Rustic Lodge in Indiana PA**

A presentation of the League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania



and

**The Indiana County Sustainable Economic Development Task Force**



## **Indiana County Sustainable Economic Development Task Force**

Following the success of the first Sustainable Economy Summit in April 2017, the following month the Indiana County Commissioners voted to establish the Indiana County Sustainable Economic Development Task Force. The Task Force engaged in a year-long participatory process engaging local stakeholders, including local business people, members of grass roots organizations, and educators in a research and planning process. The Task Force groups met over the past year to develop their recommendations for sustainable economic development in Indiana County. The results of this process are presented today at Summit II.

### **OUR VISION:**

**The Sustainable Economic Development Task Force will promote:**

- **A sustainable economy providing cost savings through greater efficiency as well as reduced future environmental and human health related costs**
- **Innovation, forward-thinking education, practical training, meaningful employment, and citizen engagement**

### **MISSION STATEMENT:**

To identify new opportunities in economic development, citizen education, and job training (workforce development) in the renewable energy sector, agriculture, building construction, and environmental restoration and stewardship.

Task Force “Big Ideas” and the Task Force report will be available to view on  
<http://sustainableindianacounty.org>

*Today's event is being video recorded by a professional filmmaker. Videos of the speakers will be made available via the Internet to view and share with others. It is possible that you may be recorded. By being in the Groveside Room, you consent to recording of your words and/or image. Thank you.*

## ***Indiana County Sustainable Economic Development Summit II***

Rustic Lodge • Indiana PA • September 28, 2018 • 8:30 – 3:30

- 8:30 a.m.**      **Registration/Sign-In**      Light Breakfast, Exhibits and Task Force Posters
- 9:15 a.m.**      Welcome      Groveside Room  
**Hon. Sherene Hess**      Indiana County Commissioner  
**Hon. Rodney D. Ruddock**      Indiana County Commissioner - Pledge of Allegiance  
**Hon. Mike Baker**      Indiana County Commissioner
- 9:30 a.m.**      Presentation and Panel Discussion of the Task Force Report  
**Hilario Molina II PhD** Moderator      IUP Assistant Professor, Sociology  
Task Force Focus Group Panel:  
**Peter Broad, Darlene Livingston** (Sustainable Agriculture); **Susan Boser, Laurie Lubold** (Renewable Energy); **Josh Krug, Vera Bonnet** (Sustainable Building Construction); **Jeff Raykes, Cindy Rogers** (Environmental Restoration & Stewardship)
- 10:30 a.m.**      Break – (15 min.)
- 10:45 a.m.**      Keynote Speaker Sustainable Agriculture, Jobs & Economic Development  
*Introduced by Byron Stauffer Jr., Executive Director, Indiana County Office of Planning & Development*  
**Scott Sheely** Special Assistant for Workforce Development, PA Dept. of Agriculture
- 11:45 a.m.**      Break – (15 min.) View posters and exhibits
- Noon – 1:15**      **LUNCH/ SPEAKER**  
*Introduced by Indiana County Commissioner Sherene Hess*  
Implementing Sustainable Economic Development at the Local Level  
**Zaheen Hussain**      Sustainability Coordinator, Millvale
- 1:15 p.m.**      Environmental Restoration & Stewardship  
**Andy McAllister**      Western PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation
- 1:45 p.m.**      Sustainable Building Construction  
**Erica Cochran PhD**      Carnegie Mellon University School of Architecture
- 2:15 p.m.**      Renewable Energy  
**Henry McKay**      Pennsylvania Program Director Solar United Neighbors
- 2:45 p.m.**      **REFLECTION** – Discussion with audience, exhibitors, task force  
**Heather Harr** moderator      League of Women Voters of PA  
**Cindy Rogers** moderator      Evergreen Conservancy
- 3:15 p.m.**      Next Steps  
**Hon. Sherene Hess**
- 3:30 p.m.**      Adjournment; **Please fill out and hand in evaluation forms**



## **LIST OF EXHIBITORS**

Food Co-Op of Indiana PA – Karin Eller

Indiana Community Garden – Kay Snyder

IUP – Katherine Farnsworth PhD Associate Professor GeoScience Dept.  
Investigating Stormwater Impacts on Marsh Run, Indiana PA - All developed areas experience issues with stormwater that develops as rain falls on impermeable surfaces. Marsh Run, located within both White Township and Indiana Borough, receives a large amount of stormwater during rain events, as water is moved quickly from streets and roofs into the stream. This results in rapid rises in stream level that, while often short lived, can cause the stream to flood surrounding properties. Our ongoing studies have been investigating the response of Marsh Run to rainfall patterns, as well as quantifying specific sources of stormwater to Marsh Run.

