

FILED

7-19-2021

CITY CLERK

**RESOLUTION NO. 10, 2021**

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA, TO PARTNER WITH ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVISTS FOR A RESILIENT TERRE HAUTE (EARTHLINGS); INDIANA STATE UNIVERSITY, INDIANA UNIVERSITY AND OTHER HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS; VIGO COUNTY GOVERNMENT AND THE VIGO COUNTY SCHOOL CORPORATION; BUSINESSES AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS TO REDUCE CARBON EMISSIONS, INCREASE ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND RENEWABLE ENERGY USE, AND CREATE A CITY-WIDE CLIMATE ACTION PLAN THAT WILL BENEFIT THE LOCAL ECONOMY, PROMOTE PUBLIC HEALTH, AND PROTECT OUR ENVIRONMENT

WHEREAS, the City of Terre Haute has committed to creating a vibrant, prosperous, economically balanced community, recognizing that sustainable and livable communities attract jobs, new residents, and new economic development opportunities, while increasing civic pride and community engagement; and

WHEREAS, Terre Haute Mayor Duke Bennett has shown leadership by enrolling the City in the Indiana University Environmental Resilience Institute's<sup>1</sup> Resilience Cohort program<sup>2</sup> to conduct both a community-wide greenhouse gas inventory and a baseline greenhouse gas inventory of all city government operations; and

WHEREAS, findings from this greenhouse gas inventory will be used to help residents and local officials understand Terre Haute's current emissions profile and help city employees develop a Resilient Terre Haute Climate Action Plan, identifying greenhouse gas reduction strategies for municipal activities; and

WHEREAS, the Purdue Climate Change Research Center (PCCRC) has determined that with continued business-as-usual emissions, the Midwest can expect increased risks to public health, infrastructure, and agriculture due to the worsening intensity and frequency of heat waves, more extreme droughts, increased heavy rain events, and flooding<sup>3</sup>; and

WHEREAS, it is anticipated that the effects of a healthier environment will substantially reduce health costs, especially for those suffering from asthma and emphysema or other respiratory issues associated with poor air quality.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA as follows:

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<sup>1</sup> <https://eri.iu.edu/index.html>

<sup>2</sup> <https://eri.iu.edu/who-we-work-with/local-governments/resilience-cohort.html>

<sup>3</sup> <https://docs.lib.purdue.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1000&context=climatetr>; also see: <https://docs.lib.purdue.edu/climatetr/2/>

**SECTION 1.** The City Council of Terre Haute acknowledges that climate change is a threat to Terre Haute's public health and economy, and we will treat the climate crisis as an emergency.

**SECTION 2.** The City Council intends to partner with the EARTHlings and other local citizens to create by January 2022 a Sustainability Commission that will include community representatives drawn from the City Council, the Mayor's Office, the Terre Haute Chamber of Commerce, local churches and schools, the Vigo County School Corporation, local higher education institutions, and area businesses.<sup>4</sup> The Sustainability Commission will also work with the City of Terre Haute to appoint by Summer 2022 a Sustainability Coordinator, who will manage and implement sustainability programs and initiatives such as waste reduction, recycling, composting, green building, stormwater management, and the promotion of locally grown food and sustainable transportation, to ensure that the goals of the Sustainability Commission and Terre Haute City are met.

**SECTION 3.** This Sustainability Commission will work toward creating a formal Resilient Terre Haute Climate Action Plan utilizing data from the Resilience Cohort's greenhouse gas inventory currently being carried out by Indiana State University's Office of Sustainability<sup>5</sup> in conjunction with the Indiana University Environmental Resiliency Institute, which will offer guidance for the City's implementation of the Resiliency Plan.

**SECTION 4.** The Terre Haute City Council, in collaboration with the proposed Sustainability Commission, will publish the results of its Resilient Terre Haute Climate Action Plan by August 2023 on the City of Terre Haute's website, with a goal of adoption by the City Council of Terre Haute within ninety (90) days of its completion.

**SECTION 5.** The Resilient Terre Haute Climate Action Plan will set emissions reduction goals and create an energy management program based on recommendations by Indiana scientists; goals will be commensurate with the need to address the climate emergency.

**SECTION 6.** The Resilient Terre Haute Climate Action Plan shall be revisited and updated where applicable, every three (3) years thereafter, beginning in 2026.

**SECTION 7.** The Sustainability Commission will create an annual awards program to acknowledge and encourage local businesses that demonstrate tangible actions to be more sustainable and to reduce their carbon footprint.

**SECTION 8.** The Sustainability Commission will engage in education and outreach activities for community members and support lifestyle changes that reduce greenhouse gas emissions, ensure water and air quality, encourage locally and responsibly grown food, encourage recycling solutions, and support transportation strategies like biking, walking, and the use of mass transit.

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<sup>4</sup> Please take a look at Michigan City's Sustainability Commission to get a clear idea about how a sister city is launching a similar program: <https://emichigancity.com/1214/Sustainability-Commission>

<sup>5</sup> ISU's Sustainability Advisory Committee is also available to assist with the Resiliency Plan implementation. Further resources are available through an internship program associated with the Indiana University Environmental Resiliency Institute. However, organizations seeking such interns need to apply for them in Fall 2021.

Introduced by: Todd Nation Todd Nation, Councilmember  
George Azar George Azar, Councilmember  
Tammy Boland Tammy Boland, Councilmember  
Martha Crossen Martha Crossen, Councilmember  
Curtis Debaun IV Curtis Debaun IV, Councilmember  
Neil Garrison Neil Garrison, Councilmember

Passed in open Council this 5<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2021.

O. Earl Elliott O. Earl Elliott, President

ATTEST: Michelle L. Edwards Michelle L. Edwards, City Clerk

Presented by me to the Mayor this 5<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2021.

Michelle L. Edwards Michelle L. Edwards, City Clerk

Approved by me, the Mayor, this 5<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2021.

Duke A. Bennett Duke A. Bennett, Mayor

ATTEST: Michelle L. Edwards Michelle L. Edwards, City Clerk