

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON

COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY

MEETING PACKET

McCloskey Conference Room — City Hall
Tuesday, July 8, 2025, 6:00 p.m.

Or virtually at:

<https://bloomington.zoom.us/j/83990984663?pwd=dDJqbHpvcDc0QmdMU0tUdE42RWE3dz09>

Meeting ID: 839 9098 4663

Passcode: 948837

CONTENTS

- 1. Agenda**
- 2. Chair Report**
- 3. BCOS-SOP-5: Memo & Language**
- 4. Local Food Resilience Strategy: Memo & Presentation Slides**
- 5. Resolution 2025-01: Memo & Draft Language (for first reading)**



CITY OF BLOOMINGTON COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY

NOTICE AND AGENDA

Tuesday, July 8, 2025, 6:00 p.m.
McCloskey Conference Room — City Hall

or virtually at

<https://bloomington.zoom.us/j/84327085962?pwd=naL8LVmKZSoinPUHbXuw3h7oqMyi5g.1>

Meeting ID: 843 2708 5962 | Passcode: 034238

Note: Agenda item times are approximate and subject to change

Commission on Sustainability Members

- Tara Dunderdale (appointed by City Council) — current term: 02/01/2025 – 01/31/2027
- Justin Vassel (appointed by City Council) — current term: 02/01/2025 – 01/31/2027
- Matt Austin (appointed by City Council) — current term: 02/01/2024 – 01/31/2026
- Zero Rose (appointed by City Council) — current term: 02/01/2025 – 01/31/2027
- Jon Eldon (appointed by City Council) — current term: 02/01/2025 – 01/31/2027
- Dave Rollo (appointed by City Council) — current term: 01/10/2024 –
- Quentin Gilly (appointed by IU Office of Sustainability) — current term: 11/21/2024 –
- Jami Scholl (appointed by the Mayor) — current term: 02/01/2024 – 01/31/2026
- Evan Nix (appointed by the Mayor) — current term: 02/01/2025 – 01/31/2027
- Chenghai Xu (appointed by the Mayor) — current term: 02/01/2025 – 01/31/2027
- Annalise Janke (appointed by the Mayor) — current term: 02/01/2024 – 01/31/2026
- Diana Ogrodowski (appointed by the Mayor) — current term: 02/01/2025 – 01/31/2027

- 1. Call to Order** **6:00 pm**
- 2. Roll Call**
- 3. Approval of Agenda**
- 4. Approval of Minutes: April 8, 2025**
Approval of Minutes: May 13, 2025
Approval of Minutes: June 10, 2025
- 5. Public Comment** **6:05 pm (10m)**
up to 3 minutes per person
- 6. Reports from Commissioners** **6:15 pm (30m)**
 - A. Chair (Justin Vassel) 6:15 pm (15m)
 - B. Waste Management Working Group (Matt Austin) 6:30 pm (5m)
 - C. Ad-Hoc Committee: Sustainability Assessment Report (Tara Dunderdale) 6:35 pm (5m)
 - D. Council Ex-Officio (Dave Rollo) 6:40 pm (5m)
- 7. Discussion of Topics Not the Subject of Resolutions** **6:45 pm (20m)**
 - A. Local Food Resilience Strategy (Jami Scholl) 6:45 pm (20m)
- 8. Resolutions for Second Reading and Discussion** **N/A**
- 9. Resolutions for First Reading and Discussion** **7:05 pm (10m)**
 - A. Resolution 2025-01: To Adopt a Scalable Poultry Flock Size Model (Jami Scholl) 7:05 pm (10m)
- 10. Report from Staff Liaison (Shawn Miya)** **7:15 pm (10m)**

- | | | |
|------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| 11. | Member Announcements | 7:25 pm (5m) |
| 12. | New Business | 7:30 pm (0m) |
| 13. | Adjournment | by 7:30 pm |

Next Regular Meeting: August 12, 2025 at 6 pm

As a quorum of the Commission or its committees may be present, this gathering constitutes a meeting under the Indiana Open Door Law (I.C. § 5-14-1.5). For that reason, this statement provides notice that this meeting will occur and is open for the public to attend, observe, and record what transpires.



