

A Year in Review

- An Energy Working Group diligently reviewed the audit of energy saving efforts in and on county buildings. Commissioner Julie Thomas was instrumental in collecting prior year's upgrades and EQuaS members worked to update that document.
- Working with County intern Megan Darnley, EQuaS member authored the annual report. The most time intensive portion was including weatherization data to show accurate levels of energy savings and to help ease the County's transition to Honeywell.
- Work continued to support the Monroe County Energy Challenge to win the Georgetown University Energy Prize, which is a nation-wide competition between communities to reduce metered electricity and natural gas use that has a \$5 million dollar prize. The Monroe County Energy Challenge is one of 50 national semi-finalists and the only competitor in Indiana. EQUAS members involved with the Energy Challenge give regular updates on this effort.
- The EPA announced an ambitious energy plan in June 2014 called the Clean Power Plan. The plan was finalized by August 03, 2015, when President Obama announced the final plan; WFIU's Noon Edition dedicated it's entire August 05, 2015 program to the CPP. On October 23, 2015, Indiana and other states filed sued over the plan. This lead the members of EQuaS to investigate a community forum that could answer questions by a panel of experts. The groundwork was laid for this event which took place early in 2016.

2015 Meetings

The Environmental Quality and Sustainability Commission met monthly in 2015. Officers were elected in February. Eleven members are currently serving the commission, representing a breadth of expertise. The Commission also includes two non-voting ex officio members, one a member of the County Commissioners, and the other a member of the County Council.

The Commission's energy work group worked to further study and implement energy conservation initiatives . The group is responsible for reviewing the annual report data collected by the Commissioners office. The Commission presented the County Commissioners with a recommendation on energy conservation opportunities.

2015 Presentations

- US EPA Clean Power Plan (CPP), presented by Laura Arnold (September)