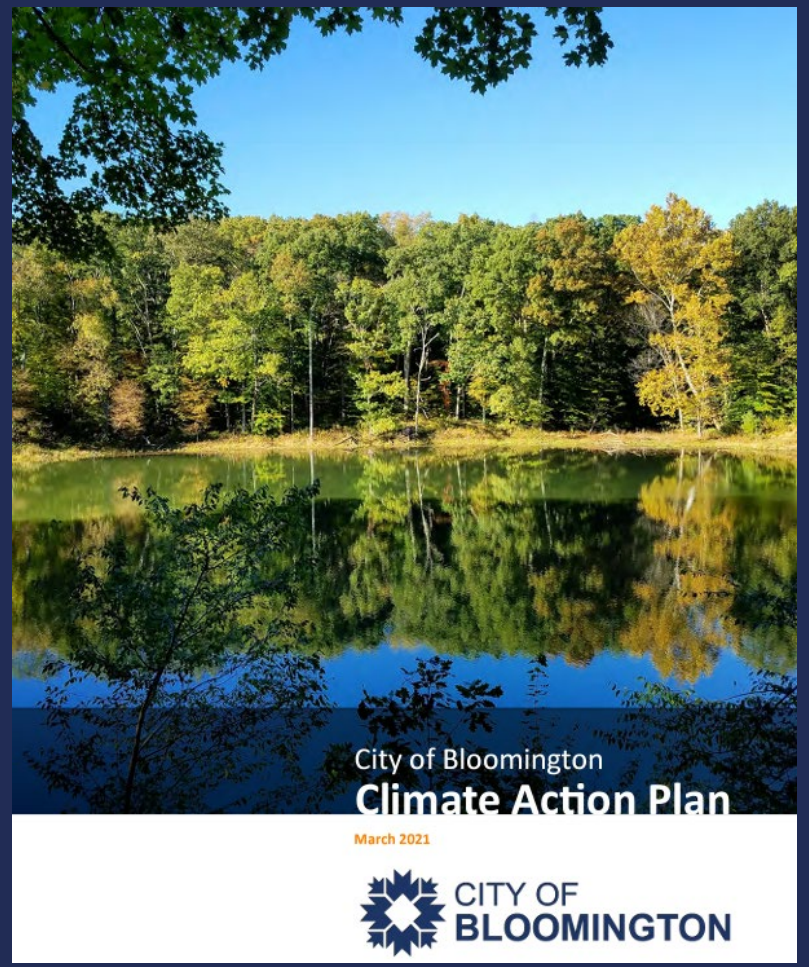
Building Decarbonization in Bloomington, Indiana

Mayor Kerry Thomson

July 2026

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON

- ★ Climate change impacts our community:
  - Flooding
  - Extreme heat
  - Extreme weather
  - City Infrastructure
  - Public health and safety
  - Local economy
- ★ 2021 Climate Action Plan
- ★ 5-Year Local Income Tax Ordinance 2023 – 2028
- ★ $1.6 million per year for climate actions related to:
  - Building decarbonization
  - Climate resilience
- ★ Building decarbonization budget breakdown:
  - Residential rebate program
  - Small Business & Nonprofit grant program
  - Municipal projects
- ★ 2 Full-time sustainability staff members in the Department of Economic and Sustainable Development



BLOOMINGTON GREEN HOME IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM







Bloomington Green Home Improvement Program

- ★ Rebates for Bloomington homeowners since 2022
- ★ One rebate per year per household
- ★ Rebate covers 25% of the installation, or 40% for low income residents, up to a maximum amount depending on the project type:
  - Solar & battery (*can be a combined rebate for both)
  - Heat pump HVAC system
  - Air conditioners
  - Weatherization: windows, doors, insulation
  - EV chargers
  - Electric panel upgrades (*can be a combined rebate with other projects)
- ★ Equipment required to be EnergyStar certified
- ★ **More than $195,000 in rebate disbursements to date for 58 households!**

