

COMMUNITY · ECONOMY · ENVIRONMENT



Report of the Indiana County Sustainable Economic Development Task Force

Released September 2018

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Indiana County Sustainable Economic Development Task Force wishes to thank the following individuals and organizations who assisted in the task force and focus group process.

Steering Committee Members

Vera Bonnet
Susan Boser
Peter Broad
Adam Cotchen
Daniel Gennaro
Heather Harr
Dana Henry
Sherene Hess, Chair
Josh Krug
Donald Lancaster
Janis Long
Laurie Lubold
Hilario Molina II
Eric Palmer
Tina Perdue
Cindy Rogers
Jeff Raykes
Kay Snyder
Byron Stauffer Jr.
James Struzzi

Focus Group Members

Agriculture Co-Facilitators:

Kay Snyder
Peter Broad

Agriculture Contributing Members:

Barb Barker
Tom Beresnyak
Candace Bolger
Pam Bryan
Adam Cotchen
Bob Livingston
Darlene Livingston
Bob Madden
Amy Manko
Carrie Miller
Hilario Molina II
Season Petrovich
Leya Ramer
Andrew Sandeen
Kay Smith
Alysha Trexler
Ed Trexler
Marthe Weyandt

Renewable Energy Co-Facilitators:

Susan Boser
Laurie Lubold

Renewable Energy Contributing Members:

Vera Bonnet
Dan Boone
Dave Brady
Matt Byerly
Ellen Chinn
Bill Darr
Randy Francisco
Tom Harley
Jim Lafontaine
Don Lancaster
Janice Long
Kathy Maple
Steve McPherson
Adam Mundok
Tony Palamone
Sherry Renosky
James Struzzi
Nicholas Zimny-Shea
Tara Zirkel

**Sustainable Building
Construction Co-Facilitators:**
Josh Krug
Vera Bonnet

**Sustainable Building
Construction Contributing
Members:**
Tom Borellis
Kate Geiger
Linda Gibson
Heather Harr
Denise Jennings-Doyle
David Janusek
Trinity Martz
Michelle Reefer
Richard Rinkus
Gerald Smith
Hannah Uschock
Brandon Vick

**Environmental Restoration &
Stewardship Co-Facilitators:**
Jeff Raykes
Cindy Rogers

**Environmental Restoration
& Stewardship Contributing
Members:**
Lynne Alvine
John Dudash
Tom Falcone
Linda Gwinn
Barb Hauge
Linda Jones
Laurie Lafontaine
Denise Liggett
Eli Long
Stacy Long
Tina Perdue
Walter Schroth
Ken Sherwood
Matt Smith
John Somonick
Sara Stewart
Maegan Stump
Joe Trimarchi
Judy Wanchisn
Cheri Widzowski

Organizations

**The Steering Committee was
comprised of representatives
from:**

Indiana County Office of Planning &
Development
League of Women Voters of Indiana
County and Pennsylvania
Center for Community Growth
The Evergreen Conservancy
IUP Sustainability Studies Program
Indiana Borough
Indiana County Conservation District
Indiana County Technology Center
Indiana County Center for Economic
Operations, a consortium of:
Indiana County Commissioners
Indiana County Chamber of Commerce
Indiana County Development Corporation
Indiana County Tourist Bureau
Indiana University of Pennsylvania

Consultants

Writing services for this report were
provided by:
Farester Consulting, LLC (Homer City, PA)
Brian Farester
Erika Farester
Graphics services for this report were
provided by:
Kayla Ihrig

This initiative was supported with funding from the Colcom Foundation and The Heinz Endowments to the League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania Citizen Education Fund, and with funding from the Indiana County Commissioners.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- SECTION 1** Executive Summary + Recommendations **5**
- SECTION 2** Introduction..... **7**
- SECTION 3** Recommended Actions..... **9**
 - Agriculture..... **10**
 - Renewable Energy..... **14**
 - Building Construction and Materials..... **17**
 - Environmental Restoration and Stewardship..... **21**
- SECTION 4** Conclusion..... **24**
- APPENDICES** **26**
 - Appendix A: Additional Resources **I**
 - Appendix B: Indiana County Sustainable Economic Development Summit II Flyer **VI**
 - Appendix C: Focus Group Grids **VIII**

SECTION I EXECUTIVE SUMMARY + RECOMMENDATIONS

Executive Summary

Established in May 2017 by the Indiana County Commissioners, on the heels of a strong showing at the Sustainable Economy Summit, the Indiana County Sustainable Economic Development Task Force was launched to the public on September 28, 2017.

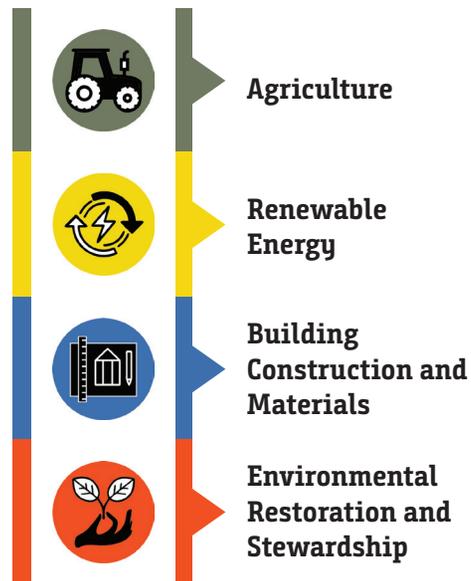
The mission of the Task Force was to identify new opportunities in four sectors: agriculture, renewable energy, building construction and materials, and environmental restoration and stewardship.

Within each sector, the focus group members concentrated on three key pillars: economic development, workforce development, and citizen education.

Participatory focus groups, comprised of local stakeholders, including businesses, grass roots organizations, and educators, were formed for each of the four sectors and met monthly over a nine-month period.

Through this participatory process, each focus group identified challenges within Indiana County and proposed strategies, solutions, and actions that can move the County toward a more sustainable economic future.

The Four Focus Groups



This report fulfills the initial mission of the Task Force to identify specific strategies for local economic development that involve innovation, forward-thinking education, practical training, meaningful employment, and citizen engagement.

This report does not complete Indiana County's path to a more sustainable economy. Rather, it is a reflection of, and continuation of, the forward-thinking direction already underway.

Executive Recommendations

Section 3 of this report outlines the challenges and proposed strategies, solutions, and actions to move toward a more sustainable economy in Indiana County which stemmed from the work of the focus groups. In addition to the recommendations specific to each sector, the task force has identified several executive recommendations which impact all sectors and provide next steps now that specific strategies have been identified.

The Task Force makes the following executive recommendations to the Indiana County Commissioners:



To continue the mission of the Task Force - specifically to work with County and Municipal planners to prioritize, determine feasibility, and seek out sources of funding for the recommendations in the current report.



To establish an entity, such as an **Office of Sustainability**, to be overseen by a board of directors, and charged with partnering with businesses, agencies, and institutions to implement the recommended actions.



To continue the **Summit on Sustainable Economic Initiatives** as an annual event.



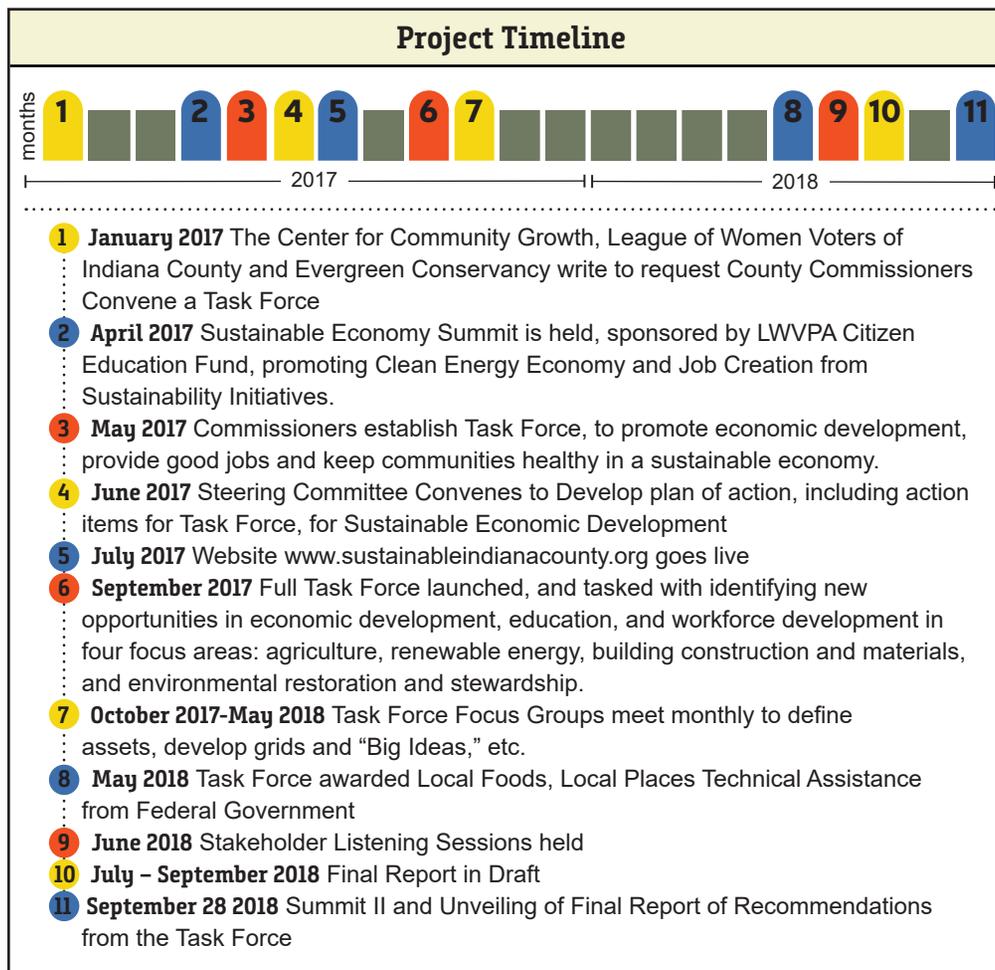
To incorporate **recommendations** from this report into the long-range Indiana County Economic Development/ Work Force Development Plan.



To support ongoing efforts to **improve broadband across** Indiana County to allow Indiana County to be economically competitive and to allow for quality of life for our citizens.

SECTION 2 INTRODUCTION

In May 2017, the Indiana County Commissioners established the Indiana County Sustainable Economic Development Task Force (Task Force) in partnership with Evergreen Conservancy, the Center for Community Growth, and League of Women Voters of Indiana County. The Task Force was a citizen-driven and citizen-based process which grew out of the April 2017 Sustainable Economy Summit.



The Task Force was charged with **identifying strategies and initiatives for local economic development** that were grounded in sustainable economic development practice and tailored to Indiana County.

The mission of the Task Force was to **identify new opportunities** in four sectors: agriculture, renewable energy, building construction and materials, and environmental restoration and stewardship. Within each sector, the focus group members focused on three key pillars: economic development, workforce development, and citizen education. The task force engaged local stakeholders, including local businesses, grass roots organizations, and educators in a participatory focus group process for approximately nine months.

Sustainable Economy

Sustainable development often means something different to different groups, organizations, or individuals.



Indiana County Farmer's Market

One of the most cited definitions of sustainable development is “development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.”¹

A key aspect of sustainability is the integration of environmental, social, and economic concerns within decision making processes at all levels, including across sectors, locations, and generations.²

The Task Force’s working definition of “sustainable economy” is an emerging economic sector focused on environmentally friendly initiatives. It includes but is not limited to energy efficiency and retrofitting buildings; increased installation and use of renewable energy; sustainable and regenerative agricultural practices; green chemistry and green manufacturing; and remediation, reclamation, and environmental conservation for future generations.

The recommendations stemming from the work of the Task Force, outlined in this report, highlight opportunities to help Indiana County build a robust and sustainable community, as well as **a resilient and diversified local economy** for future generations.



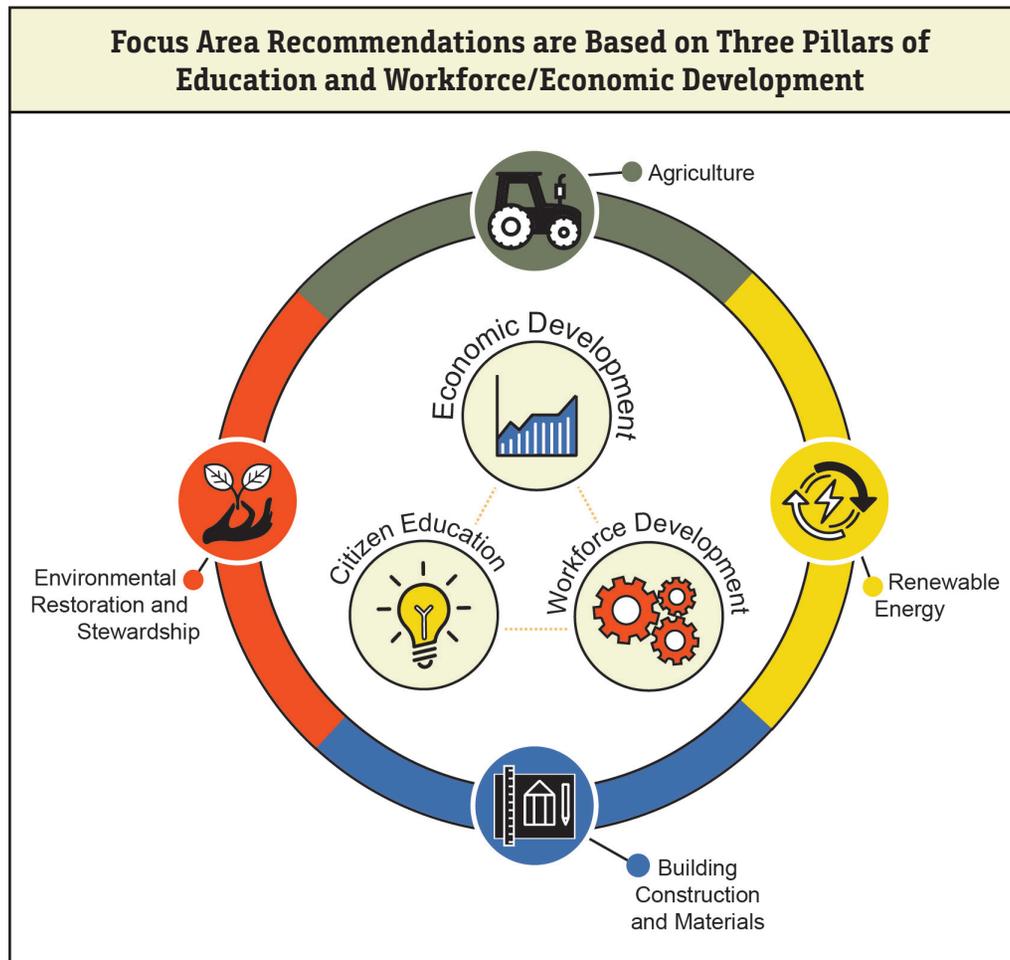
Task Force Work Session

¹ – United Nations General Assembly (1987). Report of the World Commission on Environment and Development: Our Common Future.

