

Meeting Invitation  
Environment Committee  
May 21, 2024, 9:30 to 11 a.m.

Organizing and Institutionalizing Local Sustainability – A National Perspective and Local Lessons

A year ago, less than half the country's population was covered by a climate action plan. Today, because of the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), 96% of the country is covered by either a state or regional plan. The current level of climate planning across the country is unprecedented, thanks to programs like the EPA's [Climate Pollution Reduction Grant \(CPRG\) program](#). But this also creates some tensions between program administrators, planners, and would-be grantees, and tremendous capacity drains on local governments, universities, and non-profit organizations.

Researchers at Indiana University's [Metropolitan Governance and Management Transitions Laboratory](#) (MGMT Lab) have been studying the challenges of organizing and institutionalizing sustainability for more than a decade. They are using the CPRG program and others like it to identify what types of collaborative efforts are more likely to produce tangible climate results. At this meeting, [Aaron Deslatte](#), Co-Director of the MGMT Lab and Associate Professor, will cover the basics of regional collaborations on climate prior to the legislation, what is happening today, and what lessons we can glean from it as many of the programs created by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) and the IRA continue to allocate resources through 2030. MGMT research suggests that communities can select opportunities and plug capacity gaps by leveraging planning efforts, using new data tools to build near real-time decision support for policymakers, and by joining epistemic communities, or networks of professionals with expertise in a certain area.

We will also reflect on the role of the Caucus' [Greenest Region Compact](#) and our [two regional climate action plans](#) in [driving collaborative action](#) and [leveraging resources](#).