

Sustainable Indiana

Indiana University of Pennsylvania and Coalition for a Healthy County



Coalition for a Healthy County

- Umbrella Group
- Created after the illegal drilling of a Marcellus Shale well in the conservation zone of Yellow Creek
- Works to educate the public on deep well drilling
- List of over 400 supporters
- www.coalitionforahealthycounty.wordpress.com

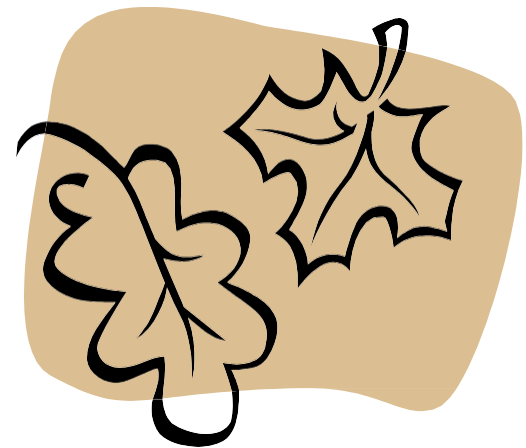


Fracking in Indiana County

- Long history of resource extraction
 - Timber
 - Coal
 - Shallow Gas Wells
- Creates new opportunities and challenges
- New conversations
 - Quality of life
 - Development
 - Environment vs. Jobs

Environmental Anthropology: What is it?

- “The use of anthropology’s methods and theories to contribute to the understanding of local or global environmental problems”
 - Townsend, 104



Environmental Commons— Inspired by Rebecca A. Martusewicz



Nature vs. Humans: Not so

- Redefining the definition of nature to include humans, rather than having humans separate from the wilderness
- Environmental anthropology
 - Will increase awareness of nature, so that humans will cease to view themselves as separate from nature
 - Will also protect and save the commons

Environmental Justice



- Advocacy plays a major role in EJ
 - The environment is more than wilderness: communities, livelihoods, and contaminated places are all the targets of rehabilitation

ATP

- Appalachian Teaching Project
- Meant to facilitate CHC in addressing environmental issues in Indiana County
- Interviews
- Survey
- Video Compilation
- Annual Outreach event



Individual Interviews: How do residents perceive “sustainability,” and what do they feel is viable for Indiana County?

“To live as simply as possible so that others (future generations) could live as well.”

“Sustainability can be practiced by everyone – you just have to get used to doing it.”

Assets

- Public recreation areas, such as Yellow Creek Park and White's Woods
- Bicycle trails
- Availability of locally-grown food
- Second hand and consignment shops