² – Emas, E. (2015). Brief for GSDR 2015: The Concept of Sustainable Development: Definition and Defining Principles.

SECTION 3 RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

On September 28, 2017, the Task Force hosted a kick-off event at Indiana County Technical Center to introduce stakeholders to the project and engage them in working in one of four focus groups: Agriculture, Renewable Energy, Building Construction and Materials, and Environmental Restoration and Stewardship.



The focus of each group was to develop recommendations for the three pillars of economic development, workforce development, and citizen education. **Through this process, each focus group identified challenges and reasons to address the challenges in Indiana County.**

In addition, each focus group proposed solutions to their identified challenges, with strategies and/or action plans to help implement these solutions. A summary of the key ideas from each group is presented within this report, with additional ideas and insights included in the report appendices. Information from each focus group is organized and presented based on their own unique experiences. This reflects the grassroots nature of the focus group meetings (i.e., each group brainstormed and revised their ideas in different ways).

AGRICULTURE

Summary

In simplest terms, sustainable agriculture is the production of healthful food, fiber, or other plant or animal products using farming techniques that protect the environment, public health, human communities, and animal welfare. Sustainable agriculture focuses on trying to find a good balance between the need for food production and the preservation of ecological systems by conserving water, reducing the use of fertilizers and pesticides, and promoting biodiversity in crops grown. Sustainable agriculture also focuses on maintaining economic stability of farms and helping farmers improve their techniques and quality of life.

Challenges

1 The agriculture industry in Indiana County is facing several challenges including loss of farmland and workforce shortages. Indiana County experienced an 18.1% decline in farm acreage between 2007 and 2012.¹ The agricultural workforce shortage in Pennsylvania is driven by the aging of sector employees, tightening immigration laws, and a growing skills gap. It is estimated that there will be more than 75,000 new and replacement job openings in Pennsylvania agriculture over the next decade.²

In Indiana County, 57% of farmers are age 55 or older with an additional 26% between ages 45 and 54.³

2 Indiana County needs to capitalize on its agriculture asset, insuring continued success of agriculture in Indiana County. Pennsylvania agriculture generates \$135.7 billion in total economic impact annually. In Indiana County, agriculture generated \$67 million in sales in 2012.¹ Residents benefit from farmland, which generates more

taxes relative to expenditures on services than do residential areas.⁴

3 Demand has increased for local, natural, and healthy good as well as for more transparency in food production.² It is important to strengthen these relationships between conscious consumers and agricultural producers in Indiana County.



4 Agricultural growth in Pennsylvania is limited by gaps in production, processing, and manufacturing of agricultural products.² Indiana County farmers are facing a short supply of certain agricultural support enterprises, including tractor dealerships in northern Indiana County. Due to high demand for local meat processors, some Indiana County farmers also face meat processing scheduling challenges.



Indiana County-Grown Produce



Indiana County Farmer's Market

5 Farms in rural areas like Indiana County are increasingly affected by the lack of access to broadband internet. Only 62% of Pennsylvania farms have computers with internet access and less than two-thirds of those with internet access have broadband access.²



Happening Here

Local Foods, Local Places Grant

In May 2018, the Indiana County Sustainable Economic Development Task Force was one of only 16 communities across the United States to be awarded a technical assistance grant through the Local Foods, Local Places program. The Local Foods, Local Places is a federal program that supports community-driven efforts to protect the environment and human health through engaging local partners to reinvest in existing neighborhoods as they develop local food systems. Local goals for the program in Indiana County include building collaborative relationships that support increased community access to local, sustainable food, expanding community outlets for local producers and provide and provide food access for local community, and helping aspiring entrepreneurs and existing businesses with their development of sustainable agricultural or food-related enterprises.



6 Local trainings that allow farmers to participate without extended periods of time away from the farm would be an asset to producers. Due to the long hours farmers work, many are unable to participate in conferences, workshops, meetings, and/or field days that provide training in new cropping techniques and farming methods. They rely on printed agriculture materials and online agricultural resources to learn about new technology and production practices.

Summer research-based events, pasture walks and farm tours sharing new practices are optimal. However, summer programs may have lower attendance due to farm workloads. Therefore, winter events will complement in-field trainings, allowing a higher number of farmers to participate.

Recommendations

Utilize Sustainable Agriculture Ideas to Develop a Skilled and Qualified Workforce to Fill Labor Shortages in the Agricultural Arena



Farming in Indiana County

Strategies/Action Items

- Work with community college, school districts and agriculture organizations already providing educational services to farmers. Assist them and state-wide organizations to develop educational programs and resources.
- Ensure widespread publication of programs already available as well as those developed to meet the needs.
- Develop agriculture incubator, certified apprenticeships and internships, and share information on existing programs that encourage sustainability.
- Seek federal, state, county financial resources, grants and sponsorships to fund programs.



- Increase media focus to promote and market agriculture.
- Provide broadband service in rural areas to enable innovative agricultural practices.



Focus Group Work Session

2 Promote Local Agriculture as an Economic Driver in Indiana County

Strategies/Action Items

- Publicize existing programs,

- events, and success stories through media outlets.
- Encourage educational events and agritourism for public and consumers such as farm tours, festivals, and farm to table events that involve multiple agricultural organizations.
- Explore school partnerships including: farm-to-school initiatives, nutrition-based curricula and experiential learning opportunities, gardening, recycling, Ag in the Classroom Program, Mobile Ag Learning Center, e.g.
- Seek grant funding through USDA Farm to School Grant Programs, and others.
- Provide workshops and classes to educate public on leasing, sustainable agricultural practices, etc. (e.g. Farm Summit).
- Support agriculture employers

to establish businesses in Indiana County while encouraging employment opportunities with a livable wage.



Agriculture Study

¹ – The Center for Rural PA (2007 and 2012). Census of Agriculture.
² – PA Department of Agriculture and Team PA (2018). Pennsylvania Agriculture: A Look at the Economic Impact and Future Trends (Version 1).
³ – The Center for Rural PA. Snapshot of Farms in Indiana County.
⁴ – Kelsey, T. (2007). Fiscal Impacts of Different Land Uses: The Pennsylvania Experience in 2006.



RENEWABLE ENERGY

Summary

Renewable energy is any energy source that is naturally replenished on a human timescale, like solar, wind, rain, tides, waves, and geothermal or hydroelectric action. Energy produced from the refining of biomass is also often classified as renewable. Renewable energy provides energy in four important areas: electricity generation, air and water heating/cooling, transportation, and rural (off-grid) energy services.

Challenges

The geographic scope for this project is Indiana County, PA. Located in southwest Pennsylvania and northern Appalachia, this rural county has experienced significant reductions in the mining industry, which has historically constituted a large part of the local economy. This change is reflected in county demographics. For example, as of 2016, the population was estimated at 86,364, a 2.8% decrease since 2010, and 18.2% of the population was 65 or older, a 2.5% increase since 2010. The median household income county wide was \$45,195, with 18.2% of persons living in poverty.¹ The

county unemployment rate was 6.3% as of August 2017, higher than the state unemployment rate of 4.4%.²



Wind energy being harnessed above crops

One asset is that the county seat of Indiana benefits from being a

college town. Indiana University of Pennsylvania, a state university with a student population of more than 12,000, is located at the edge of the borough and within the surrounding White Township. This university is the largest employer for the region. Median income in the surrounding census tracts ranged from \$59,034 to \$66,661 in 2015, while median income in the rest of the county ranged from \$7,933 to \$51,627 in the same year.³

The primary challenge for Indiana County, then, is sluggish employment and rising poverty throughout the rural parts



following the reduction in mining, and in the face of an aging population. The county also has a significant amount of vacant commercial property, and an energy production infrastructure and supply chain that is underutilized. To address this, local governmental leadership, in conjunction with IUP resources, is proactively seeking to diversify the local economy.



Focus Group Work Session

Recommendations

The Renewable Energy Focus Group concentrated on creating

jobs in Indiana County through opportunities related to renewable energy. To achieve the long-term goal of creating economic development, the Focus Group proposes a short-term goal of fostering an image of Indiana County as a forward-thinking, enlightened community, ready and motivated toward business opportunities related to renewable energy. This immediate goal includes actions to:

- Dedicate one county position specifically toward this goal.
- In Indiana County, establish a county goal that names a particular year by which the county will achieve a set standard of sustainability.
- Develop a relationship with innovative engineers in area universities.
- Set in motion a plan to produce solar energy at selected sites in Indiana County.



Happening Here

Sustainable Pennsylvania Community Certification

In August 2018, Indiana Borough was named as a member of a select group of high performing municipalities in the Commonwealth to become certified through the Sustainable Pennsylvania Community Certification program. The Borough was recognized at the Gold level of certification for meeting the program's rigorous performance criteria which track 131 policies and practices across nine categories that define a sustainable community. The award highlighted the Borough's progress in such areas as updating street lights, traffic lights, and parking garage lighting with LED bulbs, implementing a curbside pickup of recyclables, leasing hybrid vehicles, and signing a contract with energy providers that utilizes 100% renewable energy.



- Use renewables to address heating challenges in older, local buildings.
- Initiate educational and workforce development programs that educates the public on the benefits that reducing our carbon footprint and improving energy conservation provide to society.

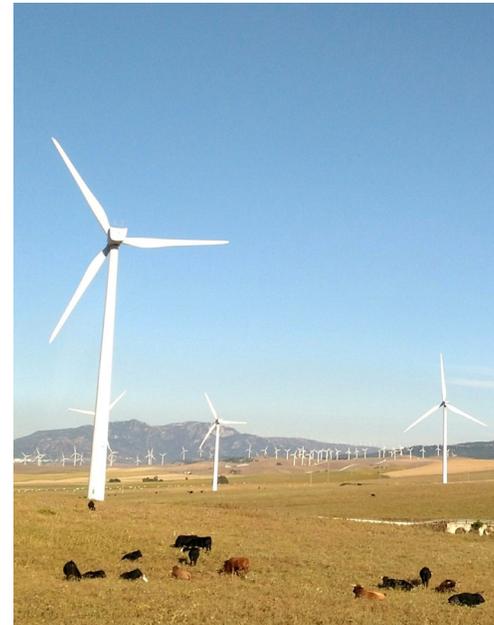


Solar Panels Harnessing Energy in Western Pa.

These actions in themselves will not produce significant numbers of jobs, but they will permit the county to market its commitment to sustainability and renewable energy and attract industries related to these areas. Based on this, the longer-term goal is to actually pursue economic development opportunities in four areas:

- A demonstration project of locally produced, locally used energy; for example, a project that utilizes micro grid technologies which incorporate renewable energy and improve the community's resilience.
- Manufacture materials related to renewable energy industry.
- Develop a demonstration project utilizing renewable energy; for example, data centers and/or year-round food production in existing empty commercial sites.

- Pursue the hydro-electric potential that local water reservoirs provide to Indiana County.



Wind power being harnessed above cattle grounds

1 – United States Census Bureau. (2017, July 1). Quick Facts-Indiana County, PA- Population estimates. [Table].
2 – Bureau of Labor and Statistics (2017). Local Area Unemployment Statistics Map.
3 – DataUSA: Indiana County, PA.



BUILDING CONSTRUCTION AND MATERIALS

Summary

Sustainable building construction (also known as green construction or green building) is a comprehensive movement in architectural and building circles. It is aimed at creating structures that are occupant and environment friendly and that focus on increasing the efficiency of resource use — energy, water, and materials.

In addition, sustainable methods utilize better siting, design, construction, operation, maintenance, and removal in order to reduce a building's impacts on human health and the environment during its lifecycle.

The green building practice expands and complements traditional building design concepts of economy, utility, durability, comfort, sustainability, energy efficiency and healthfulness. A green building is designed to be ecologically friendly by using resources efficiently, using internal recycling, renewable energy sources, recyclable or biodegradable construction materials, and blending in with the local environment, particularly in out-of-town locations.

Challenges

The following challenges were identified by the focus group:

1 There is a lack of awareness regarding the cost savings that reducing energy consumption provides for residential development, commercial businesses, and government.



New building construction

2 There are few examples of sustainable building practices in Indiana County that allow individuals to see and experience the practices firsthand (for example, renewable energy installations and “smart” building applications). We need a program or process to highlight any demonstration projects or



sustainable building examples that do exist.

3 We need more specially trained contractors in the area to develop a competitive market for there to be a competitive market for sustainable building materials and construction.



Focus Group Work Session

4 We need to create more science, technology, engineering, and math (S.T.E.M.) programs, provide more funding for these programs, and leverage them as a job training/workforce development tool.

5 We need knowledge and devoted resources to find grant funding opportunities for sustainable building and construction projects and programs.

6 We need to market to and recruit innovators. In order to create a culture of innovation, we need investments from outside of our area.

7 We need more incentives for utilizing sustainable materials and practices in residential and commercial development projects. Municipalities are the most empowered to do this by way of land use regulatory tools.

8 We have many opportunities to expand upon the current recycling efforts in Indiana County, such as including a recycling and reuse center for building materials.



White Township Community Park Rain Barrel

9 We need funding and community support in order to take advantage of our recycling opportunities to the fullest.

10 We need more job training and placement programs in Indiana County that are related to building construction and materials.



Recommendations

The Building Construction and Materials focus group summarized the goals and actions by the three pillars of economic development, workforce development, and citizen education.

Economic Development

I Develop and implement incentives to utilize sustainable materials and implement best practices in building construction and development projects in Indiana County.

