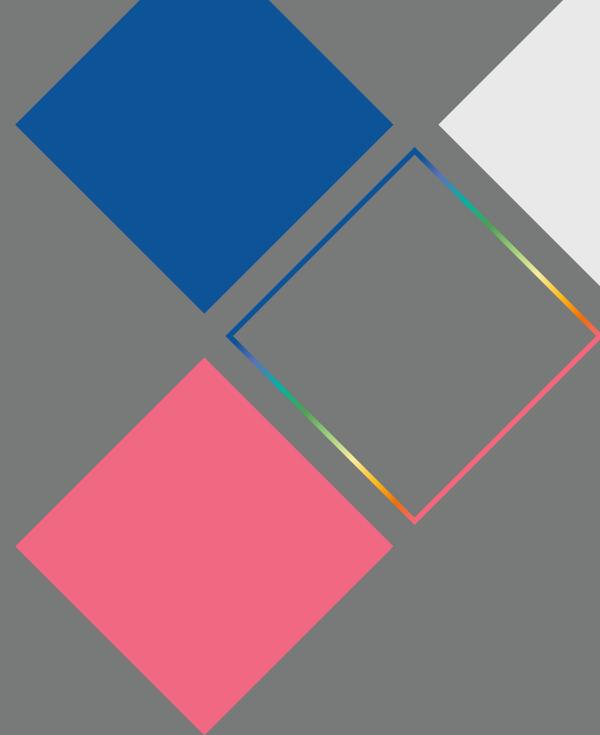




THRIVE INDIANAPOLIS

Annual Report 2022





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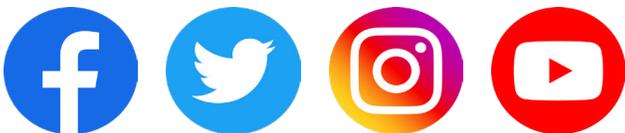
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@SustainIndy

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

1

Within this annual report outlining the progress made during the 2022 calendar year, our team highlights a number of accomplishments. I am proud to remind Indianapolis community members of the meaningful climate action that took place throughout 2022, but there are a few items that I am particularly pleased to see taking root in the Circle City.

In 2021, the Hogsett administration celebrated the first two pieces of climate policy passed as a result of the action items established in Thrive Indianapolis. In 2022, the programs and decisions prescribed in these pieces of legislation (the benchmarking and transparency ordinance and the transit-oriented development ordinance) began to take shape in real-time. Thriving Buildings was launched to help large building owners begin tracking their energy use as a first step to increasing efficiency. The City also broke ground on three transit-oriented housing projects, creating more than 600 new apartment units along public transit.

A 2022 achievement that did not find its way into this report was Indianapolis's selection by the **World Health Organization (WHO)** to be researched in a **Health and Climate Change Urban Profile**. Indy, along with only five other global cities, was selected in part because of its position as a Midwest bellwether. The profiles were presented at the **2022 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP27)** with a toolkit for attendees to replicate the profiles in their own cities. Our office was pleased to work with the Marion County Public Health Department on this project, demonstrating how policies that protect our environment also have large, immediate health benefits at a local level.

The profile was a timely reminder for our team of the lessons to be learned from cities around the world battling the same climate crisis. You may be aware that Indianapolis has ten **Sister Cities**, spanning five continents, and while our climate hazards vary widely based on geography, we are nonetheless in the fight for environmental justice. Central Indiana is by no means immune to the disastrous effects of global warming simply by existing in the Midwest; we are already experiencing dangerously hotter summers and wetter winters. We will continue to think collaboratively, creatively, and globally to address our community's need for a thriving, livable region for generations to come.



Morgan Mickelson

Morgan Mickelson
Director, Office of Sustainability
City of Indianapolis



Mo McReynolds



Morgan Mickelson



Aliya Wishner



Sadia Khatri



Lindsay Trameri



Madison Byarley

TRACKING OUR PROGRESS

Based on the work of community stakeholders, city departments, and other partners, the below action item was achieved in 2022. Action items that have already been completed are also listed. As more are completed, they will be recorded at thriveindianapolis.com.

THRIVE ACCOMPLISHMENT

NATURAL RESOURCES
30,000 Native Trees by 2025

“Plant 30,000 additional native trees by 2025 to increase canopy, reduce runoff, and mitigate against the urban heat island, particularly in those neighborhoods in most need.”