IUP – Erin Janetski/Holly Travis - “Environmental Stewardship through Citizen Science” stream monitoring project in Indiana and White Township area

IUP – Jonathan Warnock, GeoScience Dept.: “IUP’s Sustainable Construction”

Conservation Consultants, Inc.

Green Building Alliance

**Indiana County Sustainable  
Economic Development  
Task Force Steering  
Committee Members:**

Vera Bonnet  
Susan Boser  
Peter Broad  
Adam Cotchen  
Heather Harr  
Dana Henry  
Sherene Hess  
Donald Lancaster  
Janis Long  
Laurie Lubold  
Hilario Molina II  
Eric Palmer  
Tina Perdue  
Cindy Rogers  
Kay Snyder  
Byron Stauffer Jr.  
James Struzzi

Daniel Gennaro (Intern)

**The Task Force Focus Groups**

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***Sustainable Agriculture***

Kay Snyder, Co-Facilitator  
Peter Broad, Co-Facilitator

***Contributing Members:***

Barb Barker  
Tom Beresnyak  
Candace Bolger  
Pam Bryan  
Adam Cotchen  
Bob Livingston  
Darlene Livingston  
Bob Madden  
Amy Manko  
Carrie Miller  
Hilario Molina II  
Season Petrovich  
Leya Ramer  
Andrew Sandeen  
Kay Smith  
Alysha Trexler  
Ed Trexler  
Marthe Weyandt

***Renewable Energy***

Susan Boser, Co-Facilitator  
Laurie Lubold, Co-Facilitator

***Contributing Members:***

Vera Bonnet  
Dan Boone  
Dave Brady  
Matt Byerly  
Ellen Chinn  
Bill Darr  
Randy Francisco  
Tom Harley  
Jim Lafontaine  
Don Lancaster  
Janice Long  
Kathy Maple  
Steve McPherson  
Adam Mundok  
Tony Palamone  
Sherry Renosky  
James Struzzi  
Nicholas Zimny-Shea  
Tara Zirkel

***Sustainable Building  
Construction***

Josh Krug, Co-Facilitator  
Vera Bonnet, Co-Facilitator

***Contributing Members:***

Tom Borellis  
Kate Geiger  
Linda Gibson  
Heather Harr  
David Janusek  
Denise Jennings-Doyle  
Trinity Martz  
Michelle Reefer  
Richard Rinkus  
Gerald Smith  
Hannah Uschock  
Brandon Vick

***Environmental Restoration  
& Stewardship***

Jeff Raykes, Co-Facilitator  
Cindy Rogers, Co-Facilitator

***Contributing Members:***

Lynne Alvine  
John Dudash  
Tom Falcone  
Linda Gwinn  
Barb Hauge  
Linda Jones  
Laurie Lafontaine  
Denise Liggett  
Eli Long  
Stacy Long  
Tina Perdue  
Walter Schroth  
Ken Sherwood  
Matt Smith  
John Somonick  
Sara Stewart  
Maegan Stump  
Joe Trimarchi  
Judy Wanchisn  
Cheri Widzowski



## SPEAKERS

### Welcome

**The Hon. Sherene Hess** began serving as Indiana County Commissioner in January 2016 after a nearly twenty five year career in environmental resources conservation and management. Commissioner Hess's professional accomplishments include assisting agricultural producers in western PA in efforts to protect soil and water; expanding the county recycling center and programs; facilitating hundreds of water quality education projects across the state; and working with organizations to elevate awareness of the challenges and opportunities of the significant growth of the unconventional well production in PA. She also has held appointments on local and state advisory boards.

As a result of her position as county commissioner and her service as president of the League of Women Voters for fourteen years, Commissioner Hess understands the complex issues facing Indiana County, the region, and the state. In partnership with other elected officials and many government and nonprofit organizations, Hess' current efforts includes coordination and delivery of crucial human services that protect the most vulnerable and needy; expansion of the capacity for drug and alcohol and mental health services; provision for sufficient and continuous justice system operations and key emergency management services; and promotion of workforce development, and business and job creation in the county.

She heads an initiative to establish the Indiana County Sustainable Economic Development Task Force, which will link with existing economic development efforts to identify new opportunities in the renewable energy sector, sustainable agriculture, new building construction and renovation using sustainable methods, and environmental restoration and natural resources stewardship. Commissioner Hess earned a degree in environmental resources management through the College of Agriculture Sciences at Penn State University.

