



# Meeting Minutes

## Meeting Details

Meeting Details	
Project Name	Meeting Date & Time
Indiana Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Public Meetings	10.10.2023 6:00 PM
Meeting Venue	Duration
St. Clair Room, John Boner Center, Indianapolis, Indiana	1 hour 45 minutes
Meeting Purpose	Minutes Recorded By
Gather public input on CPRG Climate Action Plan for State of Indiana	ClimeCo

## In Attendance

Attendee's Name	Dept./Organization
Commissioner Brian C. Rockensuess, Chief of Staff Parvonay Stover, Scott Deloney, Susan Bem & Jessica Murray	IDEM
<b>Amanda Mast, Caroline Kelleher, Noah Godrey &amp; Kamayani Barshilia</b>	ClimeCo
In-person (26) & virtual (20) stakeholders	-

## Agenda Item

Agenda Item	Owner
Welcome	ClimeCo
Grant Overview	ClimeCo
Opportunities to Participate	ClimeCo
Public Comment	All



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## Discussion

<b>Meeting Notes</b>
Opening remarks were shared by the Commissioner, IDEM
ClimeCo team presented the draft actions for Priority CAP
Following public Comments were shared:
<p>Indiana University-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Concerns were shared around challenging CPRG timeline.</li> <li>Importance of collaborating with implementors was highlighted.</li> </ul>
<p>Community member-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We are trying to get solar past HOA. There's a lot of new development with bare roofs. Something fairly easy to do with regulators on board and if city instructs the HOA. If your backyard isn't south facing isn't your backyard, you can't get it installed.</li> <li>Incentivize developers to install solars in new community development. Funding for solar should part of development.</li> <li>You are on a good path with EPA and we would like the funding to come to IND.</li> </ul>
<p>IndianaDG (State wide Climate Justice Organization)-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We have learned a lot through our outreach process across IND as well as alongside who have helped pass legislation</li> <li>Meet people who make it happen at the community level. Need to move work back to communities helps to build resilience. We need to get the funding back to communities in every step of the way.</li> <li>We also need to be accountable to the carbon math. We will build a lot of trust and hard work. We also support using this opportunity to grow schools and be powered by solar. So that people (and parents) see resilience and action.</li> <li>Opportunities in the industrial sector.</li> <li>Encourage you to make sure marginalized voices are heard, who are typically missed-communities of color.</li> </ul>
<p>Climate Crisis (statewide coalition of students)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Carmel passed CAP in August and we lack funding.</li> <li>We had to narrow down the topics because of lack of resources which makes the CAP less holistic</li> <li>How to drive funding towards the organizations that already have plans and are trying to do things</li> </ul>
<p>Hoosier Environmental Council-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Need to work together with communities in a quick and efficient way.</li> <li>We want to ensure that 40% of funding benefits go to LIDAC.</li> <li>We support electrification and support solar including community solar. We also support emissions reduction project, climate resiliency projects, protecting wetlands and woodlands. We are looking for additional environmental benefits (co-benefits).</li> </ul>



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- We also hope that State takes leadership in workforce development. We want to encourage engagement to amplify resident voices.

### Democratic candidate (Jessi Brown)-

- Indy has huge inequalities in neighborhoods and incomes.
- Decisions made at the state level don't have the best interest at heart.
- Look into rebates for solar panels, rebates for buying an e-bike.
- Justice has to be at the core of this.
- Public schools & churches would be a great place for solar

### Community member-

- If we have the industrial & utility partners, how do we make sure we are not taking side & how do we keep them accountable? They contribute to the key sources of pollution in the state.
- Commissioner's response - best way to do so is through staggered funding. Corporations would be signing an agreement with the agency to deliver xyz impact
- Hope the grant enables the grid to become better. Scope 2 emissions rely on solar & RE companies.
- We struggle with not having enough public transit.
- Our biggest risks are heat and flooding.
- Encourage looking into storm water authorities & building resilient structures.
- Long term encourage IDEM & ClimeCO to have long term solutions that go beyond the funding cycle.