Since 2018, 31,595 trees have been planted in public spaces by the City of Indianapolis, Keep Indianapolis Beautiful, Citizen’s Energy Group, AES Indiana, IUPUI, Cultural Trail Inc., Downtown Indy Inc., and hundreds of volunteers. This year also marks the 35th year of receiving the Tree City USA designation.

THRIVE ACCOMPLISHMENT

BUILT ENVIRONMENT
Energy Benchmarking and Transparency

THRIVE ACCOMPLISHMENT

BUILT ENVIRONMENT
Street Sweeping

THRIVE ACCOMPLISHMENT

ENERGY
Low/Moderate Income Solar Panel Pilot Project

THRIVE ACCOMPLISHMENT

FOOD & URBAN AGRICULTURE
Increase Access to SNAP Benefits

THRIVE ACCOMPLISHMENT

FOOD & URBAN AGRICULTURE
Remove Barriers for Grocers to Accept SNAP

THRIVE ACCOMPLISHMENT

TRANSPORTATION + LAND USE
Transit-Oriented Development

THRIVE ACCOMPLISHMENT

TRANSPORTATION + LAND USE
Pedestrian Corridors

THRIVE ACCOMPLISHMENT

WASTE + RECYCLING
Indianapolis Thriving Schools Challenge



BUILT ENVIRONMENT

3 Tracking Our Progress

	BASELINE DATA	BASELINE YEAR	2022 DATA	2025 TARGET
OUTPUT METRICS (reported annually)				
# of green buildings (i.e. LEED certified or Energy Star Rated)* ¹	259*	2018	329	498
# of buildings disclosing energy use annually ²	--	--	83	1,000
# of publicly available EV charging stations ³	170	2018	204	300

*Baseline increased by 10 buildings from the originally reported figure after optimizing the data collection process.

Thriving Buildings Launch

2022 was the inaugural year of Thriving Buildings. **83 total buildings** participated, including 17 city-owned buildings, meaning 66 privately-owned buildings voluntarily participated in the program. These 83 buildings made up **26,990,700 square feet of space** in Indianapolis and Marion County that tracked their energy and water use for the 2021 calendar year. The Office of Sustainability launched this program with a kickoff event at the Central Library in March 2022. Participating building owners can **track their energy and water use** and their utility spending to better understand cost impacts. Projections indicate Thriving Buildings has the potential to not only save building owners money, but **lower greenhouse gas emissions and improve air quality.**



THRIVING BUILDINGS





Transit-Oriented Development: One Year Later

The City of Indianapolis approved and broke ground on three **transit-oriented housing** projects in two Indianapolis neighborhoods. These apartment developments are built around the IndyGo Red Line route, near the Monon Trail and Indianapolis Cultural Trail, or along future bus rapid transit lines (including IndyGo Purple Line), making them **accessible to public transit and multi-use trails**. The Indianapolis City-County Council approved \$23 million in tax increment financing for DMD’s public-private partnerships at Bakery Living (1331 E. Washington St.), Link (921 Virginia Avenue), and Guilford Midtown (6220 Guilford Ave), generating over \$172 million of transit-oriented development in Indianapolis neighborhoods. **More than 600 units** will be developed, consisting of studios, one-bedrooms, and two-bedroom apartments. In its redevelopment of City Market, the city is adding additional housing downtown with 410 units at the City Market East project.



Photo courtesy of the Department of Metropolitan Development

Tracking Our Progress

	BASELINE DATA	BASELINE YEAR	2022 DATA	2025 TARGET
OUTPUT METRICS (reported annually)				
Lane miles swept ^{^4}	19,399.71	2019	51,086.41	--
Tonnage removed from street sweeping ^{^5}	5,706.27	2019	12,153.72	--
Square feet of rain garden ^{^6}	83,975	2016	166,838.0	--

[^]data reported is cumulative since relaunch of city program



	BASELINE DATA	BASELINE YEAR	2022 DATA	2025 TARGET
OUTPUT METRICS (reported annually)				
# of companies receiving a tax abatement incentive committing to pay a living wage* ⁷	12	2018	13	--
# of green jobs listed with Project Indy ⁸	222	2019	522	--
# of Pathway to Employment participants who transitioned to a wrap-around service, such as full-time employment or secured housing. ⁹	52	2019	22	--

*derived from Thrive Indianapolis metric “% of large corporations committing to paying a family sustaining wage to all employees”