Concerns

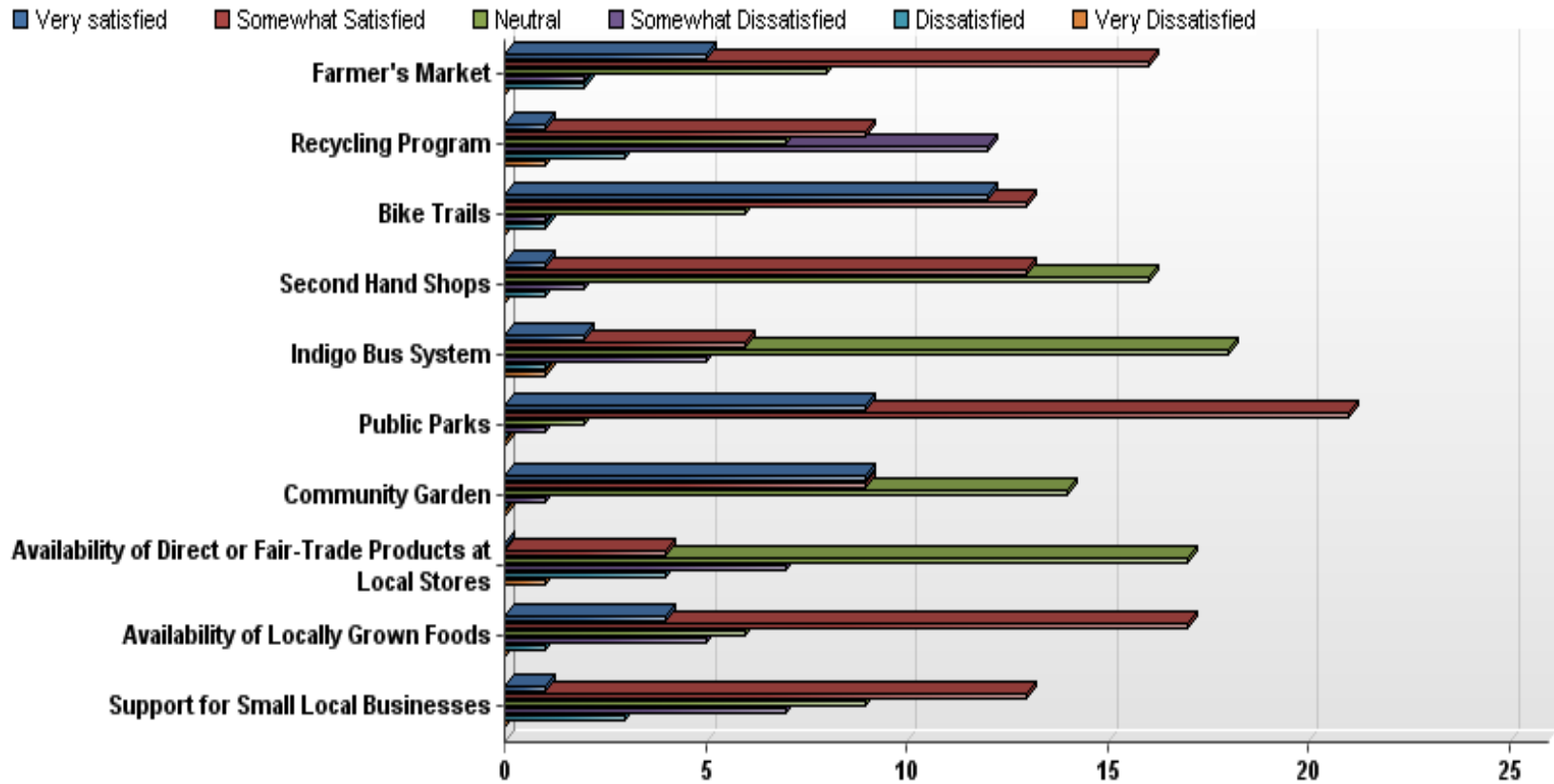
- Barriers to participation, such as financial concerns or availability of services
- Sustainability education
- Energy conservation