CITY OF BLOOMINGTON
COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY

Chair Report

July 8, 2025

Justin Vasel

BCOS Organization Chart

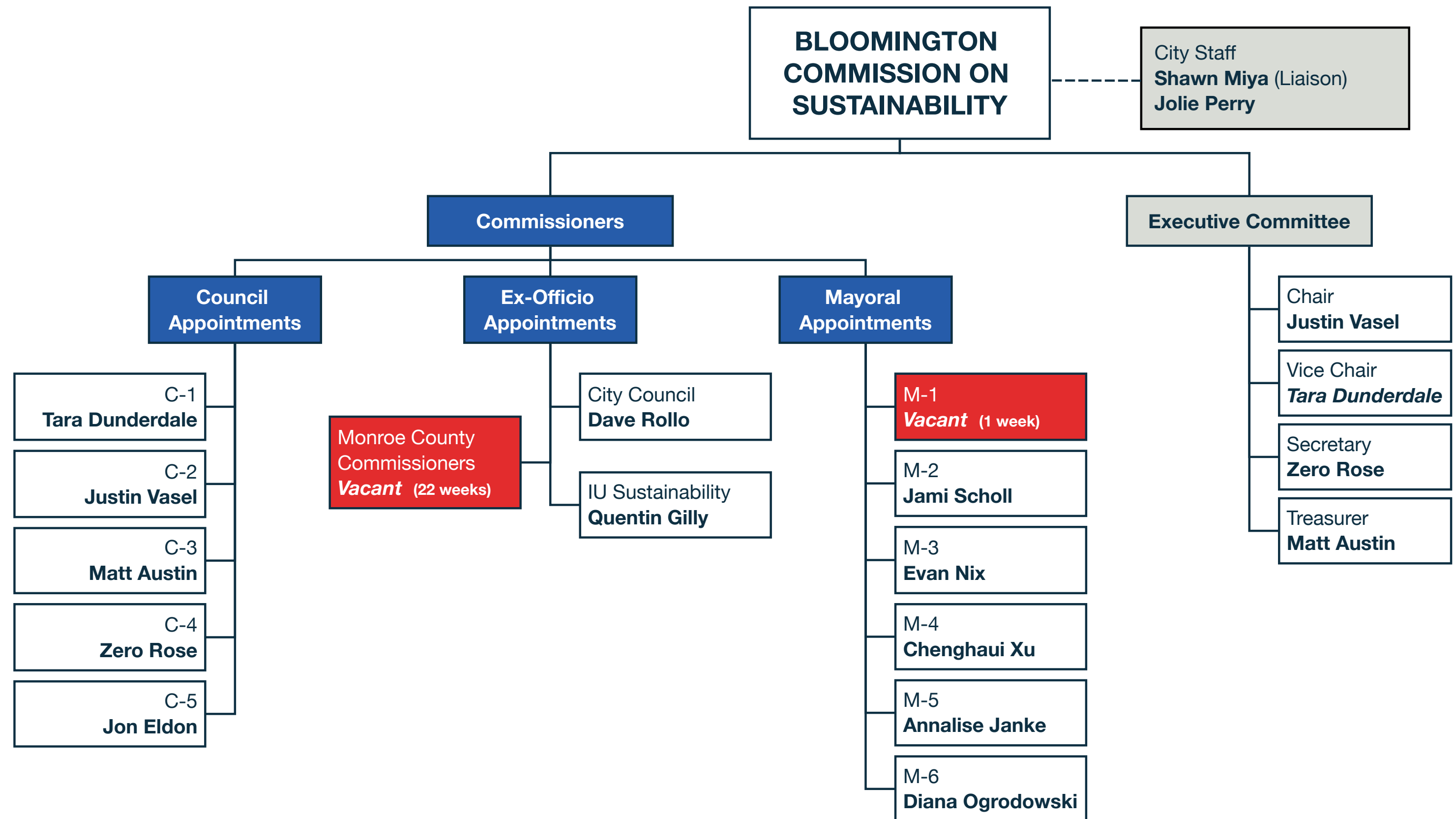
As of July 8, 2025

Current State

- Two vacancies
- Current quorum threshold: 7 / 12

What Has Changed

- Farewell **Hunter Hawley** (M-1)
- Welcome **Annalise Janke** (M-5)
- Welcome **Diana Ogradowski** (M-6)



Upcoming Events

Of Potential Interest to Commissioners

Date/Time	Location	Event
12 Aug	University Tower Ballroom IU Indianapolis	IU Economic Development Summit Theme: <i>“The Impact of Indiana’s Flagship”</i> https://engagement.iu.edu/summit/index.html
5 Sep	Ivy Tech Conference Center 2820 N Meridian St Indianapolis, IN 46208	Earth Charter Indiana – Climate Leadership Summit 10 https://www.earthcharterindiana.org/climate-leadership-summit

Funding & Awards

2025 Working Group Grant Awards

Project	Award	Sponsor
AWARDED		
N/A		
PROPOSED*		
N/A		
IDEA†	\$ 8,500.00	
Community & Festival Food Waste Pilot Project (Bokashi)	\$ 5,000.00	M. Austin
Sustainability Interview Series	\$ 1,000.00	C. Xu
Downtown Garden Installation	\$ 2,500.00	J. Vasel

* Proposed award amounts are as requested and are not final.

† Idea award amounts are suggestions; proposed amounts may differ significantly.