Good Wages Initiative



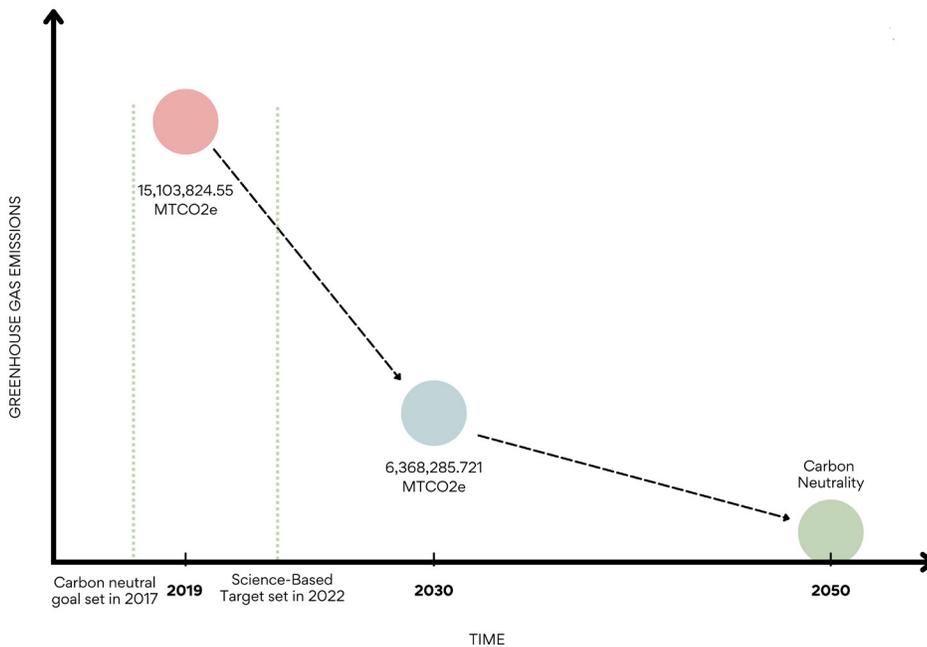
Publicly launched in April of 2022, the Good Wages Initiative is the first pillar of the Choice Employer Program at EmployIndy. The Good Wages Initiative (GWI) is a certification program for all Marion County employers that are **paying a living wage of at least \$18/hour for all full-time positions, and who supply their full-time staff with healthcare benefits.** There is also a “committed” track for employers who want to achieve certified status, but are yet to meet the wage or benefits requirement. Once certified, companies receive a wealth of benefits from the EmployIndy team, such

as marketing, networking, hiring support, and more. **More than 75 companies are certified**, which has translated into a huge increase in wages for the Marion County labor force. **More than \$5.1 million in new wages have been distributed to more than 1,000 employees.** EmployIndy’s goal is for GWI to continue program growth, ensuring that workers at all levels are paid a fair and equitable wage. For more information please visit employindy.org/goodwages/.



Science-Based Target

In order to track needed progress toward city wide carbon neutrality by 2050, the City of Indianapolis set science-based targets, a technical term for the pathways to reducing our 2018 per capita citywide emissions by 62.8% by 2030. This is in addition to the **city's commitment to net-**



zero citywide emissions by 2050. These science-based targets come from research and data in climate science, making them a useful way to keep the **city on track to reach its sustainability goals** and help best understand how to **tackle climate risks** the city faces. By going carbon neutral, **the city will reduce its climate impact and improve public health.** These goals and targets align with the United Nations climate programs.

Tracking Our Progress

	BASELINE DATA	BASELINE YEAR	2022 DATA	2025 TARGET
OUTPUT METRICS (reported annually)				
Operation Night Light streetlight additions ¹⁰	175	2018	388*	--
Actual reductions in energy consumption due to conversions from Operation Night Light ¹¹	805,240 kWh	2018	32,276,260 * kWh	--