- Understand/evaluate any current incentive in place.
- Research existing case studies and other information.
- Develop partnerships.
- Promote/advertise an inventory of LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design)

- certified buildings in Indiana County.
- Develop recognition mechanisms through our own Indiana County “Sustainable Certification” program.
- Promote existing trainings and host workshops for municipalities.



Permeable Paving Project (in process) at Kennedy King Park



Happening Here

The Indiana County EcoTour

In 2017, the Evergreen Conservancy partnered with several other local organizations to launch the Indiana County GeoTrail. The GeoTrail was the first project of the much larger Indiana County EcoTour project which is designed to highlight environmental concerns across the County. To do this the EcoTour promotes sites of environmental significance in categories such as wildlife habitat, land conservation, water conservation, healthy living, and sustainability. The intention of the Indiana County EcoTour is to be accessible by all, bring visitors to the County in an environmentally friendly way, and to promote environmental stewardship by creating a sense of responsibility for the natural lands that surround Indiana County. By bringing awareness to the environmental issues and providing outreach to community members and visitors alike, the Conservancy and its partners hope to enhance environmental outreach and education in the County and surrounding areas.



2 Develop a recycle/reuse center for construction materials.

- Develop relationships/partnerships.
- Research existing case studies and other information.
- Develop idea/project further (location, costs, etc.).
- Find potential funding sources.
- Garner support from the community.
- Implement project.

Workforce Development

I Develop and expand job training, apprenticeships, and placement programs directly related to Sustainable Building Materials and Construction throughout Indiana County.

- Develop relationships/partnerships.
- Work to include existing

programming where possible.

- Develop new training opportunities.
- Marketing.
- Partner with Indiana County Conservation District at their new location.
- Explore the potential opportunities associated with “Honeywell Energy Solutions” program.

Citizen Education

I Expand upon and improve the delivery of S.T.E.M. education and training programs throughout Indiana County.

- Understand what currently exists in our schools.
- Research existing case studies and other information.
- Develop partnerships.
- Develop a S.T.E.M. plan with partners and implement.

2 Develop an “innovation center” for developing/testing new products and practices related to sustainable building construction and land development.

- Research/understand what an “Innovation Center” typically is and what it would/could include.
- Develop partnerships and work with them to develop a plan/project.
- Develop a budget.
- Develop a funding package utilizing grants and/or investors.
- Implement the plan for the project.



ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION AND STEWARDSHIP

Summary

Environmental Restoration is the practice of renewing and restoring ecosystems and habitats that have been degraded, damaged, or destroyed. Environmental Stewardship refers to responsible use and protection of the natural environment through conservation and sustainable practices. Aldo Leopold (1887–1949) championed environmental stewardship based on a land ethic “dealing with man’s relation to land and to the animals and plants which grow upon it.”

Challenges

1 There is a need to shift public attitudes toward environmental stewardship and to attract environmentally friendly focused businesses to Indiana County.



Focus Group Work Session

2 In Indiana County, it is important to preserve open spaces and farmland. In addition, there is a need to redevelop sites with existing infrastructure and connections to communities (for example, locating new county facilities at the Indiana Mall).

3 It will be important for Indiana County to create riparian (river bank) buffer zones and green corridors/zones. These zones help to protect and improve water quality, help endangered species, create wildlife corridors, and control erosion and reduce

sedimentation. Stormwater management is another important topic for Indiana County. It will help to decrease or eliminate flooding, as well as protect water, land, and property. A final important topic is establishing the importance of recycling. Recycling will help to reduce waste and conserve resources.

Recommendations

The Environmental Restoration and Stewardship focus group provided the following recommendations and action items.



Happening Here

Indiana County Stormwater Education Partnership

The Indiana County Stormwater Education Partnership is an initiative designed to bring together citizens, local leaders, educators, and stormwater professionals with the goal to work collaboratively in raising awareness of the impacts of stormwater and establishing best practices in managing these impacts across Indiana County. Formed in 2014, the group continues to organize educational events and workshops, support local research efforts led by the Indiana University of Pennsylvania Biology Department, and work with local governments to update and improve stormwater regulatory frameworks. Recently the group worked with White Township officials to organize the construction of a rain garden near the Township offices that was designed to capture excess stormwater, and serve as an example of new stormwater best management practices.

1 Improve and Invest in Environmental Awareness and Education

Strategies/Action Items

- Create surveys.
- Environmental programs and information outreach based on science and facts aimed at farmers, landowners and local residents.
- Keep website updated; make sure information is managed and fresh.
- Hold programs on environmental stewardship (with Indiana County Conservation District, Evergreen Conservancy, watershed groups).
- Start regular newspaper and social media features on conservation efforts.
- Increase teachers' knowledge

about the environment e.g., Sponsor Project Wet and Project Wild Training.

2 Create Riparian Buffer Zones & Green Corridors

Strategies/Action Items

- Create a countywide ordinance/plan for greenway corridors and riparian (river bank) buffer zones on all waterways, beginning with Black Lick Creek watershed.
- Access funding, available through Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Western PA Conservancy, Indiana County Conservation District, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) and PA Land Trust, government grants.



3 Establish the Importance of Recycling

Strategies/Action Items

- Pass a county-wide bottle bill for glass & plastic recyclables.
- Create a county-wide ordinance for recycling among residents, businesses and institutions.
- Present pros and cons of recycling for the best economic returns.

4 Demonstrate Effective Stormwater Management

Strategies/Action Items

- County and Municipal governments to adopt stormwater plans.
- Educate residents on stormwater best practices.
- Stormwater infrastructure

- maintenance jobs.
- Maintenance jobs for Abandoned Mine Drainage (AMD) treatment ponds and systems.



White Township Rain Garden

5 Prioritize Jobs/Training related to Emerging Methods in Environmental Restoration and Stewardship

Strategies/Action Items

- Encourage businesses that can install and maintain permeable surfaces,

stormwater management, AMD and other green technologies.

6 Foster Environmentally-Focused Businesses

Strategies/Action Items

- Produce economic development planning and policy documents that would prioritize and encourage environmentally-focused businesses to locate in Indiana County.
- Provide incentives for developers to obtain LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Green Buildings or other green designations.
- Provide incentives to residents and businesses to implement green practices e.g., rain gardens.

SECTION 4 CONCLUSION

The recommendations stemming from the work of the Task Force and presented in this report set the stage for actions to be taken to create and attract more jobs to the area, to develop a well-trained workforce ready to fill those jobs, and to protect our natural resources so residents and tourists alike can enjoy them for years to come.

This report does not complete Indiana County’s path to a more sustainable economy. Rather, it is a reflection of, and continuation of, the forward-thinking direction already underway.

Indiana county and its municipalities are already taking action to enhance the economic development and livability of our communities.

Next Steps



To accomplish the goals set forth in this document, the Task Force makes the following executive recommendations the Indiana County Commissioners:

We recommend that the Task Force be continued **with a new mission:** to rank the recommendations in the current report, determine their feasibility, develop a timeline by which they should be initiated or accomplished, and work with County and Municipal planners and local stakeholders to seek out sources of funding and to implement the most urgent of the recommendations.



We recommend creating an entity, such as an **Office of Sustainability**, overseen by an advisory body (the form of which shall be determined) and which will be charged with partnering with businesses, agencies, and institutions to implement the recommended actions.



We recommend that the **Summit on Sustainable Economic Initiatives** be developed into an **annual event** in order to a) educate our citizens on achievements to date and plans for our County's future; b) demonstrate our County's commitment to achieving a sustainable economy to current and potential employers and job-creating entrepreneurs; and c) serve as a model for sustainable economic development and education for other communities.



Task Force Work Session



We recommend that the findings from this report be incorporated into the **long-range Indiana County Economic Development/ Work Force Development Plan**. In doing so, issues of sustainability become integrated as a normal, expected dimension of county-wide planning for economic development.



Task Force Work Session



We recommend continued support for ongoing efforts to improve broadband access throughout Indiana County. The current need for broadband internet access whether for work or for quality of life cannot be underestimated. Our goal is to develop and attract a **sustainable, diversified economy with businesses and farms** that will provide jobs for our citizens and to retain valuable employees for these employers. Therefore, we must ensure that at a minimum, we have a basic technology infrastructure with affordable access to information, commerce, and entertainment for all of our County's citizens, businesses, and farms. ■

APPENDIX A ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Agriculture and Rural Prosperity Task Force

<https://www.agri-pulse.com/ext/resources/pdfs/potus-task-force-report-51.pdf>

Agriculture in Indiana County PA

<http://sustainableindianacounty.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/Ag-profile-in-Indiana.pdf>

American Sustainable Business Council

<http://joinasbc.asbcouncil.org/>

Become an Eco-School

<https://www.nwf.org/Eco-Schools-USA/Become-an-Eco-School>

Bob Snieckus, The National Landscape Architect

<http://ucfoodobserver.com/2016/05/16/qa-bob-snieckus-the-national-landscape-architect/>

Can This Green Method Of Disposing Leftover Drilling Water Beat A Hole In The Ground?

<http://www.wesa.fm/post/can-green-method-disposing-leftover-drilling-water-beat-hole-ground/>

[green-method-disposing-leftover-drilling-water-beat-hole-ground#stream/0](http://www.wesa.fm/post/can-green-method-disposing-leftover-drilling-water-beat-hole-ground/#stream/0)

Conservation Consultants, Inc.

<https://getenergysmarter.org/>

Directors Approve Plan to Explore Solar Panels

https://www.indianagazette.com/news/directors-approve-plan-to-explore-solar-panels/article_65ed-b0c2-f7ad-11e7-bc3b-07009f0b-c89d.html

E2 (Environmental Entrepreneurs) Clean Jobs Report

<https://www.e2.org/>
<http://www.e2.org/cleanjobspa/>

EPA: Federal Resources for Sustainable Rural Communities

<https://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/federal-resources-sustainable-rural-communities>

EPA Sustainable Rural Communities

https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/documents/2011_11_

[supporting-sustainable-rural-communities.pdf](#)

Evergreen Conservancy

<http://www.evergreenconservancy.org/>

Explore the CLEAN Collection of Educational Resources

<https://cleanet.org/index.html>

Germany's Transition from Coal to Renewable Energy Offers Lesson for the Rest of the World

https://www.climaterealityproject.org/blog/germany-transition-coal-renewable-energy-offers-lessons-rest-world?utm_source=email

How Clean Are Our Streams?

<http://www.depgis.state.pa.us/integratedreport/index.html>

How Retiring Nuclear Power Plants May Undercut U.S. Climate Goals

<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/06/13/climate/nuclear-power-retire->

ments-us-climate-goals.html?rref=climate&module=ArrowsNav&contentCollection=Climate&action=click®ion=FixedRight&pgtype=Multimedia

How You Recycle Plastic is About to Change

<http://www.wesa.fm/post/how-you-recycle-plastic-about-change#stream/0>

ICMA Sustainable Communities

<https://icma.org/topics/sustainable-communities>

Indiana County Parks

<https://www.indianacountyparks.org/parks-and-trails.aspx>

Indiana County Sustainable Economic Development Task Force

<http://sustainableindianacounty.org/>

Lessons from Boulder’s Bad Breakup

<https://grist.org/article/lessons-from-boulders-bad-breakup/>

‘Not Just Economic Justice, Social Justice’: Officials Continue Push Toward Renewable Energy

<http://www.wesa.fm/post/not-just-economic-justice-social-justice-officials-continue-push-toward-renewable-energy#stream/0>

NSF Funds \$3 Million Graduate Training Program Focused on Food-Energy-Water

<https://news.psu.edu/story/535549/2018/09/10/research/nsf-funds-3-million-graduate-training-program-focused-food-energy>

Pennsylvania’s Integrated Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment Report

<http://www.depghis.state.pa.us/>

<integratedreport/index.html>

Pennsylvania’s Plan to Confront Climate Change on Public Land

<http://www.wesa.fm/post/pennsylvanias-plan-confront-climate-change-public-land>

Pittsburgh Mayor Bill Peduto: “Your Future Does Not Have to be Your Past”

<https://www.climate realityproject.org/blog/pittsburgh-mayor-bill-peduto-your-future-does-not-have-be-your-past>

Portland Now Generates Electricity from Turbines Installed in City Water Pipes

<https://www.upworthy.com/portland-now-generates-electricity-from-turbines-installed-in-city-water-pipes?c=ufb1>

Puyallup (WA) Watershed Initiative

<https://www.pwi.org/>

Rural tourism & economic development

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/09669589409510683?s-rc=recsys>

Reclaiming Rural America: Sustainable Community Development

<http://web.missouri.edu/ikerdj/papers/Sioux%20City%20-%20Reclaiming%20Rural%20America.htm>

Sharpsburg Transplant Takes Strategic Approach To Community Development, One Cleanup At A Time

<http://www.wesa.fm/post/sharpsburg-transplant-takes-strategic-approach-community-development-one-cleanup-time#stream/0>

Sustainable Pittsburgh Challenge

<https://www.spchallenge.org>

Sustainable Pittsburgh

<http://sustainablepittsburgh.org>
<http://sustainablepittsburgh.org/forging-a-vision-for-a-clean-healthy-and-renewable-future/>

Sustainable Community Certifica-

tion

<http://www.sustainablepacommunitycertification.org/>

Resources Specific to Rural Economics and Jobs

3 Ways Ohio Cities Overcame the Telecoms to Set Up Broadband Networks

<http://www.govtech.com/network/3-Ways-Ohio-Cities-Overcame-the-Telecoms-to-Set-Up-Broadband-Networks.html>

Balancing Nature and Commerce in Rural Communities

https://www.conservationfund.org/images/Balancing_Nature_and_Commerce_single_pages_final.pdf

Center for Rural PA Resources

<http://www.rural.palegislature.us/resources.html#april3a>

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Appalachian Development Plan 2015 – 2018

Prepared by PA Department of Community and Economic Devel-

opment

<https://www.arc.gov/images/grantsandfunding/StatePlans/Pennsylvania2015StrategyStatement.pdf>

Community Renewable Energy: Citizen Involvement in the Energy Transition (Webinar)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZwHcmxgikyw>

Department of Energy: Clean Energy

<https://www.energy.gov/science-innovation/clean-energy>

Despite Federal Roadblocks, States and Cities Lead on Solar Power

https://www.ewg.org/news-and-analysis/2018/05/despite-federal-roadblocks-states-and-cities-lead-solar-power?utm_campaign=Social+Traffic&utm_medium=social&utm_source=facebook&utm_content=1528907832#.W6P8TtdKjX6