Current State

- Available: \$10,000
- Spent: \$0
- Remaining: \$10,000

What Has Changed

- N/A



News & Updates

From Outside the Commission

Area	Status
Hopewell Strategy Shift	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• What Happened<ul style="list-style-type: none">• City rejected all previous developer proposals for Hopewell South Blocks 9 & 10 (June 2025)• Pivoted to new approach with Flintlock LAB: "by locals for locals" strategy• Focus on pre-approved designs, streamlined permitting, community-centered development• Sustainability Implications for BCOS<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Opportunity: Addresses housing affordability crisis through efficient land use and local capacity building• Risk: Urgency for "shovels in the ground" may compromise deeper sustainability goals• Oversight Role: Mayor calls this a "guinea pig project" for citywide process reform• Key Questions for Our Commission<ul style="list-style-type: none">• How do we ensure permanent vs. temporary affordability mechanisms?• What building standards and community design features are included?• How will promised process improvements be measured and verified?• Are we getting measurable sustainability outcomes, not just good intentions?• Next Steps<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Consider detailed discussion at upcoming meeting• Develop framework for independent evaluation of sustainability outcomes• Identify specific areas where BCOS oversight is most critical
City Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Summer recess coming to an end• Next meeting: July 16, 2025• 2026 Budget:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• August: Departmental budget hearings• September: Introduction of 2026 budget legislation• October: Adoption meeting for budget legislation

News & Updates

Internal Commission Updates

Area	Status Blue items are new/updated
New Legal Obligations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• As of July 1, 2025, Indiana law now requires the following:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Commission members, their terms, and their appointing authorities must appear on each agenda or notice• All Commission meetings (including working groups and work sessions) must be recorded and posted on the City's website.• All formal statements of opinion (e.g., resolutions) from the Commission must have a disclaimer stating that the Commission does not speak on behalf of the City.
Bylaws Reform	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Identified outdated/confusing aspects of current language and any gaps; discussed with Commission• Currently drafting new language; will bring to Commission when ready for discussion<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Targeting August meeting
2025 Annual Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• BCOS approved report May 2025• Drafting slides for presentation to Council after their recess.<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Will ask BCOS to approve at August meeting
BCOS Commissioner Handbook	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Begun drafting a handbook for BCOS members to help retain institutional memory and improve onboarding• City may be developing a similar product for all commissions; in that case, ours would only include BCOS-specific info
Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Developing a set of short documents which prescribe recommended procedures for common tasks (e.g., submitting agenda items, drafting resolutions, common officer duties, etc.)• Goals: (1) Increase efficiency by taking the guess work out of processes, (2) improve Commissioners' understanding about how BCOS gets work done, (3) facilitate knowledge transfer to future members.• BCOS-SOP-3: How to Submit Agenda Items

BCOS Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)

BCOS-SOP-5: How to Submit An Agenda Item



BCOS STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE: 5

NON-BINDING

How to Submit An Agenda Item

Version 1, Last Updated 2025-07-07

SOP Owner: BCOS Chair

Audience: BCOS Commissioners

Purpose

When this procedure is followed correctly:

- The Chair has sufficient time and information to prioritize and schedule upcoming votes, discussions, or other activity
- Commissioners have advanced notice of upcoming votes and discussions, and are given sufficient time to review relevant materials

When this procedure is not followed:

- It is difficult for the Chair to plan meetings and prioritize agenda items based on timeliness or other factors, especially for busy meetings
- Commissioners might not have enough time to review relevant materials before they are presented

Procedure

Inputs:

- A topic for discussion or a request for action to be taken by the Commission
- Any relevant materials to accompany the discussion or vote, such as presentations, reports, draft resolution language, etc.

1. Determine the action and purpose of the agenda item

An agenda item request should answer two questions: (1) why should this be brought to the Commission for consideration? (the purpose), and (2) what are you asking the Commission to do about it? (the action).

Common Commission actions include discussion, introducing resolutions, voting, and

receiving information. See the FAQs section below for examples.

2. Consider what Commissioners need to know

Some agenda items are straight forward, but others are not. In those cases, you likely will need to provide some degree of explanation or education to commissioners who are unfamiliar with the topic at hand or your proposed approach. Carefully consider what commissioners need to know ahead of time to promote informed discussion and decision-making, and make a plan to provide that knowledge.

3. Prepare supporting materials

This might include drafting the language for a resolution ([BCOS-SOP-6](#)), writing a memo ([BCOS-SOP-21](#)), preparing a presentation slide deck, or compiling information. It is highly recommended to prepare a brief memo for non-routine agenda items, so that you can provide context and set the stage for the discussion ahead of the meeting.

4. Estimate how much time is needed on the agenda

Items that are simple and straightforward do not need much time. Items that are complex or are likely to be controversial demand more time for education and deliberation. Make an initial estimate of how much time should be allocated.

5. Submit your request to the Chair no later than 7 days before the meeting

Send via email or any method indicated by the Chair. Include the following information in your request: (a) The purpose, (b) the proposed action, (c) supporting materials (if ready), (d) the estimated time needed, (e) whether the item is urgent (optional; see FAQs), and (f) any other relevant information. The Chair will follow-up with any questions or concerns and once the item is ready, the Chair will schedule it for an upcoming meeting.

6. Submit final supporting materials, if any, no later than 3 days before the meeting

Any materials that you plan to reference or present to the Commission must be submitted ahead of the meeting so that commissioners have enough time to review them. These materials will be included in the meeting packet and will be made public.