*data reported in cumulative since launch of city program



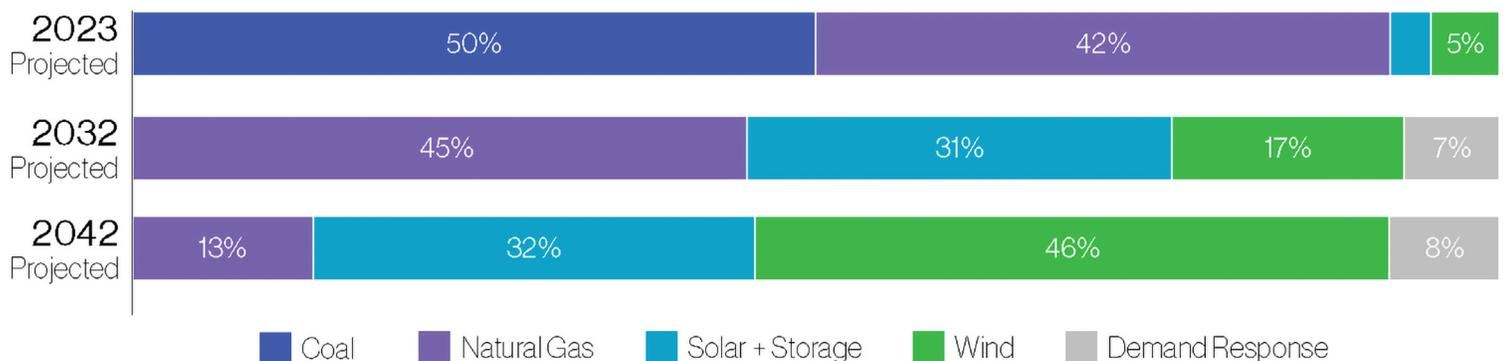
AES Indiana Integrated Resource Planning Engagement

AES Indiana submits an Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) to the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission (IURC) every three years. The plan is created with stakeholder input to indicate a 20-year forecast of how AES Indiana plans to **provide reliable electricity** to its customers based on multiple scenarios and risk analyses. This process represents a critical opportunity for the City of Indianapolis to advocate AES Indiana to ensure Indianapolis and its residents have equitable **access to clean, affordable, and reliable energy**. In June 2022, the Office of Sustainability led this engagement process on behalf of the City, for the second cycle in a row, offering recommendations for the plan from increased renewable energy and expanded energy efficiency options.



PROJECTED CAPACITY RESOURCE MIX

The 2022 IRP charts a path to a smarter, greener energy future through balanced and responsible transitions to low-carbon sources of generation.

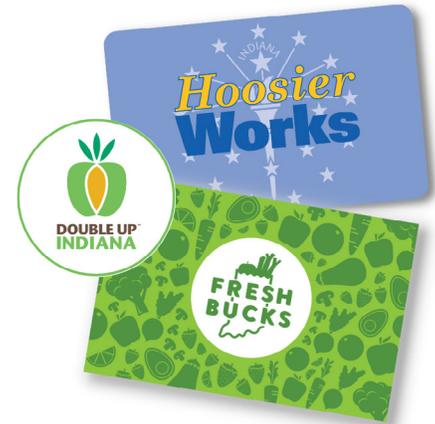




FOOD AND URBAN AGRICULTURE

Fresh Bucks Innovates and Expands Into Grocery Stores

Fresh Bucks is a Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) matching nutrition incentive program, recognized nationally as Double Up Food Bucks, that provides a dollar-for-dollar match on fruit and vegetable purchases at farmers markets, farm stands, and participating grocery stores in Marion County. In 2022, Fresh Bucks successfully transitioned from paper checks to electronic incentives delivered on a reloadable card. American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding supported new technology at farmers markets and farm stands and upgraded Point of Sale software for all five Safeway grocery stores to successfully accomplish this. **More than 1,000 households participated in Fresh Bucks in 2022.** Households who use SNAP can stretch their SNAP dollars and access Fresh Bucks at more locations across Indianapolis for increased purchasing of fresh fruits and vegetables.



Tracking Our Progress

	BASELINE DATA	BASELINE YEAR	2022 DATA	2025 TARGET
OUTPUT METRICS (reported annually)				
Fresh Bucks used at local farmer's markets and grocers coalition stores ¹²	\$6,180 at 7 locations	2020	\$31,253 at 17 locations	--
SNAP used at local farmers markets and grocers coalition stores ¹³	\$55,645 at 7 locations	2020	\$7,645,933 at 16 locations	--
SNAP/WIC certified grocers coalition stores ¹⁴	2 locations	2019	18 locations	--
# of active urban farms and community gardens ¹⁵	103	2019	171	--