Great opportunity to have major impact through congregations. There are lots of congregations (upward of 30k) – and the number of people who are part of the congregation

### Carbon Neutral Indiana-

- Look into what is the 1% that could provide 100x impact. Shared example of rudder used in freight ships.
- Look into carbon markets- How do you bring an economic model to sustainable solutions.
- Saw 700 grocery stores in IND leaking refrigerants. We have an implicit liberal base. What can we do to engage the conservative base? What is the high-level cost per tonne basis? So many cities create this plan and they leave after a while and the plan burns out. More long-term way to do this.

### Solar United Neighbors-

- Disagree about carbon markets.
- Highlight building more resilience into local energy system. People lost power for 5 days and making sure that we are making our grid resilient and optimized for local deployment and reliability at an affordable cost.
- Don't stop just at energy – make sure that we are going beyond and doing resilient things.

### Community Member-

- Reiterate the idea of more robust bus system.
- Can we work into Chicago Cincinnati plan?
- AMTRACK corridors – better rail system for both people and for goods
- Solar for schools is a big help for the community. Parents and students see the action in a meaningful way.



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- Planting more trees throughout the city to make it beautiful and cooler in the summer.

Assistant Director, City of Bloomington-

- Working on Project 46. What should I be prepared for?
- We have programmes for the first five actions. What does the timeline for implementers look like for implementers (what should they be doing to prepare for to be ready for funding)
- We also need for funding for climate change education program. People need better understanding of how climate change is impacting their lifestyles.
- ClimeCo/IDEM will follow up with more detailed timeline

Community Member-

- Key implementers can actually carry out the work that you need.
- Expand the list of implementers on the slide.
- Ideas haven't been mentioned yet- ag tech. We need to engage our innovation and agriculture sectors. Happy to connect Purdue and other ag groups to ClimeCo and IDEM.
- IND CCAP should be comprehensive by addressing water pollution from coal ash.

Indianapolis office of Sustainability-

- Opportunity to re-examine existing law and existing policies and update that are outdated #1 Ban on single use plastic
- State building code is really outdated – how do we make sure that codes and reg can stay up to date with people's needs
- Hear from community members that have an appetite for more climate policy
- Difficult when measures are proposed that are just impossible and at odds with the community needs

Community Member(?) (Joe Staples)-

- How to influence organizations like HOA in a positive way. It needs to be part of the plan.
- Need coordinated plan where people understand business case for solar on schools and communities. Share successful projects and best practices in a way that is bite sized. Public communication is a key.
- HOAs continue blocking solar panels. How do we apply pressure to HOAs etc so they don't have the power to block things that people need.

Keep Ind beautiful org.-

- Logistical problem of getting solar on the building.
- Difficulties with underlying policies (HOA).
- Some communities have anaerobic digestors. There is an opportunity around in and near urban areas.

Community member-

- Consider climate migration as part of the plan. Folks from coastal areas are moving because insurance companies are not insuring their properties.
- Utility scale project- one of the hurdles we have is misinformation growing in communities. How do we educate and reach out to people who are going to be around these large scale utility projects?
- Climate is not a municipal issue in Indiana.
- Innovative startups could bring more money. We should add it to the proposed plan for EPA.
- Encouraged state investment in climate-positive startups over traditional business models.



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### Key Highlights-

- Importance of aligning action plans with the actions of the implementor.
- Overcoming challenges with implementing solar power, especially in new development areas and existing legislation / HOA.
- Strategies for keeping industrial and utility partners accountable for their contribution to emissions.
- Emphasis on the role of innovation, education, and technology in combating climate change.
- Coastal climate migration concerns and the pressure on insurance.

