

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON

COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY

MEETING PACKET

McCloskey Conference Room — City Hall
Tuesday, October 14, 2025, 6:00 p.m.

Or virtually at:

<https://bloomington.zoom.us/j/84327085962?pwd=naI8LVmKZSoinPUHbXuw3h7oqMyi5g.1>

Meeting ID: 843 2708 5962

Passcode: 034238

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- 2. Minutes: April 8, 2025**
- 3. Minutes: September 9, 2025**
- 4. Chair's Report**
- 5. BCOS-Sponsored O'Neill School Capstone Project** (memo & project description)
- 6. Working Group Grant Proposal: BCOS Sustainability Education & Outreach**
- 7. Resolution 2025-04: To recommend including "Resilience" in the Commission's name** (first reading; memo & draft language)
- 8. Local Food Resilience Strategy** (first-round comments & draft language)



CITY OF BLOOMINGTON

COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY

NOTICE AND AGENDA

Tuesday, October 14, 2025, 6:00 p.m.
McCloskey Conference Room — City Hall

or virtually at

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

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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
- Dave Rollo (appointed by City Council) — appointed 01/10/2024
- Quentin Gilly (appointed by IU Office of Sustainability) — appointed 11/21/2024
- Alex Jorck (appointed by the Mayor) — current term: 02/01/2024 – 01/31/2026
- 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
- Chenghuai 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: September 9, 2025
- 5. Public Comment** **6:05 pm (10m)**
up to 3 minutes per person
- 6. Reports from Commissioners** **6:15 pm (25m)**
 - A. Chair (Justin Vassel) 6:15 pm (10m)
 - B. Waste Management Working Group (Matt Austin) 6:25 pm (5m)
 - C. Cob Bench Project Update (Evan Nix, Zero Rose) 6:30 pm (5m)
 - D. Sustainability Forum Recap (Chenghuai Xu) 6:35 pm (5m)
 - E. Council Ex-Officio (Dave Rollo) 6:40 pm (5m)
- 7. Discussion of Topics Not the Subject of Resolutions** **6:45 pm (20m)**
 - A. Resilience Strategy: first round comments 6:45 pm (15m)
 - B. BCOS-Sponsored O'Neill School Capstone Project - Vote to approve project description (Alex Jorck) 7:00 pm (10m)
 - C. Working Group Grant: Sustainability Education & Outreach (Tara Dunderdale) 7:10 pm (5m)
- 8. Resolutions for Second Reading and Discussion**
N/A
- 9. Resolutions for First Reading and Discussion** **7:15 pm (5m)**

- | | | |
|------------|---|----------------------|
| | A. Resolution 2025-04 to recommend adding “resilience” to the Commission’s name | 7:15 pm (5m) |
| 10. | Report from Staff Liaison (Shawn Miya) | 7:20 pm (10m) |
| 11. | Member Announcements | 7:30 pm (0m) |
| 12. | New Business | 7:30 pm (0m) |
| 13. | Adjournment | by 7:30 pm |

Next Regular Meeting: November 18, 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

Minutes

Tuesday, April 8, 2025, 6:00 p.m.

McCloskey Conference Room — City Hall

1. **Call to Order:** Justin Vasel called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.
2. **Roll Call**
Members present: Justin Vasel, Tara Dunderdale, Dave Rollo, Jami Scholl (virtual), Matt Austin, Jon Eldon, Hunter Hawley, Evan Nix, Quentin Gilly
Members absent: Zero Rose
City staff present: Shawn Miya
3. **Approval of Agenda**
ACTION: The agenda was approved by voice vote.
4. **Approval of Minutes:**
None.
5. **Public Comment**
None.
6. **Report from Commissioners**
 - a. **Chair Report** (Justin Vasel)
 - i. Tentative work session in 2 weeks
 - ii. 3 vacancies currently
 - iii. Upcoming events: Green Drinks events monthly at Upland; campus river cleanup April 18 from 10a-3p starting at Eagleson garage; IU fix-it clinic pilot April 21 (possibly not open to the public)
 - iv. Earth Day plan: Hand out materials for sustainability grants; connect with organizations and promote working group grants; partner with schools?
 - v. Budget process
 - vi. Resolutions & advisory actions how-to
 - b. **Waste Management Working Group** (Matt Austin)
Moving Bokashi grant application to revived Taste of Bloomington (Aug 2); will rework existing application
 - c. **Ad-Hoc Committee: Sustainability Assessment Report** (Tara Dunderdale)
 - i. Discussion of additional context on budget numbers
 - ii. Part 1 document to be reviewed at May meeting
 - iii. Combined documents parts for review in June
 - d. **Council Ex-Officio** (Dave Rollo)
Member budget priority process starting now

7. Discussion of Topics Not the Subject of Resolutions

a. Bylaws Revision Process

Justin Vasel recommended a multi-step process for reviewing and amending the Bylaws. It was recommended to add a review of office responsibilities. Draft bylaws can go through city attorney for review.

b. Annual Report (2024)

Feedback form with line numbers for commissioner feedback.

8. Resolutions for Second Reading and Discussion: None

9. Resolutions for First Reading and Discussion: None

10. Report from Staff Liaison (Shawn Miya)

a. Contracts are moving; Canopy Bloomington contract has been signed and payment will be made in next cycle. Grandview Hills contract and Terracycle 2.0 grants are both out for signatures now.

b. Earth Day event: all vendor tables are filled.

11. Member Announcements

a. **Zero Rose:** Blue Bee Food installation project in Prospect Hill neighborhood

12. New Business: None

13. Adjournment:

ACTION: The meeting was adjourned at 7:22 pm.

NEXT MEETING:
MAY 13, 2025 6PM



CITY OF BLOOMINGTON

COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY

Minutes

Tuesday, September 09, 2025 6:00pm

McCloskey Conference Room — City Hall

1. **Call to Order:** Justin Vassal called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm

2. **Roll Call:**

Members

Commissioner	Present	Virtual	Note
Tara Dunderdale	☒	☐	
Justin Vassel	☒	☐	
Matt Austin	☒	☐	
Jon Eldon	☒	☐	Left at 7:30pm
Dave Rollo	☒	☒	
Quentin Gilly	☒	☐	Arrived 6:10pm
Alex Jorck	☒	☒	
Jami Scholl	☒	☐	Arrived 6:20 pm
Evan Nix	☒	☒	Arrived 6:03 pm (Attended previous 3 meetings virtually. Not counted to quorum or voting this meeting)
Annalise Janke	☒	☐	
Diana Ogradowski	☒	☐	
Chenghuai Xu	☒	☐	



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City Staff

Chaz Motzinger

3. Approval of Agenda

ACTION: Matt Austin moved to Approve the Agenda. Diana Ogradowski seconded. Motion **Passed** with a **Roll Call** vote of 9-0-0.

Approval of Minutes: **Aug 12, 2025**

ACTION: Diana Ogradowski moved to Approve the Agenda. Matt Austin seconded. Motion **Passed** with a **Roll Call** vote of 9-0-0.

4. Public Comment

No comments from the public

5. Reports from Commissioners

- a. **Chair (Justin Vasel)** - Provided review of attendance policy from BCOS by-laws and state code for meetings and reminder to attend in-person when possible.
- b. **B. Waste Management Working Group (Matt Austin)**-The working group in partnership with GardenQuest is looking for another festival to partner with for a followup to the Bokashi Composting Pilot at Taste of Bloomington. Discussion among commissioners of possible partnerships to pursue for working group grant. Suggestions to submit a 2.0 pilot for the 2026 Taste of Bloomington to see if longer planning time yields improved results on food waste diversion and public education.
- c. **Ad-Hoc Committee: Sustainability Assessment Report (Tara Dunderdale)** - Report is delayed due to commissioner illness. Should be available for review at October meeting.
- d. **Cob Bench Update (Evan Nix)**- Faced challenges in getting necessary equipment for excavation. Discussion of whether a no cost extension application will be required to complete the project. Outstanding question for city staff if whether the 12 month window for completing the project is from the date of the grant approval or the funds distribution.
- e. **Council Ex-Officio (Dave Rollo)**-Council has completed budget hearings and is set to vote at next business meeting. There are issues related to



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economic sustainability and development that are relevant to BCOS priorities and within scope for the commissions goals, however it is unlikely to get a resolution in front of council in time for this budget cycle. Commissioners discussed adding as a focus for work in advance of the 2027 budget cycle.

ACTION: Tara Dunderdale moved to amend the agenda change the order of the Resolutions for Second Reading and Discussion to occur before Discussion of Topics not the Subject of Resolutions. Diana Ogradowski seconded. Motion **Passed** with a **Roll Call** vote of 10-0-0.

6. Resolutions for Second Reading and Discussion

a. Resolution 2025-02 regarding the urban forestry budget (Tara Dunderdale)

Tara Dunderdale provided additional resources to address questions from the first reading of the resolution.

ACTION: Analise Janke moved to adopt the resolution. Commission moved to discussion. Commission discussed the resolution and additional potential amendments.

ACTION: Tara Dunderdale moved to amend the resolution adding an additional clause reading: "Whereas, The Bloomington Urban Forestry Plan states 'The City of Bloomington has a legal and moral obligation to maintain healthy and safe trees on municipal land and public streets. The Urban Forestry plan is a reasonable and responsible plan to make the City and its neighborhoods healthier for humans, more aesthetically pleasing, and to reduce tree-related problems'; and"

Analise Janke seconded. Motion **Passed** with a **Roll Call** vote of 11-0-0.

ACTION: Matt Austin moved to extend the meeting time by 15 minutes.. Tara Dunderdale seconded. Motion **Passed** with a **Roll Call** vote of 11-0-0.

ACTION: Alex Jorck moved to amend the resolution adding an additional clause reading: "Whereas, The cost of removing and replacing invasive trees such as callery pear is an expensive undertaking". Tara Dunderdale seconded. Motion **Passed** with a **Roll Call** vote of 11-0-0.

Motion to move to a vote. Resolution adopted by a roll call vote of 10-0-0

7. Discussion of Topics Not the Subject of Resolutions

a. Sustainability Forums (Chenghuai Xu)-commissional shared an idea for a working group grant to fund community education talks on sustainability.



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- b. Food Resilience Strategy (Jami Scholl)** - Commissioner shared update on resources included in the meeting packet and discussed possible uses for future BCOS work.
- 8. Resolutions for First Reading and Discussion**
 - a. No resolutions for First Reading**
- 9. Report from Staff Liaison**
 - a. No report from Staff Liaison**
- 10. Member Announcements**
 - a. No Member Announcements**
- 11. New Business**
 - a. No new business**
- 12. Adjournment:** Justin Vassal adjourned the meeting at 7:45 pm.



CITY OF BLOOMINGTON
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Chair Report

October 14, 2025

Justin Vasel

BCOS Organization Chart

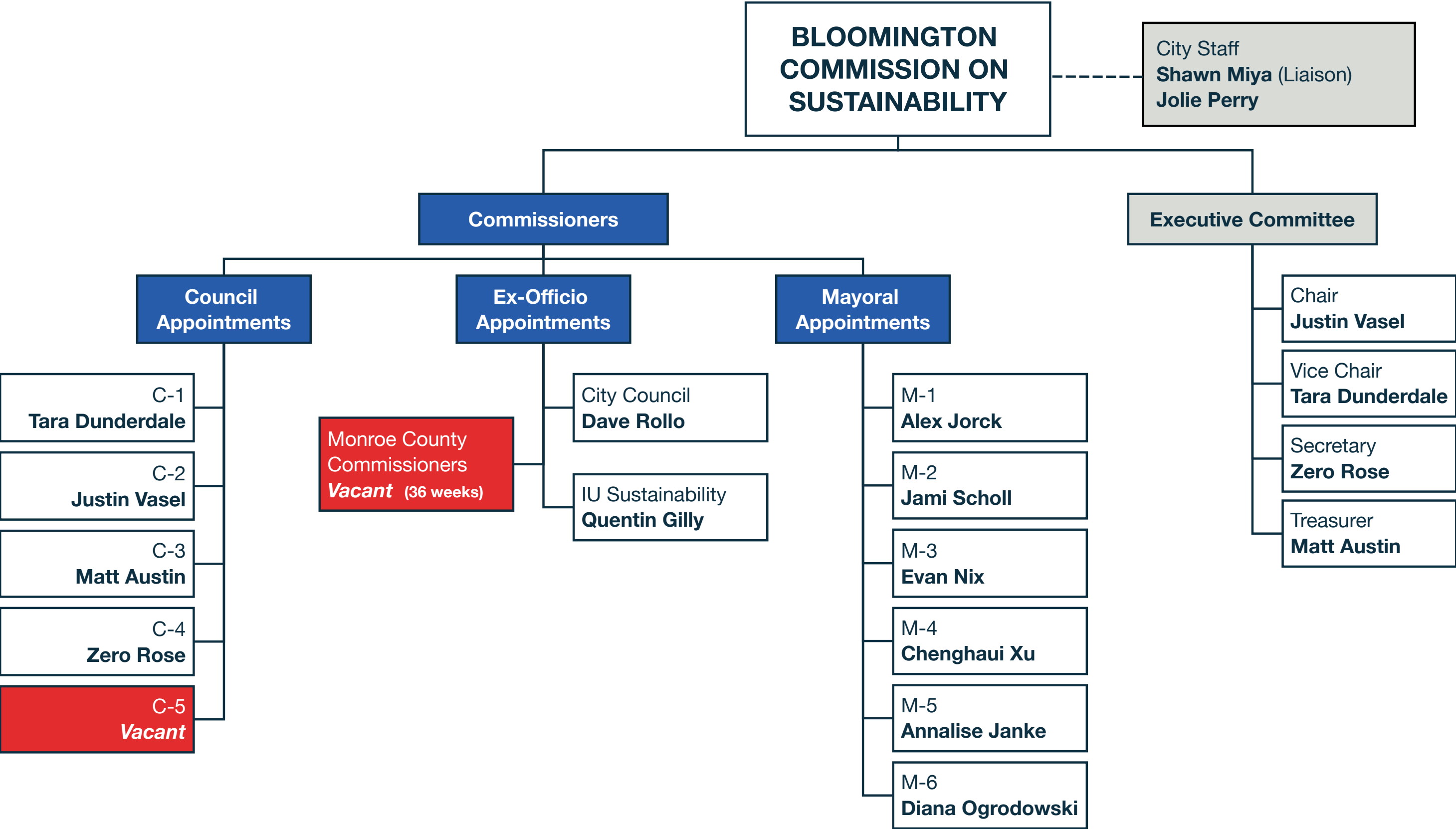
As of October 14, 2025

Current State

- Two vacancy
- Current quorum threshold:
7 / 12

Farewells

- Jon Eldon (Dec 2022 – Sept 2025)



Commissioner Focus Areas

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

Commissioner	Focus Area
Tara Dunderdale	Public Education and Partnerships
Justin Vasel	Artificial Intelligence and Data Centers - Understand environmental/econ impact of common AI tools. - Policy recommendations for city AI use, prospective data center projects, etc. - Outputs include resolutions, reports, educational materials
Annalise Janke	
Matt Austin	Waste Reduction - Public education on waste reduction techniques (e.g., bokashi) - Policy recommendations regarding city waste management
Zero Rose	
Dave Rollo	
Chenghuai Xu	Sustainability Education Public guest lecture series