NATURAL RESOURCES

9 Tracking Our Progress

	BASELINE DATA	BASELINE YEAR	2022 DATA	2025 TARGET
OUTPUT METRICS (reported annually)				
# of youth participating in summer and after school recreational programs ¹⁶	210,322	2018	281,125	213,932
Trees planted toward 30,000 goal by 2025 to increase canopy, reduce runoff and mitigate against the urban heat island, particularly in those neighborhoods in most need ^{17*}	0	2018	31,595	30,000

*5% of trees were non-native species

Tree City USA - 35 years



The City of Indianapolis has been recognized as a Tree City USA for **35 consecutive years**. The city celebrates its designation by the Arbor Day Foundation for its **commitment to effective urban forest management**. Indianapolis achieved this recognition by meeting the program’s four requirements: forming a tree board or department, creating a tree-care ordinance, having an annual community forestry budget of at least \$2 per capita, and an Arbor Day observance and proclamation. In 2022, Mayor Joe Hogsett and the Indianapolis Urban Forestry team participated in the Indy Free Tree event on Monument Circle to commemorate Arbor Day, sponsored by AES Indiana.



Office of Land Stewardship

In 2022, The Office of Land Stewardship (OLS) directed the planting of oak and hickory trees to replace dead and dying ash trees impacted by the emerald ash borer. Of the 2,018 acres of natural area currently **managed ecologically**, two forested sites at Eagle Creek Park and Paul Ruster Park were targeted for the ash replacement protocol. When the ash trees died, the increased sunlight caused a surge in invasive plant species in the once densely shaded openings. While the natural recruitment of trees will eventually fill in these gaps, the quality of woodland can suffer considerably before the canopy closes as invasive species proliferate in the openings. To **properly steward these high-quality flatwoods**, OLS coordinated the planting of desirable oak species following the removal of the invasive species. The Spring Pond Nature Preserve at Eagle Creek and Paul Ruster forests received 263 bur oak, Shumard oak, swamp white oak, and shellbark hickory hardwood trees. The trees were purchased through a partnership with the US Fish and Wildlife Service. These woods are part of the Tipton Till Plain Flatwoods, a **globally rare natural area**. This management helps ensure their survival.



Photo courtesy of the Office of Land Stewardship

Tracking Our Progress

	BASELINE DATA	BASELINE YEAR	2022 DATA	2025 TARGET
OUTPUT METRICS (reported annually)				
# of buildings disclosing water use annually through Thriving Buildings program ¹⁸	--	2018	60	1,000
Total acreage in parks and along greenways managed ecologically ¹⁹	1,591	2016	2,018	--



Tracking Our Progress

	BASELINE DATA	BASELINE YEAR	2022 DATA	2025 TARGET
OUTPUT METRICS (reported annually)				
% of residents with health insurance ²⁰	85.2%	2016	90%*	100%

*data reported from 2018 Community Health Survey Results, still relevant in 2022

Complete Streets Policy

The City of Indianapolis adopted a complete streets policy in August 2012. The policy was updated in 2022 to include a Complete Streets Checklist and establish a Fatal Crash Review Commission. The ordinance defines a “complete street” as a street that **allows safe access for all users, including pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists, and public transportation users of all ages and abilities**. The policy ensures that public and private organizations design streets for all transportation modes when developing new land use or right-of-way projects.

The revised ordinance includes an expanded **emphasis on transparency and equity**. The policy applies not only to City-led projects and private developers, but also to projects undertaken by all parties operating within the right-of-way, including IndyGo, public utilities, and individuals. The

policy will be measured through varying performance metrics such as the percentage of projects that are within identified environmental justice areas or underserved neighborhoods, the percentage of projects within 1/2-mile of a school, and quantities of vulnerable road user elements applied to projects.



Photo courtesy of the Department of Metropolitan Development rendering of West Morris Street, project began in 2022



Tracking Our Progress

	BASELINE DATA	BASELINE YEAR	2022 DATA	2025 TARGET
OUTPUT METRICS (reported annually)				
Miles of bikes lanes ²¹	104	2017	117.3	200
# of EVs registered in Indianapolis ²²	760	2017	2,666	3,040