### Follow-up Tasks

Tasks
Share detailed timeline with City of Bloomington contact

### Next Meeting

Meeting Details	
<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Meeting Date</b>
Indiana Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Public Meetings	<b>10.24.2023</b>
<b>Meeting Venue</b>	<b>Meeting Purpose</b>
<b>Ivy Tech Community College, Fort Wayne Room CC1640 3800 N. Anthony Blvd., Fort Wayne, IN 46835</b>	Gather public input on CPRG Climate Action Plan for State of Indiana

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## Appendix

### Screenshot of pre-generated documents submitting by stakeholders, containing their inputs

#### Document #1

**Indiana Climate Plan Public Meeting, Oct 10, 2030, Central Indiana, Indianapolis**

1. Housing / business developments impact the consumption of electricity and grid capacity. Mitigation measures should include the following:
  - a. Require that all Home Owner Associations (HOA) allow the installation of roof-top residential solar systems without undo restrictions. Any restrictions should not negatively impact the potential maximum capacity.
  - b. Continue / increase incentives for home owners / developers / businesses to install solar systems.
  - c. Provide funding to assist low-income homeowners to install solar systems.
  - d. Require all developments (residential homes, apartments, and business) to install solar energy systems at the time of construction.
  - e. Improvements to existing transmission grids by local or state entities
2. Our personal struggles, with our community HOA denying us the right to install solar panels on the front of our home (south side), prevents us from getting the maximum use of solar power.

**Comments by: Lorraine Larsen-Hallock and David Cohen**

#### Document #2

Testimony for Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM)  
Indiana Comprehensive Climate Action Plan (CCAP)  
Public Meeting, Tuesday, October 10, 2023, 6:00PM, John Boner  
Neighborhood Center, 2236 E Washington Street, Indianapolis, IN, 46201  
Brad Yoder

I am Brad Yoder, from Hamilton County. First, I want to say thank you to those in Indiana government who have chosen to participate in the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) Program. And I want to thank you also for actively soliciting public input from all of us around Indiana to make this the most fair, effective, and efficient plan to improve the quality of life for all Hoosiers!

Three years ago our family decided to invest in a solar array, for the good of the Earth, for the good of our community, and to reduce our electric bill. We have been pleased with the results, and we hope to help to make that opportunity available for all Hoosiers, by the following:

- 1) Indiana's climate action plan should emphasize **practical and effective** approaches to reduce carbon emissions and other harmful air pollutants for the good of all of us. This includes ensuring clean air, making clean and affordable energy available, promoting energy efficiency, and ensuring **fair access** to renewable energy for all.
- 2) Indiana should direct resources to local governments and communities who have **already developed** and are **working to implement** existing local climate action plans
- 3) We must be sure that the Climate Action Plan **includes all Hoosiers**. Too often low-income and BIPOC communities have been left behind by the renewable energy transition. All Hoosiers deserve energy which will improve their quality of life. We must identify and remove barriers that limit equitable distribution of benefits from the renewable energy transition. Indiana should be sure that we support the **Justice 40 goals** outlined by the federal government.
- 4) **Opportunities for local solar energy** must be included in Indiana's climate action plan. All Hoosiers should be able to invest in, and benefit from, **rooftop and community solar**, to: a) **reduce carbon** and other harmful air pollutants, b) **create jobs** that will





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stay in Indiana, and c) **save electric customers money** by producing reliable, clean energy **close to where it's needed**.

5) Indiana's climate action plan should include ways to help communities be **more resilient**. Local solar and other supporting energy resources like battery storage, demand response programs, and energy efficiency, can improve a community's energy flexibility

6) The state's climate action plan should include fair and equitable solar policies that empower Indiana's residents, and provide **fair credit** for the electricity they produce. This makes renewable energy more attractive to solar owners. The current policy for Excess Distributed Generation (EDG) is unfair to those whose production is not operated by investor-owned utilities.

7) **Community solar** needs to be an integral part of the state's Climate Action Plan. Community solar allows subscribers to receive credits on their electric bill for part of the energy produced by a **local solar panel array**, including renters or partial owners of the array.

8) The Indiana climate plan should create a state-based grant program for **local schools to install solar** (complementing the Environmental Protection Agency's Clean School Bus Program). This would achieve carbon reduction goals while also creating a win-win for students, schools, neighborhoods, and taxpayers.

9) While the Indiana CCAP is focusing on production and distribution of energy, it should be comprehensive by coordinating with other environmental issues such as water pollution from coal ash. I recently testified before the EPA about the fact that Indiana has more coal ash depositories than any other state, coming from our many coal-fired generators. We need to work comprehensively to improve the quality of life for all Hoosiers.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Brad Yoder



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## Document #3

**SOLAR UNITED NEIGHBORS**

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Tuesday, October 10, 2023  
John Boner Neighborhood Centers  
2236 East 10th Street  
Indianapolis, IN 46201

Re: Comments from Solar United Neighbors at CPRG Community Engagement Public Meeting on October 10, 2023, at the John Boner Neighborhood Centers

To the Indiana Department of Environmental Management CPRG community engagement team,

Thank you for the opportunity to share our input into the state's developing climate action plan.

Solar United Neighbors (SUN) is a national, grassroots 501(c)3 nonprofit organization dedicated to meeting the needs and interests of solar owners and supporters. Since launching our Indiana program in 2019, we've helped more than 270 families, businesses, and nonprofits around the state install more than 2 MW of small scale solar along with other behind the meter distributed energy resources (DERs) like battery storage and electric vehicle chargers. We envision a clean, affordable, and equitable energy system that directs benefits and control back to local communities, with rooftop solar as the cornerstone. This improved energy system is essential for reducing carbon emissions and other harmful pollutants while also improving community resiliency to mitigate the worst impacts of climate change.

We submit the following comments on behalf of the thousands of SUN members around the state who want to see IDEM develop an effective and impactful climate action plan, and a commitment to work with communities around the state to fully implement that plan.


**General points about the plan**

- **Hoosiers deserve genuine climate solutions that address their concerns.** Indiana's climate action plan must prioritize practical and

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effective approaches to reduce carbon emissions and other harmful air pollutants without relying on accounting gimmicks. This includes ensuring clean air, making clean and affordable energy accessible, promoting energy efficiency and ensuring fair access to renewable energy for all.

- **The state should direct resources to local governments and communities** who have already developed and are working to implement existing local climate action plans.
- **We must ensure the Climate Action Plan promotes the inclusion of all Hoosiers.** Historically, low-income and BIPOC communities have been left behind by the renewable energy transition. But all Hoosiers deserve better. Indiana's Climate Action Plan needs to specifically include these communities and eliminate barriers that limit the equitable distribution of benefits from the renewable energy transition. At a minimum, the state should align with the Justice 40 goals outlined by the federal government.

**Solar specific points**

- **Local solar must be included in Indiana's climate action plan.** All Hoosiers should be able to invest in and benefit from local solar. Achieving fair and equitable access to local solar can be accomplished through the implementation of fair policies. Rooftop and community solar benefits everyone by:
  - Directly reducing carbon and other harmful air pollutants negatively impacting Hoosiers;
  - Creating jobs that cannot be outsourced; and
  - Saving electric customers money by cutting bills for solar owners and making electric service more efficient at a lower cost by producing reliable clean energy close to where it's needed.



- **Indiana's climate action plan should include ways to help communities be more resilient.** Local solar and other supporting energy resources like battery storage, demand response programs, and energy efficiency, can strengthen the electric system and improve resilience. These tools provide lower-cost solutions while preserving flexibility in the electric service reliability.
- **Solar owners deserve fair credit for the electricity they generate.** The current model for Excess Distributed Generation (EDG) unfairly gives less value to solar production that is not operated by investor-owned utilities. The state's climate action plan should include fair and equitable solar policies that empower Indiana's residents and provide fair credit.
- **Community solar needs to be an integral part of the state's Climate Action Plan.** Community solar enables subscribers to receive credits on their electric bill for part of the energy produced by a local solar panel array. It allows all Hoosiers to enjoy the benefits of local solar energy regardless of their housing structure or financial means.
- **Create a state-based grant program for local schools to install solar** (complementing EPA's clean School Bus program). This would achieve carbon reduction goals while also acting as a win-win for students, schools, neighborhoods, and taxpayers.