Commissioner	Focus Area
Quentin Gilly	Sustainable Housing & Transportation - Affordable Housing, accessible transportation - Decarbonization of existing buildings - Intersection between building & street codes
Alex Jorck	
	Energy Systems - Clean electricity generation and integration - Energy efficiency and demand-side management - Energy equity and access - Electrification
Jami Scholl	Food Resilience - 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	
Diana Ogradowski	

Funding & Awards

2025 Working Group Grant Awards

Project	Award	Sponsor
AWARDED		
N/A		
PROPOSED*	\$ 6,200.00	
Sustainability Education & Outreach Materials	\$ 1,200.00	T. Dunderdale
Community & Festival Food Waste Pilot Project (Bokashi)	\$ 5,000.00	M. Austin
IDEA†		
Sustainability Interview Series		C. Xu
Air Quality Sesnors		T. Dunderdale

* 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

- Two projects moved from “Idea” to “Proposed” category



Upcoming Meetings

Tentative Agendas

Business Meetings

Date	Sponsor	Action	Status	Agenda Item
14 Oct 2025	Jami Scholl	FIRST READING	CONFIRMED	Resolution 2025-04: To include the word “Resilience” in Commission name
	Alex Jorck	VOTE	CONFIRMED	O’Neill School Capstone Project
	Jami Scholl	DISCUSSION	CONFIRMED	Local Food Resilience Strategy (first round comments)
	Tara Dunderdale	DISCUSSION	CONFIRMED	WG Grant Proposal: Sustainability Education & Outreach
18 Nov 2025	Matt Austin	VOTE	TENTATIVE	WG Grant Proposal: Bokashi
	Tara Dunderdale	VOTE	TENTATIVE	WG Grant Proposal: Sustainability Education & Outreach
	Jami Scholl	VOTE	TENTATIVE	Resolution 2025-04: To include the word “Resilience” in Commission name
	Jami Scholl	VOTE	TENTATIVE	Local Food Resilience Strategy (second round comments)
Unscheduled	Justin Vasel	FIRST READING	TENTATIVE	Amendments to BCOS Bylaws
	Justin Vasel	VOTE	TENTATIVE	Amendments to BCOS Bylaws
	Justin Vasel	DISCUSSION	TENTATIVE	Briefing on Hopewell development

Two additional dates available for a short special meeting if needed: Tuesday Nov 4 & Monday Nov 10

Work Sessions

Date	Status	Topic(s)
4 Nov 2025	SCHEDULED	
2 Dec 2025	TENTATIVE	

Pending Minutes Approvals

Meeting Date	Scheduled Approval
9 September 2025	14 October 2025
8 April 2025	
8 July 2025	18 November 2025

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 Alex Jorck, BCOS Commissioner
Date October 13, 2025
Subject O'Neill Energy Capstone: Sustainable Energy Utility Feasibility

I propose that BCOS serve as a client for a feasibility study conducted as a Capstone course by students at the IU O'Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs. The study will focus on assessing the feasibility of the City of Bloomington adopting a Sustainable Energy Utility that would promote some of the goals of the City's Climate Action Plan and allow more control over how the City and its residents choose their type of electricity generation.

Over the past several weeks, I have worked with the professors that would oversee the Capstone to develop a full Capstone description, which is attached to this memo.

I am requesting that the Commission vote to approve (1) serving as the client for this Capstone course and (2) the Capstone project description attached to this memo.

Background

A Sustainable Energy Utility (SEU) is a municipal utility that operates in parallel with the existing investor-owned utility to accelerate renewable energy deployment, improve resilience, and reduce costs, without requiring the immense capital investment needed for traditional municipalization. Under this model, the municipal utility can own and operate solar panels, battery storage, and neighborhood microgrids on participating properties while residents continue receiving supplemental power from the incumbent utility when needed. The utility could also explore service offerings such as assisting customers with energy efficiency and electrification efforts through on-bill financing, district heating and cooling, rebates, and more.

Ann Arbor, Michigan is currently pioneering this approach with 79% of voters approving their SEU in a November 2024 referendum. Their model will start with installing city-owned solar and battery systems at no upfront cost to residents, who pay competitive rates while gaining backup power during outages. Early indicators show strong community interest, with over 700 homeowners already on the waitlist.

This feasibility study directly supports BCOS's mission across three dimensions: energy resilience through microgrids that maintain power during grid failures; environmental sustainability by enabling rapid deployment of renewable energy to meet Bloomington's Climate Action Plan goals (25% GHG reduction by 2030, carbon neutrality by 2050); and education through partnership with IU students who will gain hands-on experience analyzing real-world sustainability challenges.

With recent state property tax changes (SB1) constraining city budgets and federal renewable energy incentives uncertain, exploring innovating models like an SEU could provide Bloomington new pathways to achieve its climate goals while maintaining local control over energy choices.

Objectives & Outcomes

The Capstone will identify and assess the challenges associated with creating a municipal electric utility and, if deemed feasible, provide recommendations on implementation strategies and organizational structure. The class will present findings and deliver a final report to the Commission in Spring 2026.

BCOS Involvement and Responsibilities

The Commission does not need to provide any monetary or material support. The POCs listed below will serve as Commission liaisons to the project and be responsible for tracking its development.

Points of Contact (POCs):

- Primary: Alex Jorck
- Backup: Annalise Janke
- Backup: Justin Vasel

Timeline

The project description for the Capstone course needs to be submitted this week for the project to move forward. The Capstone will take place during IU's Spring 2026 semester, beginning in early January 2026 and completing in either late April or early May 2026.



Alex Jorck, Commissioner
Bloomington Commission on
Sustainability

Attachments:

- (1) Proposed course information for V600 Capstone course: "Feasibility Analysis of Enacting a Sustainable Energy Utility"

Class Notes

TOPIC: O'Neill Energy Capstone: Sustainable Energy Utility Feasibility

This V600 Energy Capstone will be led by Professor Emeritus John Rupp and Professor Nikolaos Ziropiannis. The client is the Bloomington Commission on Sustainability (BCOS). The objective of this capstone project will be to perform research and analysis of the feasibility of the City of Bloomington adopting a Sustainable Energy Utility that would promote some of the goals of the City's Climate Action Plan and allow more control over how the city and its residents choose their electricity generation source. Because the subject of this investigation will involve a wide range of technical, economic, social and policy elements, it is appropriate for both MPA and MSES students with a broad variety of concentrations.

Feasibility Analysis of Enacting a Sustainable Energy Utility

Client: Bloomington Commission on Sustainability

O'Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs, Indiana University

V600 Capstone, SP26

Instructors: John Rupp and Nikolaos Ziropiannis

Date and Time:

Course Summary: This V600 Energy Capstone will be led by Professor Emeritus John Rupp and Professor Nikolaos Ziropiannis. The client is the Bloomington Commission on Sustainability (BCOS). The objective of this capstone project will be to perform research and analysis of the feasibility of the City of Bloomington adopting a Sustainable Energy Utility that would promote some of the goals of the City's Climate Action Plan and allow more control over how the city and its residents choose their electricity generation source. The strategic goal of the utility is to increase the use of renewable energy in the city. Because the subject of this investigation will involve a wide range of technical, economic, social and policy elements, it is appropriate for both MPA and MSES students with a broad variety of concentrations.

Background: Recognizing that the public sector has a leadership role in the management of the impacts of activities that take place within the city, in 2021 the City of Bloomington passed a Climate Action Plan with the main goal of reducing community greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) by 25% below 2018 levels by 2030 and achieving carbon neutrality by 2050. While the plan focuses on eight areas that are the source of greenhouse gas emissions within the city (energy and the built environment, transportation, local food and agriculture, waste, water, ecosystem health, and city operations), the plan acknowledges that the majority of the Bloomington community's greenhouse gas emissions come from the "Energy & Built Environment" (EB) sector. In the Climate Action Plan, the City set five EB Sector Goals that reduce city-wide GHG emissions through improving energy efficiency and accelerating the transition to low/no carbon sources of electricity generation.. The City also recognizes that there are significant factors outside of their direct control that have substantial impact on achieving these goals. High inflation and the corresponding high interest rates combined with an early end to federal tax credits that support the implementation of renewable energy sources makes the planning and purchase of distributed renewable energy systems more expensive, thus lowering deployment rates. Additionally, the City operates within the context of state trends and regulatory frameworks that include the regulated investor owned utilities (IOU) that supply electricity within service territories. These impact how these utilities plan, execute and charge for their provisioning of electricity to cities with the state. Recent changes in state property tax law leave the City with less funding to put towards subsidizing energy efficiency and renewable

energy projects citywide. These and other factors are substantial headwinds to Bloomington meeting their climate impact goals.

Recently, the City of Ann Arbor, Michigan explored, enabled through referendum, and is now deploying a Sustainable Energy Utility (SEU) as a mechanism to help meet their ambitious goal of their city having 100% renewable energy by 2030. If Bloomington were to deploy such a structure, it could increase the City's control over and provide new avenues to pursue all five of the EB Sector Goals. Therefore, to assist the City in better understanding the complex facets and implications of operating a SEU, this capstone course will work with the Bloomington Commission on Sustainability to explore the feasibility of Bloomington evaluating, creating, and operating a municipal SEU to strengthen the City's ability to achieve its climate action plan goals.

Course Goal: The goal of this capstone course will be to identify and assess the challenges associated with the City creating a municipal electric utility and, if it is deemed a suitable undertaking, provide recommendations on strategies to enact such a utility and its early organizational development. This assessment will need to consider the various factors and circumstances that presently impact the City creating such an entity and also project how these elements may change in the future, and thus impact such a utility. An assessment of this nature will be rife with uncertainty, and therefore will need to take into account a number of stated assumptions and build upon these to present actionable recommendations. Recommendations will need to be derived within the context of uncertainty that stems from the complex and dynamic interactivity of numerous technical, social, economical and political factors.

Relative to this topic, a series of research questions have been developed in partnership with the client to help guide this evaluation:

- How could the formation of a municipal energy utility that would operate in parallel with the IOU that currently serves the city be constructed to be permissible under Indiana state law?
- What lessons can Bloomington adopt from Ann Arbor's implementation of a Sustainable Energy Utility?
- How much would it cost to implement an SEU and establish service to the minimum number of customers.
- With local government budgets being stressed after the passage of SB1 in 2025, what are recommended funding sources for seed funding to start an SEU?
- How should an SEU best be structured to operate sustainably, promote sales, and maximize impact keeping in mind the macro environment of expected budget cuts in the nearterm?
- Would the Bloomington citizenry be supportive of adopting an SEU?
- What is recommended enabling policy language to enable an SEU?
- What is the recommended referendum language to get an SEU approved by the community?

- Are there better, faster, more cost effective, more equitable, or more resilient solutions for Bloomington to drive down its climate emissions from electricity consumption? Solutions with greater co-benefits to the citizenry?
- What existing infrastructure within the City could be used to support an SEU? Where would the City need to add additional capacity?
- Could the creation of neighborhood microgrids be part of the SEUs operational plan?

Course Goals and Objectives:

To accomplish this analysis, complete a meaningful study, and present the findings to the client, a series of tasks will need to be completed. Students will be expected to:

1. Create a plan that will outline both a research strategy and identify the tactics needed to implement the strategy.
2. Evolve a project management system that assesses the interests and skills of each student and effectively engages them in areas of the evaluation that maximizes their possible contributions.
3. Work with the client to understand their current and future concerns about creating and operating a municipal utility.
4. Gather and assess the information needed to analyze the problems.
5. Analyze and model the key facets of the problem.
6. Synthesize the analytical results into a report for final submission/presentation to the Commission.

There will be guidance by the instructors to accomplish the organizational goals, but part of the challenge of the course will be for the students to essentially self-organize and then execute this project. Following the initial research phase of the project, Profs. Rupp and Ziogiannis will serve as technical and policy consultants to the students during the middle of the semester. The client may also be consulted, on a limited basis, to ensure effective responsiveness to their initial research questions. Several subject matter experts will present to the class early in the semester to help the students identify the various factors that will need to be considered and the circumstances in which these technical, social and policy elements are operating. These experts will also be available on a limited basis to tap for additional counsel. Within the final five weeks of the course, there will be extensive meetings of the working groups, as well as the entire class to work in a coordinated manner to complete the project.

Upon completion of our analysis, representatives of the class will present the results of their analyses and recommendations for consideration to the client and deliver a final report.

Appropriate students for enrollment: MSES and MPA students who are interested in analyzing and understanding the consequences of creating a new public entity by assessing the public policy/governance implications, using economic modeling along with benefit cost analysis, evaluating the environmental science and technological facets, and exploring the influence that social aspects would have on such a venture.

BCOS WORKING GROUP GRANT APPLICATION



Date 10/6/2025

Name Tara Dunderdale

Title BCOS Sustainability Education and Outreach Grant

To ensure that your application is complete and addresses all the necessary information, we kindly request that all applicants provide the following details:

Description of Project: Please provide a comprehensive description of the project, including its goals, objectives, and expected outcomes. Additionally, outline the activities that will be undertaken to achieve these objectives and how they align with the mission of the Bloomington Commission on Sustainability.

As per the Bylaws of the Bloomington Commission on Sustainability, “is to promote sustainable socio-environmental-economic well-being of Bloomington and all its inhabitants.” As part of achieving that mission BCOS seeks to increase public education about the role of the commission, public opportunities for sustainable action, and gather public input on the commission's work.

In 2025, BCOS increased its public outreach by participating in the city’s Earth Day event to recruit residents for open seats on the commission, share the commission’s focus areas for the year, and solicit public feedback on said priorities. At that event BCOS commissioners engaged with approximately 50-100 members of the community.

The purpose of this grant is to support an increased community outreach effort for 2026 to help engage Bloomington residents in the work of the commission. The goal for 2026 is to have a BCOS presence at a minimum of 3 public engagement opportunities during the calendar year and engage with at least 250 members of the community across said events. This grant is to secure necessary funding to facilitate those outreach events by purchasing necessary materials for a more visible presence and procuring public outreach materials. These materials include:

A table cloth printed with the commission's logo.

Table stands for displaying contact information.

Printing costs for flyers or other distributed materials.

Custom native seed packets printed with the commission’s logo and website to distribute to the community.

Success metrics for this grant will include:

BCOS Presence at a minimum of 3 community events in 2026

Communication with at least 250 members of the public across these events.

Selection of the outreach events will be determined by the commission during BCOS working sessions or business meetings early in 2026. Decisions will be determined based on consensus among commissioners. Selection of the events will be based on:

- Event alignment with BCOS priorities and mission

PENDING APPROVAL

- Location of event (ensuring it is within city limits)
- Availability of commissioners to attend the event
- Cost of having a presence at the event (with a preference for free events)

Possible events include:

The city's annual Earth Day event

The Bloomington City Farmer's market

Taste of Bloomington

Bloomington Pride

Commissioners can also propose additional events at working sessions or business meetings throughout the year as new opportunities arise. The same priorities and decision rules will apply.