Survey Data

- Demographic Profile
- Scope of questions

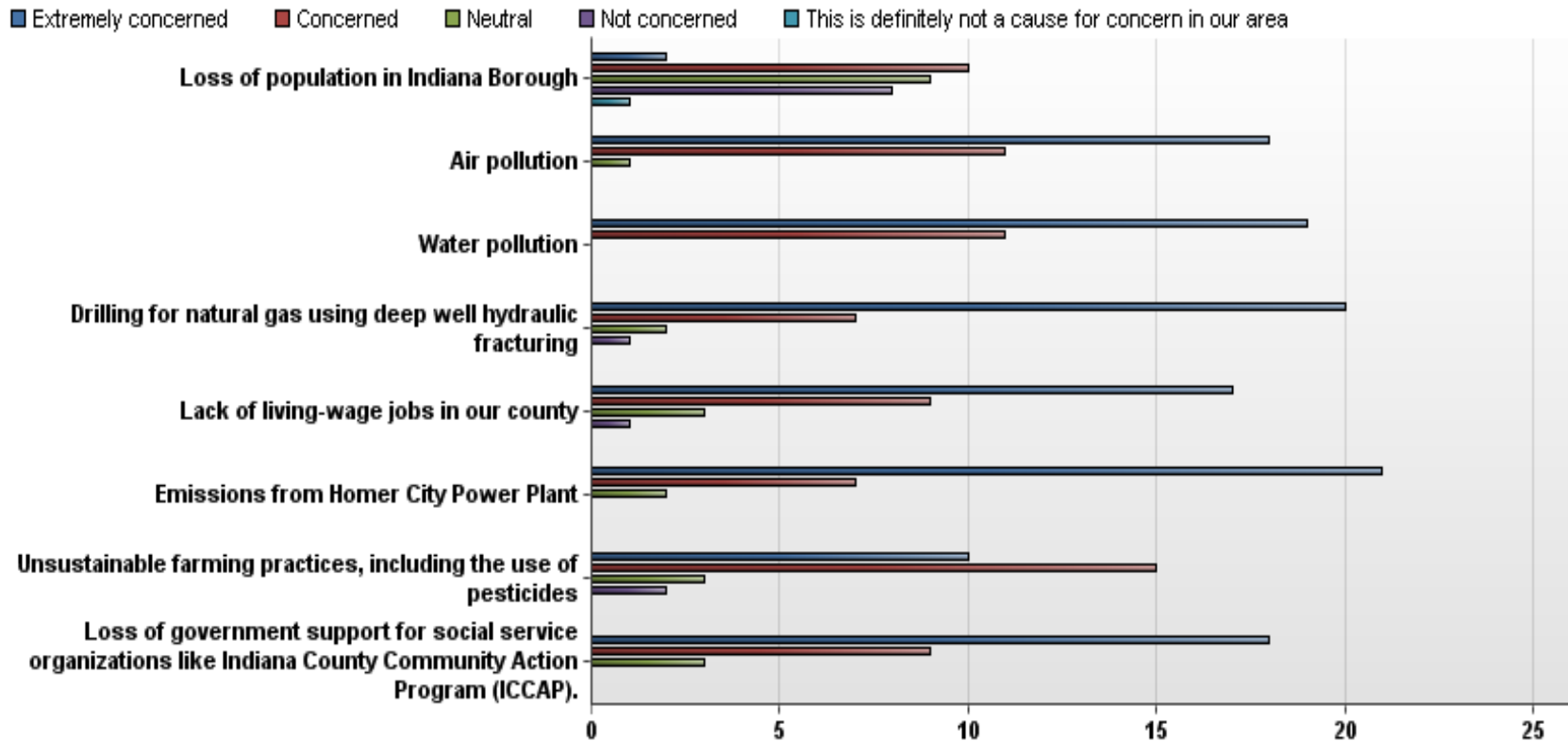
Data Analysis

Cultural and Environmental Assets



Data Analysis Cont.

Perceived Environmental Risks



Organizations Interviewed

- Sierra Club
- Friends of White's Woods
- Friends of Yellow Creek
- The Central Indiana County Water Authority
- IUP Eco Club
- The Yellow Creek Conservation Association
- Evergreen Conservancy
- The League of Women Voters
- Pennsylvania Senior Environmental Corps
- Coalition for a Healthy
- County
- Penn Future & Penn Environment could not be reached for various reasons

Common Concerns and Issues

- Based upon our collective interviews several themes emerged between the groups:
 - Concern about Marcellus Shale Drilling
 - Water Pollution and preservation
 - Air pollution from Homer City Power Plant
 - Preservation of parks and natural resources in this area.
 - Finding eco-friendly energy resources

*Pictures provided by Google Image Search and Gerald Smith



Recommendations: Recruitment

- CHC could improve their website, include a website about the farmers market and other assets to build on
- CHC might work to get the university and college students more involved in the community
- More outreach to get more young people to be active members of CHC



Recommendations: Priorities

- Promote the idea of the commons in future projects



- Shift the discourse toward a more expansive understanding of sustainability
 - Such as not only recycling, also community participation, democracy, and community collective efforts to rehabilitate contaminated places
- CHC could work on brownfields identified in the survey.