Outputs:

- Proposed item appears on an upcoming agenda

FAQs

• What are some examples of agenda item purposes and actions?

Consider some common agenda items. The "Approval of the Minutes" item has the purpose of amending and finalizing the minutes from a meeting. Its action is a vote. The "Council Ex-Officio Report" item has a purpose of keeping the Commission informed of Council activities, and its action is to receive information. An item appearing as a first reading of a resolution has a purpose specific to the topic it addresses and has an action of introducing a resolution.

• Why should I write a memo, and what should I include in it?

A memo can serve as a "cover sheet" for your item. You should briefly explain what your item is about and what you are asking the Commission to do. Then, briefly provide a contextual background that will get the commissioners thinking about the topic ahead of the meeting and set the stage for discussion. See [BCOS-SOP-21](#) for how to write a memo.

• Is my item urgent?

Probably not. Urgent does not mean timely or currently relevant. An item is urgent if it must be addressed prior to an upcoming deadline to be relevant. For example, an agenda item request for a current-year grant proposal submitted in early November is urgent because the Commission must approve all current-year grants before December. An agenda item seeking to pass a resolution taking a position on an upcoming City Council vote is urgent because the resolution would only be meaningful before the Council vote takes place. An agenda item request to establish a working group is not urgent, because that can happen at any upcoming meeting. When in doubt, consult with the Chair.

• What if my request is a special case that isn't covered in this SOP?

Consult with the Chair.

Revision History

Ver.	Date	Author	Description
1	2025-07-07	Justin Vasel	Created SOP

BCOS Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)

Non-binding “How To” Guides for Commission Business

ID	Title (“How To...”)	Status	Owner	Audience	Description
BCOS-SOP-1	Create a New SOP	Planned	Chair	Commissioners	
BCOS-SOP-2	Update an Existing SOP	Planned			
BCOS-SOP-3	Prepare a Meeting Agenda	Planned	Chair	Chair	
BCOS-SOP-4	Announce a Meeting	Planned			
BCOS-SOP-5	Submit An Agenda Item	Published	Chair	Commissioners	
BCOS-SOP-6	Draft a Resolution	Planned			
BCOS-SOP-7	Prepare an Annual Report	Planned	Chair	Executive Committee	
BCOS-SOP-8	Prepare Meeting Minutes	Planned	Secretary	Secretary	
BCOS-SOP-9	Submit a Working Group Grant Proposal	Planned			
BCOS-SOP-10	Plan a Working Session	Planned			
BCOS-SOP-11	Chair a Working Session	Planned			
BCOS-SOP-12	Chair a Business Meeting	Planned			
BCOS-SOP-13	Update Bylaws	Planned			
BCOS-SOP-14	Hold Officer Elections	Planned			
BCOS-SOP-15	Invite a Guest Speaker	Planned			
BCOS-SOP-16	Pass a Resolution	Planned			
BCOS-SOP-17	Onboard as a New Commissioner	Planned			
BCOS-SOP-18	Onboard New Commissioners	Planned			
BCOS-SOP-19	Publish a Social Media Post	Planned			
BCOS-SOP-20	Collect Feedback on Draft Materials	Planned			
BCOS-SOP-21	Draft a Memo	Planned			
BCOS-SOP-22	Conduct a Vote During a Meeting	Planned			

Commissioner Focus Areas

Homework: pick a topic/issue important to you for this list

Commissioner	Focus Area
Tara Dunderdale	Artificial Intelligence and Data Centers Public Education and Partnerships
Justin Vasel	Artificial Intelligence and Data Centers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding environmental/economic impact of common AI tools. • Policy recommendations for city AI use, prospective data center projects, etc. • Outputs include resolutions, reports, educational materials
Matt Austin	Waste Reduction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public education on waste reduction techniques, such as bokashi • Policy recommendations regarding city waste management
Zero Rose	
Jon Eldon	
Dave Rollo	
Quentin Gilly	
Jami Scholl	Food Resilience <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BCOS Food Resilience Working Group • Coordinate community partnerships and public education campaigns • Pursue amendments to UDO and Comprehensive Plan; encourage city-county partnerships
Evan Nix	
Chenghuai Xu	Sustainability Education <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public guest lecture series
Annalise Janke	
Diana Ogrodowski	

Upcoming Meetings

Tentative Agendas

Business Meetings

Date	Sponsor	Action	Status	Agenda Item
8 July 2025	Jami Scholl	DISCUSSION	CONFIRMED	BCOS Food Resilience Strategy
	Jami Scholl	FIRST READING	CONFIRMED	Resolution 2025-01: To Adopt a Scalable Poultry Flock-Size Model
12 Aug 2025	Justin Vasel	FIRST READING	TENTATIVE	Amendments to BCOS Bylaws
	Jami Scholl	VOTE	TENTATIVE	Resolution 2025-01: To Adopt a Scalable Poultry Flock-Size Model
	Justin Vasel	VOTE	TENTATIVE	2024 Annual Report slides to be presented to Council
9 Sept 2025	Justin Vasel	VOTE	TENTATIVE	Amendments to BCOS Bylaws
Unscheduled	Matt Austin	VOTE	TENTATIVE	Working Group Grant Proposal: Bokashi
	Justin Vasel	VOTE	TENTATIVE	Working Group Grant Proposal: Downtown Garden Installation

