

## Local Ordinances and Sustainability Action

A presentation by Lauren Travis, City of Bloomington Assistant Director of Sustainability for the Environmental Resilience Institute Webinar Series.

December 2019

### Why do ordinances matter?

- Policy integrates sustainability into practice for local government
- Ordinances support integrating sustainable practices in local government operations and the broader community
- Implementation of sustainability practices is more successful with supportive policies that have been adopted by Council

### 1. Unified Development Ordinance (2019)

The City of Bloomington Common Council is currently considering a proposed update to the City's Unified Development Ordinance (UDO). The UDO contains all the land use and development regulations that apply to construction in City limits.

These include rules for the approval of site plans by the City's Planning and Transportation Department for all petitioners proposing to build new or renovate existing property within City limits. Planning and Transportation Department staff also staff the Plan Commission, which has final approval authority on most plans.

### Adoption Process Chart

- 2018:
  - UDO assessment with UDO diagnostic
    - Held April 31 and May 1 through public meetings and comments
  - Module 1: Zoning districts and uses
    - Held July 16 and 17 through public meetings and comments
  - Module 2: development standards and incentives
    - Held September 11 and 12 through public meetings and comments
  - Module 3: administration and procedures
    - Held November 27 and 28 through public meetings and comments
- 2019
  - Consolidated draft: the consolidated draft includes all three modules and addresses public comments received during the review periods. Completed in March
    - Conversion map: zoning districts will be relabeled using new names.
  - The consolidated draft and conversion map went through the plan commission and the common council, receiving public meetings and comments from May through August, with an effective date set for one to six months after adoption.

- The conversion map lead to a new zoning map to implement the Comprehensive Plan.
- The new zoning map then went through the plan commission and common council with feedback from public meetings and comments.

#### Current approved sustainability amendments (UDO in draft)

- Climate change adaptation and mitigation integrated as stated purpose for the unified development ordinance
- Reduction in impervious surfaces to reduce surface flooding attributed to climate change (stormwater
- Pedestrian oriented design and multi modal transportation prioritization (transit and bicycle
- Solar oriented building design to promote renewable energy production
- Integration of sustainable design elements
- Construction in a floodplain is a conditional use (stormwater management)

#### Environmental and sustainability commissions

- Environmental Commission: advises the City of Bloomington on how its actions and policies may preserve and enhance the quality of Bloomington's environment
- Sustainability Commission: advises the City of Bloomington on how to promote economic development, environmental health, and social equity in the community for present and future generations.

#### 2. Green building ordinance (2009)

- All new construction and major renovation of occupiable City buildings be designed, contracted and built to achieve, at minimum, the U.S. Green Building Council's LEED® Silver level of certification.
- After registering the project with the U.S. Green Building Council, the City shall adhere to the version of LEED in effect at the time of registration, regardless of any new LEED version that may 'be released subsequent to registration but prior to project completion.

#### 3. Resolution for environmental sustainability (2019)

- Providing increased walking and bicycle accessibility within city limits
- Emphasis on biodiversity and native species for tree planting-carbon sequestration
- Water bottling refilling stations
- Reduce utilization of natural gas for heating
- Encourage green roofs, solar roofs, vegetated roofs

#### Contact information

- [facebook.com/sustainbtown/](https://facebook.com/sustainbtown/)
- [bloomington.in.gov/sustainability](https://bloomington.in.gov/sustainability)
- [bloomington.in.gov/sustainability/action-plan](https://bloomington.in.gov/sustainability/action-plan) (2018 Progress Report)
- [bloomington.in.gov/sustainability/2018-greenhouse-gas-inventory/](https://bloomington.in.gov/sustainability/2018-greenhouse-gas-inventory/)
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