Finding Pennsylvania’s Solar Future

<https://www.dep.pa.gov/Business/Energy/OfficeofPollutionPrevention/>

SolarFuture/Pages/Finding-Pennsylvania%E2%80%99s-Solar-Future.aspx

Fossil-Free Investment for a Just Appalachian Transition: Obstacles and Opportunities

<https://community-wealth.org/content/fossil-free-investment-just-appalachian-transition-obstacles-and-opportunities>

In Life After Coal, Appalachia Attempts to Reinvent Itself

<http://www.governing.com/topics/finance/gov-coal-trump-appalachia-economy.html>

Jobs in the agricultural industry to outnumber graduates in the next five years

https://www.redandblack.com/uganews/jobs-in-the-agricultural-industry-to-outnumber-graduates-in-the/article_104e6e00-4759-11e6-904c-9fa05a280621.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=email&utm_campaign=user-share

Only 60 Years of Farming Left If Soil Degradation Continues

<https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/only-60-years-of-farming-left-if-soil-degradation-continues/>

Penn State Extension

<https://extension.psu.edu/>
<https://extension.psu.edu/business-and-operations/business-management>
<https://extension.psu.edu/cooperatives>

Pennsylvania Agriculture: A Look at the Economic Impacts and Future Trends

https://www.agriculture.pa.gov/Documents/PennsylvaniaAgriculture_EconomicImpactFutureTrends.pdf
https://www.agriculture.pa.gov/Business_Industry/workforce-development/Pages/default.aspx

Pennsylvania is Setting an Example for the Nation

<https://pasafarming.org/pennsylvania-is-setting-an-example-for-the-nation/>

Recent Study Reveals New Initiatives to Recover America’s Jobs in Agriculture

https://foodtank.com/news/2018/02/usda-task-force-agricultural-rural-prosperity-report/amp/?__twitter_impression=true

Rural Pennsylvanians Are Still in It Together:

<https://www.keystoneresearch.org/issues-guides/state-rural-pa#9>
Full report at: https://keystoneresearch.org/sites/default/files/srpa508_2.pdf

Stronger Economies Together: Helping Rural Counties Excel through Regional Approaches

<https://www.usda.gov/media/blog/2016/10/03/stronger-economies-together-helping-rural-counties-excel-through-regional>

The FCC’s Blurry Vision of Satellite Broadband

<https://www.dailyyonder.com/fccs-blurry-vision-satellite-broadband>

band/2018/03/26/24739/?utm_source=Daily+Yonder+3-28-18&utm_campaign=Daily+Yonder+3-28&utm_medium=email

The Next Agriculture Revolution Is Under Our Feet

<https://global.nature.org/content/the-next-agriculture-revolution-is-under-our-feet>

The White House Is Trying to Introduce Wall Street to Rural America

https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/wonk/wp/2015/07/31/the-white-house-is-trying-to-introduce-wall-street-to-rural-america/?noredirect=on&utm_term=.fb310d974479

Three Rivers WIB Awarded \$400K Strategic Innovation Grant in Collaboration with UPMC and the Energy Innovation Center

<http://www.eicpittsburgh.org/three-rivers-wib-awarded-400k-strategic-innovation-grant-collaboration-upmc-ener->

[gy-innovation-center/](http://www.egy-innovation-center/)

Understanding Economic Change in Your Community

<https://extension.psu.edu/understanding-economic-change-in-your-community>

USDA Works to Deliver Broadband to Rural Communities

<https://www.usda.gov/media/blog/2017/01/10/usda-works-deliver-broadband-rural-communities>

Why We Desperately Need to Bring Back Vocational Training in Schools

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/nicholaswyman/2015/09/01/why-we-desperately-need-to-bring-back-vocational-training-in-schools/#48900f6687ad>

APPENDIX B INDIANA COUNTY SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SUMMIT II FLYER



Indiana County Sustainable Economic Development Summit II

Rustic Lodge • Indiana PA • September 28, 2018 • 8:30 – 3:30

8:30 a.m.	Registration/Sign-In	Light Breakfast, Exhibits and Task Force Posters
9:15 a.m.	Welcome Hon. Sherene Hess Hon. Rodney D. Ruddock Hon. Mike Baker	Groveside Room Indiana County Commissioner Indiana County Commissioner - Pledge of Allegiance Indiana County Commissioner
9:30 a.m.	Presentation and Panel Discussion of the Task Force Report Hilario Molina II PhD Moderator IUP Assistant Professor, Sociology Task Force Focus Group Panel: Peter Broad, Darlene Livingston (Sustainable Agriculture); Susan Boser, Laurie Lubold (Renewable Energy); Josh Krug, Vera Bonnet (Sustainable Building Construction); Jeff Raykes, Cindy Rogers (Environmental Restoration & Stewardship)	
10:30 a.m.	Break – (15 min.)	
10:45 a.m.	Keynote Speaker Sustainable Agriculture, Jobs & Economic Development <i>Introduced by Byron Stauffer Jr., Executive Director, Indiana County Office of Planning & Development</i>	
11:45 a.m.	Scott Sheely Special Assistant for Workforce Development, PA Dept. of Agriculture Break – (15 min.) View posters and exhibits	
Noon – 1:15	LUNCH/ SPEAKER <i>Introduced by Indiana County Commissioner Sherene Hess</i> Implementing Sustainable Economic Development at the Local Level Zaheen Hussain Sustainability Coordinator, Millvale	
1:15 p.m.	Environmental Restoration & Stewardship Andy McAllister Western PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation	
1:45 p.m.	Sustainable Building Construction Erica Cochran PhD Carnegie Mellon University School of Architecture	
2:15 p.m.	Renewable Energy Henry McKay Pennsylvania Program Director Solar United Neighbors	
2:45 p.m.	REFLECTION – Discussion with audience, exhibitors, task force Heather Harr moderator League of Women Voters of PA Cindy Rogers moderator Evergreen Conservancy	
3:15 p.m.	Next Steps Hon. Sherene Hess	
3:30 p.m.	Adjournment; Please fill out and hand in evaluation forms	

APPENDIX C FOCUS GROUP GRIDS

<p align="center">FOCUS GROUP: Innovative, Sustainable Agriculture</p> <p align="center">Draft: March 18, 2018</p>				
<p>Wish/Goal List: “We wish that/there was ___ in Indiana County.”</p>	<p>Assets: Current resources/capacity that can contribute to achieving our goals/wishes.</p>	<p>Needs: Items/actions necessary to achieve our goals/wishes.</p>	<p>Potential Partnerships: Intentional agency/institutional connections needed to achieve our goals/wishes.</p>	<p>Recommended Actions What action steps need to be taken, and by whom (agency, institution) to move toward achieving these goals?</p>

AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION: INNOVATIVE, SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

1.	<p>We wish that that were more workshops and other ways to increase awareness of the benefits of various sustainable agriculture practices (e.g., less use of pesticides, creating healthier soil, building riparian buffers, improved pasture management and use) available to agricultural producers and others in Indiana County.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PASA: some scholarships and a Workshare Program available for annual conference; meetups or programs at farms in various parts of the state • Indiana County Conservation District – some money available to put on workshops • Penn State Extension • Western PA Conservancy • Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) • PA Certified Organic (PCO), Leslie Zuck • Growing Organic Farms Conference (GPOF) – annually in Harrisburg (www.gpofconference.org) • PA Project Grass • PA Forage and Grasslands Council • Organic Valley Dairy/CROPP: has producers shipping to them from Indiana County (Peter Miller) • Western PA Conservancy • SARE (Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education) grants 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Getting the word out about relevant workshops/programs • Identify what programs are most needed and in demand, since there are plenty of people and groups ready to put on programs • Grants, financial incentives to encourage farmers and others to build riparian buffers, and engage in other sustainable practices • Policy changes that encourage more sustainable practices • Find more ways to spread knowledge from local farmers that utilize sustainable practices • Get professionals (e.g., vets) on board • Have farmers who have tried sustainable practices share their experiences with others through farm visits, tests plots, articles in social media or newspapers, etc. • Get articles in newspapers and social media about sustainability • Encourage PSU Extension to have research test plots on farms in Indiana County 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PASA • Indiana Conservation District • Western PA Conservancy, Indiana • Penn State Extension • Natural Resources Conservation District, Indiana • Project Grass • PA Forage and Grasslands Council • Western PA Annual Spring Grazing Conference • SARE (Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education) • Local networks or organizations of specific types of farmers • Social media • Local newspapers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with Penn State Extension (Rachel Milliron, Armstrong County) to have more research test plots and the educational activities associated with them in Indiana County, helping agricultural producers see results and accept them as practice. <p>NOTE: Rachel plans to do soybean sentinel plots, and a couple of small research projects in soybeans with the on-farm network, and intends to do at least one summer field day. Target areas: Indiana and Westmoreland Counties. Hopes to find farm locations after finding out about funding.</p>
----	---	---	--	---	--

APPENDIX C

	Wish/Goal List: “We wish that/there was _____ in Indiana County.”	Assets: Current resources/capacity that can contribute to achieving our goals/wishes.	Needs: Items/actions necessary to achieve our goals/wishes.	Potential Partnerships: Intentional agency/institutional connections needed to achieve our goals/wishes.	Recommended Actions What action steps need to be taken, and by whom (agency, institution) to move toward achieving these goals?
2.	<p>We wish that there were recurring classes/formal ag education program sat ICTC and/or or a local community college (for students and adults, customized for local needs in sustainable agriculture and identified areas of job demand or growth – including technology use and mechanical repair in agriculture, since there are lots of opportunities for new jobs and products in this area) available in Indiana County.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ICTC • Local community colleges: Which ones are left? • Penn State Extension (Andrew Sandeen) • Indiana County Conservation District • Robertshaw Business Incubator • PA Farm Bureau • Penns Manor and Marion-Center FFA • PA Dept. of Agriculture (Scott Sheehy, Workforce Development Program) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify promising areas of job growth/decent paying jobs for further developing sustainable agriculture and agricultural diversification in Indiana County: e.g., perhaps training people to manage or work in agriculture production or processing facilities utilizing vacant commercial buildings that are being repurposed. • Identify jobs in sustainable agriculture that such programs could help fill: e.g., we need more certified ag technical service planners in Indiana County • Create new jobs for trained agricultural workers in innovative, sustainable agriculture (or fill unmet demands) in the county • Scholarships for people who are being trained/retrained • See if there is funding available for retraining former coal miners or others 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ICTC • Local community colleges • Penn State Extension, Indiana County • Indiana County Conservation District • Robertshaw Business-Incubator • PA Farm Veterans: may be funding • PA Farm Buureau, Indiana • FFA • All 7 Indiana County School Districts: school boards, administrators 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initiate conversation with Westmoreland Community College about the possibility of developing a new program (or something smaller). Andrew Sandeen (Penn State Extension, Indiana County) is happy to take a role in exploring and pushing forward with this goal. • Petition 7 school districts to appeal to Eric Palmer at ICTC for Ag Program (network with existing ag programs) • Seek funding: federal, state, county sources for educational \$ and/or grants • Seek support money and curricular support from state and national Farm Bureau

Wish/Goal List: “We wish that/there was _____ in Indiana County.”	Assets: Current resources/capacity that can contribute to achieving our goals/wishes.	Needs: Items/actions necessary to achieve our goals/wishes.	Potential Partnerships: Intentional agency/institutional connections needed to achieve our goals/wishes.	Recommended Actions What action steps need to be taken, and by whom (agency, institution) to move toward achieving these goals?
<p>3. We wish that there were more efforts to increase awareness and understanding of migrant workers (culture, language, etc.), which could improve general attitudes towards them and equip employers with effective training strategies and business relationship management in Indiana County.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Experts who work with migrant worker families: Dr. Hilario Molino and Dr. Victor Garcia (Mid-Atlantic Research and Training Institute for Community and Behavioral Health, IUP), Deke Showman (Northwest Tri-County Intermediate Unit, PA Migrant Education Recruitment Coordinator; email: Deke-Showman@iu5.org; ph. 814-734-5610, ext. 7052) Friends of Farmworkers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Workshops, newspaper articles, use of social media to raise awareness Work with relevant organizations that can help increase awareness and understanding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mid-Atlantic Research and Training Institute for Community and Behavioral Health (MARTI), IUP Friends of Farmworkers Media outlets PA Migrant Education 	
<p>4. We wish that there were more agricultural diversification (e.g., greater crop diversification, new ways of generating income) in Indiana County. QUESTION: DOES THERE NEED TO BE MORE DETAIL TO THIS FOR ANYONE TO ACT ON THIS?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Penn State Extension Indiana County Conservation District Western PA Conservancy PASA Adequate land base available in county for agricultural diversification 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local policies and programs that encourage agricultural diversity Further training of local farmers Incentives for local farmers to diversify and become more sustainable 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Penn State Extension, Indiana County Indiana County Conservation District ICTC and community colleges Indiana County Office of Planning and Development Indiana County Commissioners 	

APPENDIX C

<p>Wish/Goal List: “We wish that/there was _____ in Indiana County.”</p>	<p>Assets: Current resources/capacity that can contribute to achieving our goals/wishes.</p>	<p>Needs: Items/actions necessary to achieve our goals/wishes.</p>	<p>Potential Partnerships: Intentional agency/institutional connections needed to achieve our goals/wishes.</p>	<p>Recommended Actions What action steps need to be taken, and by whom (agency, institution) to move toward achieving these goals?</p>
<p>5. We wish that farm laborers were provided adequate education on safe practices in Indiana County.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PA Farm Bureau groups have good programs. (Jefferson County has a GREAT program school kids go through.) • Penn State Extension has a farm safety program at state level. Can they bring it to Indiana County? • PA Friends of Farmworkers may be able to help. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify what programs are most needed locally 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Penn State Extension, Indiana County • PA Farm Bureau, Indiana County • PA Friends of Farmworkers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide educational program on safe practices for farm laborers
<p>6. We wish that there were workshops on legal issues for agricultural producers (e.g., requirements for having employees, environmental regulations, business paperwork, food safety, avoiding lawsuits) in Indiana County.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PA Farm Bureau attorneys (who do programming for PFB) could hold meeting in region • PSU Center for Ag & Shale Law (usually work with partners on programs) • Social media and traditional media outlets to publicize workshops 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Needs assessment of what topics are most important to cover locally • Coordination between relevant local organizations and appropriate legal experts for doing workshops • PR to publicize workshops 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PSU, Indiana County • Indiana County Conservation District • PA Farm Bureau • PSU Center for Ag & Shale Law • Relevant organizations to publicize workshops on the Facebook page, website, newsletter, newspaper, etc.: e.g., PA Farm Link, PSU Indiana County, Indiana Gazette, etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Request Farm Bureau to hold workshops on legal issues for agricultural producers