Work Sessions

Date	Status	Topic(s)
29 July 2025	SCHEDULED	Sustainability Assessment Report
26 Aug 2025	TENTATIVE	
23 Sep 2025	TENTATIVE	

Pending Minutes Approvals

Meeting Date	Scheduled Approval
8 April 2025	12 August 2025
13 May 2025	
10 June 2025	
8 July 2025	

Resolution Passage Process

BCOS Bylaws requires two readings (usually)

First Reading

1. Brief presentation from sponsor
 2. Discussion and Q&A
 3. Motion/Second and voice vote to advance to second reading
- Not the time for amendments
 - Voting to advance is not a vote in favor of the resolution.

Second Reading

1. Motion/Second to consider
2. Discussion and amendments
3. Roll-call vote to adopt original or amended version

Resolution Amendments

Amendments should only be offered during the Second Reading

In-Meeting Procedure

- First, a Motion to adopt the resolution and a Second must be made
 - Making the motion/second does not mean you approve of the resolution; it just means we can discuss it.
- Next, we discuss the resolution and offer changes through amendments.
- We will handle one amendment at a time
 - Amendments to an amendment can be made if needed
- Each proposed amendment will follow the same process: motion/second, discussion, vote.
- After all amendments and discussion are considered, we will vote.

Submitting Amendments

- **Simple amendments** can be made “on the fly” during the discussion.
 - *Ex: replacing a single word with another*
- **Complex amendments** should be submitted in writing to the Chair ahead of time to streamline the process.
 - *Ex: adding/removing entire clauses*
 - *Ex: making multiple revisions to wording/grammar*

Resources

For Commissioners

- **Websites**

- [BCOS Homepage](#)
- [BCOS OnBoard page](#)

- **Commission Documents**

- [BCOS 2024 Annual Report](#)
- [BCOS Bylaws](#)
- [BCOS SOPs](#)

- **Working Group Grants**

- [Standard Operating Procedure \(SOP\)](#)
- [Application Template](#)

- **Templates**

- [BCOS Resolution Template](#)

- **Bloomington Policy Documents**

- [Municipal Code \(BMC\)](#)
- [Climate Action Plan \(CAP\)](#)
- [Comprehensive Plan](#)
- [Unified Developer Ordinance \(UDO\)](#)



TO: Bloomington Commission on Sustainability
FROM: Justin Vasel, Chair, Bloomington Commission on Sustainability
DATE: July 7, 2025
SUBJECT: Introduction of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)

Purpose of Standard Operating Procedures

As our Commission continues to mature and take on increasingly complex work, I am introducing Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to help streamline our internal processes and reduce confusion about how we conduct our business. SOPs are step-by-step instructions that document how to perform routine Commission activities consistently and efficiently.

SOPs serve several important functions:

- Consistency: Ensure all commissioners follow the same process for common tasks
- Efficiency: Reduce time spent figuring out "how things work"
- Quality: Help prevent oversights and ensure thorough consideration of agenda items
- Transparency: Make our internal processes clear and accessible to all commissioners
- Institutional knowledge: Preserve important procedural knowledge as membership changes

Our First SOP: How to Submit an Agenda Item

I have created our first SOP (BCOS-SOP-5: "How to Submit an Agenda Item") to address a common challenge we've experienced—ensuring adequate time for commissioners to review materials before meetings and helping the Chair effectively plan and prioritize our agendas.

This SOP establishes a clear process for submitting agenda items, including:

- Determining the purpose and requested action for your item
- Preparing supporting materials like memos, presentations, or draft resolutions
- Submitting requests 7 days before the meeting with key information
- Providing final materials 3 days before the meeting for commissioner review

Important Note: Non-Binding Guidance

Our SOPs are marked as "non-binding," meaning they provide helpful guidance and best practices rather than rigid rules. They are designed to make our work more efficient while maintaining the flexibility needed for our diverse range of activities.

Next Steps

Please review the attached BCOS-SOP-5 and begin using it for future agenda item requests. This process will help ensure that all commissioners have adequate time to review materials and that our meetings run more smoothly.

I welcome your feedback on this SOP and suggestions for other areas where standardized procedures might be helpful. Our goal is to build a collection of SOPs that support our important sustainability work without creating unnecessary bureaucracy.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Justin Vasel". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "V".

JUSTIN VASEL
Chair, Bloomington Commission on Sustainability



How to Submit an Agenda Item

Version 1, Last Updated 2025-07-07

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- **What if my request is a special case that isn’t covered in this SOP?**
 Consult with the Chair.