SEEL PROGRAM

SOLAR- ENERGY EFFICIENCY- LIGHTING



Solar and battery grant at local food bank, Mother Hubbard's Cupboard

Solar, Energy Efficiency, and Lighting (SEEL)Program

Grants for small businesses and nonprofits

Applicants can choose to apply for either a Solar or an Energy Efficiency grant

Solar

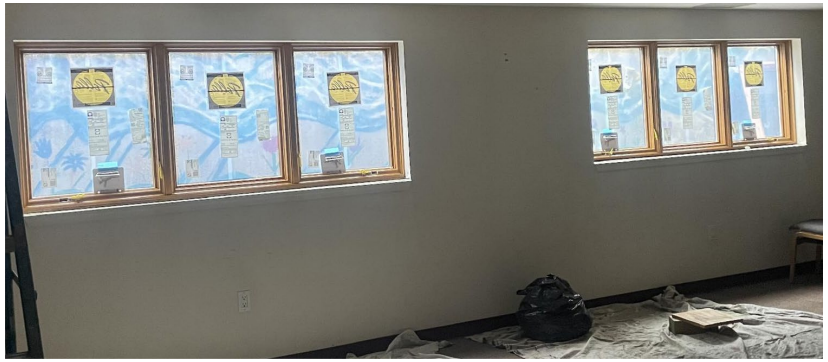
- ★ Solar system grant up to max $25,000
- ★ Battery Energy Storage System up to max $20,000 (nonprofits who provide essential services only)
- ★ City hired Solar Energy Solutions to install approved systems
- ★ More than **$1,000,000** in grants provided to date with **462.8 kW** installed
- ★ Will save an estimated **$2,000,000** in electric costs over the lifetime of the solar systems
- ★ Allows small businesses to invest in their companies and employees
- ★ Allows nonprofits to further their missions

SEEL PROGRAM

SOLAR- ENERGY EFFICIENCY- LIGHTING



Cool roof at WonderLab



Energy efficient windows at Unitarian Universalist Church

Solar, Energy Efficiency, and Lighting (SEEL)Program

Energy Efficiency and Lighting

- ★ Free energy audit performed by IFF - $4,000 value paid for by City
- ★ Grant up to max $10,000
- ★ Heat pump HVAC system
- ★ Weatherization: Windows, Doors, or Insulation
- ★ Cool roof
- ★ LED lighting
- ★ More than **$260,000** in grants provided to **26** small businesses and nonprofits to date

Solar Grants to Habitat for Humanity of Monroe County & Bloomington Housing Authority

Solar grants to help the organizations that house our most vulnerable residents:

- ★ Total provided since 2023: $950,000
- ★ 30 houses built by Habitat for Humanity of Monroe County
- ★ Bloomington Housing Authority
  - 17 Multi-family Unit Buildings
  - Community Center
  - Early Learning Center
  - 17 Houses @ Arlington Commons
- ★ Total 374 kW







Project 46 Southern Indiana Regional Climate Alliance

- ★ Bi-partisan alliance between Bloomington, Nashville, Columbus, Indiana
- ★ 2023, signed MOU with annual membership dues of $0.50/capita
- ★ Fiscal Sponsor: The Heritage Fund of Bartholomew County
- ★ Collaborate, share information, & apply for regional funding opportunities
- ★ Top Priorities:
    - Building energy efficiency
    - EV adoption
    - Waste reduction
    - Flood mitigation
- ★ Advisory Committee Members
- ★ Pay annual membership dues or provide in-kind support
    - Cummins, Inc.
    - IU Environmental Resilience Institute
    - Gnarly Tree Sustainability Institute
    - Lake Monroe Water Fund
    - Sierra Club
    - Electron Charger



LOTUS
Engineering & Sustainability

Project 46's hired regional climate alliance consulting firm

Thank You!

To learn more, check out our Climate Action Plan Dashboard:

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON