



Indiana County Sustainable Economic Development Task Force Monthly Newsletter

Summit III Preparation Has Begun!!

A date has been set for the Sustainable Economic Summit III. The Summit will take place on September 27th, 2019 in the Grove Side Room at the Rustic Lodge where last year's Summit II was held. This space was reserved through funding provided by the League of Women Voters.

Call for Speakers

The Steering Committee is calling on the public to provide nominations for potential topics and event speakers to be featured at Summit III.

If you would like to nominate someone to present at the event, or wish to request a topic for Summit III, please email Molly Sarver at m.sarver.icpd@gmail.com.

If you would like information on the Summit II event that took place last year, please visit: <http://sustainableindianacounty.org/economic-development-summit-ii/>

Solar Co-Op Begins Panel Installations

With the assistance of Solar United Neighbors, the Indiana Solar Co-Op selected Groundhog Solar LLC to install solar panels within the Co-Op and held open sign-ups for the event until April 26, 2019. With a successful turnout, there were 61 new signups for the Indiana Co-Op with homes deemed eligible for producing solar energy. There are 12 signed contracts with Groundhog Solar LLC and 24 proposals to be accepted by June 12th. This event granted members of the co-op the chance to receive individualized proposals based on a group rate.



Jonathan Warnock and Alex Clark showing off their newly installed solar panels.

A committed member of the Indiana Co-Op, Jonathan Warnock's solar panels were finished being installed on May 5th. He stated that the opportunity presented by the Co-Op fiscally allowed him to fulfill a long-term goal to switch to solar energy. Although the panels were installed only about a month ago, Jonathan is already seeing the benefits of his switch. "Even today, where it's cloudy and rainy, we were generating more energy than we are using. We can see the credits that we're accumulating with Penelec."

For more information on solar energy issues in Pennsylvania, visit the Solar United Neighbors webpage: <https://www.solarunitedneighbors.org/pennsylvania/>

Farmers' Markets in Indiana County

Indiana County's Wednesday Farmers' Market

June 5th through October 2nd
3:00 PM - 5:30 PM
Across from KCAC
1115 Wayne Ave., Indiana, PA

Indiana County's Saturday Farmers' Market

June 1st through October 26th
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM
S&T Parking Lot at 8th & Church St.
730 Church St., Indiana, PA

Blairsville's Friday Farmers' Market

June 7th through September 7th
3:00 PM - 6:00 PM
Tractor Supply Parking Lot
75 N. Morrow St., Blairsville, PA

Credit, debit, and SNAP/EBT are accepted at Indiana County's Saturday Market. SNAP matching through market tokens are also available on Saturdays to assist with providing local healthy foods to those in need. FMNP vouchers are accepted at both Indiana County Farmers' Markets by participating vendors.

Source: Indiana County Farmers' Market. (2019, February 27). Retrieved May 28, 2019, from <https://www.localharvest.org/indiana-county-farmers-market-M74075>



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Indiana County Riparian Restoration Efforts: 1,500 Native Trees Planted

The Western Pennsylvania Conservancy planted three riparian sites within Indiana County. The three sites, located in Center, East Mahoning, and Banks Townships, spanned a total of 7.5 acres. Across these sites, Indiana County volunteers planted a mixture of 1,500 native tree and shrub stems. Among the species planted were Redbuds, Swamp White Oaks, Black Willow, American Elderberry and Silky Dogwood, all of which thrive in riparian areas. Each planting event was coordinated and funded by the Indiana County Conservation District and the Ken Sink Trout Unlimited chapter. If you would like to get involved, contact the Evergreen Conservancy, the Indiana County Conservation District, or the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy office.

Evergreen Conservancy

(724) 471-6020

evergreenconservancy@gmail.com

Western Pennsylvania Conservancy

<https://waterlandlife.org/get-involved/>

Indiana County Conservation District

(724) 471-4751

<https://www.iccdpa.org/>

"The plantings were also possible because landowners made a choice to manage the land in their riparian areas in a conservation minded manner...these choices were voluntary, and I appreciate the steps taken by landowners to make improvements for water quality...making changes that are new and different than what you are used to is not always easy, and sometimes lack support from those that don't understand why trees are being planted. When all people understand why and how riparian areas are improved and protected, it makes it easier for the people that own the land to make better management choices."

- Alysha B. Trexler, Watershed Project Manager of the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy



Riparian tree planting in Indiana County, 2019.

Rain Barrel Workshop

After months of preparation, Indiana Borough hosted a workshop on rain barrels and stormwater management at this year's May Mart. Borough staff members were tasked with writing grants to fund the workshop and produce educational materials to hand out. Additionally, borough staff members cleaned and assembled each of the 25 rain barrels that were given out free of charge at the workshop. The Stormwater Education Partnership obtained the barrels from a vendor called Rain Barrels of PA located in Jeanette, Pennsylvania. Kyle Mudry, the director of Communications and Grants at Indiana Borough, said that by utilizing rain barrels, the community can assist the Borough in addressing its stormwater issues by decreasing the amount of water going into our systems during intense rainfall events. Additionally, residents can also use the rainwater they collect for landscaping purposes, such as watering non-edible plants or washing vehicles.

If residents are interested in making their own rain barrel, they can visit the "Rain Barrels of PA" web-site at <https://www.rainbarrelspa.com/services>, where they can view prices of various items including the "DIY Program" used by Indiana Borough.



May Mart, May 18th, 2019.