**The Hon. Rodney D. Ruddock** was elected to serve a fourth term as Indiana County Commissioner beginning in 2016. He served as Chairman of the Commissioners for 12 years. He is a lifelong resident of Indiana, Pennsylvania. He has completed 37 years of military service retiring as Major General in the United States Army Reserve.

Mr. Ruddock graduated from Indiana University of Pennsylvania in 1965 with a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics and Safety Education from Indiana University and a secondary Administrative Certificate Program from Duquesne. He completed an MBA Certificate Program from the IUP Eberly College School of Business.

**The Hon. Mike Baker** Mike Baker was appointed to office in 2014 to complete the final two years of a term vacated by the retirement of his predecessor. He was elected to a four-year term in November 2015, and selected as chairman in 2016. Prior to coming to the Commissioners' office, he served two terms as Indiana County Coroner and as Regional Vice President of the Pennsylvania State Coroners' Association.

He is a lifelong resident of the county and a graduate of Blairsville High School. He holds degrees in Computer Network Management, Business Administration, Employment and Labor Relations and Forensic Science.

He currently serves on the Technology Committee and PCOMP Board of Directors of the County Commissioners' Association of Pennsylvania. Commissioner Baker is a former coal miner, Paramedic and helicopter flight medic. His priorities include property tax reform, public safety and economic development. He has been married to Karen for 32 years and has four children and four grandchildren.

## ***Task Force Groups Panel***

**Moderator: Hilario Molina II**, Assistant Professor of Sociology, faculty member of the sustainability studies minor at Indiana University of PA. Dr. Molina's research interests include social demography, critical race theory, migration, and issues of environmental discrimination. His role as an academic is informed by an ethos of social justice, environmental awareness, and acceptance of others through social engagement at the community level.

### **Panel -**

*Co-Facilitators of Four Sustainable Economic Development Task Force Focus Groups*

## ***Sustainable Agriculture***

**Peter Broad**, Professor Emeritus of Spanish at IUP, is President of the Indiana Borough Council.

**Darlene Livingston** (designated speaker by Co-Facilitator Kay Snyder) is Executive Director of PA Farm Link, Indiana County Farmers' Market president, and a fourth generation family farm partner at Mahoning Creek Farm.

## ***Renewable Energy***

**Susan Boser** is Professor of Sociology at Indiana University of Pennsylvania, whose work involves local governance and citizen participation in public processes.

**Laurie Lubold**, a lifelong resident of Indiana, is a Program Administrator for Indiana Borough whose enthusiasm for sustainability helped the Borough to recently achieve GOLD status in the Sustainable Pennsylvania Community Certification program.

## ***Sustainable Building Construction***

**Josh Krug** is Chief Planner in the Planning Section of the Indiana County Office of Planning & Development.

**Vera Bonnet** serves as chair of the Environmental Issues Committee of the Indiana County LWV, and helped organize the first Sustainable Economy Summit.

## ***Environmental Restoration & Stewardship***

**Jeff Raykes D.Ed., AICP** is Deputy Director of the Indiana County Center for Economic Operations.

**Cindy Rogers** is president of Evergreen Conservancy.

## **Keynote: Introduction**

**Byron Stauffer Jr.** is the Executive Director of the Indiana County Office of Planning & Development.

## **Keynote: Sustainable Agriculture and the Workforce**



**Scott Sheely D.Ed., CWDP** is the Special Assistant for Workforce Development, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture since spring 2015. He was formerly the Executive Director of the Lancaster County Agriculture Council and Workforce Investment Board in Lancaster, PA. He is a doctoral graduate of Penn State University in lifelong learning and adult education. He also has a master's of science in counseling from Wright State University, a master's of divinity from United

Theological Seminary, and a bachelor's of science in government from Franklin and Marshall College. Scott is a Certified Workforce Development Professional; he is also an ordained United Methodist minister.

## **LUNCHEON SPEAKER**

### **Implementing Sustainable Development at the Local Level**



**Zaheen Hussain**, a native of Bangladesh and a Pittsburgh transplant by way of Connecticut, serves as Millvale's Sustainability Coordinator. Supported through New Sun Rising and working with the Millvale EcoDistrict Collaborative, Zaheen is a shared community resource who helps advance Millvale's EcoDistrict goals in the areas of food, water, energy, mobility, air quality, and equity.