Commissions attending the events will be responsible for recording using a click counter how many members of the community with whom they interacted, the number of seed packets distributed, and the inventory of educational materials. The BCOS commission responsible for this grant will produce a reporting form for commissioners to submit this information and then report out at the next business meeting following the event.

PENDING APPROVAL

Purpose: Clearly state the purpose of the project and how it addresses a specific need or challenge within the community. Explain how the project's objectives align with the mission and priorities of the organization.

One important lesson learned from the Earth Day outreach event is that many members of the Bloomington community care deeply about issues of sustainability and may have expertise to share, but are unaware of how they can get involved with sustainability efforts in their community. To that end, BCOS seeks to be a bridge between city government and city and find opportunities to better connect with city residents on issues of sustainability and identify areas for potential collaboration in the future. BCOS plans to have presence at more community events in 2026 to conduct outreach on issues such as:

- Sustainability grants, rebate programs, or other incentives for sustainable projects in their neighborhood
- soliciting applicants for vacant commission seats
- encouraging members of the public to attend a meeting or provide public comment
- encouraging members of the public to learn more about city code or infrastructure related to sustainability
- distributing seed packets to encourage native planting
- seek feedback from the community on commission priorities and actions
- distribute information on sustainability efforts around the city residents can get involved with

Amount Requested: Specify the total amount of funding requested. Provide a detailed breakdown of how the funds will be allocated, including budget estimates for various project components, such as materials, equipment, and any other relevant expenses. If applicable, indicate if additional funding from other sources has been secured or is being sought. BCOS is a volunteer commission, personal time spent on the project will not be paid.

Total Funding Requested:

Custom Table Cloth with BCOS labeling: \$300

Table stands or Sign Holders: \$15

Storage Tote for materials: \$15

Click Counter: \$10

Custom native Seed packets: \$1600 for 750 packets (Accounts for tax and shipping costs)

Educational material Printing costs \$100

For sources on budget estimates see Appendix A.

Total requested: \$2100

PENDING APPROVAL

Vendor Name: Identify any specific vendors or suppliers that will be involved in the project and provide their names and contact information. If relevant, include details of any existing agreements or partnerships with these vendors.

Tablecloth, table stands, and printing costs will be done at vendors with the best price available. See Appendix A for the list of possible vendors used to determine budget needs.

Seed packets will be purchased from Roundstone seed company.

This vendor was selected because their seeds share an ecotype with our region and are therefore optimal for planting in Bloomington. Other vendors such as Prairie Moon Nursery were considered and have comparable price points, however Roundstone's proximity made them the preferred choice given the ecological similarity.

Exhibit A includes the price list for seed packet purchasing.

<https://roundstoneseed.com/>

We appreciate your attention to these requirements, as they will help us evaluate and compare applications more effectively. Should you have any questions or require further clarification, please do not hesitate to contact Shawn Miya at shawn.miya@bloomington.in.gov

PENDING APPROVAL

Appendix A. Budget Estimate Sources

Line Item	Source	Cost	Notes
Printed Table Cloth	https://www.vistaprint.com/signs-posters/tablecloths	\$259	Cost is for a standard material cloth. 100% post consumer recycled material is approximately \$100 more. Price excludes tax and shipping.
Printed Table Cloth	https://www.4imprint.com/product/2212/Serged-Closed-Back-Table-Throw-6	\$179	Cost excluded tax, and shipping.
Plastic storage tote	https://www.target.com/p/66qt-clear-storage-bin-with-latches-brightroom-8482/-/A-93286404#lnk=sametab	\$9	
Plastic Storage Tote	https://www.target.com/p/30gal-storage-tote-gray-brightroom-8482/-/A-93327174	\$12	
Table display stand	https://www.displays2go.com/P-965/Table-Top-Display-Holds-8-1-2-x-11-Materials	\$12.99	
Printing cost	https://mcpl.info/computers	10 cents per page	Budget accounts for 1000 companies of black and white education materials or approximately 330 full color copies.
Click Counter	https://www.amazon.com/SDARMING-Counters-Counting-Knitting-	\$5.99	

PENDING APPROVAL

	Coaching/dp/B0971C F137?hvadid=800583 22417932&hvnetw=s &hvqmt=e&hvbmt=b e&hvdev=c&hvlocint =undefined&hvlocph y=91922&hvtargid=p la- 4583657843470516		
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Exhibit A. Price list for ROUNdstone seedpackets

ROUNDSTONE NATIVE SEED, LLC



- Private Label
- Co-Packing
- Custom Packaging
- Proprietary Seed Mix Design
- Hermetically

PENDING APPROVAL

Sealed Pouches

 9764 Raider Hollow Road Upton, Kentucky 42784 Phone: 270-531-3034 Fax: 270-528-1403 Email: sales@roundstoneseed.com	Quantity Discount 1– 49 lbs. Retail Pricing 50 - 199 lbs. 10% 200 - 499lbs. 15% 500 - 999lbs. 17% 1,000 lbs. + 25%
Packaging Size Volume 1-249 units 250-499 units 500—9,999 units 10,000 + units Seed Packet (Seed Included) 15 sq ft \$3.00/pkt \$2.50/pkt \$2.00/pkt \$0.75 - \$1.75/pkt Small Stand-Up Pouch < 8 oz. \$2.00/pouch + seed cost \$1.44/pouch + seed cost \$1.30pouch + seed cost \$1.08/pouch + seed cost Medium Stand-Up Pouch < 16 oz. \$2.15/pouch + seed cost \$1.56/pouch + seed cost \$1.40pouch + seed cost \$1.17/pouch + seed cost Large Stand-Up Pouch 4 to 12 lbs. \$5.00/pouch + seed cost \$3.60/pouch + seed cost \$3.23pouch + seed cost \$2.70/pouch + seed cost cost	



TO: Members of the Bloomington Commission on Sustainability
FROM: Commissioner Jami Scholl, Bloomington Commission on Sustainability
DATE: October 1, 2025
SUBJECT: Add Resilience to the Bloomington Commission on Sustainability Name

Background & Opportunity

Bloomington has long been a leader among mid-sized cities in building local food system resilience and advancing sustainability initiatives. However, recent federal policy shifts—including program cuts and changes in how resilience is defined and communicated—create both challenges and opportunities.

This moment provides Bloomington with the chance to reaffirm its leadership by continuing to frame sustainability as inseparable from community resilience. Federal changes are already impacting residents, and local government can play a vital role in helping neighborhoods and the broader community adapt.

Resilience can be understood as *the capacity of a system to withstand change and continue to develop, using shocks and disturbances as catalysts for renewal and innovative thinking*. Sustainability and resilience are intertwined, with resilience serving as a crucial component for achieving sustainability by enabling systems to adapt, withstand, and recover from disruptions, thus ensuring long-term functionality and meeting future needs.

By focusing on robust, adaptable systems and proactive, holistic planning, both concepts contribute to creating durable, environmentally and fiscally responsible infrastructure that can thrive in the face of uncertainty and change. This capacity to include the holistic view of integrated resilient systems is essential for Bloomington's future and is not currently addressed—or could easily be adopted—by any other City board or commission.

Core Assessment

Converging Issues:

- Job loss and food system vulnerabilities
- Peak oil and renewable energy transitions under threat
- Job displacement from AI
- Farmland and water resources at risk from large-scale data centers and other industries
- Shifting political language around “sustainability” and “resilience”
- Potential disruptions to the currency system

These converging pressures highlight the need for Bloomington to adopt a long-term, resilience-focused approach to sustainability. Emergency management, while critical, is oriented toward short-term crises (e.g., tornadoes, fires) and does not fully incorporate local residents in planning for structural change.

Drawing on the insights of Neil Howe (*The Fourth Turning*) and Ray Dalio (*The Big Cycle Theory*), it is clear that society faces dramatic generational and economic shifts. Bloomington's Sustainability & Resilience Commission is uniquely positioned to respond.

Opportunity for Action

By explicitly including resilience within its scope, this Commission can integrate sustainability, equity, economic development, and preparedness into a coherent framework. This positions the City not only to advance practical, near-term policy but also to make long-term community investments that will ensure Bloomington's continued leadership and relevance in a rapidly changing landscape.

Jami Scholl CHWC
Commissioner, Bloomington Commission on
Sustainability



CITY OF BLOOMINGTON
COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY

Sponsor(s):

Jami Scholl

Dave Rollo

Passed X-Y-Z

RESOLUTION 2025-04

**TO CHANGE THE NAME OF THE BLOOMINGTON COMMISSION ON
SUSTAINABILITY TO THE “BLOOMINGTON COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY
AND RESILIENCE”**

WHEREAS, to more clearly recognize that resilient systems are necessary for sustainability to be possible; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of significant past and potential near term disruptions such as climate induced droughts and destructive winds, economic downturns and changes to the monetary system, AI job displacement, food system disruptions, federal policy changes, and pandemics can threaten current systems; and

WHEREAS, in recognition that current systems do not go through regular or planned stress-testing to measure resilience and therefore sustainability.

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

SECTION 1. The Bloomington Commission on Sustainability requests for Bloomington City Council to add the word “Resilience” to the current Commission name to be henceforth known as the “Bloomington Sustainability & Resilience Commission”.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Bloomington Commission on Sustainability upon this XX day of [MONTH], [YEAR].

JUSTIN VASEL, Chair
Bloomington Commission on Sustainability

Your Name	Section	Line Numbers	Comment Type	Comment	Addressed	Response
Annalise Janke	24-Month Timeline for I...	442, 443	Substance	I am curious if other communities have incorporated edible landscaping into street medians and stormwater retention areas. Are there safety/contamination concerns with those locations?		

Bloomington Local Food Resilience Strategy

2 Prepared for:

- 3 Bloomington Commission for Sustainability
- 4 Bloomington City Council
- 5 Department of Economic & Sustainable Development
- 6 City of Bloomington Planning & Transportation Department
- 7 Housing and Neighborhood Development
- 8 Department of Parks and Recreation

9 **Date:** June 2025

10

11 Executive Summary

12 As supply chains face increasing instability and global systems undergo accelerated disruption
13 — from climate disruptions and war to cyberattacks and changes to national policies and
14 priorities — Bloomington must act swiftly to develop a resilient, decentralized food system that
15 protects public health, ensures economic stability, and maintains food access in the face of
16 growing risks. Critically, we must acknowledge that the City cannot produce all its food within its
17 boundaries, and has regressed from the recommendation contained in the Peak Oil Task Force
18 Report to achieve 20% self-provisioning. In addition, a previous administration recognized the
19 importance of food to health, sustainability, and resilience of the City as seen by the adoption of
20 the Sustainability Action Plan which spurred in 2019 “The Year of Food.” This was an initiative to
21 increase access to healthy, local food, and strengthen the local food economy and support local
22 growers while raising awareness about community food insecurity.

23 Since that time the Department of Economic and Sustainable Development, and the
24 Commission on Sustainability largely ceased activity, support, and promotion for the local food
25 system. Additionally, the role of a Value Chain Coordinator or Food Systems Manager, was
26 funded via a grant for three years, at which time the task was to establish a venue for local
27 producers to sell their products. The Bloomington Farm Stop Collective is the successful
28 outcome of this endeavor. As encouraged in the Sustainability Action Plan, this was to become
29 a permanent position although the City administration had changed its stance regarding hiring
30 someone permanently for this position.

31 The strategy contained herein outlines a two-year action plan coordinated across City Council,
32 City Planning, City Parks & Recreation, Monroe County, and the Bloomington Commission on
33 Sustainability.

34

35 **Why a 2-Year Timeline is Imperative.** Population Food Needs: Bloomington’s ~79,000
36 residents require approximately 237,000 pounds of produce annually (assuming 3 pounds per
37 person daily, including vegetables, fruits, and grains) and 39,500 pounds of meat (0.5 pounds

38 per person daily). Local production should aim to supply 20–30% of this to enhance resilience,
39 with the rest from regional or external sources.

40 The urgency of this timeline is grounded in the convergence of five major risk factors:

41 **1. Increasing Likelihood of Economic Instability**

- 42 ○ A recession is projected for Winter 2025–26, threatening jobs, food affordability,
43 and household stability, with economist Steve Hanke predicting a 90%+
44 likelihood of a 2025 recession, citing M2 money supply contraction. (M2 money
45 supply is currency that is in circulation, which includes cash, checking deposits,
46 savings deposits, money orders - the most liquid money.) From a more
47 conservative estimate, in June 2025, **J.P. Morgan** has increased the likelihood of
48 a recession to **40% chance** by end of 2025.
- 49 ○ Recent ICE raids to an agricultural processing facility and farms with plans to
50 target more agricultural businesses and processing facilities, which as of this
51 writing, has been *temporarily* halted.
- 52 ○ Federal aid programs (SNAP, WIC, school meals) face cuts, there is a deepening
53 food insecurity for low-income residents.
- 54 ○ Instability in the Middle East and the possibility of war would substantially raise
55 gasoline prices, which would as a result increase food transportation prices.
- 56 ○ Dollar devaluation is expected to raise prices for fuel, imports, and agricultural
57 inputs, therefore increasing the cost of food even further.
- 58 ○ Ray Dalio, founder of Bridgewater Associates, the world's largest hedge fund, is
59 recognized for his insights into macroeconomic trends, long-term debt cycles with
60 research and strategies that have led to his ability to navigate volatile market
61 conditions and predict significant economic events, warns of systemic debt and
62 currency risks that could catalyze a major downturn.
- 63 ○ Neil Howe, author of *The Fourth Turning*, projects that the 2020s represent a
64 societal crisis era likely to involve economic realignment.
- 65 ○ Catherine Austin Fitts, former Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban
66 Development for Housing, where she was charged with repairing the
67 department's reputation in the aftermath of the savings and loan crisis, predicts
68 systemic breakdowns in banking and food systems and urges regional
69 self-sufficiency and individual household food stores.
- 70 ○ Edward Dowd, former BlackRock executive, foresees rising economic instability
71 tied to declining health and labor force participation.
- 72 ○ Rick Rule of Rule Investment Media has advised increased resilience in energy
73 and agriculture, anticipating higher commodity volatility and a return to tangible
74 assets.

75
76 **2. Loss of Federal Support**

- 77 ○ The USDA's \$12.7M LFPA grant program has been cancelled, eliminating a key
78 local food funding stream.

