

Agenda

11:45 am -12:45 pm	Introduction and Lunch
12:45 pm – 1:00 pm	Break
1:00 pm – 2:00 pm	Impact and Policy: Data Centers in Indiana and Surrounding States Ben Inskeep, Program Director, Citizens Action Coalition
2:00 pm – 2:15 pm	Break
2:15 pm – 3:15 pm	Small Modular Reactors: Opportunities and Impacts for Indiana Indraneel Kumar, PhD, AICP, Director Purdue Centers for Regional Development Kara Salazar, PhD, AICP, Assistant Program Leader for Community Development, Purdue Extension
3:15 pm – 3:30 pm	Future Meeting Planning and Feedback
3:30 pm	Adjourn
4:00 pm	Master Farmer Reception and Awards Program

Speaker Bio

Ben Inskeep Ben Inskeep is Program Director at the Citizens Action Coalition, an Indiana-based consumer and environmental advocacy organization. As part of that work, Ben has extensively researched and analyzed AI data center proposals in Indiana and testified on data center issues at the General Assembly and the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission. Ben earned a Master of Public Affairs and a Master of Science in Environmental Science degrees at the O'Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs at Indiana University.

Indraneel Kumar Dr. Indraneel Kumar serves as the Director of the Purdue Center for Regional Development (PCRD) providing strategic guidance to a team of 15 staff members. This includes three Small Business Development Centers in Indiana, which are hosted by the PCRD. Indraneel joined PCRD since its inception in 2005. His focus is on regional demographics, economic and workforce analysis, identification of new sources of data, GIS databases, spatial analysis, and quantitative methods. He has been a member of the American Planning Association and American Institute of Certified Planners since 2006. In his more than 25 years of professional and applied research experience, Indraneel has worked on comprehensive planning for large metropolitan areas, regions, and counties (districts) in India and the USA, with a concentration on land use, transportation, and regional economic development. He has provided leadership and participated in several regional economic development research grants and projects funded by the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA); Employment and Training Administration, U.S. Department of Labor (DOL); Office of Economic Adjustment, Department of Defense (DOD); Economic Research Service (ERS), U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA); Joint Transportation Research Program (JTRP); Microsoft Corporation; Indiana Office of Energy Development; and Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT). His areas of research interests include regional economic development, transportation, and energy. On April 2026, PCRD completed the Economic Clusters for the U.S. project for EDA, where Indraneel served as the principal investigator. This project defined and developed data for industry, knowledge and skills clusters for 405 Economic Development Districts, covering 2,800 counties in the U.S. He is a recipient of the George I. Treyz Award for Excellence in Economic and Demographic Analysis in 2025.

Kara Salazar Dr. Kara Salazar is Assistant Program Leader for Community Development with Purdue Extension and Sustainable Communities Extension Specialist affiliated with Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant and Purdue University's Department of Forestry and Natural Resources. She leads multidisciplinary initiatives that support environmental planning, community development, and sustainability across Indiana and the Great Lakes region. Kara holds a Ph.D. in natural resources social science from Purdue University, along with professional credentials, including AICP. Her work emphasizes collaborative planning, inclusive public forums, and data-informed policy and design interventions focused on resilience, green infrastructure, hazard mitigation, parks and public spaces, and renewable energy.