Wish/Goal List: “We wish that/there was _____ in Indiana County.”	Assets: Current resources/capacity that can contribute to achieving our goals/wishes.	Needs: Items/actions necessary to achieve our goals/wishes.	Potential Partnerships: Intentional agency/institutional connections needed to achieve our goals/wishes.	Recommended Actions: What action steps need to be taken, and by whom (agency, institution) to move toward achieving these goals?
<p>7. We wish that more meat producing farmers received training in meat cutting or how to address the processing logjam in Indiana County.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Penn State Extension: Brian Moyer) • PASA 2018 (Feb.) annual conference: Brian Moyer and Matt LaRoux did a program on how farmers can address the processing logjam • Penn State Extension: Jonathon Campbell, Meats Specialist • NC Choices: meats program • Logjams: schedule early and talk with processors early to find out when they can take animals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop materials listing available resources • Publicize available resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Penn State Extension (Brian Moyer, Jonathon Campbell). Note upcoming course as an example of possibilities: https://extension.psu.edu/traditional-italian-processed-meats-workshop • PASA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lobby for more inspectors • Lobby the Game Commission to find a way to stop the backlog of meat processing that happens when processors shut down for deer season (e.g., asking for grants)

APPENDIX C

Wish/Goal List: “We wish that/there was _____ in Indiana County.”	Assets: Current resources/capacity that can contribute to achieving our goals/wishes.	Needs: Items/actions necessary to achieve our goals/wishes.	Potential Partnerships: Intentional agency/institutional connections needed to achieve our goals/wishes.	Recommended Actions What action steps need to be taken, and by whom (agency, institution) to move toward achieving these goals?	
PUBLIC EDUCATION: INNOVATIVE, SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE					
8.	<p>We wish that there were ways to connect more children and adults with local farms, farmers, gardening, plants, fresh produce, sustainable agriculture, etc. in Indiana County.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PA Farm Bureau: teacher training, Mobile Ag Ed Science Lab, Agriculture in the Classroom • Indiana County Farmers’ Market: opportunities to meet farmers and buy local produce; educational events to educate consumers and their families, including a children’s day • Indiana Food Coop: opportunities to buy local produce; educational events • Chevy Chase Children’s Garden Program • Chevy Chase Community Garden • Indiana Community Garden: community events, garden plots, community time, educational signage, youth garden program • Future Farmers of America (FFA) • 4H • Farm/garden-related Friends of the Parks programs • Vale Woods Farms (Cambria County): open houses, events 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional resources and expertise to grow some of these assets • Encourage the development of additional ways to connect children and adults with local farms, farmers, gardening, plants, fresh produce, etc. • Pursue relevant grant opportunities • Do more to utilize a diverse range of social media (websites, Facebook, Instagram, etc.) to publicize events – including social media such as Instagram that might be used more by younger people • Advertise events and programs through schools, newspapers, and radio • Get PR and articles about events and programs in local newspapers and on the radio • Encourage teachers, Girl Scout/Boy Scout leaders, etc. to plan field trips, service projects, and hands-on learning experiences at relevant local sites • Educate 4H leaders and others working with youth more on sustainability 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PA Farm Bureau • Indiana County Farmer’s Market • Indiana Food Coop • Chevy Chase Community Center and Community Garden • Indiana Community Garden • Indiana County 4H • PSU, Indiana County • Future Farmers of America • Friends of the Parks, Indiana County • Indiana County teachers • Indiana County Recreation and Parks Commission (who want to include more non-sports related activities in their youth program) • Local service organization such as Kiwanis might provide grants or scholarships for specific programs or facilities • Indiana County Tourist Bureau • Some Indiana County Eco-Tour and Geocache sites • Indiana County school districts, school boards, and teachers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inventory existing programs/activities, and make sure they are well publicized • Encourage the development of additional events that connect more children and adults with local farms and ag producers: a meal on the farm, a farm visit or tour, a festival of some sort — preferably involving multiple ag-related organizations and lots of volunteers to help. (See the examples of successful public events listed under “Needs” in Item #13.) • Explore possibilities for Indiana County school districts developing farm to school initiatives through which : (1) Schools buy and feature locally produced, farm-fresh foods on menus. (2) Schools incorporate nutrition-based curriculum and provide students with experiential learning opportunities such as farm visits, garden-based learning, and recycling programs. (E.g., USDA Farm to School Grant Programs, National Farm to School Network.)

Wish/Goal List: “We wish that/there was _____ in Indiana County.”	Assets: Current resources/capacity that can contribute to achieving our goals/wishes.	Needs: Items/actions necessary to achieve our goals/wishes.	Potential Partnerships: Intentional agency/institutional connections needed to achieve our goals/wishes.	Recommended Actions What action steps need to be taken, and by whom (agency, institution) to move toward achieving these goals?
<p>9. We wish that there were more education of the public on the value of buying locally grown, sustainable agricultural products and on how consumers can buy from local markets in Indiana County</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indiana County Farmers Market: website, Facebook page providing educational items • Indiana County Food Coop • Radio ag programs • 4H • FFA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better market Indiana County agriculture • Need media buy-in of local agriculture to be really successful (e.g., <i>Reading Eagle</i> has a Berks Country section in newspaper once a week. Could list programs and promote awareness.) • Assess what local farms have interesting stories to highlight (e.g., How many people in Indiana County know that Turner’s milk comes mostly from farms right here in Indiana County?) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indiana County Farmers Market • Indiana County Food Coop • Social media • Local newspapers • Local radio stations • Indiana County Fair • Local supermarkets who could have “Buy Local” signs on products, etc. • Indiana County Tourist Bureau 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have a weekly (or monthly) highlight put together that includes a good photo and shares a little bit about a farm with an interesting story, the people who work there, what products they produce, and where they can be purchased. Highlights could be broadcast all over the place: social media, signage, flyers, website, press release, etc.

APPENDIX C

Wish/Goal List: “We wish that/there was _____ in Indiana County.”	Assets: Current resources/capacity that can contribute to achieving our goals/wishes.	Needs: Items/actions necessary to achieve our goals/wishes.	Potential Partnerships: Intentional agency/institutional connections needed to achieve our goals/wishes.	Recommended Actions What action steps need to be taken, and by whom (agency, institution) to move toward achieving these goals?
<p>10. We wish that there were more education of non-ag people about what makes producers sustainable (creating an informed community that understands why farmers are creating riparian buffers, using cover crops, etc.) in Indiana County.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relevant educational programs (and in some cases signage at county sites) of various organizations: Penn State Extension, Penn State Extension Master Gardeners, Indiana Community Garden, Stormwater Education Partnership, Friends of the Parks, etc. A number of Indiana County Eco-Tour and Geocache sites Strong set of partners if wanted to have county field days or other event featuring certain farms: Penn State Extension, Indiana Conservation District, Natural Resources Conservation District, etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More local educational programming and signage Greater publicity about existing sustainable ag efforts Consider having county field days (as occurs in some other counties) where certain farms are featured in one area of the county since they have completed some type of conservation practices or something else of note. The day of the event the public may go to the farms on their own and there’s set things to see: tours to be given by farms owners or employees. Maybe the NRCS or Conservation District person leads educational tour with people about project that was completed on farm, educational displays, etc. Review examples of successful public events done in other locations: a meal on the farm, a twilight tour, a day on the farm, a festival of some sort, etc. Would require lots of people, good leadership, a decent location, and agreeable owners. For examples, see https://vermontbreakfastonthefarm.com/ and Michigan State : http://msue.anr.msu.edu/community_food_systems/ , http://www.canr.msu.edu/breakfast_on_the_farm/ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Penn State Extension, Indiana County Penn State Extension Master Gardeners, Indiana County Indiana County Conservation District Natural Resources Conservation District, Indiana Indiana Community Garden Indiana County Stormwater Education Partnership Friends of the Parks Indiana County Eco-Tour and Geocache Passports Social media Newspapers, radio 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop events on farms that provide opportunities for non-ag people to interact with ag people: a meal on the farm, a day on the farm, a farm tour, a festival of some sort -- preferably involving multiple ag-related organizations and lots of volunteers to help

Wish/Goal List: “We wish that/there was _____ in Indiana County.”	Assets: Current resources/capacity that can contribute to achieving our goals/wishes.	Needs: Items/actions necessary to achieve our goals/wishes.	Potential Partnerships: Intentional agency/institutional connections needed to achieve our goals/wishes.	Recommended Actions What action steps need to be taken, and by whom (agency, institution) to move toward achieving these goals?
<p>11. We wish that there were more education of landowners who lease to agricultural operators in Indiana County.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PSU Ag & Shale Law Center • PA Farm Link: has a leasing document developed by PSU Ag & Shale Center. Do programs around PA where Center attorney Sean High discusses all aspects of leasing. Can do one locally if known interest and can cover costs. Invite landowners and those wanting to lease since both need education and learn to put it all in writing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase understanding of the value of the land beyond the rent • Create templates for landowner-operator agreements • Identify level of interest in doing a program in the county. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Penn State Extension, Indiana County • PA Farm Link • Indiana County Conservation District 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop fliers and send information out to all landowners via: Clean and Green and plat-book list
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: INNOVATIVE, SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE				
<p>12. We wish that local and county-wide economic development planning and policy documents would expand and encourage the use of sustainable agriculture techniques to reduce pollution, enhance water quality, and reduce carbon pollution in Indiana County.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PA Farm Bureau, Indiana County • Indiana County Conservation District • PSU Extension • PASA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to highlight BMP (Best Management Practices) in farming community • Need to provide incentive funding programs that encourage local farmers to make changes • Make sure agriculture is on the radar of groups such as Office of Planning and Development or Chamber of Commerce 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PA Farm Bureau, Indiana County • Indiana County Conservation District • PSU Extension, Indiana County • PA Farm Senate Committee • Dept. of Environmental Protection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work to develop a stronger voice and more priorities for sustainable agriculture with groups such as the Office of Planning and Development and the Chamber of Commerce

APPENDIX C

Wish/Goal List: “We wish that/there was _____ in Indiana County.”	Assets: Current resources/capacity that can contribute to achieving our goals/wishes.	Needs: Items/actions necessary to achieve our goals/wishes.	Potential Partnerships: Intentional agency/institutional connections needed to achieve our goals/wishes.	Recommended Actions What action steps need to be taken, and by whom (agency, institution) to move toward achieving these goals?	
13.	<p>We wish that there were more new, well paying jobs in sustainable agriculture available in Indiana County.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indiana County Small Business Incubator (at IUP’s Robertshaw Building) • Penn State Extension, Indiana County • Indiana County Conservation District • ICTC and community colleges 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capital, grants • Policies that would encourage more such jobs in the county 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Penn State Extension, Indiana County • Indiana County Conservation District • ICTC and community colleges 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programs at ICTC or community colleges to learn these jobs • Assist agricultural producers in growing their business, overcoming hurdles to expand and develop
14.	<p>We wish that there were more developed agritourism (various agriculturally based activities that bring visitors to the farm) in Indiana County.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Penn State Extension • PASA • Successful agritourism nearby • Reports on successful agritourism initiatives elsewhere 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capital investment • Grant program to help local farmers who wanted to develop agritourism • Study successful initiatives elsewhere: e.g., Vale Wood Farms (Cambria County), Soergel Orchards (Wexford) • Policies to encourage more agritourism in the county • Effectively use technology to connect consumers with agritourism in the county • PR (social media, newspapers, radio) listing local agritourism events 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Penn State Extension • PASA • Indiana County Conservation District • Relevant social media outlets • Indiana County Tourist Bureau 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assist interested agricultural producers through providing workshops, mentorships, information about technical assistance, grant support, etc.

<p>Wish/Goal List: “We wish that/there was _____ in Indiana County.”</p>	<p>Assets: Current resources/capacity that can contribute to achieving our goals/wishes.</p>	<p>Needs: Items/actions necessary to achieve our goals/wishes.</p>	<p>Potential Partnerships: Intentional agency/institutional connections needed to achieve our goals/wishes.</p>	<p>Recommended Actions What action steps need to be taken, and by whom (agency, institution) to move toward achieving these goals?</p>
<p>15. We wish that there were strong networks among agricultural producers and with organizations that can provide support in areas of agriculture w that are not well developed in Indiana County.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PA Farm Bureau, Indiana County • Learn from existing organizations/networks that are already in place in the county—e.g., Republic Food Network/PSU Extension sheep programs in area • Learn from informal networks that are already in place, including small groups of farmers with similar interests – e.g., crop farmers who do custom work for others or buy on larger scale so they can get the discount for all people they plant for • See what is being done in other counties to successfully share resources, expertise, etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work to develop co-op or broker systems for farmers in areas of agriculture where currently not well developed • Inventory what is already in place and how these kinds of initiatives can be extended to other aspects of agriculture – e.g., greenhouse growers who might want to work together to purchases more soil or soil amendments at cheaper prices • Needs assessment of local farmers and what would be helpful • Volunteers and mentors to help with networking • Funding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PSU Extension • Republic Food Network • PA Farm Bureau • Indiana County Conservation District • PASA • Expand or replicate existing informal networks in other areas of cpunty ag • Indiana County Fair Board • Food Co-op of Indiana, PA • PA Farm Link • Programs offering small business loans • Keystone Development Ctr • Robertshaw Business Incubator 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish an agriculture incubator
<p>16. We wish that there were more data available to understand where agricultural producers are selling their commodities, and why – including how much of what they produce remains in Indiana County.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organizations that collect relevant data or can identify producers to survey: PSU Extension, Indiana County Conservation District, The Center for Rural PA, U.S. and PA Depts. Of Agriculture 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Find out what data are currently being collected • Determine what additional data would be useful (e.g., do we need a processing plant for some of the product, which might provide an opportunity for a new industry?) • Capital and grants to develop new facilities as needed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PSU Extension • Indiana County Conservation District • Indiana County Commissioners • Indiana County Office of Planning and Development • Robertshaw Small Business Incubator 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a survey for local producers • Develop a survey for consumers (to find out what agricultural products they buy and from whom) • Assess what types of food hubs might be needed n Indiana County., and what it would take to develop them. (A food hub, as defined by the USDA, is “a centrally located facility with a business management structure facilitating the aggregation, storage, processing,, distribution, and/or marketing of locally/regionally produced food products.”)