Circle City Forward



Circle City Forward is an initiative of the City of Indianapolis to **route public funding to neighborhood improvements** beyond the regular annual budgetary process, boosting communities as they rebound from the economic consequences of the pandemic. This historically unprecedented investment marks the fulfillment of a commitment made to the Indianapolis community for renewed infrastructure. Mayor Joe Hogsett launched the first phase in 2021 with the announcement of **\$190 million in enhancements** to City-County facilities. Phase two invests \$25 million in the reconstruction of residential streets

across Marion County, addressing 280 segments (90 lane miles) of streets. The third phase includes a \$25 million investment to create, plan, and improve more than 50 miles of **new trails, greenways, & bike paths** over the next three years. These funds were matched by an additional \$25 million investment from Lilly Endowment, Inc. and Central Indiana Community Foundation as part of the Connected Communities Initiative. This investment will **enhance pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure in Marion County with a focus on improving access for historically underserved communities**. This historic partnered investment is critical to evolving current trails into a key piece of Indy’s multimodal transportation system. Additional phases have invested additional money towards residential streets and key thoroughfares, putting Circle City investments at well over \$300 million.



Indy EV Showcase

In October, the Office of Sustainability hosted the Highly EVolved Indianapolis Electric Vehicle (EV) Showcase, sponsored by AES Indiana. More than 500 attendees took the opportunity to **test-drive multiple new-model EVs, demo a charger**, and question experts about EVs and how to make the switch. Highly EVolved is an **electric vehicle education and awareness campaign** communicating the benefits and realities of electric vehicles in Central Indiana. For more information, **regional charging infrastructure maps, local dealership EV inventory**, and FAQs please visit behighlyevolved.com.



Tracking Our Progress

	BASELINE DATA	BASELINE YEAR	2022 DATA	2025 TARGET
OUTPUT METRICS (reported annually)				
Miles of greenways and trails ²³	99	2018	119	--
Cultural Trail miles, bikes, and docking stations ²⁴	8 miles 29 stations 251 bikes	2018	8 miles 50 stations 300 bikes	--



Tracking Our Progress

	BASELINE DATA	BASELINE YEAR	2022 DATA	2025 TARGET
OUTPUT METRICS (reported annually)				
Total tons of materials recycled ²⁵	16,336	2017	15,668	16,696
ITSC* projects completed ²⁶	0	2018	147	--
Students impacted by ITSC* ²⁷	0	2018	87,272	--

*Indiana Thriving Schools Challenge

Thriving Schools Challenge Goes Statewide + School Garden Liaison Initiative

Earth Charter Indiana’s Indiana Thriving Schools Challenge (ITSC) was awarded a USDA NIFA Food and Service Learning Program grant in 2022. While initial programming was limited to Marion County, this grant allows for **statewide expansion** but provides support to expand the School Garden Pillar and launch the School Garden Liaison Initiative. This initiative is a **training and internship program for Indiana youth ages 16-20** that will train participants in environmental justice, the fundamentals of climate science, circular economy, and civic engagement. These trained liaisons then intern with local urban or smaller-scale rural farmers and assist educators seeking lesson plan facilitation while utilizing a nutrition and climate-based curriculum guide. For more information, visit indianathrivingschools.org.



Photo courtesy of Earth Charter Indiana

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- ⁸EmployIndy, Project Indy. (2022). Email Coorespondence with Erika Cheney and Vanessa Harris on April 13, 2023.
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- ¹¹AES Indiana (formerly Indianapolis Power & Light). (2022). Email Correspondence with Theresa Mendoza (DPW) on April 11, 2022.
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- ¹³Marion County Public Health Department, Fresh Incentives Dashboard, retrieved April 3, 2023.
- ¹⁴City of Indianapolis, Office of Public Health and Safety, Community Nutrition and Food Policy Division (2022). Email Correspondence with Milele Kennedy and Katherine Bowles in March 31, 2023.
- ¹⁵City of Indianapolis, Office of Public Health and Safety, Community Nutrition and Food Policy Division (2022). Email Correspondence with Milele Kennedy and Katherine Bowles in March 31, 2023.
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- ¹⁸City of Indianapolis, Office of Sustainability. (2022).
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- ²⁰2018 Community Health Assessment Survey Report, Marion County, Indiana. Marion County Public Health Department, Epidemiology Department DR3813; Indianapolis, IN. 2019.
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- ²³City of Indianapolis, Department of Public Works. (2022). Email Correspondence with Gretchen Zortman on Mar. 8, 2023.
- ²⁴Indianapolis Cultural Trail, Inc. (2022). Email Correspondence with Kären Haley on. Jan. 11, 2023.
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- ²⁶Earth Charter Indiana. (2022). Retrieved from <https://indianathrivingschools.org/>
- ²⁷Earth Charter Indiana. (2022). Retrieved from <https://indianathrivingschools.org/>