Revision History

Ver.	Date	Author	Description
1	2025-07-07	Justin Vasel	Created SOP



TO: Members of the Bloomington Commission on Sustainability
FROM: Commissioner Jami Scholl, Bloomington Commission on Sustainability
DATE: July 6, 2025
SUBJECT: Local Food Resilience Strategy — Executive Summary

Background & Opportunity

Bloomington has an opportunity to lead among mid-sized cities in building local food system resilience while advancing multiple UN Sustainable Development Goals that guide our sustainability work. Recent federal program cuts (USDA Local Food Promotion Programs, school meal funding reductions), combined with ongoing supply chain vulnerabilities and climate impacts, create both urgency and strategic openings for local action.

The timing aligns with current grant funding windows (ARPA, USDA programs), ongoing UDO updates, and Comprehensive Plan revisions. Most importantly, Monroe County contains sufficient agricultural land to meaningfully contribute to regional food security—but coordination between city and county is essential.

Core Assessment

Current Vulnerabilities:

- Bloomington relies on "just-in-time" food supply chains with limited local storage capacity
- Most grocery stores maintain approximately 3 days of inventory under normal conditions
- Limited local food production relative to population needs (~79,000 residents + 51,000 students)
- Farmland near city boundaries faces development pressure

Opportunities:

- Strong foundation with the existing Bloomington Farm Stop Collective and community gardens
- Available county agricultural land (130,000+ acres)
- Growing consumer interest in local food systems and nutrient dense foods
- Federal and state funding currently available for food infrastructure

Strategic Priorities

1. *Regional Food System Cooperation*

Form Monroe County Food System Authority involving Bloomington, Monroe County, and Ellettsville to coordinate land use, food production, and distribution infrastructure. Model this on successful joint ventures like the Convention Center partnership. This partnership approach aligns with SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals) while advancing food security (SDG 2).

2. *Neighborhood Food Hubs*

Establish distributed food aggregation, storage, and distribution points throughout the city, serving both daily food access and emergency preparedness functions. These would function as CSA pickup sites, community kitchens, and local food retail locations. These hubs directly support

SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities) by creating resilient community infrastructure and SDG 2 (Zero Hunger) through improved food access.

3. *Urban Agriculture Integration*

Expand food production within city limits through:

- a. Designated urban farm at RCA Park
- b. Zoning updates to encourage edible landscaping and community gardens
- c. Food production requirements/incentives in new developments

Urban agriculture advances SDG 13 (Climate Action) through reduced transportation emissions and SDG 12 (Responsible Production) through sustainable growing practices.

4. *Local Seed Bank Network*

Partner with Monroe County Public Library and schools to establish seed preservation and distribution system, ensuring local food production capacity and genetic diversity.

Immediate Action Opportunities

Policy Development:

- Create "Food Resilience Overlay" zoning designation
- Update UDO to facilitate urban agriculture and food hubs
- Develop interlocal agreement framework with Monroe County

Practical Implementation:

- Expand allowable chicken flock sizes scaled to property size
- Designate RCA Park for urban farm development
- Launch seed bank pilot with library system

Organizational Capacity:

- Establish Food Systems Manager/Coordinator position
- Pursue available federal and state grant funding

Resource Requirements & Funding

Multiple federal programs currently offer funding for local food infrastructure, including USDA Urban Agriculture Grants, FEMA Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC), and Inflation Reduction Act programs. Regional cooperation enhances competitive positioning for these funds. Estimated initial investment of \$250,000–500,000 from city sources could leverage significant federal and county matching funds for infrastructure development.

Next Steps

This executive summary represents highlights from a comprehensive strategy analysis. The Commission should consider:

1. *Immediate:* Review and potentially advance practical policy changes (e.g., poultry ordinance updates)
2. *Short-term:* Commission dedicates portion of upcoming 2-3 meetings to systematically review strategy priorities, focusing on one major element per meeting (regional cooperation, urban agriculture zoning, food hubs) to determine feasibility and Commission support
3. *Medium-term:* Initiate conversations with Monroe County about regional cooperation framework

The full strategy document provides detailed implementation timelines, policy language, funding sources, and agricultural calculations for Commission members interested in deeper engagement with this work.

Local food system resilience represents a convergence of sustainability, equity, economic development, and emergency preparedness priorities that directly advances six UN Sustainable Development Goals—positioning this work as both practical policy advancement and long-term community investment.

Jami Scholl CHWC
Commissioner, Bloomington Commission on
Sustainability

**Local Food Resilience Strategy for Bloomington:
A Vision for Sustainability and Security
Advancing UN Sustainable Development Goals through Local Action**

Presented to

**Bloomington Commission on Sustainability
July 2025**

From

**Jami Scholl CHWC, Commissioner
Bloomington Commission on Sustainability**

Why Food Resilience Now?

Challenges we face from the national level include:

- Recent immigration raids into the food sector may disrupt the national food supply chain
- Federal food programs (SNAP, LFPFA) are impacted by reduced funding or are ending
- AI is displacing jobs in various industries or sectors, most obviously observed are service industry jobs
- Climate disasters, tariffs, and a devalued currency threaten supply chains
- A recession is forecasted for Winter 2025 through 2027

Why Food Resilience Now?