- Other COVID-era programs supporting food infrastructure and farm viability are ending.
- Local Food for Schools (LFS) Cooperative Agreement Program was cancelled in March 2025, with an allocation of \$660 million to help school procure fresh, locally grown produce. Its termination affects school meal programs and local agricultural markets.
- Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities (PCSC) was cancelled in April 2025, which was aimed to support sustainable farming practices and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Its cancellation halts funding for climate-resilient agricultural projects.
- Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure (RFSI) Program funding ceased as of January 2025. It was designed to strengthen the middle of the food supply chain, including processing and distribution. The halt in funding affects infrastructure development for local food systems.
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) aka Food Stamps, is facing proposed cuts of \$90-\$100 billion through 2034. There will be stricter eligibility requirements, funding shifts to states from federal, and benefit freezes beyond inflation.
- School Meal Programs will face funding reduction in the proposed 2025 budget. This potentially reduces access to free or reduced-priced meals for children, affecting nutrition and food security among students.
- Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) has been suspended or defunded in certain areas. This supported farmers to maintain and enhance conservation practices. Funding cuts may hinder sustainable agricultural efforts.
- The implications for the City of Bloomington and Monroe County could lead to decreased support for local farmers through the loss of funding of local food procurement programs with a loss of market opportunities for small and mid-sized farming businesses. These funding sources, such as the LFPA grant funds, has already lead to a loss of fresh local produce in local food banks, which can lead to a loss of nutrient dense foods and greater food insecurity among low-income populations, with cuts to SNAP and school meal programs exacerbating the already existing problem. This may halt progress in adoption and the continuation of sustainable agricultural practices, through the termination of programs like PCSC and CSP for climate-resilient farming practices.

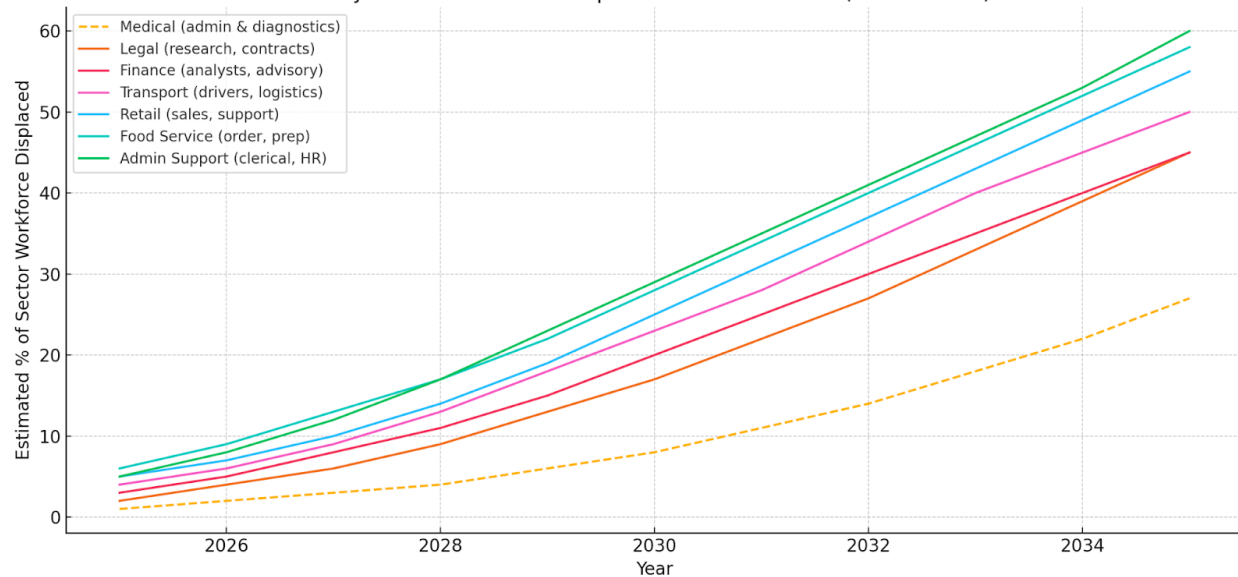
3. AI-Driven Job Displacement

- Artificial Intelligence is rapidly replacing jobs in logistics, food service, retail, and professional sectors.
- A regenerative food economy can provide durable, local jobs and workforce development pathways.

Projected AI-Driven Job Displacement by Sector (2025 - 2035)

Sector	2025	2027	2030	2033	2035
Administrative Support	5%	15%	30%	45%	60%
Food Service	3%	10%	25%	40%	55%
Retail & Sales	4%	12%	28%	38%	50%
Transportation	2%	10%	22%	35%	48%
Medical (Clerical/IT)	3%	8%	18%	30%	42%
Legal & Finance	2%	7%	15%	25%	35%

Projected Workforce Displacement Due to AI (2025-2035)



*Source: McKinsey Global Institute, World Economic Forum, Goldman Sachs Research, augmented by projections from Ray Dalio, Edward Dowd, and Catherine Austin Fitts.

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128 *The chart shows increasing automation risk in sectors such as:*

- 129 • **Admin Support and Food Service:** Most vulnerable, with up to 60% of roles automated
- 130 by 2035.
- 131 • **Retail, Transport, Finance:** Significant displacement by 2030–2035.
- 132 • **Medical** (non-clinical) and **Legal:** Moderate risk, especially in diagnostics, records, and
- 133 document review.

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135 4. **Climate and Supply Chain Volatility**

- 136 ○ **Climate instability** is accelerating globally, creating direct threats to agricultural
- 137 output, food distribution, and economic resilience. Extreme weather and supply
- 138 chain volatility threaten food availability. A centralized position can proactively
- 139 plan for these risks.
- 140 ○ **Extreme Weather Events:** Indiana faces increasing risks of summer droughts,
- 141 spring floods, and tornadoes, each posing severe risks to crops, soil, and
- 142 infrastructure.
- 143 ○ **Flooding** overwhelms Monroe County's stormwater systems, degrading urban
- 144 soils and threatening transportation networks.
- 145 ○ **Droughts** in Indiana and surrounding states increasingly impact grain and
- 146 livestock feed production, leading to reduced food supply and higher prices.
- 147 ○ **Tornadoes** and severe weather events pose damage risks to greenhouses,
- 148 urban farms, and critical transit corridors. The shift of “Tornado Alley” to the east
- 149 includes Indiana as we have locally experienced tornadoes and straight-line
- 150 winds.
- 151 ○ **Tariffs and Global Trade Disruptions:** U.S. reliance on imported fertilizer and
- 152 food components leaves local systems vulnerable to geopolitical tensions and
- 153 shifting trade policies, particularly with China, Russia, and disruptions in the Red
- 154 Sea and Suez Canal. [The practice of exporting U.S.-raised chickens to China for
- 155 processing and re-importing them remains legally permissible since 2013,
- 156 although escalating tariffs and trade tensions between the countries have created
- 157 economic challenges that could impact this practice, with this possibly becoming
- 158 a local producer opportunity as adjustments to the supply chain are made.]
- 159 ○ **Cyberattacks** on logistics providers highlight vulnerabilities in our interconnected
- 160 food systems, where a single attack can halt meat processing or grocery
- 161 distribution.
- 162 ○ **Fossil Fuel Volatility** directly affects transportation and fertilizer costs, stressing
- 163 farmers and food hubs.
- 164 ○ **Uncertainty caused by the Department of Homeland Security,** Immigration
- 165 and Customs Enforcement (ICE) raids that have occurred at agricultural
- 166 worksites, including meat packing facilities and farms.
- 167 ○ **Localized food production and storage** *must be treated as essential*
- 168 *infrastructure on par with water and energy. Urban farms, neighborhood food*

hubs, and community gardens can provide redundancy, accessibility, and security during climate or supply chain shocks. Supporting data sourced from the National Integrated Drought Information System (NIDIS), NOAA, USDA Climate Hubs, UN FAO, and the World Trade Organization (WTO).

5. Local Risk and Opportunity

- **Farmland near city boundaries** is rapidly being lost to development; action is required to preserve it, this can be accomplished through zoning changes, and possibly include land trusts, such as the Sycamore Land Trust through such vehicles as conservation easements, which protects farmland while families continue to farm for income.
- Short-term windows for ARPA, IRA, and CHIPS Act funding can support strategic infrastructure development now.

The following two-year roadmap aligns with grant cycles, local election terms, and climate-appropriate growing seasons. Delay will increase food insecurity, economic vulnerability, and community dependence on distant systems increasingly prone to disruption

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24-Month Timeline for Implementation

Objective: Mobilize coordinated action across departments, governmental and legislative body's, agencies and the public to prepare Bloomington for potential severe food system disruptions by mid-2027.

Immediate (0–6 Months)

● Commission on Sustainability:

- Propose the City Council include “Resilience” in the organization name, a change to the “Bloomington Commission on Sustainability and Resilience”.
- Food Resilience actions that can be taken include:
 - Apply for USDA/local resilience, and other federal applicable grants to support food and agricultural resilience.
 - Launch CSA promotion
 - Food System Mapping: Recommend or support the creation of a food asset map for Bloomington to identify current producers, distributors, and food deserts.
 - Organize a seed bank through a partnership with MCPL and possibly the MCCSC in local schools
 - Define sustainability agricultural goals for the City based on a population of 78,682 permanent residents, and 51,000+ students for an approximate total of 130,000 residents.
 - Develop a pathway and refine language for existing neighborhoods to modify covenants & restrictions, including for HOA's, to allow for City Food Resilience allowable uses and zoning overlays.
 - Create food resilience metrics for City Planning to include in development reviews based on the City's resilience and sustainability goals.
 - Review UDO for modifications to be in alignment with sustainability and food resilience goals.

	Landscaping Standards
20.10	HAND - Notice of Violation (NOV) corresponding enforcement & fines

20.05.052:LA-01	Plant Material Standards
20.05.057: Exhibit LA-A (5-57)	Permitted Plant Species
20.05.055 – LA-04	Planting Sizes
20.04.080	Buffer Yard Types
20.06.005	Subdivision Types (update)
20.07.130	Open Space Standards
20.07.200	Sustainable Development Standards
20.04	PUD's

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- **Recommend City support:**
 - Prioritize purchasing from local producers.
 - Allocate funds to hire a Food Systems & City Farm Manager.
- **Incentivizing Food Production:** Propose tax abatements, grants, or other incentives for property owners converting underutilized land into food-producing plots.
- **Disaster Resilience Planning:** Include food systems in climate resilience strategies—e.g., distributed growing networks, seed-saving initiatives, and food storage nodes.

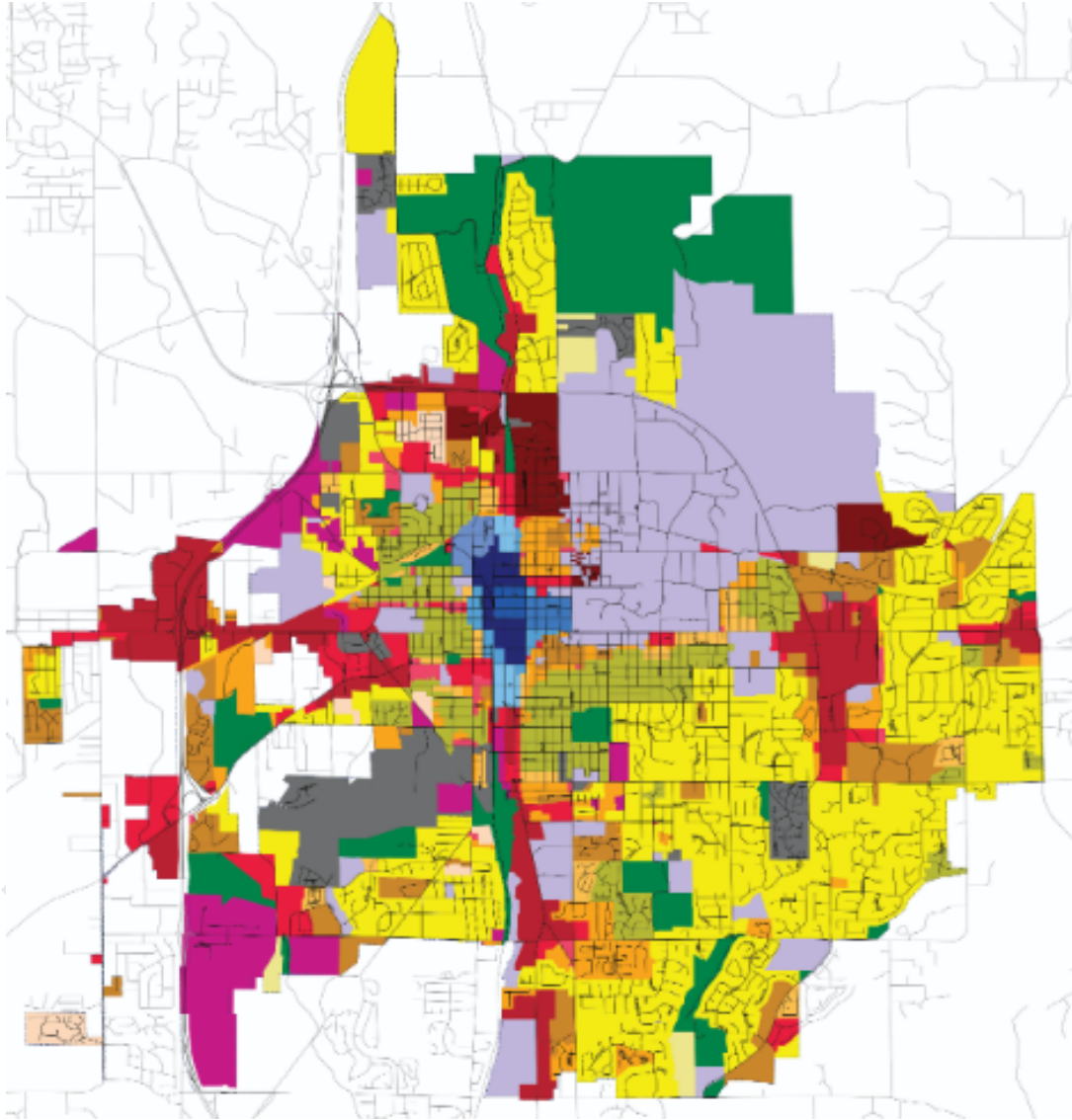
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Nearighborhood & Site Recommendations for Urban Farms, Orchards, and Gardens:



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- **North Bloomington**
 - **Arlington Park, Rev. Butler Park, and city utility lands.**
 - **IU edge sites (10th Street corridor)** for orchard installation and student partnership.
 - **Garden Hill/Maple Heights:** underserved in food access; ideal for a hub site.
- **Central Core**
 - **RCA Park:** already proposed for Urban Farm; flagship site with orchard, greenhouse, and education center.
 - **Switchyard Park (south end):** community gardens + food forest on unused edges.
 - **B-Line Trail & Clear Creek Trail:** edible corridors and mini food forests.
- **South Bloomington**
 - **Winslow Farm Park, Goat Farm, Jackson Creek corridors.**
 - **Leverage school grounds (e.g., Childs Elementary)** for joint gardens & food literacy.
- **West Side**
 - **Near Crestmont & Butler:** high food insecurity; combine food hub + mutual aid + gardens.
 - **Fairview area:** alleyway gardens, church partnerships.
- **East Side**
 - **Southeast Park, Griffy Woods buffer zones, and IU land south of Bypass.**
 - **Integrate edible buffers in subdivisions (e.g., Winslow Crossing).**
- **Periphery/Edge Areas**
 - **City-owned parcels near Fullerton Pike, W. 17th, and SR 45/46** for edge-of-city food forests, market gardens, or livestock grazing.