Prior to his work in Millvale, Zaheen worked on various sustainability initiatives as a project manager at GTECH Strategies. Focusing primarily on energy efficiency, Zaheen helped lead the ReEnergize Pittsburgh Coalition, working collaboratively to increase demand for energy efficiency services through bridging organizational partnerships, and increasing community level advocacy and educational programming. In his free time, Zaheen enjoys playing various sports with his PSL team, the Sneaky Snakes, and also serves on the Boards of Directors of the Allegheny Watershed Alliance, Sustainable Pittsburgh, and Moose Mode Inc.

## **Environmental Restoration & Stewardship - Mine Land Reclamation**



**Andy McAllister** is the Regional Coordinator for the Western Pennsylvania Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation (WPCAMR). With over 20 years of professional experience in the fields of Benthic Ecology (ecology of bottom-dwelling critters), water pollution control, and abandoned mine drainage abatement, Andy has worked throughout the eastern half of the U.S., and abroad. Andy has been in the private sector as well as in academia and government examining how

bottom-dwelling invertebrates, in marine, estuarine, and freshwater ecosystems react to and recover from many forms of pollution. He is a former Water Resource/Watershed specialist for the Dauphin Conservation District. In 2006, he joined WPCAMR as the Watershed Coordinator, and he became the Regional Coordinator in 2010.



## Sustainable Building Construction



**Erica Cochran Hameen PhD**, Assoc. AIA, NOMA, LEED AP is an architectural designer and Assistant Professor and UDream Program Director at Carnegie Mellon University's School of Architecture. Erica serves as an instructor for graduate and undergraduate courses and recently developed a new course focused on energy efficient and healthy retrofits. She is also an instrumental coordinator with CMU's UDream program, which provides recent graduates a deeper under-

standing of urban design through research projects and internships. Her architectural experience includes over 50 educational, media and broadcast, residential, community, and transportation facilities. Honors include Best Proposal in a Department of Energy (DOE) Competition presented at the White House Conference Room.

Erica holds a Bachelor of Architecture from Virginia Tech, a Master of Science in Sustainable Design and a Ph.D. in Building Performance & Diagnostics from CMU. She is a contributing researcher for a Sustainable Engineering textbook and served as one of the Principal Investigators for the Consortium for Building Energy Innovation (CBEI), formerly the Energy Efficient Buildings Hub, established by the DOE as an Energy-Regional Innovation Cluster. She is also active in several non-profit organizations.

## Renewable Energy – Solar



**Henry McKay** is the Pennsylvania Program Director of Solar United Neighbors, a non-profit that helps people go solar, join together and fight for their energy rights. In this role, he works to build an informed, empowered, and solar-powered movement of supporters who can help make Pennsylvania a leader in solar energy. Henry has spent the better part of a decade working to make American communities more sustainable, more resilient, and more equitable by empowering local

leaders and elevating good ideas. Henry lives in Pittsburgh with his wife Sarah and son Jesse - both Pittsburgh natives.

## REFLECTION – Discussion with audience, exhibitors, task force

**Heather Harr** is Project Director of the League of Women Voters of PA. As part of her work, she is helping rural communities in Southwestern PA explore how to thrive in the sustainable economy.

**Cindy Rogers** has been interested in the environment and issues related to it since her days of backpacking and canoe camping. She has been a member of Evergreen Conservancy since its formation in 2004, and president for over 10 years. Cindy also is active with the storm water education partnership, the Indiana League of Women Voters' Environmental Committee, as well as with Friends of Yellow Creek State Park. Cindy is a founding member of the Indiana County Sustainable Economic Development Task Force.

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<http://sustainableindianacounty.org>

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*Colcom Foundation*

THE HEINZ  
ENDOWMENTS

HOWARD HEINZ ENDOWMENT

VIRA I. HEINZ ENDOWMENT

The Task Force Report is supported with funding from the office of the Indiana County Commissioners.



The Indiana County Sustainable Economic Development Task Force Steering Committee is comprised of representatives from:

*listed in alphabetical order*

- Center for Community Growth
- Evergreen Conservancy
- Indiana Borough
- Indiana Community Garden
- Indiana County Center for Economic Operations, a consortium of:
  - Indiana County Chamber of Commerce
  - Indiana County Commissioners
  - Indiana County Development Corporation
  - Indiana County Tourist Bureau
  - Indiana University of Pennsylvania
- Indiana County Conservation District
- Indiana County Office of Planning & Development
- Indiana County Technology Center
- IUP Sustainability Studies Program
- League of Women Voters of Indiana County and Pennsylvania