Challenges we face we have an opportunity to influence include:

- Bloomington's food supply: ~3 days of grocery inventory.
- Reliance on fragile "just-in-time" supply chains.
- Farmland near city boundaries faces development pressure.
- Local food systems = economic & food security

Climate disruptions and supply chain risks threaten our community's food security.

The Risks We Face

- **Economic Instability** (Dalio, Dowd, Fitts, Howe)
- **Federal Support Ending** (SNAP, WIC, school meals)
- **AI Displacement:** Food service, transport, retail, marketing, medical (select)
- **Climate Extremes:** Floods, droughts, storms
- **Tariff & Import Disruptions:** Fertilizer, processed food

Where Bloomington Stands Now

Progress:

- Farmers markets, garden expansion, some urban farms

Challenges:

- 40% homeownership rate
- Luxury development displacing green spaces
- Minimal food-focused zoning
- Small animal ag prohibited or is very limited

● *Bloomington has not met 20% self-provision goals as previously set forth.*

A thriving, equitable food system for Bloomington's future.

Strategic Priorities:

- Regional Food System Cooperation: Monroe County Food System Authority, Cooperative Zoning, and Develop Grant-backed Infrastructure for production, storage, and distribution. *(SDG 17: Partnerships)*
- Urban Agriculture: Urban farm at RCA Park, zoning for edible landscaping, and food production in developments. *(SDG 13: Climate Action, SDG 12: Responsible Production)*
- Build food hubs & co-op infrastructure: Accessible food access and emergency preparedness points. *(SDG 2, SDG 11)*
- **Local Seed Bank: Partner with libraries and schools for seed preservation.** *(SDG 2, SDG 15).*

Immediate Opportunities

Funding Windows:

USDA Urban Agriculture Grants	Aug 15, 2025	USDA Office of Urban Ag	Equipment, outreach, planning
National Institute of Food	Oct 10, 2025	USDA Community Food Projects	Food hubs, education, infrastructure
Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure Grant	Nov 2025	USDA AMS	Aggregation, storage, local Processing
FEMA BRIC Program	Jan 2026	FEMA	Resilience infrastructure, food storage
Inflation Reduction Act Block	varies	State-administered	Farm infrastructure, renewable energy
Indiana Local Food Promotion Program	Feb 2026	Indiana Dept. of Agriculture	Food market expansion, promotion
Community Foundation Food Access Fund	Mar 2026	Monroe County CF	Local food access and farm tools

EPA Environmental Justice Collaborative Agreement	Apr 2026	EPA Office of Environmental Justice	Food justice, urban ag, outreach in underserved communities
USDA Value-Added Producer Grant (VAPG)	Spring 2026 (est.)	USDA Rural Development	Processing, packaging, marketing of local ag products
BEDC Innovation Grants (Q1/Q3 Cycles)	Q1 & Q3 2026	Bloomington Economic Development Corporation	Urban ag innovation zones, food system entrepreneurship
Indiana LFPP (Additional Rounds)	Feb & Aug 2026 (est.) <i>[may not return]</i>	Indiana Department of Agriculture	Market expansion, procurement programs, food infrastructure
HEART Grant – Indiana (proposed)	TBD	Purdue University / IU Extension	Academic-community partnerships in regenerative agriculture
Kellogg Food Equity & Economic Justice	Rolling LOI	W.K. Kellogg Foundation	Food access equity, farm-to-institution, community-led food initiatives
HUD Community Development Block Grants (CDBG)	Annual / Rolling	HUD / City Planning Departments	Food infrastructure, gardens in low-income areas, urban resilience hubs

Immediate Action

Scalable Chicken Flock Size:

The Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) and Animal Ordinance to be amended to allow scalable backyard chicken flocks. The flock size to be proportional to lot area:

- **≤ 5,000 sq ft lot** → up to 5 hens
- **5,001–10,000 sq ft** → up to 8 hens
- **10,001–20,000 sq ft** → up to 12 hens
- **Over 20,000 sq ft (or agriculturally zoned lots)** → up to 20 hens or as approved through site plan

Align urban poultry rules with food resilience and sustainability goals as mentioned in:

- **Bloomington Sustainability Action Plan**
- **Peak Oil Task Force Report**
- **United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (2, 3, 11, 12, and 13).**



TO: Bloomington Commission on Sustainability
FROM: Justin Vasel, Chair, Bloomington Commission on Sustainability
DATE: July 7, 2025
SUBJECT: Proposed Resolution 2025-01 and Resolution Adoption Process

Introduction

Commissioners Jami Scholl and Dave Rollo have sponsored Resolution 2025-01, "To Adopt a Scalable Poultry Flock-Size Model." This resolution proposes expanding Bloomington's current backyard chicken ordinance to allow scalable flock sizes based on lot area, rather than the current fixed limit of 5 hens per household regardless of property size.