● **Implementation Notes**

Overview: The U.S. food system operates on a "just-in-time" supply chain, which means most grocery stores only stock about 3 days of food at normal consumption rates, rely on daily deliveries from regional distributors, and have no warehouse space on site.

The population of Bloomington is approximately 80,000 full-time residents and ~45,000 students during IU's academic year for a total of ~125,000 residents during most of the year. The City contains limited food warehousing space, a few local farms and CSAs, although they are not scaled to feed the entire population of the City. Hilltop Garden, Mother Hubbard's Cupboard, and community gardens are helpful but are in no way sufficient for emergency-scale food supply. Considering the number of days all of the sources of food, the City may have a food security window of approximately 5-days without incoming shipments.

To plan for Food Resilience, distributed food production (urban farming, backyard gardens), emergency food storage hubs, and resilient local distribution systems, such as pop-up markets and localized CSAs would be needed to meet hyperlocal needs. To support these endeavors food sovereignty policies would need to be passed to reduce dependence on centralized systems and to recirculate local wealth rather than sending monies to non-local corporations.

The development of neighborhood food hubs and a local seed bank is foundational to building a resilient, equitable, and climate-adapted local food system—especially in mid-sized cities like Bloomington. These tools provide the physical and social infrastructure needed to withstand disruptions, empower communities, and regenerate local food sovereignty.

In 2013–14 the Bloomington Food Policy Council (BFPC) conducted a Growers Survey as part of the report *Bloomington City Food System: A First Look* (January 2014). It was found that most active food gardeners owned their homes, suggesting that homeownership facilitates food gardening. *The Bloomington Food Access Report* (September 2021) found that a significant proportion of residents (15.7%) expressed that having access to a garden would improve their food access—even if they don't actively garden now. This points to a continued interest in gardening as a component of food security—and may be tied to homeownership and property access.

- *Pair siting of food hubs with transit access (Bloomington Transit stops).*
- *Prioritize land within ¼–½ mile of high-density housing or food-insecure census tracts.*
- *Use underutilized rights-of-way, detention basins, and easements as micro-sites.*
- *Collaborate with:*
 - **Faith communities:** *often have underused lawns.*
 - **Schools & libraries:** *for curriculum-aligned gardens.*
 - **Neighborhood associations:** *co-manage food forests and hubs.*
 - *Seek ARPA/resilience funding based on current availability and application deadlines.*
- *Draft and adopt an Interlocal Agreement between Monroe County and the City of Bloomington to coordinate food system governance, emergency planning, and zoning policy.*
- *Collaborate with Monroe County Commissioners and Bloomington City Council to adopt mutual ag zoning near municipal borders, including zoning overlays and agrihood provisions.*

- *Partner with IU, Ivy Tech, Purdue Extension, Soil & Water Conservation District, and local organizations to:*
 - *Draft an Emergency Food Playbook.*
 - *Identify 500–1,000 acres of county land for regenerative agriculture (ex. cover crops, rotational grazing) and 50–100 acres for spindle orchards (ex. high-density apple trees yielding 1,000 bushels/acre).*
 - *Establish policy and funding groundwork for food resilience based on models from Montgomery County, MD; Detroit’s Office of Urban Agriculture; and Michigan’s “10 Cents a Meal” and “Food as Medicine” programs.*
- **Urban Agriculture Ordinances:**
 - 1) Advocate for updates to the Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) to support urban farms, and edible landscaping in all zones.
 - 2) **Local Procurement Policies:** Recommend city support for institutions (like schools and hospitals) to prioritize purchasing from local producers. [Michigan 10-cents a Meal program may be a good fit for a local pilot with daycare centers.]
 - 3) **Incentivizing Food Production:** Propose tax abatements, grants, or other incentives for property owners converting underutilized land into food-producing plots.
 - 4) **Infrastructure Needs:** A butchering facility, neighborhood farm stops (small retail points for local produce), and a food hub (centralized aggregation and distribution) are critical for a regional food system.
 - 5) **Zoning Flexibility:** Suggest zoning allowances for agrihoods, farm stands, and community-supported agriculture (CSA) distribution centers within
- **Public Engagement:**
 - Populate the Food Resilience Working Group to:
 - Begin CSA promotion and mutual aid network mapping.
 - Host seed-saving, edible gardening, edible landscaping, chicken keeping, and food storage classes at libraries as education initiatives.
- **City Council:**
 - Pass Food Hub Resolution and initiate Comprehensive Plan & UDO updates.
 - Designate RCA Park for an Urban Farm through a Master Plan amendment.
 - **Food Access:** RCA Park sits near a low-income area with limited food access.
 - **City Plan Alignment:** Supports Sustainability Action Plan goals on food equity, climate adaptation, and green infrastructure.
 - **Community Engagement:** Could serve as an educational, volunteer-driven project for residents and students (e.g., Ivy Tech, MCCSC, IU).
 - **Possibilities for Use:** Larger than a community garden, the farm could include CSA shares, farm stand, composting, and demonstration areas for water conservation and native plantings.
 - **Zoning/Planning Needs:**

- May require amending park use language to allow farming.
- Coordinate with Parks & Recreation and Utilities (especially for water access and soil safety testing).

■ **Comprehensive Plan Updates:**

- **Chapter: Environment or create a standalone “Food & Resilience” chapter**
 - Add: “Support development of local food infrastructure, including urban farms, community gardens, and distributed food hubs.”
 - Add: “Develop strategies for climate-resilient food access, particularly in low-income and underserved areas.”
- **Chapter: Land Use**
 - Add policies allowing for agrihoods, edible landscaping, and food production in all residential zones.
 - Call for land audits to identify underutilized parcels for public food production.
- **Chapter: Parks, Recreation & Cultural Amenities**
 - Add support for large-scale edible landscapes and urban farms within parks (specifically name RCA Park).
 - Reference food as a form of public engagement and education.
- **Chapter: Parks, Recreation & Cultural Amenities**
 - Include policy supporting shared neighborhood gardens and food production infrastructure in multi-family and affordable housing developments.
- **City Planning Changes for New Developments:**
 - **UDO Amendments:**
 - Require or incentivize **edible landscaping** (fruit trees, herbs) in common areas.
 - Allow and encourage **agricultural easements** in new subdivisions.
 - Enable **on-site food markets** or CSAs within neighborhood centers.
 - HOA Covenant Template:
 - Provide city-recommended language that permits gardens, chickens, rainwater catchment, etc.
 - Create a standard “Sustainable Neighborhood” C&R template.
 - **Clustered Development Bonuses:** Offer density or height bonuses for projects that allocate land for food production, especially in food-insecure areas.
 - **Retrofit Guidelines for Existing Developments:**

- Develop zoning overlays or incentives for converting underused lawns or vacant lots into food-producing spaces.
 - Encourage co-op models for maintaining food plots in multi-family units
 - **Fund a Food Systems & City Farm Manager** position that would oversee the development of the RCA Park Urban Farm, advocate for system wide needs, and coordinate local solutions that include access to affordable, nutritious local gardens/food for the unhoused.
 - **“Food is Infrastructure.”** Just as Bloomington invests in roads, utilities, and housing, food must be treated as critical infrastructure in the face of climate, economic, and social disruptions.
 - **Climate Resilience:** Extreme weather and supply chain volatility threaten food availability. A centralized position can proactively plan for these risks.
 - **Health Equity:** Many Bloomington residents lack access to affordable, nutritious food. A Food Systems Manager can coordinate local solutions.
 - **Economic Development:** Local food systems create jobs, support small businesses, and retain money within the local economy.
 - **Cross-sector Coordination:** Food touches health, education, transportation, housing, and the environment. This role would centralize fragmented efforts across city departments.
 - **Precedents:** Cities like **Minneapolis, Austin, and Baltimore** have Food Policy Directors or Food Systems Coordinators who manage urban ag, emergency food planning, and food equity initiatives.
 - **Funding:** Start as a grant-funded (e.g., ARPA funds, USDA Local Food Promotion Program), then shift to general funds if outcomes prove strong.
 - **Draft and sign an Interlocal Agreement** with Monroe County, and Ellettsville, with a possible later goal to form the Monroe County Food System Collaboration (MCFSC), a non-profit organization governed by a joint board with representatives from the County, each Municipality, Soil & Water Conservation representative, local farmers and producers.
- **City Planning:**
 - Identify city-owned buildings and parks for food hub pilots in each neighborhood to be reflective of the Comprehensive Plan.
 - **Edible Green Infrastructure:** Propose integrating edible landscaping into city parks, street medians, and stormwater retention areas.

- 444 ○ **Create urban agriculture zones and overlays**, and require all new
- 445 developments to meet sustainability agricultural goals.
- 446 ○ **Begin code changes** to integrate edible landscaping, food gardening, and food
- 447 storage areas in new development.

448

449 **Short Term (6–12 Months)**

- 450 ● **Commission on Sustainability:**
- 451 ○ Launch at least 2 food hub pilots in underserved areas.
- 452 ○ Facilitate, with the county, land access partnerships for farming.
- 453 ○ **Public Campaigns:** Work with City departments and nonprofits to launch “Grow
- 454 Bloomington” or “Feed the B” campaigns focused on household- and
- 455 neighborhood-level food production.
- 456 ○ **Workshops and Classes:** Encourage the City to host gardening, permaculture,
- 457 and food preservation classes through Parks & Recreation, and possibly
- 458 reinstate People’s University as a mode of delivery, capitalizing on
- 459 knowledgeable local individuals.
- 460 ○ **Youth Engagement:** Collaborate with Monroe County Community School
- 461 Corporation to expand school gardens and farm-to-school programs.
- 462 ● **City Council:**
- 463 ○ Approve policies and funding for a community seed bank locations’ and support.
- 464 ○ **Integrate Food into the Comprehensive Plan:** Ensure the City’s
- 465 Comprehensive Plan includes goals for food security and infrastructure such as
- 466 distribution hubs, farmers markets, and cold storage.
- 467 ● **City Planning:**
- 468 ○ **Require food infrastructure** in large new developments, including multi-family
- 469 zoning districts.
- 470 ○ **Use of City-Owned Land:** Recommend City land audits to identify parcels
- 471 suitable for community gardens, orchards, or urban farms.
- 472 ○ **Finalize food zone mapping**
- 473 ○ UDO edits for barter/alternative currency markets. (The Totnes Pound in England
- 474 is an example of a local currency.)
- 475 ○ **Adopt a scalable chicken flock-size model:**
- 476 ■ Base allowance: 6–8 hens on lots up to $\frac{1}{3}$ acre.
- 477 ■ +2 hens per additional $\frac{1}{4}$ acre, up to a max of ~20 hens on a typical
- 478 1–2 acre parcel.
- 479 ■ This mirrors community gardens and allotment models and ensures more
- 480 eggs in emergencies.
- 481 ■ Permit 1 rooster per 10 hens *only on parcels ≥ 1 acre*, with neighbors
- 482 notified or waiving. (Supports breeding and local resilience while
- 483 minimizing noise.)
- 484 ■ Base allowance: **6–8 hens** on lots up to $\frac{1}{3}$ acre.

- **+2 hens per additional ¼ acre**, up to a max of ~20 hens on a typical 1–2 acre parcel.
 - This mirrors community gardens and allotment models and ensures more eggs in emergencies.
 - **Incorporate composting and waste mitigation**
 - Mandate on-site **hot composting** or other approved systems for chicken waste, rather than strict setbacks
 - **Encourage integrated food-waste systems**
 - Incentivize compost coops, BSF bins, vermicomposting.
 - Possibly a **composter incentive program**,
- **Public Education - cooperate with existing local non-profits:**
 - Expand composting, garden, seed saving, food preservation, and orchard skills training.
 - Distribute “Resilience Ready” home guide.
- **Parks and Recreation:**
 - Expand existing garden space at all Community Garden sites
 - Increase plot sizes to allow for a more substantial amount of produce to be grown for a household. According to the book All New Square Foot Gardening by Mel Bartholomew, 16 square feet is needed per person for fresh eating and about 32 square feet per person to include preservation.
 - Consider adding community garden plots in neighborhoods with dense and multi-family housing, prioritizing lower income neighborhoods

Mid Term (12–18 Months)

- **City Council:**
 - Pass “Resilient Food Sovereignty Act.”
 - Support feasibility study for a barter/alternative local currency network.
- **City Parks:**
 - Begin implementation of seed-saving in public community gardens, in collaboration with MCPL and MCCSC.
- **City Planning:**
 - Approve emergency zoning overlay revisions.
- **Commission on Sustainability:**
 - Launch a community seed bank network: Monroe County Public Library (MCPL) and the Monroe County Community School Corporation (MCCSC) and other private and public schools in collaboration with City Parks & Rec.
 - **Benchmarking Resilience:** Advocate for performance indicators like percentage of food sourced locally, number of community garden plots per capita, or food waste diverted to compost.
 - Convene a county and surrounding county food systems summit as a City-County collaboration, possibly held at Ivy Tech.

526

527 • **Public Engagement:**

- 528 ○ Establish a local food curriculum in schools and community centers (such as the
529 Edible Schoolyard Project curriculum by Alice Waters) in collaboration with public
530 school systems, and private and charter schools throughout the county.
531 ○ Pilot a neighborhood-based barter exchange.

532

533 **Long Term (18–24 Months)**

534 • **City Council:**

- 535 ○ *Review policy outcomes; scale support for successful programs.*

536 • **City Planning:**

- 537 ○ *Incorporate food resilience metrics into development reviews.*

538 • **Commission on Sustainability:**

- 539 ○ *Finalize and promote citywide Food Emergency Response Plan.*
540 ○ *Expand edible landscaping across all municipal properties.*

541 • **Public Engagement:**

- 542 ○ *Activate a full food hub network, one location in each neighborhood,*
543 *preferentially located centrally and on a bus route with easy walk & bike*
544 *accessibility.*
545 ○ *Educate and train residents in home preservation, wild foraging, and*
546 *decentralized distribution.*

547

548

549 Prioritized Policy Options

550 Summary:

551 Priority 1: Establish a Bloomington-Monroe County Food System 552 Joint Venture

553 **Objective:** Decentralize food storage, aggregation, and distribution to increase local access and
554 disaster resilience.

- 555 • **Rationale:** A cooperative agreement among Bloomington, Monroe County, and
556 Ellettsville, modeled on the Convention Center joint venture, will coordinate regional food
557 production, processing, and distribution. This addresses the city's limited land capacity
558 by leveraging county farmland for regenerative agriculture and spindle orchards, while
559 ensuring equitable access through urban food hubs and farm stops.

560 The **U.S. food system operates on a "just-in-time" supply chain**, which means most
561 grocery stores:

- 562 ○ **Stock about 3 days of food** at normal consumption rates
- 563 ○ **Rely on daily deliveries** from regional distribution centers
- 564 ○ **Have little to no warehouse space on site**

565 In the event of supply chain disruption (natural disaster, fuel shortage, cyberattack, etc.),
566 **stores would empty in 1–3 days**, especially for high-demand goods like bread, meat,
567 milk, and baby formula.