APPENDIX C

<p>Wish/Goal List: “We wish that/there was _____ in Indiana County.”</p>	<p>Assets: Current resources/capacity that can contribute to achieving our goals/wishes.</p>	<p>Needs: Items/actions necessary to achieve our goals/wishes.</p>	<p>Potential Partnerships: Intentional agency/institutional connections needed to achieve our goals/wishes.</p>	<p>Recommended Actions What action steps need to be taken, and by whom (agency, institution) to move toward achieving these goals?</p>
<p>17. We wish that there were an office to coordinate information and to help encourage and facilitate projects in all four areas explored by the Sustainability Task Force, including sustainable agriculture in Indiana County.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Numerous programs/workshops available through PSU Extension, PASA, Republic Food Network, PA Women’s Agricultural Network, etc. • Micro-loans available through Farm Service Agency, PSA (Krystal Sellers), Farm Credit (Kathy Hartzell), Idea Foundry (revolving loan program based in Pittsburgh that works with farmers) • PA Farm Link Facebook page and other organizations list upcoming events • Existing websites list resources and events: PSU Extension, PA Farm Bureau, PASA (PA Association for Sustainable Agriculture), Indiana County Conservation District, Indiana County Sustainability Task Force, etc. • Utilize existing websites, Facebook pages, newsletters, etc. to post information • Local newspapers, radio, Indiana County Tourist Bureau • IUP Small Business Institute 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educate ag people on where to find relevant information — including social media, print, and radio • Funding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PA Farm Link • PSU Extension: wide variety of workshops, programs, etc. in a broad range of topics • PA Farm Bureau • Republic Food Network • PASA • Relevant social media platforms • Local media outlets: newspapers, radio, etc. • Indiana County Tourist Bureau • Indiana County Office of Planning and Development • Indiana County Conservation District • Western PA Conservancy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open a County Office of Sustainability to coordinate information for projects in all four areas explored by the Sustainability Task Force, including agriculture • Develop a resource list of who to contact to learn more about available programs and support. Share with relevant organizations and see if it can be posted on relevant websites. • Maintain a website where all sustainable ag programs are listed. • Explore additional ways to publicize programs and cross list activities, including to people who don’t have decent internet access. • Utilize formal-informal networks of ag people with specific interests.

Focus Group #2: Renewable Energy
 Updated after 01/09/18 meeting

The Renewable Energy Focus Group focused on creating jobs in Indiana County through opportunities related to renewable energy. To achieve the long term goal of creating economic development, the Focus Group proposes a short-term goal of fostering an image of Indiana County as a forward-thinking, enlightened community, ready and motivated toward business opportunities related to renewable energy. This immediate goal includes actions to: 1) dedicate one county position specifically toward this goal, 2) establish a county goal that names a particular year by which the county will achieve a set standard of sustainability, 3) develop a relationship with innovative engineers in area universities, 4) set in motion a plan to produce solar energy at selected sites in Indiana, and 5) use renewables to address heating challenges in older, local buildings. These actions in themselves will not produce significant numbers of jobs, but they will permit the county to market itself as committed to sustainability and renewable energy, and attract industries related to these areas. Based on this, the longer-term goal is to actually pursue economic development opportunities in four areas: 1) a demonstration project of locally produced, locally used energy; 2) manufacture materials related to renewable energy industry; 3) develop data centers, and 4) year-round food production in existing empty commercial sites, using renewable energy.

Wishes/Goals	Assets	Needs	Potential Partners	Action Items
Economic Development				
<i>Short term:</i>				
Foster image of Indiana County as a forward-thinking, enlightened community, interested in moving toward business opportunities through renewable energy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indiana County Center for Economic Operations encompasses partnership of local leaders. • Availability of engineering programs at Carnegie Mellon, Pitt and Penn State • Opportunities exist to put solar on school building roofs, or other companies with acreage, to produce electricity. Companies or subsidiaries that do renewables will provide the capital for the generation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Point person to generate white paper, research opportunities and actively participate in Pittsburgh based networks with university engineers, & identify potential opportunities • Someone empowered to negotiate on behalf of the schools for solar installation • A third party who might be able to use the tax 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A subsidiary of NRG, or Green Mountain Power • May also be interested in working with larger local companies, such as banks. • Carnegie Mellon, Pitt, Penn State 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indiana County will identify one position specifically for researching and targeting opportunities for economic development through renewable energy sector. • Indiana Co. will establish, articulate and promote a “Goal Year” by which a set standard of sustainability and renewable energy is reached, with a set of sub-goals under that. • Develop a partnership with innovators in engineering

APPENDIX C
Focus Group #2: Renewable Energy
 Updated after 01/09/18 meeting

	<p>site, hire contractors to do installation, provide the panels, and buy the electricity. Examples exist of arrangements, such as Carlisle, PA.</p>	<p>benefits could partner with and act on behalf of the school district</p>		<p>programs at Carnegie Mellon, Pitt, & Penn State</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Generate a white paper outlining a plan to install solar on roofs/acreage, including the steps and contacts. • Research to identify local companies with acreage, and facilitate partnership between them and companies who will invest in setting up solar panels, then purchase the power.
<p>Use renewables to solve heat challenges in older buildings</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Older buildings with heating challenges • Local expertise in renewable resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capital • Regulatory requirements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local financial institutions • Owners of local, older property with heat challenges • Local expertise in renewable energy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indiana Co. point person generate an inventory of buildings that would benefit from integrating renewables. • Inventory possibilities for capital • Align incentives with increased use of renewables • Communicate with potential partners and stakeholders
<p><i>Long term</i></p>				
<p>Demonstration project: Generate locally produced, locally used energy through renewable energy production using area's natural assets integrated with the existing infrastructure's excess capacity</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vacant commercial property • Convertible energy production infrastructure, line infrastructure; and supply chain • Geothermal sources • 50" rainfall annually, significant stores in underground mine chambers • Geostability • Availability of skilled workers (including 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capital • Right messaging, i.e.: Building resilience; reducing cost; creating new markets & jobs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local financial institutions • Owners of commercial property • Local expertise in renewable energy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indiana Co. point person researches the economics and fiscal implications in the renewable energy sector • Inventory possibilities for capital • Research regulations, other systems barriers, and potential partnerships for working with them • Align incentives with increased use of renewables • Communicate with potential partners and stakeholders

Focus Group #2: Renewable Energy
 Updated after 01/09/18 meeting

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> computer technologies, programmers, etc.) • Access – to Pittsburgh, highways, potential railway access, airport • Proximity to Pittsburgh 			
<p>Manufacture of materials related to renewables: Micro grids, batteries, parts for electric car industry</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential partnership with engineers at Carnegie Mellon & Pitt • Vacant commercial property • Availability of skilled workers (including computer technologies, programmers, etc.) • Access – to Pittsburgh, highways, potential railway access, airport • Proximity to Pittsburgh 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capital • Policy changes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Innovative engineers at area universities • Local financial institutions • Owners of commercial property • Local entrepreneurs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indiana Co. point person working through a partnership with innovators in engineering programs identify opportunities • Indiana Co. point person identify potential sites in Indiana Co. • Inventory possibilities for capital • Communicate with potential partners and stakeholders
<p>Data centers/hot back-up sites, small/medium scale</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vacant industrial space • Available electrical generating capacity • Water for cooling • Low(er) overall ambient temperatures in the area, compared to west coast and southern locations • High speed data lines • Geostability • Immunity to sea level rise • Minimization of impact of global warming compared to other locations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capital 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local financial institutions • Owners of local, older property with heat challenges • Local expertise in renewable energy • Companies interested in developing data centers in Indiana Co. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indiana Co. point person researches potential opportunities and partners for developing data centers • Inventory possibilities for capital • Research regulations, other systems barriers, and potential partnerships for working with them • Communicate with potential partners and stakeholders
<p>Year-round food production in vacant industrial space, using hydroponics,</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vacant industrial space 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capital 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local financial institutions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indiana Co. point person researches the economics and

APPENDIX C
Focus Group #2: Renewable Energy
 Updated after 01/09/18 meeting

controlled lighting, etc., powered through renewable energy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Available electrical generating capacity • Water for cooling 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Owners of commercial property • Local expertise in renewable energy 	fiscal implications and identifies potential partners <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inventory possibilities for capital • Research regulations, other systems barriers, and potential partnerships for working with them • Align incentives with increased use of renewables • Communicate with potential partners and stakeholders
Education: Public				
On reducing carbon footprint				
Create demonstration projects that provide opportunities to educate				
Produce guidebook on renewable energy				
Produce <i>Facts about Energy Conservation</i>				
Job Training/Workforce Development				
Training centered on technical trades related to solar and other renewable energies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ICTC, ARIN unit, IUP, Community colleges 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge about necessary or useful credentials 		

Resources:

Solar Holler, Huntington, WV <http://www.solarholler.com>,

U.S. Energy Information Administration, current PA statistics and analysis <https://www.eia.gov/state/?sid=PA>

Focus Group #2: Renewable Energy
Updated after 01/09/18 meeting

Numerous examples of shared office locations – supporting small/start-up businesses. <https://www.marsdd.com>

APPENDIX C

Focus Group : Building Materials and Construction

Master Worksheet, Version 6

March 14, 2018

	Wish/Goal List: “We wish that/there was _____ in Indiana County.”	Assets: Current resources/capacity that can contribute to achieving our goals/wishes.	Needs: Items/actions necessary to achieve our goals/wishes.	Potential Partnerships: Intentional agency/institutional connections needed to achieve our goals/wishes.	Actions
	EDUCATION				
1.	We wish that there was reduced energy consumption in building construction and use/lifespan in Indiana County	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing weatherization Program(s) Building Supply Stores Grant Opportunities Contractors Energy Company Offerings Conservation Consultants 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding Trained Contractors Public Education Sustainable Buildings- Examples Local Renewable Installations- Commercial and residential Exploration of all possibilities- research 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ICCAP Lowes/Lezzer etc. Human Services ICOPD Municipalities Energy Companies Builders Assoc. Indiana County Conservation District Evergreen Conservancy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eco-Village tour at Cornell Identify potential grant opportunities Workshops for contractors and developers Marketing to innovative companies Work with business community Reduction campaign for communities Focus on one or two communities as examples for others Promote research and innovation through all outlets/partners Develop and implement a robust public education component
2.	We wish that S.T.E.M. programs throughout Indiana were greater in number and current in curriculum. (Greater investment)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ICTC School Districts IUP adult education Grant Programs Challenger Program Existing Program at Library 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Technology in schools Funding Public support Buy in from School Boards and Educators 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ICTC IUP School Districts Challenger Program Library 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understand what exists Develop partnerships Research case studies Identify potential grant opportunities Make proposal appropriately
3.	We wish there were more/expanded Sustainability Programs/Curriculums throughout Indiana County.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School Districts/Tech Center IUP Sustainability Program 4-H programs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Case Studies Public Support Buy in from Schools/educators More information regarding what exists 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ICTC IUP School Districts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understand what exists Research case studies Develop partnerships Develop plan with partners Implementation of plan
4.	We wish there was a “Makerspace” in Indiana County.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing brownfields/available sites Existing innovator/artisan community Grant opportunities Schools 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investment Local buy-in More information Marketing Case Studies/Examples 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ICTC IUP School Districts Municipalities Library 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research Develop partnerships Determine what a “makerspace” would include Identify potential locations Identify funding opportunities/investors Marketing/advertising to investors / potential space users
5.	We wish there was an “innovation center” for developing new products/practices.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IUP Small Business Development Center 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investment Innovators 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> County CEO Municipalities IUP/school districts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What would it include? Different from makerspace? Develop necessary partnerships

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IUP • Available Sites 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Success stories • Planning • Local buy-in 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote the idea • Find potential funding/investors • Secure potential location • Marketing/advertising
6.	We wish there was more awareness regarding Sustainable building materials and construction in Indiana County	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multimedia outlets (radio, newspaper) • Website(s) • Good information is out there- no need to recreate the wheel 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good information • Good graphics • A spokesperson 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local professionals • Building community • Schools • Chamber of Commerce • County Conservation District 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop/distribute Infographic • Host/advertise webinars • Invite/host speaker series • Work with Conservation District on using new building to educate the public/visitors
7.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •

APPENDIX C

	Wish/Goal List: “We wish that/there was _____in Indiana County.”	Assets: Current resources/capacity that can contribute to achieving our goals/wishes.	Needs: Items/actions necessary to achieve our goals/wishes.	Potential Partnerships: Intentional agency/institutional connections needed to achieve our goals/wishes.	Actions
	ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT				
1.	We wish that there were more investors/investment in sustainable construction in Indiana County.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • County CEO • Local banks • IUP business school • Local contractors • Local stores • Homeowners • Potential incentives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investment opportunities • Investors to target • A certain niche • Public education • Incentives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local banks • Local developers • Municipalities • County CEO 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advertise/market • Develop a niche • Find investors to target • Develop/promote opportunities for investment in partnership with banks
2.	We wish that there was a reuse/recycle center for construction materials.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recycle Center • Construction community • Renovation/redevelopment is common • Grant opportunities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collective community support • Location • Funding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recycle Center • Municipalities • Builders Association 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop relationships • Develop idea further (location, costs etc.) • Garner support from community • Find funding • Implement project • Market/advertise
3.	We wish that there was a competitive business environment for sustainable building materials/construction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Competitive design/construction market • Renovations and additions are common • Institutions/large companies (stand to gain) • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providers • Availability • Promotion • Public Education • Demand 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large institutions – show them the way • Contractors- Builders association • Chamber of Commerce 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marketing to existing and potential businesses • Developing partnerships with building community • Provide/find resources and workshops and education to developers, builders, and community • Develop/utilize a web presence • Develop an “angies list” for sustainable contractors
4.	We wish there were incentives to utilize sustainable materials/ implement best practices.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allowed by law (MPC) • Case studies, examples • Cost effective tool • Municipalities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research/information • Public Support • Municipal Understanding and buy in 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Municipalities • Schools • Developers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet with municipalities to discuss/promote • Recognize through “sustainable certification” program • Provide information/host a workshop for municipalities
5.	We wish that there were more solar, wind, and geothermal installations in Indiana County.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local providers • Grant opportunities- Solar Energy Program • Energy production legacy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More local providers-competition • Research- case studies • Greater demand • Public Education • Incentives for installation/less barriers to installation • Cost effective solutions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large companies/institutions • Municipalities • Builders Association • Realtors Association- rentals/marketing of efficient real estate opportunities • Local providers- discount to locals • Homeowners 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a scaled bundling/coop program for cost savings • Work with local companies and contractors to develop a “local to local” discount program • Provide education/outreach/workshops regarding grant opportunities • Promote the inclusion in new building projects (ICCD building)

