

Ordinance 2009-5
An Ordinance Establishing a Greencastle Commission on Sustainability

WHEREAS, a sustainable community seeks to enhance and unify economic development and environmental health while taking precautions not to compromise the quality of life of future generations;

WHEREAS, world scientific bodies have called for a reduction of adverse human impacts on global ecosystems, and the UN Conference on Environment and Development has recognized the importance of local community efforts to promote sustainability;

WHEREAS, communities throughout the United States have established municipal sustainability departments, boards or other entities to ensure the long-term local quality of life;

WHEREAS, local and regional sustainable initiatives will be fostered by the formation of an independent commission whose role is to increase awareness in both public and private sectors, to develop new sustainable programs and harmonize existing ones and to help guide sustainable actions by government, citizens and businesses;

WHEREAS, The Mayor has previously established an informal advisory group known as the Sustainability Core Focus Group; and

WHEREAS, the Common Council desires to make such a body a permanent part of Greencastle city government to promote sustainable environmentally sound polices in city government and throughout the community,.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GREENCASTLE THAT:

In the interest of fostering sustainable local businesses and environmental integrity, there is added to the City of Greencastle City Code, Chapter 2, Article 5. Section 2-136, which shall read as follows:

a. **Public Policy and Purpose.** The Greencastle Commission on Sustainability is hereby established to enhance the socio-environmental-economic well-being of the community while taking precautions not to compromise the quality of life of future generations. Toward that end, it reduces its use of non-renewable natural resources and its production of wastes, while at the same time improving livability. The mission of the Greencastle Commission on Sustainability is to promote sustainable socio-environmental-economic well-being of Greencastle and all its inhabitants.

b. **Commissioners.**

1. Appointment. The Commission shall consist of nine (9) members, three (3) appointed by the Mayor, three (3) appointed by the Common Council and three appointed by the Commission itself. One of the council appointments shall be a City Council member. The Mayor shall be an ex-officio member of the Commission. Members shall serve without compensation.
2. Qualifications. Sustainability is an interdisciplinary concept. As such, the Commission's membership shall reflect environmental, social and economic perspectives, unified by the common interest of sustainability. The Commission shall draw its members from government, business, academia, not-for-profit organizations and residents at large.
3. Residency. As environmental concerns cannot be contained within a political subdivision, membership from others outside of the city limits is encouraged; however, no more than four (4) of the Commissioners may live outside of the City.
4. Terms. The first commissioners shall serve staggered terms, with three (3) appointed to three year terms, three (3) appointed to two year terms and three (3) appointed to one year terms. The City Council member appointment shall always be a one year term. With the exception of the City Council member, thereafter, all appointments shall be for three year terms. There shall be a limit of two consecutive terms.
5. Powers and Duties. The commission shall have the following powers and duties:
 - a. To coordinate ongoing, and to propose and promote new, sustainability initiatives among residents, businesses, governmental, nongovernmental agencies and educational organizations through education and outreach programs.
 - b. To advise and make recommendations to the City of Greencastle Common Council, city administration, and City boards and commissions on sustainability policies and programs.
 - c. To determine, in cooperation with other city boards and commissions, Greencastle's current and future sustainability status by developing and monitoring a set of sustainability indicators.
 - d. To advise, consult and cooperate with other agencies, boards and commissions of the city of Greencastle, the state, other local governments, industries, other states, interstate or interlocal agencies, and the federal government, and with interested persons or groups on matters of sustainability.
 - e. To research and apply for grants or other funds or gifts from public or private entities for the purpose of carrying out any of the provisions or purposes of this chapter.
 - f. To elect officers annually by vote of the commission.
 - g. To adopt administrative rules and regulations for the conduct of its business, including rules governing the creation of committee, as the Board deems necessary.

This Ordinance shall have full force and effect upon passage of the Greencastle Common Council and its approval by the Mayor.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Common Council of the City of Greencastle, Indiana this ____ day of _____, 2009.

Adam Cohen

Jinsie S. Bingham

Mark N. Hammer

John Lanie

Terry Smith

Approved and signed by me this _____ day of _____, 2009, at _____ o'clock ____m.

Sue Murray, Mayor

ATTEST:

Teresa Glenn, Clerk-Treasurer