- 568 • **Actions:**

- 569 ○ **City Council:** Draft and sign a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with
570 Monroe County and Ellettsville to form the Monroe County Food System
571 Authority (MCFSA), governed by a joint board with representatives from each
572 entity. Allocate \$250,000 from Bloomington's American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)
573 funds to seed the venture, matched by county and Ellettsville contributions.
- 574 ○ **BCOS:** Conduct a regional food system assessment with the Soil & Water
575 Conservation District, and Purdue Extension to identify 500–1,000 acres of
576 county land for regenerative agriculture (e.g., cover crops, rotational grazing) and
577 50–100 acres for spindle orchards (e.g., high-density apple trees yielding 1,000
578 bushels/acre). Prioritize county-owned or leased land near urban centers for
579 accessibility.
- 580 ○ **Infrastructure Development:**
 - 581 ■ **Food Hub:** Establish a regional food hub on county land (e.g., near I-69
582 for transport) to aggregate, store, and distribute produce and meat.

Budget estimate of \$1 million (shared across entities) for construction, targeting completion by 2027, with a pilot phase in 2026.

■ **Butchering Facility:**

- Purchase a portable abattoir, also known as a mobile slaughter unit (MSU), for a self-contained, trailer-mounted facility that provides on-site slaughtering and processing services for livestock for use across the county and municipalities for more immediate use. (Oregon State University Center for Small Farm Community Food Systems: Cost Calculator for a Mobile Slaughter Unit: <https://www.nichemeatprocessing.org/cost-calculator-for-a-mobile-slaughter-unit/>).
- Develop a centralized small-scale, USDA-inspected butchering facility within an easily accessed food hub to process 500–1,000 animals annually (e.g., cattle, poultry). (Comparative study by the State of Nevada Extension Service: <https://extension.unr.edu/publication.aspx?PubID=2299>)

■ **Neighborhood Farm Stops:** Fund 5–7 farm stops in Bloomington’s renter-heavy neighborhoods, each 500–1,000 sq ft, to sell local produce and meat. Integrate with Urban Agriculture Incentive Zones (UAIZs) for on-site micro-gardens, espalier apple and pear trees where appropriate, and hoophouse for season extension.

- **Funding Suggestion:** Secure \$2 million total (\$1 million from ARPA, \$500,000 from county, \$500,000 from USDA Local Food Promotion Program grants and other funding sources) for land acquisition, hub, and facility startup.

● **Timeline:**

- 0–3 months: Sign MOU and form MCFSA;
- 3–12 months: Complete land assessment and secure funding;
- 12–24 months: Lease 500 acres, pilot food hub operations, and open 3 farm stops.

● **Expected Outcomes:**

- Secure 500 acres for regenerative agriculture (producing 10% of produce needs, ~23,700 pounds)
- 50 acres for spindle orchards (5,000 bushels of fruit)
- launch 3 farm stops serving 2,000 residents
- initiate food hub operations, increasing local food supply by 15%.

- **Priority:** High, as it establishes the regional framework critical for scaling production beyond city limits.

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to create the Monroe County Food System Authority (MCFSA).

Parties:

- City of Bloomington, Indiana
- Monroe County, Indiana

- Town of Ellettsville, Indiana

Purpose: To establish a joint venture for a resilient regional food system, coordinating land use, production, processing, and distribution to meet 20–30% of Bloomington’s food needs by 2030.

Objectives:

1. Identify and lease 500–1,000 acres for regenerative agriculture and 50–100 acres for spindle orchards by 2026.
2. Develop a regional food hub and butchering facility by 2027, with pilot operations in 2026.
3. Establish 5–7 neighborhood farm stops in Bloomington by 2027.
4. Promote equitable food access and sustainable practices, aligning with Bloomington’s Climate Action Plan.

Governance:

- MCFSA Board: 9 members (3 from each entity), meeting quarterly.
- Annual budget approved by all parties, with initial funding of \$2 million (\$1M Bloomington ARPA, \$500K Monroe County, \$500K grants).

Commitments:

- Bloomington: \$250,000 initial funding, urban policy support (e.g., UAIZs, farm stops).
- Monroe County: Land identification, \$500,000 funding, rural infrastructure support.
- Ellettsville: \$100,000 funding, participation in hub and farm stop networks.

Priority 2: Neighborhood Food Hubs

Definition: A food hub is a localized center that aggregates, stores, processes, distributes, and often grows food—while also offering education and community support. Neighborhood Food Hubs support:

- **Decentralized Resilience:** If highways shut down or major retailers close, neighborhood hubs can serve as micro-distribution centers.
- **Access and Equity:** Hubs embedded in lower-income or underserved neighborhoods reduce food deserts and transportation barriers.
- **Job and Skill Creation:** Can offer employment, internships, or volunteer opportunities in food production, culinary arts, logistics, and business management.

- **Health and Nutrition:** Serve as educational sites for cooking classes, gardening workshops, and chronic disease prevention.
- **Waste Reduction:** Can incorporate composting, gleaning, and food recovery from restaurants or grocery stores.

In short, Neighborhood Food hubs can be a CSA pick-up point, provide cold storage for local farmers, provide a shared-use kitchen for food entrepreneurs (as is seen at the Bloomington Farm Stop Collective), create culturally specific food boxes, and be a disaster food distribution site. In a crisis, centralized food distribution systems fail first, which is why the Permaculture Principal of Functional Redundancy supports resilience, in that every function is supported by many elements.

Objective: Decentralize food storage, aggregation, and distribution to increase local access and disaster resilience.

City Council

- **Resolution:** "Establishing Food Hubs as Critical Resilience Infrastructure"
- **UDO Amendment:** Permit "Food Hub" as a use in mixed-use, institutional, and overlay zones.
- **Comprehensive Plan Update:**
"Support the development of neighborhood-based food hubs that aggregate, store, process, and distribute local food as part of the City's emergency preparedness, equitable access, and climate resilience strategy."
- **Cooperative Agreement:** A joint venture similar to the Monroe County Convention Center partnership involves shared governance, funding, and infrastructure development among Bloomington, Monroe County, and other municipalities. This will pool resources to address regional food production and distribution.
- .

City Planning

- Require new large developments (>20 units) to provide food storage/garden space or partner with a food hub.
- Identify retrofit opportunities in city-owned buildings.

Public Education

- Launch food hub pilots in high-need areas.
- Promote CSA pickups, gleaning programs, and mutual aid food exchange.

Commission on Sustainability

- Identify pilot locations and secure partners.

- 693 • Seek ARPA/resilience funding.
- 694 • Facilitate collaboration with HAND and Parks.

695

696 Grants and Funding Opportunities to Create a Local Resilient Food System (Select List):

697

698

Program Name	Deadline	Administered By	Eligible Uses
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
USDA Farm to School Grant	Dec 2025 (est.)	USDA FNS	School gardens, local procurement, curriculum integration
SARE Farmer/Rancher Grants	Winter 2025 (est.)	USDA SARE	On-farm research for regenerative ag and sustainability practices
NEH Local Heritage Foodways Grant	Jan 2026	National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH)	Educational programming on regional food history and place-based foodways
EPA Environmental Justice Collaborative	Apr 2026	EPA Office of Environmental	Food justice, urban ag, outreach in

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Agreement		Justice	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
EDA Public Works & Economic Adjustment Assistance	Rolling	U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA)	Infrastructure development, food hub construction, community kitchen retrofits
Bloomington Community Foundation Rapid Response Fund	Quarterly	Community Foundation of Bloomington & Monroe County	Small-scale projects, equipment purchases, pilot programs
Bloomington Urban Ag Mini-Grant (proposed)	Rolling	Parks Dept / BCOS / Local Nonprofit	Gardening, orchards, school projects, community pilot plots

699
700 .A full Gantt-style chart, 18-month grant calendar (Aug 2025–Jan 2027), and funding action guide to be created.
701
702

703

704 **Priority 3: Urban Farms & Edible Landscapes**

705 **Objective:** Localize food production capacity within city boundaries.

706 **City Council**

- 707 • **Master/Comprehensive Plan Amendment:** Designate RCA Park for an Urban Farm.
- 708 • Allocate funding for an Urban Agriculture Coordinator or partner nonprofit.
- 709 • Create a Community Food Commons Designation to designate shared food production
- 710 spaces in neighborhoods, with zoning that allows shared maintenance and harvesting
- 711 beyond designated garden spaces in City Parks.

712 **City Planning**

- 713 • Require 10% of green space in developments >10 acres be edible/agricultural.
- 714 • Update zoning overlays to encourage rooftop gardens, community composting.

715 **Public Education**

- 716 • Host classes on gardening, composting, and food preservation.
- 717 • Promote "Grow Your Block" initiatives and home garden networks.

718 **Commission on Sustainability**

- 719 • Draft Urban Farm proposal with stakeholders.
- 720 • Promote edible landscaping on public land.
- 721 • Host a City-County Community Resilience Summit.

722 **NOTES:**

723 **Acreage Distribution by Strategy**

Strategy	Acreage	Description
Neighborhood food hubs & urban farms	150–200 acres	Centralized sites for aggregation, education, cold storage, and distribution. Preferably 1–2 acres per neighborhood.

Community gardens (city parks, churches, schools)	100–150 acres	Easily accessible, walkable growing sites. Focused on participation, skills, and nutrition.
Edible landscaping & public food forests	50–100 acres	Spread across medians, school grounds, parks, stormwater buffers.
Institutional partnerships (IU, Ivy Tech, hospital)	50–100 acres	Leverage existing land & staff for food production and education.
Private/home gardens (zoned, supported)	100–200 acres	Encouraged through zoning, incentives, compost delivery, and training.
Urban micro-orchards & agroforestry	50–100 acres	High-yield perennials (spindle orchards, berry hedgerows, nuts) on marginal land.

724

725 Definitions

726

727 **Regenerative Agriculture:** Practices like cover cropping, no-till farming, and rotational grazing
728 restore soil health, sequester carbon, and increase resilience to climate disruptions, aligning
729 with Bloomington’s Climate Action Plan (CAP) and sustainability goals.

730 **Spindle Orchards:** High-density, trellised orchards (e.g., apple, pear) maximize fruit production
731 on limited land, suitable for peri-urban areas in Monroe County. Small spindle orchards within
732 the City limits would be suitable, and espalier are suitable for even the smallest city lots
733

734 **Espalier** is a method of training trees or shrubs to grow flat against a support structure like a
735 wall or trellis, creating a two-dimensional, often decorative, pattern.

736

737 **Priority 4: Local Seed Bank**

738 **Definition:** A seed bank stores locally adapted, open-pollinated seeds for future planting and
739 biodiversity preservation.

740 This is important because:

- 741 • **Seed Sovereignty:** Ensures communities are not dependent on commercial seed
742 companies or vulnerable to seed supply chain breakdowns.
- 743
- 744 • **Climate Adaptation:** Locally saved seeds adapt to regional soil, pests, and weather
745 conditions over generations.
- 746
- 747 • **Cultural Preservation:** Preserves heirloom and heritage varieties important to
748 Indigenous, immigrant, and Appalachian communities.
- 749
- 750 • **Food Security:** In the event of economic hardship or crisis, access to viable seeds
751 becomes essential to grow food quickly and affordably.

752 A local seedbank can distribute seeds to residents (especially beginners, low-income
753 households, and schools), offer seed-saving education and exchanges, partner with libraries
754 (e.g., “seed libraries”) and community gardens, track regional biodiversity and rare crop
755 genetics. Climate volatility threatens crop consistency with locally adapted seeds being the first
756 line of defense against loss of biodiversity that can provide the genetics for greater local
757 adaptability. As seen during Covid lockdowns, seed companies (such as Johnny’s Selected
758 Seeds) prioritized farmer orders and did not take gardener orders until late into the growing
759 season. Additionally, a local seed supply can offset price spikes, helping to keep local food
760 production affordable and more attainable to all City residents.

761 **Objective:** Preserve regional biodiversity and ensure replanting capability during and
762 post-disruption.

763 **City Council**

- 764 • **Comp Plan Update:**
765 “Support the establishment of a community seed bank to preserve regional biodiversity,
766 support home growing, and provide emergency seed access.”
- 767 • Allow public facilities (libraries, schools) to host seed bank infrastructure.

768 **City Planning**

- 769 • Require edible landscaping projects to include seed-saving plans.
- 770 • Designate community garden space for seed propagation.

771 Public Education

- 772 • Offer seed-saving workshops at public venues.
- 773 • Create a seed exchange program in partnership with local libraries.

774 Commission on Sustainability

- 775 • Initiate partnerships with the MCPL and local schools to launch the seed bank.
- 776 • Add seed bank creation to Commission goals.
- 777 • Seek grant funding from USDA, Seed Savers Exchange, and local donations.

778

779 Possible Scenarios to Consider

780 In support of a robust and resilient food system we must consider all scenarios in our rapidly
 781 changing world. If the monetary system were to be “turned off”—whether due to cyberattack,
 782 banking collapse, EMP, or other catastrophic disruption—and the current “just-in-time” food
 783 supply chain also fails, the impact on Bloomington’s local food economy and City operations
 784 would be immediate and severe. Here’s a breakdown of how this scenario would likely unfold,
 785 and why it’s crucial to build local resilience now.

786 IMMEDIATE IMPACTS (0–72 hours)

787 1. Grocery Stores and Retail

- 788 • Most stores would **stop accepting credit/debit cards** instantly. Cash would be
 789 accepted briefly—until physical currency runs out or becomes unsafe to handle.\
- 790 • Panic buying would **empty shelves in 1–2 days**.
- 791 • Retailers couldn’t restock because they rely on **real-time electronic transactions,**
 792 **ordering, and logistics systems**.

793 2. Food Access

- 794 • Vulnerable populations—those without cash, transportation, or existing pantry
 795 reserves—would feel the crisis **first and hardest**.
- 796 • **SNAP/EBT** would fail immediately, cutting off low-income residents from food purchases.
- 797 • Nonprofits and food pantries would **quickly exhaust their limited inventories**.

798 3. Local Farms & Food Producers

- 799 • Many farmers rely on:
 - 800 ○ **Digital sales platforms** (e.g., Square, online orders)
 - 801 ○ **Bank loans and operating credit**

○ **Fuel and feed shipments**

- Without access to money or supply chains, most could not harvest, store, or distribute food **at scale**, even locally.
- Few have the tools, labor, or community logistics set up for barter-based or manual economies.

SHORT-TERM CASCADE EFFECTS (3–14 days)

4. Transportation and Fuel

- Trucks would stop running due to fuel shortages or inability to process payments.
- **Food movement halts**, even within the city.
- Workers may not show up—no pay, no fuel, food insecurity.

5. City Operations

- **City employees may not be paid.**
Water, sanitation, and emergency services could falter if digital systems or payment mechanisms fail.
 Without food, **civil unrest becomes likely**. Police, fire, and EMS could be overwhelmed.

6. Local Economy and Barter

- Informal systems may emerge:
 Barter for food, labor, and skills
 - Neighborhood-level trade and security groups
- People will turn to **backyard gardens, foraging, and mutual aid networks**, but only those already prepared will be effective.

MEDIUM-TERM IMPACTS (2–8 weeks)

7. Collapse of Institutional Feeding Systems

- IU dining, schools, hospitals, jails—all rely on industrial-scale, just-in-time food purchasing.