6.	We wish that there were more adaptive reuses of land/buildings and brownfield redevelopments in Indiana County.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing buildings Vacant buildings Existing brownfields Grant opportunities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding programs marketed Incentives for adaptive reuse Inventory of potential sites for reuse/redevelopment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> County CEO Municipalities County Planning Commission Evergreen Conservancy County Conservation district 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote the establishment of a land bank Develop partnerships and discuss needs “put it all together” in some sort of infographic Utilize web presence
7.	We wish that Indiana County was a center for research, development, and production of innovative sustainable building materials and practices.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IUP- SBDC and Incubator Existing manufacturers ICTC School districts Local Banks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Program infrastructure Investment Local entrepreneurs- people Good projects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Universities (local and regional) Chamber of commerce County CEO Entrepreneurs/investors Banks Conservation district Builders association 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use new ICCD building as a demonstration project site Work with partners to gauge interest Develop a plan with partners
8.	We wish that there was active participation from banks in offering banking products (loans etc.) specifically geared toward sustainable projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local banks Opportunity for improvements Product availability and cost is coming down 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Banks to participate Citizen education regarding costs/benefits of efficiency projects Promotion of available loans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local banks Builders Association Municipalities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Design a proposal for the banks Include for businesses and homes Make contacts and meet with banks Help to advertise/promote/market programs
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">

APPENDIX C

	Wish/Goal List: "We wish that/there was _____ in Indiana County."	Assets: Current resources/capacity that can contribute to achieving our goals/wishes.	Needs: Items/actions necessary to achieve our goals/wishes.	Potential Partnerships: Intentional agency/institutional connections needed to achieve our goals/wishes.	Actions
	JOB TRAINING & WORKFORCE DEV.				
1.	We wish that there were training and placement programs directly related to Sustainable Building Construction/Materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indiana County Workshop • ICTC • County CEO • Library • Schools • Conservation district new building 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A spokesperson • Funding • Technical assistance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conservation district • ICTC • Library • Schools • County CEO • Builders Association • Community based organizations • Penn State Coop Extension • IUP 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop partnerships • Work to include in existing programs • Develop new training programs • Market programs • Implementation • Look for speakers • New ICCD building as location • Look into Honeywell Energy Solutions
2.	We wish that there were informational meetings regarding Sustainable Building Construction/Materials in Indiana County.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schools • New ICCD building • News media availability • Web presence • IUP Sustainability Program • Existing contractors/companies that are regional 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presenters/experts • Location • Funding • Organization • Leadership 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School districts and ICTC • Universities (local and regional) • Municipalities • Builders association • ICOPD 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with Conservation District and other partners to develop a plan/program
3.	We wish there were apprenticeship programs in Sustainable Building Construction that allowed hands on training.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People looking for work • ICTC programs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organization • Leadership 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Builders Association • Engineering/Architecture/design firms • ICTC • School Districts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with schools and local contractor/building/design/engineering communities to develop and implement a program • Market/advertise/promote program
4.	We wish that there was more awareness of existing training programs and job placement programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ICTC • Career Link • County CEO • Chamber of Commerce • Local Media • Web presence 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inventory of existing programs • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ICTC • County CEO • School Districts • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Find or put together a "webinar" regarding what exists • Analyze existing programs • Complete an infographic • Advertise/promote existing programs including through online methods
		•	•		

Focus Group 4: Environmental Restoration & Stewardship

Master Worksheet, v10

3/15/2018 post focus group meeting with additions

#	Wish/Goal List: “We wish that/there was/were _____ in Indiana County.”	Assets: What resources could contribute to achieving our wishes/goals?	Needs: What actions/resources are needed to achieve our wishes/goals?	Potential Partnerships: Agencies/institutions /people) who need to be involved to achieve our wishes and goals?	Recommended Actions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What action steps need to be taken ‡ by whom to achieve our wishes and goals?
EDUCATION					
1.	We wish that there was a shared understanding among decision-makers/ agencies of <i>what residents knew about the environment and what issues they think are important in Indiana County.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ECO tour survey responses • IUP survey expertise • Planning office survey experience • Existing websites to post information • Task Force website 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communication medium to reach residents (survey?) • Social media platforms • Champion person/agency 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Media outlets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop/Distribute surveys and Assets results ‡ IUP ‡ Keep website and make sure all information is updated, fresh and managed
2.	We wish that there was a <i>shift in attitude toward environmental stewardship (protection, conservation, and restoration) in Indiana County through increased awareness of the environment and school districts who would prioritize environmental education in Indiana County.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Established/ongoing ECO tour • Tanoma AMD out door classroom • Environthon run by ICCD • Citizen Science being developed by IUP • Have water baseline for >30 streams in Indiana • County to help educated people • IUP testing water and doing research • FOYC, FOP • IUP has a grant and is developing a program – Erin Janeski and Holly Travis –conservation field days • IHS has very interested teachers • Many local schools participate in the ICCD 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Involve more people, spread knowledge • Broader PR • A series of presentations on our assets, (ie: streams, salamanders, etc – celebrate what we have • Banners to advertise presentations and things like the Eco tour • County transit available to get residents out to our county parks • A green recreation equivalent of the potter's tour, but year long • Citizen science groups • Hands on activities in classrooms (IE trout in the classroom) • List of 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • County Agriculture Department – Penn State Office • ICCD • Game Commission (project Wild and other programs) • Local Watershed groups • Allegheny Arboretum • DCNR- YC Environmental Center • Small Wood lot management • Wildlife Society • Society of American Foresters • WPC • Evergreen Conservancy • Municipal Governments • OSMRE • IndiGO, IC Transit Authority 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hold a series of programs on environmental stewardship and what it means <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By ICCD, Evergreen Conservancy, watershed groups • Start regular newspaper features of conservation efforts • Hole school programs on conservation, teachers and presenters and local experts IE Evergreen Conservancy, water shed specialist, IUP • Sponsor Project Wet and Project Wild Training in the county for teachers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ‡ Watershed groups, GC • Appoint an EE team <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ‡ ICTC, Commissioners • Involve teachers through Citizen Science Program <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ‡ IUP biology • Work with farmers to develop BMP’s <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ‡ ICCD, DEP • Identify and appoint group to lead the effort to do outreach via

APPENDIX C

#	Wish/Goal List: “We wish that/there was/were _____ in Indiana County.”	Assets: What resources could contribute to achieving our wishes/goals?	Needs: What actions/resources are needed to achieve our wishes/goals?	Potential Partnerships: Agencies/institutions /people) who need to be involved to achieve our wishes and goals?	Recommended Actions: • What action steps need to be taken ‡ by whom to achieve our wishes and goals?
		<p>Environthons</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ICCD has information • Natural Heritage Inventory completed • Indiana Co Comp Plan completed • Sportsman’s clubs • Watershed Groups and Conservancy organizations 	<p>resources/funding to provide to classrooms</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Team to assist school districts • Stakeholders analysis • Fact sheet focused on environmental issues that could be distributed to anyone interested • Something visual that highlighted the connection between land and water quality 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appalachian Regional Reforestation Initiative (ARRI) • Appalachian Mountain Joint Venture (AMJV) • Media outlets • Develop /distribute fact sheets • ICOPD • Demonstrate products • School district • IUP science educators • Allegheny Land Trust - (Mrs. Kester)- PA State Coordinator for Project Wet • Local Environmental Groups • School Boards 	<p>infographics, events with relevant stake holders</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tabling at public events (country fair) • Ad campaign • PSU County Extension programs • School Districts implement sequential science programs leading to environmental programs
3.	<p>We wish that there was an awareness of importance of stormwater management among residents & municipalities in Indiana County.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stormwater Education Partnership formed and functioning • Volunteer identified to take the message to the other municipalities • IUP research on storms and stormwater County • Ongoing Act 167 planning at county and local levels (WT, IB) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Municipalities to take an active role in stormwater management • A way to spread information that they will pay attention to... many outlying areas don’t have great Internet • Better connectivity for internet, broadband • A way to bridge the “digital divide” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comcast • SPC • Legislators – Reed/White • WT/IB • Gazette – stories on SW Issues • IUP Journalism classes • Stormwater Ed Partnership (SEP) • Allegheny Arboretum 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete stormwater township/borough/county plans ‡ Municipalities, ICOPD • Educate municipalities to Adopt ‡ ICOPD • Make sure there is nothing to prevent doing stormwater BMP’s IE rain barrels and downspouts, etc ‡ Municipalities, ICOPD ‡ Clean brush from Creeks locally to prevent flooding on a regular basis without increasing flooding or erosion downstream... increase education on this issue

#	Wish/Goal List: “We wish that/there was/were _____ in Indiana County.”	Assets: What resources could contribute to achieving our wishes/goals?	Needs: What actions/resources are needed to achieve our wishes/goals?	Potential Partnerships: Agencies/institutions /people) who need to be involved to achieve our wishes and goals?	Recommended Actions: • What action steps need to be taken ‡ by whom to achieve our wishes and goals?
4.	We wish that rainwater collection was encouraged in Indiana County.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have swales, raingardens and rain barrels in place for demonstrations • Have done rain barrel workshops 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding for homeowners to put these green options into practice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Borough Councils • Municipalities • Indiana Armstrong Builders Association • Architects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set up a booth at Builders Association for education purposes, Educate about swales, etc ‡
5.	We wish that there was a better awareness of what has been done AND what needs to be done to protect water and land in Indiana County.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tanoma Wet lands as demo site • ECO tour • Tourist Bureau • We have a source water protection plan for Twolick and Yellow creek watersheds • We have a natural heritage inventory for the county • We have streams that are listed as High Quality 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fact sheet focused on what has been and needs done to protect water and land that could be distributed to anyone interested • Utilize the source water protection plans to move forward in protection work • Update the Natural Heritage plan • Publicize the list of streams that are not high quality and work to cleaning them up 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Historical Society • Grant Township - learn from them • IUP Com Media – Videos of stories to tell of degradation and re-building with F White Story • IUP Environmental Engineering • Watershed Associations and Trout Unlimited and NRA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain, develop BMP’s that prevents runoff from abandoned mines, drilling activities, dirt and gravel roads, agricultural area and extraction from entering ground and surface water & Enforce ‡ DEP, • Identify priority watersheds for restoration ‡ • Test water – determine what to test for, start on one creek – prioritize (source water streams a priority) find a 3rd party source to do testing. Do macro testing, Compile already tested results
6.	We wish that PennDOT would consistently employ best management practices for land reclamation and water runoff as part of their projects in Indiana County.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A regulatory structure is in place • WPC has the knowledge and grant money for things like riparian buffer zones • ICCD has the knowledge for erosion and sediment controls • There is funding through state agencies and Foundation for PA watershed for high priority watersheds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A way to track all violations Enforcement of the violations and fines • Involve stakeholders (local homeowners and watershed groups) when projects are being done so they can have input 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PENNDOT • ICOPD • ICCD • DEP • WPC • Commissioners • Rep Reed/Sen White 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a county wide wetlands management ordinance • Complete and enforce stormwater management plans throughout the county

APPENDIX C

#	Wish/Goal List: “We wish that/there was/were _____ in Indiana County.”	Assets: What resources could contribute to achieving our wishes/goals?	Needs: What actions/resources are needed to achieve our wishes/goals?	Potential Partnerships: Agencies/institutions /people) who need to be involved to achieve our wishes and goals?	Recommended Actions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What action steps need to be taken ‡ by whom to achieve our wishes and goals?
7.	We wish that there were more riparian buffer zones along small waterways in Indiana County.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Master Gardeners knowledge of native plants • WPC programs on Riparian Zones and projects • ICCD working on So Br Plum Creek to enhance riparian zones • IUP Biology department knowledge of Native plants and water (Larkin, Tyree, Janeski, Widzowski) • Evergreen Conservancy and watershed groups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • List of interested private property owners willing to install buffer zones • List of public land areas and managers willing to install buffer zones • Improve public awareness of value of riparian buffers • Include education on what buffers look like how they function and what they provide to the streams 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grass Roots groups/Citizens • Municipalities • Architects L.A.’s and Engs • Insurance Companies • FEMA buy houses along streams • Farm Bureau to reach farmers • ICOPD - create a “run-off” add t Act 167 Plan SW authority • Nurseries – plants • Business Communities • SAF • Penn State County Exention • IC Conservation District 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ****Create a county wide (greenway corridor)riparian buffer zone ordinance/ plan (restore areas, create jobs and increase economic development) on all waterways. Start with Blacklick Creek watershed. • Locate the best farm land in the county for protection ‡ ICCD • Provide incentives for landowners to implement riparian buffer zones ‡ ICCD, WPC • Identify and set priorities to establish vegetative or forested buffers of 50 to 150 feet on each side of every stream located outside of agricultural areas. ‡ By: Citizens, municipalities, conservation District, Planning Commission, Federal and State Agencies to execute the above • Engage Professional Land Managers & consultants
8.	We wish that PennDOT would plant native trees along roadways and streams as part of their projects in Indiana County.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comprehensive local knowledge and active local groups (ie. WPC, Penn State, IUP) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PennDOT to engage local environmental groups (i.e. WPC) • Change policy to include training for PennDOT project managers • Change rules to make it mandatory to include these things in planning phases 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Environmental Groups • Local Nurseries • Townships/ boroughs • Local Architects • WPC • PennDOT 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a Community Tree Program ‡ Done byDCNR - forestry • Preview PENNDOT’s standards for plantings to update with native plant choices ‡ By IUP Biology or regional planning? • Send letters to PennDOT to request plantings when there is roadwork done to include natives and riparian buffers ‡ By watershed groups/conservancies/municipalities

