

INDIANA COUNTY SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT **SUMMIT VI** FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FRIDAY OCT. 13, 2023

Kovalchick Convention and Athletic Complex (KCAC) 711 Pratt Dr, Indiana, PA 15705

8:45am DOORS OPEN

9:10am OPENING COMMENTS

9:15am Presentation 1 SOLAR LEASING IN INDIANA COUNTY

Dr. Joseph Conklin, *Extension Educator on Energy at PennState Extension*; Tom Beresnyak, *Extension Educator on Energy and Emerging Technologies at PennState Extension*.

This presentation will discuss large-scale/ utility-scale solar development in PA. Topics will include a general overview of what is currently happening in the large-scale solar landscape and why it is happening. Siting and zoning considerations will also be discussed, along with common concerns. The presentation will end with guidance on what to consider if approached by a solar developer with a lease.

10:00am Presentation 2 INDIANA COUNTY BROADBAND DEPLOYMENT INITIATIVE

Byron G. Stauffer Jr., *Executive Director Indiana County Office of Planning & Development (ICOPD)*; Representative of REA Energy Cooperative, Inc. The Indiana County Board of Commissioners and the ICOPD has secured funding to expand Broadband Internet services in select regions of Indiana County. Joined by guest speakers from REA, Stauffer will provide project updates on Broadband expansion and other economic development projects in Indiana County.

10:45am Presentation 3 OUTDOOR RECREATION ECONOMY

Adriene Smochek, *Recreation and Conservation Advisor, Southwest Region, Bureau of Recreation and Conservation*; Ian Smith, *Owner at SurfSUP Adventures and Executive Director of The Watersmith Guild*; Laura Herrington, *Executive Director at Indiana County Tourist Bureau*; Robert Nymick, *Authority Manager Central Indiana County Water Authority and Manager of Homer City Borough*.

Smochek covers DCNR's Community Conservation Partnership Program (C2P2) that funds improvements for non-profits organizations and for-profit ATV projects. Smith presents on "First Waves," a first-of-its-kind program that inspires conservation of local waterways and mentorship for at-risk youth. Herrington shares examples of successful Outdoor Recreation attractions in Indiana County and their economic impacts. Nymick offers a fresh perspective on Homer City's downtown and a glimpse at the Borough's future.

12:00pm Presentation 4 SECOND ANNUAL ELECTRIC VEHICLE CAR SHOW!!!

12:30pm LUNCH IS SERVED

1:00pm Presentation 5 AIR LIQUIDE RNG PLANT IN CENTER TWP., PA

Byron G. Stauffer Jr., *Executive Director Indiana County Development Corporation (ICDC)*; Representative of Air Liquide Center Township Operations. In collaboration with local government leaders, the Indiana County Development Corporation is pleased to welcome Air Liquide Advanced Technologies U.S. LLC to the 119 Business Park – Lot 2, located in Center Township, Indiana County, PA for the development of a renewable natural gas (RNG) production plant. Learn more about this project and its anticipated impact on our local economy.

1:30pm Presentation 6 THE ELECTRIC VEHICLE REVOLUTION: INCENTIVES, ADVANTAGES, AND GLOBAL TRENDS

Fred Kraybill, *Advocate for Renewable Energy, Electric Vehicles, and Climate Action with the Thomas Blvd Group*

The presentation covers incentives for adopting Electric Vehicles (EVs), the advantages of EV adoption, and the growth and trends of EV adoption worldwide.

2:00pm Presentation 7 UPLIFTING PEOPLE, PLACE, & PROJECTS: ECONOMIC, WORKFORCE, & COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION IN INDIANA COUNTY

Sherene Hess, *Indiana County Commissioner*.

Long-term, historic investments in the country's infrastructure, competitiveness, and people are being made to boost rural and small town economic and social resilience. Hear how Indiana County is benefiting now and is seeking opportunities for future generations.

2:30pm BREAK OUT SESSION!!!

Led by the Report Update Committee of the Sustainable Economic Development Task Force

Where are we, where are we going, and what does the future hold? Share your ideas, concerns, and hopes for Indiana County and help the Report Update Committee create a new document to guide future sustainability efforts.

2:50pm CLOSING COMMENTS

3:00 pm ADJOURN