

Topic:	Local Boards; Local Governance
Resource Type:	Regulations
State:	Indiana
Jurisdiction Type:	Municipal
Municipality:	City of Bloomington
Year (adopted, written, etc.):	1983
Community Type - applicable to:	Urban; Suburban
Title:	City of Bloomington Environmental Quality and Conservation Commission
Document Last Updated in Database:	January 26, 2017

Abstract

The commission is tasked with collecting information on the environmental condition of the city and making recommendations to the city government. They have a large amount of flexibility and can conduct hearings, hire consultants, collect data, review the work of city departments, and generally assess the city's environmental performance.

Resource

Title 2 ADMINISTRATION AND PERSONNEL
Chapter 2.12 BOARDS, COMMISSIONS AND COUNCILS
2.12.050 Environmental Quality and Conservation Commission.

(1) Purpose. It is declared to be the public policy of the City of Bloomington and the purpose of this section to achieve and maintain such levels of environmental quality as will protect human health and safety, and to the greatest degree practicable, prevent injury to plant and animal life and property, foster the comfort and conveniences of the people, promote the economic and social development of Bloomington and facilitate the enjoyment of the natural attractions of the City of Bloomington.

(2) Definitions. As used in this ordinance unless the context clearly requires otherwise:

(a) "Environment" means the sum total of the physical, chemical and biological factors affecting the populace of the City of Bloomington and the surrounding community.

(b) "Pollution" means the presence in the environment of one or more contaminants, or noise, in such quantities, characteristics or duration as is or tends to be injurious to human health or welfare, or property, or would interfere with the enjoyment of life or property.

(c) "Commission" means the Bloomington Environmental Quality and Conservation Commission, as created in this ordinance.

(d) "Person" means any individual, partnership, co-partnership, firm, company, public or private corporation, association, trust, estate, or any agency, board, department or bureau of the City or any other legal entity.

(e) "Bloomington" means the City of Bloomington, its corporate limits, and any areas within its legal purview.

(3) Appointments. The Commission shall consist of twelve members, six appointed by the Mayor and six appointed by the Common Council.

(4) Qualifications. Preference for appointments shall be given to persons with expertise in one or more areas of physical sciences, biological sciences, engineering, business, sanitation, public health, conservation, and recreation.

(5) Meetings. The Commission shall meet a minimum of once each month.

(6) Powers and Duties. The Commission shall have the following powers and duties:

(a) To adopt administrative rules and regulations for the conduct of its business.

(b) To hold hearings relating to any aspect of or matter in the administration of this ordinance and in cases of non-compliance request the City Attorney to take legal action.

(c) To retain, employ, provide for, and compensate, within appropriations available thereof, such consultants, assistants, deputies, clerks, technical and other employees, on a full or part-time basis as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this ordinance and prescribe the times at which they shall be appointed, the duration of their appointments and their powers and duties.

(d) To secure necessary scientific, technical, administrative and operational services including laboratory facilities, by contract or otherwise with any educational institution, experiment station, or any board, department, or other agency of any subdivision or state or the Federal Government.

(e) To determine by means of field studies and sampling the degree of pollution in Bloomington.

(f) To encourage and conduct studies, investigations, and research relating to pollution and its causes, effects, prevention, abatement and control in Bloomington, and make recommendations to the appropriate public and private bodies with respect thereto.

(g) To classify contaminant sources, which in the Commission's judgment may cause or contribute to pollution.

(h) To prepare and develop a comprehensive plan or plans for the prevention, abatement and control of pollution in Bloomington.

(i) To encourage voluntary cooperation by persons and affected groups to achieve the purposes of this chapter.

(j) To collect and disseminate information and conduct educational and training programs relating to pollution and environmental quality and conservation.

(k) To advise, consult, contract and cooperate with other agencies of the State and the City of Bloomington, other local governments, industries, other states, interstate or interlocal agencies, and the Federal government, and with interested persons or groups.

(l) To apply for, accept, receive and administer grants or other funds or gifts from public or private agencies including the State and Federal governments for the purpose of carrying out any of the provisions or purposes of this chapter. Such funds received by the Commission pursuant to this subdivision shall be deposited in accordance with the administrative regulations of the Commission. The Commission is authorized to promulgate such rules and regulations or enter into contracts as it may deem necessary for carrying out the provisions of this subdivision.

(m) To make appropriate inquiry into and give constructive consideration to the operations and policies of all departments and governmental branches of the City of Bloomington concerning their adherence to a commitment for environmental quality and the conservation of natural resources.

(n) To prepare reports and recommendations to the Mayor, Common Council, Board of Public Works, and the Planning Commission as needed. (Ord. 83-6 § 2 (part), 1983).