#	Wish/Goal List: “We wish that/there was/were _____ in Indiana County.”	Assets: What resources could contribute to achieving our wishes/goals?	Needs: What actions/resources are needed to achieve our wishes/goals?	Potential Partnerships: Agencies/institutions /people) who need to be involved to achieve our wishes and goals?	Recommended Actions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What action steps need to be taken ‡ by whom to achieve our wishes and goals?
9.	We wish that there was an adopted <i>countywide zoning ordinance</i> designed to encourage good land use and environmental stewardship in Indiana County.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IC Comp Plan recommends countywide zoning • We have 10 state game lands, county parks, state park, trails, natural areas, and historical sites in the county • There are conservation ad restoration plans in place for several watersheds including: Bear Run, Aultman Run, Kiski-Conemaugh, Blacklegs, Upper Mahoning Blacklick Creek, and Upper Crooked Creek, Plum creek • Crooked Creek is one of 26 in the state that is a Qualified Hydrologic Unit (affected by AMD) and can utilize SMCRA funds for AMD remediation • Whites Woods 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individual or agency champion • Aware and involved public • Additions to existing plans to protect the environment before there is a problem IE banning plastic bags, investigating ways to support building rain gardens, use of rain barrels (ok to disconnect downspouts, etc..) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • County Commissioners • ICOPD • Municipalities • Developers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Present ideas at the Municipality Meetings (IC Townships/Boroughs Assn.) ‡ By environmental groups, IUP educators, • Identify large contiguous areas of land for preservation to protect natural resources and derive economic value with protecting open spaces. • Educate municipalities and do PR to their constituents • See note about #9 about greenway corridors and Laurie’s note about Greenways
	We wish that <i>Liquid Fuels and Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding decisions</i> were based on the inclusion of <i>Best Management Practices</i> in local roadway and stormwater runoff projects in Indiana County.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Active ICCD Dirt and Gravel Roads program in County making possible information sharing and oversite possibilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need environmental impact of local road projects to be prioritized at County level • Need to make transparent liquid fuel funding decisions and include ICCD staff in process 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • County Commissioners • Supervisors organizations • PennDOT • ICP and Trails 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • County prioritize liquid fuel money distribution to municipalities based on environmental impact in a transparent decision process ‡ Each county • Fair distribution and process for DGB money

APPENDIX C

#	Wish/Goal List: “We wish that/there was/were _____ in Indiana County.”	Assets: What resources could contribute to achieving our wishes/goals?	Needs: What actions/resources are needed to achieve our wishes/goals?	Potential Partnerships: Agencies/institutions /people) who need to be involved to achieve our wishes and goals?	Recommended Actions: • What action steps need to be taken ‡ by whom to achieve our wishes and goals?
11.	We wish that there was a greater awareness of the importance of <i>recycling</i> in Indiana County.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scientific knowledge is available through IUP, Indiana County Recycling Center (ICRC) • Plastics are picked up in WT and IB as part of ICRC program • PA Cleanways • 2007 Illegal Dump Survey 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need prioritization of recycling at County level • Need local regulatory strategies/policies to restrict use of plastic bags and encourage reuse of existing containers for water and other fluids • Need ICEC to expand service areas • Expand plastic types for recycling • Bring industry in to the County to take recyclables and use them for other products instead of our products going out of County • Recognize and ID roadside dumps in the county • Funding to clean up the dumps • Expand curbside pickup of recyclables 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Grocery Stores • SWA • Schools • IUP – ECO club, etc • Parks and Recycling • Municipalities and Boroughs that can advocate for returnable glass for money, eliminating plastic bags, etc 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pass a bottle bill for glass recyclables • Pass rules about using plastic bags ‡ Ordinances passes by municipalities • Organize volunteer recycling programs in municipalities that do not have mandatory recycling ‡ Recycling Center • Expand plastic recycling ‡ Recycling Center • Bring companies into Indiana County to utilize plastics and other recycled materials in products ‡ By: COC, DI, Commissioners • Introduce concepts in schools ‡ By: Teachers,
12.	We wish that current and future <i>environmentally focused educational efforts</i> could be based on the <i>real science of ecology and ecosystems</i> and not on political discourse in Indiana County.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scientific knowledge is available through IUP • Penn State County Extension • Penn State Forestry and NR • DCNR and Parks, Forest • Conservation District 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to develop a method of distributing information to the community about upcoming projects, • Need to encourage public involvement to demonstrate importance of 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IUP Citizen science work • Foresters • Wild life society • Natural Resources managers • Penn State extension office & Master Gardeners • Newspapers/social 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advance agenda items for ICBC, ICPC, ICSWA, Redevelopment Authority • Protect 70% of the water in the County. •

#	Wish/Goal List: “We wish that/there was/were _____ in Indiana County.”	Assets: What resources could contribute to achieving our wishes/goals?	Needs: What actions/resources are needed to achieve our wishes/goals?	Potential Partnerships: Agencies/institutions /people) who need to be involved to achieve our wishes and goals?	Recommended Actions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What action steps need to be taken ‡ by whom to achieve our wishes and goals?
			environmental issues <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to communicate public sentiment to corporations interested in projects in the County. 	media/ Radio <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programs – FOP / Evergreen Conservancy • ICTC or local school districts 	
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT					
13.	We wish that economic development planning and policy documents would <i>prioritize and encourage environmentally focused businesses to locate in Indiana County.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IC Economic Development Plan currently being developed by ICOPD • More than 6 established watershed groups in the county to guide policy development • Vacancies in County offices parks • Evergreen Conservancy, SEP, ICTC, IUP HIS and LWV 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to include local environmental groups in planning and policy development • Need to research and publish experiences of other counties seeking to attract the same types of businesses. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water testing Businesses • Engineering Firms • Appalachian Regional Commission Progressive Fund • Allegheny Ridge Corp. • Evergreen Conservancy, SEP, ICTC, IUP HIS and LWV • ICDC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore markets to utilize recycled materials in products ‡ COC, • Provide incentive for developers to obtain LEED Green Buildings or other green designations ‡ Commissioners, NGBS, EGS • Finish the Economic Develop Plan by ICOPD and implement • Greenway corridors ‡ ARC
14.	We wish that local and county land-use policy and regulatory documents would <i>encourage and prioritize the creative reuse of existing buildings and brownfield sites in Indiana County.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local design/engineering professionals are knowledgeable about energy efficient and green technology • ICOPD is currently developing Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance • State and federal funding available through DEP, DCED, etc. for brownfield sites • County Comprehensive Plan and accompanying documents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need inventory of current brownfields in the County • Need improve awareness of reuse and brownfield development at local levels • Need regulatory documentation to support the policy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ICOD • DEP/EPA • Development Corporation (non-profit) • ICDC • County, municipal and Borough • Planning Commission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create and enforce regulatory documentation ‡ County, municipalities, Borough • Inventory of unused buildings and brownfields ‡ Include as part of ICOPD business Development Park

APPENDIX C

#	Wish/Goal List: “We wish that/there was/were _____ in Indiana County.”	Assets: What resources could contribute to achieving our wishes/goals?	Needs: What actions/resources are needed to achieve our wishes/goals?	Potential Partnerships: Agencies/institutions /people) who need to be involved to achieve our wishes and goals?	Recommended Actions: • What action steps need to be taken ‡ by whom to achieve our wishes and goals?
15.	We wish that funding was available for small, local communities seeking to <i>keep bacteria (ie. e-coli) and other pollution out of their waterways in Indiana County.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have municipal services • Comprehensive plan chapter 5 water and sewer facilities information • We have historical data on water quality Indiana County has a water supply plan • There is a source water protection plan for Twolick and Yellow Creek watersheds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need updated list of streams and specific pollution issues to be widely distributed • Need DEP testing results to be publicly accessible • Need to increase public understanding of watershed plans and how they can be used to engage state and federal funding and local remediation efforts. • Baseline and regular testing to know when there are peaks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TU/ICCD/PASEC/DEP/WP C – water testing • Grant researchers • Government/Private partnerships – grant matches - DCED-RCAP • State elected officials 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hire funding consultants to find grants to partner with government grants to fund projects • Education on baselines and resources on how to mitigate causes
16.	We wish that there was a demonstration project that highlighted use of newest <i>environmentally sensitive sewage system technology in Indiana County.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some local sewage systems are operated by municipalities interested in “going green”. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to create new jobs in this field • New technology 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Municipal Service authorities • Water Recycling Corporation of Am • IC Municipal Services Authority (ICMSA), Mike Duffalo 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify sewage Locations on a map • Identify potential funding sources • Lead tours of sites with relevant individuals • Water recycling new technology
17.	We wish that local and county policy and regulatory frameworks would require developers/builders to <i>employ best management practices (i.e. wetlands, swales, rain gardens) and green technology in Indiana County.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ICOPD administers building code inspections for many of the municipalities in the County. • Local and County land use policy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need county and local policies and laws that mandate best management practices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ICOPD • White Township • Local Municipalities • Conservation Districts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educate Builders and contractors and municipalities ‡ ICCD • Put mandates in ordinances <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ‡ Municipalities, borough, townships, Planning office ‡ Organize a steering committee to develop the economic development plan related to integrating environmental issues ‡ Hire a consultant to finish the Economic Development plan

#	Wish/Goal List: “We wish that/there was/were _____ in Indiana County.”	Assets: What resources could contribute to achieving our wishes/goals?	Needs: What actions/resources are needed to achieve our wishes/goals?	Potential Partnerships: Agencies/institutions /people) who need to be involved to achieve our wishes and goals?	Recommended Actions: • What action steps need to be taken ‡ by whom to achieve our wishes and goals?
18.	We wish that local and county-wide economic development planning and policy documents would build on the County’s long history of energy production by prioritizing and encouraging <i>energy creation that is more efficient, environmentally friendly, and sustainable in Indiana County.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have businesses and business people who have been in the energy making field for many years • Many electric companies are now including renewable energy • The Commonwealth’s Alternative Energy Portfolio Standard requires that at least 0.5 percent of the electricity supplied to consumers by Pennsylvania electric distribution companies and electric generation suppliers come from solar PV by 2021.** 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need summary of history of energy production in County • Need to use existing knowledge to expand jobs related to new ways of energy production • Need to identify local champion for this issue to be included in planning and policy development processes • We need to have a completed Indiana County Economic Development Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable Indiana CO Task force • ICOPD • COnsultant 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indiana County Economic Development Plan ‡ ICOPD and consultant and ICDC, COC, Local government and other Economic Development organizations in the county.
19.	We wish that local and county-wide economic development planning and policy documents would expand and encourage the use of <i>sustainable agriculture techniques</i> to reduce pollution, enhance water quality, and reduce carbon pollution in Indiana County.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a Farm bureau in Indiana County with whom partnership is possible’ • ICCD helps with farm issues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to highlight BMP in farming community • Need to provide incentive funding programs that encourage local farmers to make changes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farm Sen • ICCD • DEP • PSU Extension 	County Farm Bureau

APPENDIX C

#	Wish/Goal List: “We wish that/there was/were _____ in Indiana County.”	Assets: What resources could contribute to achieving our wishes/goals?	Needs: What actions/resources are needed to achieve our wishes/goals?	Potential Partnerships: Agencies/institutions /people) who need to be involved to achieve our wishes and goals?	Recommended Actions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What action steps need to be taken ‡ by whom to achieve our wishes and goals?
JOB TRAINING & CREATION					
20.	We wish that jobs and training in water treatment would be prioritized in Indiana County and that formal public or private sector positions could be created at the county or local level to guide the remediation of the hundreds of mine discharges in Indiana County.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have a good conservation district in Indiana • We have local water assessment facilities in Indiana • Robertshaw business incubator is in Indiana 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programs at WyoTec and ICTC to learn these jobs • Expand jobs at the conservation district so they could spearhead more programs • Expand jobs in water testing • Make funding available for start-up companies in these fields • DEP funding to be able to do their work to regulate / fine/ need field personnel Higher fees to fund DEP field staff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ICTC • DEP • IUP Energy Program (environmental engineering) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a company in the county that could do stream restoration, AMD mitigation and find funding • Develop programs to teach people how to do restoration • There should be an inspection/review service to make sure BMP’s are used in installations • Finish the Wherum Treatment plant on Blacklick Creek that was promised 15 years ago. • Develop a company to develop aeration systems for AMD passive treatment systems using solar energy to create air pressure (dissolved oxygen) in the water.
21.	We wish that jobs and training related to emerging methods and techniques used to install and maintain <i>permeable surfaces including pavers, power systems, solar, wind and other green infrastructure and in relation to Abandoned mine discharges (such as Trompe or solar fabrication/parts)</i> were available in Indiana County.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are companies outside the county that do this. • Some local companies are trying to learn more about green technology • Robertshaw Business Incubator is in Indiana 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bring in satellite companies based in the county • Create new jobs for maintenance (after Lancaster created many impermeable surfaces companies grew to o the maintenance) • Create jobs for solar panel installers • Create jobs for restoration and stewardship Funding and job training – scholarships for people for training • Programs at WyoTec 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ICCOC – bring Co into County • Consumers • Architects • Engineers • Indiana Armstrong Builders • ICTC • WYO-tech like • WCCC • St Francis U – Loreto • Fish Commission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a county energy plan that rewards conservation and encourage renewable energy ‡ Start businesses that can maintain permeable surfaces. ‡ Develop financial incentives in PA to install green technology. • Identify sites for demonstration, map, projects • By: ICCD • Complete a survey of all mining, quarrying or other extraction discharges into the streams of Indiana County, prioritize reclamation needs and publicize the list. ‡ Get information from DEP as to what discharges are already mapped

#	Wish/Goal List: “We wish that/there was/were _____ in Indiana County.”	Assets: What resources could contribute to achieving our wishes/goals?	Needs: What actions/resources are needed to achieve our wishes/goals?	Potential Partnerships: Agencies/institutions /people) who need to be involved to achieve our wishes and goals?	Recommended Actions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What action steps need to be taken ‡ by whom to achieve our wishes and goals?
			and ICTC to learn these jobs		‡ DEP to finish QHUPs for all the watersheds in Indiana County or hire professionals to do them – do not rely on private volunteers.



Released September 2018