Resolution Overview

The proposed resolution would recommend that the City amend its Municipal Code to allow:

- ≤ 5,000 sqft lots: up to 5 hens (current standard)
- 5,001–10,000 sqft lots: up to 8 hens
- 10,001–20,000 sqft lots: up to 12 hens
- > 20,000 sqft lots: up to 20 hens or as approved through site plan

The resolution also recommends allowing flocks in mobile home parks and agri-villages, and aligns with UN Sustainable Development Goals and local sustainability planning documents.

Resolution Adoption Process

Since we haven't recently passed a policy recommendation resolution, I want to ensure all commissioners understand our two-reading process:

First Reading

- *Purpose:* Introduction and initial discussion only
- *Presentation:* Sponsors will present the resolution and rationale
- *Discussion:* Open discussion among commissioners
- *No amendments:* The text cannot be modified during first reading
- *Vote:* Simple voice vote to advance to second reading (simple majority required)
- *Outcome:* If passed, resolution moves to second reading at a subsequent meeting

Second Reading

- *Purpose:* Final consideration and adoption
- *Discussion:* Full discussion of merits, concerns, and implications
- *Amendments:* Commissioners may propose amendments to the text
- *Vote:* Roll-call vote for final adoption (simple majority required)
- *Outcome:* If adopted, resolution becomes an official recommendation of BCOS

Next Steps

Please review the attached draft resolution before our next meeting. Come prepared to discuss the proposal's merits and any concerns you may have. Remember that our resolutions serve as formal recommendations to the City, but do not create binding policy—only the City Council has that authority.

If you have questions about the resolution content, please contact the sponsors directly. For questions about the adoption process, please reach out to me.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Justin Vasel". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

JUSTIN VASEL

Chair, Bloomington Commission on Sustainability



Sponsor(s):
Jami Scholl
Dave Rollo

Passed X-Y-Z

RESOLUTION 2025-01

TO ADOPT A SCALABLE POULTRY FLOCK-SIZE MODEL

Chicken flocks are a currently allowed use within the City of Bloomington. This resolution allows for the expansion of the existing allowable use to reflect different lot sizes. Household Chicken flocks support UN Sustainability Goals: SDG 2 Zero Hunger, SDG 3 Good Health and Well-Being, SDG 8 Decent Work and Economic Growth, SDG 11 Sustainable Cities and Communities, SDG Responsible Consumption and Production by reducing food waste, and SDG 13 Climate Action by cutting food miles and supporting circular systems for food and nutrient cycles.

WHEREAS, The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), adopted by 193 countries including the United States, call for local action to support Zero Hunger (SDG 2), Good Health and Well-Being (SDG 3), Sustainable Cities and Communities (SDG 11), Responsible Consumption and Production (SDG 12), and Climate Action (SDG 13); and

WHEREAS, household flocks of hens directly contribute to local food sovereignty, improved household nutrition, and reduced dependency on global supply chains; and

WHEREAS, eggs from backyard flocks provide an affordable source of protein while composted manure improves local soil health, supporting circular food systems and reducing the need for synthetic fertilizers; and

WHEREAS, the current code limits households to a fixed flock size (5 hens) without recognition of parcel size, zoning context, or household demand, thus restricting full participation in household-level food production; and

WHEREAS, expanding urban chicken ordinances to allow scalable flocks based on lot size or zoning density is consistent with peer cities such as Madison, WI; Asheville, NC; and Portland, OR; and

WHEREAS, Bloomington seeks to strengthen neighborhood resilience and equitable access to food-producing infrastructure in all zoning categories, including mobile home parks, low-income areas, and high-renter-density zones.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE BLOOMINGTON COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY, THAT:

SECTION 1. The Commission recommends that the Bloomington Municipal Code Title 20 (Unified Development Ordinance) and Animal Ordinance be amended to allow scalable backyard chicken flocks. The flock size should be proportional to lot area, with the following draft standard for consideration:

Lot Size	Chicken Flock Limit
≤ 5,000 sqft	up to 5 hens
5,001–10,000 sqft	up to 8 hens
10,001–20,000 sqft	up to 12 hens
> 20,000 sqft (or agriculturally-zoned lots)	up to 20 hens, or as approved through site plan

SECTION 2. The Commission further recommends allowance for flocks in mobile home parks and agri-villages.

SECTION 3. The Commission calls on the City to align urban livestock and poultry rules with food resilience and sustainability goals set forth in the Bloomington Sustainability Action Plan, the Peak Oil Task Force Report, and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (2, 3, 11, 12, and 13).

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Bloomington Commission on Sustainability upon this XX day of YYYYYYYY, ZZZZ.

The views expressed here are solely those of the Bloomington Commission on Sustainability, as approved in their public meetings, and do not necessarily reflect the views, policies, or positions of the City of Bloomington. Only the Office of the Mayor has the authority to issue policy statements on behalf of the Executive Branch of the City of Bloomington.

JUSTIN VASEL, Chair
Bloomington Commission on Sustainability