- Once stores, warehouses, and kitchens are empty, institutional feeding stops.

8. Breakdown of Social Order

- Hunger + stress + inequity = increased risk of:
 - Theft and violence
 - Migration out of the city
 - Black markets forming

WHAT COULD MITIGATE THIS?

To soften the blow of such a scenario, Bloomington would need:

A. Neighborhood Food Hubs

- For local aggregation, mutual aid, emergency feeding
- Must be stocked *before* disaster

B. Urban Farms and Gardens

- Food growing embedded in neighborhoods
- Soil, water, and seed resources already established

C. Local Seed Bank

- To enable rapid replanting and food sovereignty

D. Community Currency or Barter Networks

- Organized pre-collapse to keep trade flowing without banks

E. Emergency Governance and Land Use Plans

- Legal frameworks for community land use, water access, food sharing
- Decision-making structures in absence of digital systems

CONCLUSION

If the monetary system and just-in-time food model both fail, Bloomington has 3–5 days of food and almost no local infrastructure to feed itself at scale.

862 The “just-in-time” model of the food system was noted in the 2009 Peak Oil
863 Task Force Report in the section on Food Security.

864 The imperative is clear: **decentralize food, diversify supply chains, localize currency/barter,**
865 **and build resilient neighborhood systems** before a breakdown forces improvisation.

866 Prioritizing these mitigation points, and with each priority bullet point in most to least impactful
867 actions to take, what actions City Council needs to approve (with wording to be in alignment in
868 City Code and the Comprehensive Plan), City Planning needs to incorporate immediately for
869 new and existing developments, Education the population needs, and immediate actions for the
870 Commission on Sustainability to take.

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877 **Priority 5: Local Barter & Community Currency Networks**

878 **Objective:** Maintain exchange of goods and services if digital or cash systems fail.

879 **City Council**

- 880 • Commission a feasibility study for timebanks/local currency.
- 881 • **Code Update:**
- 882 “Recognize non-monetary exchange systems (e.g., timebanks, bartering) as valid forms
- 883 of transaction for non-commercial food access and disaster response.”
- 884 • Recognize “Sound Money” as currency and valid forms of transaction.

885 **City Planning**

- 886 • Permit use of civic space for community barter markets.
- 887 • Integrate barter exchange boards into food hubs.

888 **Public Education**

- 889 • Hold public workshops on timebank and local currency systems.
- 890 • Promote local exchange histories and resilience strategies.

891 **Commission on Sustainability**

- 892 • Convene local currency roundtables.
- 893 • Launch a resilience-focused barter pilot with partners.

894

895

896 **Priority 6: Emergency Governance & Land Use**

897 **Objective:** Ensure legal, land, and logistical frameworks for food security in a system
898 breakdown.

899 **City Council**

- 900 • Pass a “**Resilient Food Sovereignty Act**” to allow temporary land/water allocation
901 during emergency declarations.

902 **City Planning**

- 903 • Pre-map emergency food growing, storage, and distribution zones.
- 904 • Include food infrastructure in emergency response plans.

905 **Public Education**

- 906 • Release “Resilience Ready” guides.
- 907 • Publicize emergency food access maps.

908 **Commission on Sustainability**

- 909 • Develop a food emergency playbook.
- 910 • Coordinate with Emergency Management for integrated food planning.
- 911 • Identify food equity gaps in disaster planning.

912

913

914 Integration into 15-Minute City: A Summary Table

915

916 The 15-Minute City concept is a model that aims to create urban spaces where all essential
 917 services—such as food, work, education, healthcare, and recreation—are accessible within a
 918 15-minute walk or bike ride. Below, we explore how each of the five prioritized tasks in
 919 Bloomington’s Local Food Resilience Strategy aligns with this concept and its core principles.

920

<u>Priority</u>	<u>15-Minute City Alignment</u>	<u>Core Principles Supported</u>
Neighborhood Food Hubs	✓ Strong	Local access, equity, community engagement
Urban Farms & Edible Landscapes	✓ Strong	Local food, green space, sustainability
Local Seed Bank	☑ Moderate	Accessibility to resources, education
Barter & Community Currency Networks	✓ Strong	Local economy, mutual aid, resilience
Emergency Governance & Land Use	☑ Moderate	Crisis resilience, embedded redundancy

921 In acknowledging that homeownership is below 40% the 15-Minute City concept must
 922 include policies that prioritize integrating farm stops and food hubs into neighborhoods to align
 923 with dense, walkable urban designs..

924

925

926 Monroe County Agricultural Land Use Estimate

927

928 Monroe County Agricultural Land is approximately 63,200 acres. To feed a population of
929 139,000 the county would need to dedicate approximately 48,600 acres.

930 Population and Food Needs

931 *Population: 139,000*

- 932 → Produce: 3 lbs/person/day = 1,095 lbs/year
- 933 ◆ Total: $139,000 \times 1,095 = 152,205,000$ lbs
- 934 ◆ Vegetables (40%): 60,882,000 lbs
- 935 ◆ Fruits (30%): 45,661,500 lbs
- 936 ◆ Grains (30%): 45,661,500 lbs (animal feed and human consumption)
- 937 → Protein: 0.5 lbs/person/day meat + 0.5 lbs/day dairy = 182.5 lbs/year each
- 938 ◆ Meat: $139,000 \times 182.5 = 25,367,500$ lbs
- 939 • Beef (40%): 5,073,500 lbs
- 940 • Poultry (40%): 5,073,500 lbs
- 941 • Pork (20%): 2,536,750 lbs
- 942 ◆ Dairy: 25,367,500 lbs
- 943 ◆ Legumes (20% protein): 5,073,500 lbs (must combine with whole grains for to
944 create a complete protein for human nourishment)

945

946 1. Yield Assumptions (Regenerative Agriculture)

- 947 • Vegetables: 20,000 lbs/acre/year
- 948 • Fruits (Spindle Orchards): 40,000 lbs/acre/year
- 949 • Grains: 4,000 lbs/acre/year
- 950 • Legumes: 2,000 lbs/acre/year
- 951 • Beef: 500 lbs/acre/year
- 952 • Poultry: 1,000 lbs/acre/year
- 953 • Pork: 800 lbs/acre/year
- 954 • Dairy: 1,000 lbs/acre/year

955

956 2. Land Requirements

- 957 • Produce:
- 958 ○ Vegetables: $60,882,000 \div 20,000 = 3,044$ acres
- 959 ○ Fruits: $45,661,500 \div 40,000 = 1,142$ acres
- 960 ■ Spindle Orchards (High-Density Fruit)
- 961 • Apples, pears: 300–500 trees/acre
- 962 • Yield: ~30,000–50,000 pounds/acre/year

- Required land for fruits (10% of diet):
~8,000 people × 300 lbs fruit/year = 2.4M lbs → 50–75 acres
- Regenerative Agroforestry (Polyculture)
 - Lower density, but integrates nuts, fruits, nitrogen-fixers, and forage
 - Yield: 10,000–20,000 lbs/acre/year (diverse)
 - Needed: ~150–300 acres (long-term rotation)
 - Total for perennial fruits, nuts, and orchard systems:
 - ~200–400 acres
- Grains: $45,661,500 \div 4,000 = 11,416$ acres
- Subtotal: 15,602 acres
- Protein:
 - Beef: $5,073,500 \div 500 = 10,147$ acres
 - Poultry: $5,073,500 \div 1,000 = 5,074$ acres
 - Pork: $2,536,750 \div 800 = 3,171$ acres
 - Dairy: $7,610,250 \div 1,000 = 7,610$ acres
 - Legumes: $5,073,500 \div 2,000 = 2,537$ acres
 - Subtotal: 28,539 acres
- Buffer (10% for fallow, infrastructure): $(15,602 + 28,539) \times 0.1 = 4,414$ acres
- Total: $15,602 + 28,539 + 4,414 = 48,555$ acres

4. Notes

- Assumes 100% local production, though imports would reduce land needs.
- Regenerative practices may increase land needs vs. conventional but enhance resilience.
 - Approximately 250 Regenerative Farmers on 10 acre plots for more intensive, small-scale permaculture or regenerative urban farming. Greater yields using intensive farming methods could reduce 40,000+ acres to **15,000–20,000 acres** if done efficiently (e.g., biointensive methods, stacked systems, food forests).
- Existing farmland (~130,000 acres) can support 48,555 acres (~37%).
- Estimated open or green space within the City: ~2,000–3,000 acres (includes parks, backyards, vacant lots)
- **Conclusion:** To be entirely self-sufficient within city limits is likely *not feasible*—but partial self-reliance (e.g., 10–30%) as was encouraged in the Peak Oil Task Force Report is very achievable through planning and overlays.
- MCFSA to coordinate land acquisition and infrastructure (food hub, butchering facility, farm stops).

1005 **Conclusion**

1006 Approximately **48,555 acres** of land are needed to feed Monroe County's 139,000 residents
1007 using regenerative annual and perennial agriculture, including vegetables, fruits, grains, meat,
1008 dairy, and legumes. This is achievable within the county's ~130,000 acres of farmland, with the
1009 MCFSA facilitating land use and infrastructure development. The estimate aligns with the prior
1010 joint venture framework, scaling initial pilots (500–1,000 acres) toward long-term self-sufficiency.

1011

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1015 Conclusion

1016 A resilient food system is a public good, an equity issue, and a necessary adaptation to
1017 21st-century risks. Bloomington is well-positioned to lead among mid-sized cities in building a
1018 decentralized, regenerative, and socially supported local food economy. This roadmap provides
1019 a clear, multi-agency, community-powered path forward. To be effective, focus must center on
1020 initiating a joint venture between City and County since the City cannot provision itself, land
1021 must be secured, and the infrastructure created to pilot this strategy, with full implementation
1022 extending beyond two years.

1023

1024

1025

1026 Pathway to Establishing a Regional Food Resilience Nonprofit

1027 It is not uncommon for an interlocal agreement to lead to the formation of a non-profit entity,
1028 which there is a precedent for in Montgomery County, Maryland. The Office of Food Systems
1029 Resilience, created in 2023 based on the County's Food Security Task Force recommendation.
1030 A primary need for the County, and communities within its political boundaries, is that of a food
1031 systems coordinator. The Office of Food Systems Resilience for Montgomery County develops
1032 and implements interagency budgetary, regulatory, and operational strategies to build a more
1033 equitable, efficient, resilient, and sustainable food system, which Monroe County producers and
1034 residents would benefit.

1035

1036 Interlocal Agreement + Joint Overlay Zoning District

1037 1. Interlocal Agreement on Food Resilience Zoning (Per Indiana Code § 1038 36-1-7)

1039 This agreement would:

- 1040 • **Acknowledge mutual interest** in preserving land for agriculture and building food
1041 resilience infrastructure.
- 1042 • **Suspend annexation/zoning disputes** in specifically designated agricultural/resilience
1043 zones for a fixed term (e.g., 5–10 years).

- 1044 • **Allow both City and County planning staff** to co-review and co-approve plans within
1045 these zones, particularly for:
 - 1046 ○ Mobile home parks seeking to become food-resilient villages.
 - 1047 ○ Large-lot developments interested in shared orchards, food hubs, or gardens.

1048 Could also form a **Joint Agricultural Land Use Board** for review.

1049

1050 **2. Creation of a “Food Resilience Overlay District” in Both UDOs**

1051 Both the City and County could independently adopt—but align—a zoning overlay called
1052 something like:

1053 **“FOOD-R: Food Resilience Overlay District”**

1054 It would:

- 1055 • Apply to specific parcels or neighborhoods (e.g., mobile home parks, peri-urban fringe,
1056 vacant lots).
 - 1057 • Permit:
 - 1058 ○ Market gardens
 - 1059 ○ Orchards (including regenerative/perennial systems)
 - 1060 ○ Mobile greenhouses, hoop houses
 - 1061 ○ Composting and seed-saving operations
 - 1062 ○ Mobile food hubs
 - 1063 • Incentivize:
 - 1064 ○ Rain catchment and greywater reuse
 - 1065 ○ Local composting partnerships
 - 1066 Community kitchens and preservation infrastructure
- 1067

1068 Zoning Text Example (for both UDOs):

1069 **“FOOD-R:** The Food Resilience Overlay is intended to facilitate small- to mid-scale
1070 food production within residential, transitional, and mobile home districts to support
1071 local food access, sustainability, and emergency preparedness. Uses permitted
1072 include community gardens, orchards, edible landscapes, greenhouses, seed
1073 banks, composting, and cooperative food storage/distribution facilities.”

1074

1075

1076

1077

1078 3. For Mobile Home Parks: “Agri-Village” Special Development Designation

1079 As a condition of permitting or tax incentives, mobile home parks could voluntarily adopt a **Food**
1080 **Sovereignty Covenant**, allowing:

- 1081 • **On-site edible landscaping, shared garden space, and compost stations.**
- 1082 • **Increased density or reduced parking minimums** in exchange for dedicated ag
1083 infrastructure.
- 1084 • **Resilience service credits** for participation in community gardening, food preservation,
1085 or local barter.
- 1086

1087 4. Land Preservation Mechanism

- 1088 • Monroe County could place high-conflict annexation areas under an **Agricultural**
1089 **Conservation Easement** with development rights held by a joint land trust (e.g.,
1090 Sycamore Land Trust + City/County).
- 1091 • This guarantees long-term agricultural use without requiring annexation or zoning
1092 battles.

1093 Benefits

- 1094 • Provides a **neutral, non-annexation pathway** to achieve shared land-use goals.
- 1095 • Turns mobile home parks into models of **climate adaptation and food security**.
- 1096 • Builds political goodwill and trust around a shared public good.
- 1097 • Allows each party to maintain its legal authority while aligning around **overlay zoning**.

1098 Given the current legal and political tensions between the **City of Bloomington** and **Monroe**
1099 **County** over annexation and zoning, any cooperative planning effort—especially around food
1100 resilience—must be carefully navigated. The problem is the solution, with this issue presenting
1101 an opportunity: *food production and community resilience*. These are **non-partisan,**
1102 **public-benefit objectives** that can serve as neutral ground for constructive agreement.

1103

1104

1105 **ADDENDUM #1**

1106

1107

Draft Interlocal Agreement (MOU)

1108 **Title:** *Regional Food Resilience and Agricultural Sovereignty Agreement*

1109 **Purpose:**

1110 This Interlocal Agreement establishes a collaborative framework between the City of
1111 Bloomington, Monroe County Government, the Town of Ellettsville, and participating
1112 municipalities to strengthen regional food resilience through land use planning, cooperative
1113 governance, and shared infrastructure.

1114 **Parties:**

- 1115 • City of Bloomington
- 1116 • Monroe County Government
- 1117 • Town of Ellettsville
- 1118 • [Other Townships and Municipalities within Monroe County]

1119 **Terms of Agreement:**

1120 **1. Shared Goals:**

- 1121 ○ Establish a **countywide food resilience strategy** incorporating food hubs,
1122 urban agriculture, emergency governance, and seed banking.
- 1123 ○ Protect and develop **perennial and regenerative agriculture** systems on public
1124 and private land.
- 1125 ○ Ensure zoning and overlays align to allow urban and rural food production
1126 without displacement or loss of food-growing land.

