



Indiana County Sustainable Economic Development Task Force

Monthly Newsletter

BIG EVENTS HAPPENING IN BLAIRSVILLE

The home of the Bobcats is staying busy this winter, with two big events on solar energy and agriculture.

UPCOMING: PSU Extension Hosts Annual Dairy Fair

In the beginning of March, Penn State Extension will hold its annual Southwest Pennsylvania Regional Dairy Day in Blairsville. This event is organized by agribusiness sponsors and offers education opportunities with individuals involved in dairy production. This year's agenda, which includes two presentations by Centre Herd Health Services Veterinarian Robert Cloninger, will focus on animal care, nutrition, financial awareness, and farm-family dynamics. A special training event at the end of the event will focus on effective communication with challenging people or issues. This event is provided free of charge for dairy producers because of generous sponsorship from local businesses. *Pre-registration is strongly encouraged.*

Pre-register by February 27th

Register online: <http://extension.psu.edu/dairy-day>
Register by phone: 877- 345- 0691

Thursday, March 5th

8:45 am - 4:00 pm

**Chestnut Ridge
Golf Resort & Conference Center**

132 Pine Ridge Rd.
Blairsville, Pennsylvania 15717

LAST WEEKEND: Solar United Neighbors Hosts PA Solar Congress

Solar United Neighbors hosted its second annual Pennsylvania Solar Congress last Saturday (Feb 15th), in Blairsville at the Chestnut Ridge Golf Resort & Conference Center. Blairsville was selected as the location for the event due to the overwhelming success of Indiana County's Solar Co-Op, and because planners for the event hoped Blairsville's proximity to Allegheny and Westmoreland County would attract individuals from across southwest PA. The conference included lunch, an electric car show, training sessions, a book signing, informative presentations, and break-out sessions. Over 150 people were in attendance; the event ended with a post-congress happy hour.



Left: Jonathan Belak, Three Rivers Electric Vehicle Association, presents on the Past Present & Future of Electric Cars. Center: Heaven Sensky, Center for Coalfield Justice, presents on the first annual Greene County Solar Festival. Right: Sherene Hess, Indiana County, shares Indiana's Sustainability story.

SOLAR CO-OP INFO-SESSIONS:



Solar for Small Businesses

Wednesday March 4th, 9:00 am
Indiana Borough Building, Council Chambers
80 N 8th St, Indiana, PA 15701
Breakfast provided.



Public Solar Co-Op Info Session 1

Saturday March 14th, 2:30 pm
The Coney, Second Floor Banquet Room
642 Philadelphia St, Indiana, PA 15701



Public Solar Co-Op Info Session 2

Wednesday April 1st, 6:00 pm
Marion Center Area High School
22800 PA-403, Marion Center, PA 15759

For more information on the Indiana County Solar Co-Op, visit:
www.solarunitedneighbors.org/IndianaCounty

INDIANA SOLAR CO-OP 2: LAUNCHED AND READY

In September, 2018 at our second Sustainable Economy Summit, Henry McKay from Solar United Neighbors presented on the concept and benefits of Solar Co-Ops in Pennsylvanian communities. In response, Peter Broad of Indiana Borough Council stood up and said, "We want that here in Indiana!" Since then, the Solar Co-Op has become so successful that installations are still going up. By the end of the contract-signing period, the first Solar Co-Op had over 90 participants and 20 signed installation contracts. This exceeds the success of any other Co-Op in the state, with the runner-ups including the Upper Ohio Valley Co-op with 64 participants and 8 installations, and Allegheny County Co-Op with 51 participants and 10 installations. Over the next 25 years, it is projected that the members of the Indiana Solar Co-Op will save well over \$1 million, and will reduce their carbon emissions by 5.2 million lbs. At the PA Solar Congress this past Saturday, Solar United Neighbors launched a second past contract-signing period with emphasis on local businesses.

For more information, visit:
SustainableIndianaCounty.org



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