1127

1128 **2. Food Resilience Overlay Implementation:**

1129

- 1130 ○ Each jurisdiction will adopt and map a **Food Resilience Overlay (FRO)**
1131 identifying:
 - 1132 ■ Areas prioritized for community or urban agriculture.
 - 1133 ■ Infrastructure for food aggregation, preservation, and barter markets.
 - 1134 ■ Suitable zones for integrated livestock, orchards, and perennial food
1135 systems.

1136

1137 **3. Joint Governance Entity:**

1138 A **Monroe County Food System Authority (MCFSA)** will be established, composed of:

- 1139 ■ 2 representatives from each participating entity (including at least one
1140 from sustainability and one from farming/ag).

- The council will advise on implementation, annual evaluation, and funding opportunities.

4. Funding and Resources:

- Collaboratively pursue USDA, FEMA, HUD, and philanthropic funds for land acquisition, infrastructure, staffing (e.g., a Food Systems Director), and education.
- Share tools, data, and infrastructure to reduce redundancy.

5. Term and Amendments:

- Agreement is effective for 10 years, renewable by mutual consent.
- Amendments may be made with a majority vote of the RFRC and approval of all participating councils.

1156 **ADDENDUM #2**

1157

1158 **Proposed Ordinance Language for Food Resilience Overlay**
1159 **(City of Bloomington)**

1160 **Ordinance XX-25: Establishment of the Food Resilience Overlay District**
1161 **(FROD)**

1162 **Section 1: Purpose**

1163 The Food Resilience Overlay District is created to ensure food system security, biodiversity
1164 preservation, and public access to localized, resilient food production and distribution
1165 infrastructure.

1166 **Section 2: Boundaries**

1167 Designated on the Comprehensive Plan Land Use Map and UDO Zoning Map, including but
1168 not limited to:

- 1169 • RCA Park (Urban Farm)
- 1170 • Vacant lots adjacent to transit corridors
- 1171 • Existing or potential community gardens, food hubs, and farmer cooperatives

1172 **Section 3: Permitted Uses**

- 1173 • Urban and community agriculture
- 1174 • Market and barter gardens
- 1175 • Orchards (traditional, spindle, or regenerative)
- 1176
- 1177 • Composting and food scrap collection
- 1178 • Greenhouses, aquaponics, and food preservation structures
- 1179 • Mobile food distribution and CSA delivery

1180 **Section 4: Incentives**

- 1181 • Priority for infrastructure grants and capital improvement funding
- 1182 • Waived permitting fees for food-related structures
- 1183 • Density bonuses or parking reductions if integrating agricultural uses

1184 **Section 5: Development Requirements**

- 1185 • New developments within the overlay must dedicate at least 5% of area to food-growing
1186 or aggregation infrastructure.
- 1187 • Include perennial planting plans and edible landscaping.
- 1188 • Integrate food storage and emergency access planning into site designs.
- 1189

1190

1191 1. Formation of a Joint Food Resilience Cooperative Agreement (JFRCA)

- 1192 • **Legal Entity Type:** 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation or potentially a 501(c)(4) if advocacy
1193 and public policy engagement are core goals.
- 1194 • **Incorporating Parties:** City of Bloomington and Monroe County as founding members,
1195 with optional inclusion of Ellettsville and other municipalities.
- 1196 • **Precedent:** The nonprofit model used for the Monroe County Convention Center
1197 Expansion, which involved shared governance and funding streams across jurisdictions.
1198

1199

1200 2. Core Purposes of the Nonprofit

- 1201 • Coordinate multi-jurisdictional food system resilience efforts.
- 1202 • Own or lease property for urban farms, orchards, food hubs, etc.
- 1203 • Manage grant funding and donations for infrastructure, education, and equity initiatives.
- 1204 • Hire staff (e.g., Executive Director, Food Systems Coordinator). [Since the City continues
1205 to NOT find having a Food Systems Coordinator important, this organization would be
1206 able to fund this position, and possibly Bloomington Parks & Rec, with funding allocated
1207 by City Council, oversee the operations at RCA Park Community Regenerative Farm.
- 1208 • Serve as the central fiscal agent and convenor for intergovernmental implementation.
1209

1210

1211 3. Governance Structure

- 1212 • **Board of Directors:**
1213
 - 1214 ○ 1 appointees each from the City of Bloomington and Monroe County.
 - 1215 ○ 1 appointee from Ellettsville and other municipalities (rotating or permanent).
 - 1216 ○ 1 representative from IU and 1 from Ivy Tech.
 - 1217 ○ 1 representative from Soil & Water Conservation
 - 1218 ○ 3 local farmers, orchard or vintner, or food/fiber producers.
 - 1219 ○ 1 seed company or nursery representative
 - 1220 ○ 1 restaurant or food processor representative.
1221
- 1222 • **Advisory Committees:**
1223
 - 1224 ○ Food Infrastructure & Land Use
 - 1225 ○ Education & Outreach
 - 1226 ○ Emergency Response & Equitable Distribution
 - Regenerative/Permaculture/Organic

1227

1228 4. Relationship to Government

- 1229 • **Not a government agency**, but authorized and supported by Interlocal Agreements or
- 1230 MOU (similar to the Convention Center model).
- 1231 • May receive annual budget line-items or in-kind support from City/County.
- 1232 • Retains flexibility to pursue federal/state grants, philanthropic funding, and partnerships.

1233

1234 5. Operational Powers

- 1235 • **Acquire land** for food production or public orchards.
- 1236 • **Operate public markets, food hubs, or seed banks.**
- 1237 • **Contract with local farmers or orgs** for services or educational programming.
- 1238 • **Serve as liaison** to regional and state food system agencies.

1239

1240 6. Initial Steps to Establish

- 1241 1. **City Council and County Commissioners jointly draft a resolution** expressing intent
- 1242 to form the nonprofit.
- 1243 2. **Commission a legal review** and incorporation plan with a nonprofit attorney.
- 1244 3. **Hold stakeholder listening sessions** to draft bylaws, board structure, and strategic
- 1245 vision.
- 1246 4. **File Articles of Incorporation** with the State of Indiana.
- 1247 5. **Apply for IRS 501(c)(3) status** and begin initial fundraising.
- 1248 6. **Transfer responsibilities from the ad hoc Food Resilience Council** into this formal
- 1249 body.

1250

1251 Potential Names:

- 1252 • Monroe County Food System Authority (MCFSA)
- 1253 • Monroe County Food Resilience Council (MCFRC)
- 1254 • The Heartland Food System Resilience Project
- 1255 • Greater Bloomington Food Sovereignty Alliance

1256

1257

Passed X-Y-Z

Sponsor(s):

Jami Scholl

Name 2

RESOLUTION 2025-XX

**TO CHANGE THE NAME OF THE BLOOMINGTON COMMISSION ON
SUSTAINABILITY TO ‘THE BLOOMINGTON COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY
AND RESILIENCE’**

Resilience is necessary for sustainability because it provides the capacity to withstand and adapt to disruptions. Without resilience, even the best-designed sustainable systems can fail under stress and experience disruptions. A system that cannot recover from disruptions is not truly sustainable.

WHEREAS, To more clearly recognize that resilient systems are necessary for sustainability to be possible; and

WHEREAS, In recognition of significant past and potential near term disruptions such as climate induced droughts and destructive winds, economic downturns and changes to the monetary system, AI job displacement, food system disruptions, federal policy changes, and pandemics can threaten current systems; and

WHEREAS, In recognition that current systems do not go through regular or planned stress-testing to measure resilience and therefore sustainability; and

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

That the Bloomington Commission on Sustainability requests for the Bloomington City Council to:

- Add the word “Resilience” to the current Commission name to be henceforth known as the ‘Bloomington Commission on Sustainability and Resilience’.

1287 PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Bloomington Commission on Sustainability upon this XX day
1288 of YYYYYYYY, ZZZZ.

1289

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JUSTIN VASEL, Chair
Bloomington Commission on Sustainability

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1297 **DRAFT BCOS RESOLUTION:**

1298

Passed X-Y-Z

Sponsor(s):

Jami Scholl

Name 2

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RESOLUTION 2025-XX

1303

1304

TO ADOPT A SCALABLE POULTRY FLOCK-SIZE MODEL

1305

1306

1307 A chicken flock is already allowed within the City. This resolution would allow for the
1308 expansion of the existing system to reflect the size of the available lot since sizes are not
1309 standard. Poultry provides an economical way for a household to attain a high quality complete
1310 protein while simultaneously providing the services of eating nuisance insects and producing a
1311 high nitrogen fertilizer that can be used for gardens.

1312

WHEREAS, To better support household, neighborhood, and community food sovereignty
and security; and

WHEREAS, In support of small local urban agricultural businesses; and

WHEREAS, To support affordable nutrient dense food to enhance public health and food as
medicine programs; and

1313

1314

1315 NOW THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE BLOOMINGTON
1316 COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY, THAT:

1317

1318 That the Bloomington Commission on Sustainability requests for the Bloomington City Council
1319 to:

- 1320 • Adopt a scalable poultry flock-sized model as outlined in the Local Food Resilience
1321 Strategy

1322

1323

1324

1325 PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Bloomington Commission on Sustainability upon this XX day
1326 of YYYYYYYY, ZZZZ.

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JUSTIN VASEL, Chair
Bloomington Commission on Sustainability

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DRAFT

Passed X-Y-Z

Sponsor(s):

Jami Scholl

Name 2

RESOLUTION 2025-XX

**TO CREATE A RESILIENT AND SUSTAINABLE LOCAL FOOD SYSTEM:
FUND AND HIRE A FOOD SYSTEMS & CITY FARM MANAGER**

A Food Systems & City Farm Manager or Value Chain Coordinator position would allow for the development, coordination, information, education, and support for the local food system. As evidenced by the success of the Bloomington Farm Stop Collective, and in recognition of numerous threats to the food system, a Food Systems & City Farm Manager would allow for greater local resilience and would be in support of public health, equity, and the local food economy to achieve long-term community sustainability.

WHEREAS, In recognition that the Office of Economic and Sustainable Development will not be adding a Value Chain Coordinator role as suggested in the Sustainability Action Plan and in the 2019 Year of Food Initiative; and

WHEREAS, In recognition that supporting local food production reduces greenhouse gas emissions, supports equitable distribution of nourishing foods, and enhances the local economy by developing and supporting local farm businesses; and

WHEREAS, Loss of federal support for SNAP, WIC, and school meal programs, in addition Cancellation of the USDA's \$12.7M LFPA program removes funding that purchased local food for food banks, and many COVID-era USDA programs supporting local food infrastructure are ending; and

WHEREAS, AI-driven job displacement: job loss is accelerating due to automation across food service, retail, logistics, and white-collar sectors including healthcare, with a local food economy employment opportunities and skill development in regenerative agriculture, processing, and distribution can be created; and

WHEREAS, Extreme weather, droughts, and cyberattacks on infrastructure expose vulnerabilities in national and global food systems that the local communities must be prepared to feed themselves should transportation, fuel, or communications systems be disrupted; and

1352

1353

1354 NOW THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE BLOOMINGTON
1355 COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY, THAT:

1356

1357 The Bloomington Commission on Sustainability encourages the Bloomington City Council to

1358 • Fund a Food Systems Manager/Coordinator position

1359 • Create Neighborhood Food Hubs

1360 • Designate RCA Park as an Urban Teaching Farm & Agri-business Incubator

1361 • Allow for and support the creation and adoption of a local Seed Bank Network

1362 • Fund a Food Systems Manager/Coordinator position

1363

1364

1365

1366 PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Bloomington Commission on Sustainability upon this XX day
1367 of YYYYYYYY, ZZZZ.

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1371

JUSTIN VASEL, Chair
Bloomington Commission on Sustainability

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1375 **DRAFT BCOS RESOLUTION:**

1376

Passed X-Y-Z

Sponsor(s):

Jami Scholl

Name 2

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RESOLUTION 2025-XX

1381

1382

TO CREATE A RESILIENT AND SUSTAINABLE LOCAL FOOD SYSTEM

1383

1384 SECTION 1: As supply chains face increasing instability and global risks mount — from climate
1385 disruption to cyberattacks and changes to national policies and priorities — Bloomington must
1386 establish a resilient, decentralized food system to ensure long-term community well-being. This
1387 report presents a prioritized food resilience strategy organized by impact and urgency, outlining
1388 specific actions for City Council, City Planning, Housing and Neighborhood Development, Parks
1389 and Recreation, the public, and the Bloomington Commission on Sustainability and Resilience.

1390 Why a 2-Year Timeline is Imperative: The urgency of a two-year implementation timeline is
1391 grounded in the convergence of multiple near-term crises that demand preemptive action:

1392

WHEREAS, Imminent Economic Instability based on recession forecasts for Winter 2025–26, and a U.S. dollar devaluation as evidenced by the increase of gold price; and

WHEREAS, Current international conflicts, including but not exclusively, between Israel-Iran, and involving the United States continue to escalate and could lead to a broadscale war that would affect the local food supply; and

WHEREAS, Loss of federal support for SNAP, WIC, and school meal programs, in addition Cancellation of the USDA’s \$12.7M LFPA program removes funding that purchased local food for food banks, and many COVID-era USDA programs supporting local food infrastructure are ending; and

WHEREAS, Extreme weather, droughts, and cyberattacks on infrastructure expose vulnerabilities in national and global food systems that the local communities must be prepared to feed themselves should transportation, fuel, or communications systems be disrupted; and

WHEREAS, AI-driven job displacement: job loss is accelerating due to automation across food service, retail, logistics, and white-collar sectors including healthcare,

with a local food economy employment opportunities and skill development in regenerative agriculture, processing, and distribution can be created; and

WHEREAS, In recognition that the local food economy provides nutrient dense foods while reducing shipping costs and positively supporting sustainability goals; and

WHEREAS, Farmland near city limits is under threat from development. Action is needed before this land is lost, as well as the opportunities to apply for existing federal and state funding windows (ARPA, IRA, CHIPS), which present a short-lived opportunity to build resilient infrastructure.

1393

1394

1395 NOW THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE BLOOMINGTON
1396 COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY, THAT:

1397

1398 The Bloomington Commission on Sustainability encourages the Bloomington City Council to

- 1399 ● adopt the 24-Month Food Resilience Strategy
- 1400 ● Create a Food-R overlay
- 1401 ● Adopt an Interlocal Agreement with Monroe County for a joint Food Resilience
1402 Cooperative Agreement
- 1403 ● Allow for Mobile Home Parks to be designated Agri-hoods
- 1404 ● Create Neighborhood Food Hubs
- 1405 ● Designate RCA Park as an Urban Teaching Farm & Agri-business Incubator
- 1406 ● Allow for and support the creation and adoption of a local Seed Bank Network

1407

1408

1409

1410 PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Bloomington Commission on Sustainability upon this XX day
1411 of YYYYYYYY, ZZZZ.

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JUSTIN VASEL, Chair
Bloomington Commission on Sustainability

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