


Sustainability Stories: Media and Mapping to Promote Awareness of Sustainable Activities

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Overview

This immersive learning project creates a **website featuring an interactive map** that details and promotes **organizations operating sustainably in Indiana**. Journalism students produced **original media content** highlighting various organizations during fall 2021, and Geography students incorporated the media content into a publicly available **online map** during spring 2022.

Faculty Facilitators

- Adam Berland, Department of Geography & Meteorology, amberland@bsu.edu
- Adam Kuban, School of Journalism and Strategic Communication, ajkuban@bsu.edu

Project partners

- Muncie Action Plan, Task Force 5: Managing Community Resources
- IUPUI Office of Sustainability
- The Environmental Resilience Institute at Indiana University

[Journalism Students Create Original Media Content →](#)

Overview

Journalism Students Create Original Media Content

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Connersville Utilities has an on-site solar field that powers most of the wastewater treatment facility's needs



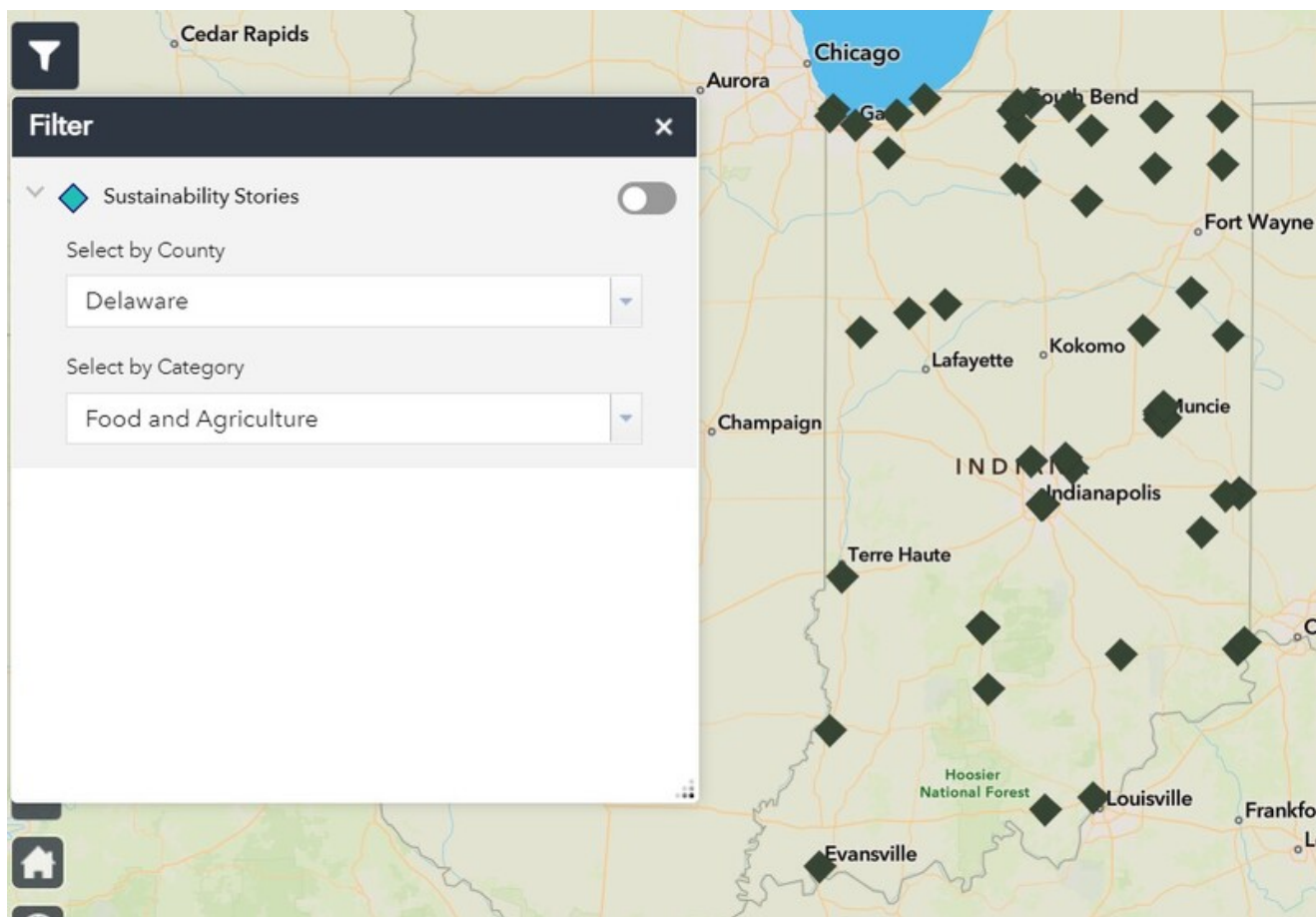
In Muncie, an ecoREHAB property sits on South Elm Street in December 2021. Executive Director Jason Haney said construction management staff and volunteers use an evaluation system that scores different features of abandoned houses to determine whether the houses are salvageable and economically viable to rehabilitate

In Fall 2021, students in Adam Kuban's Feature Writing course (Journalism 311) generated original media content to raise awareness of organizations in Muncie and East Central Indiana that prioritize sustainability in their operations.

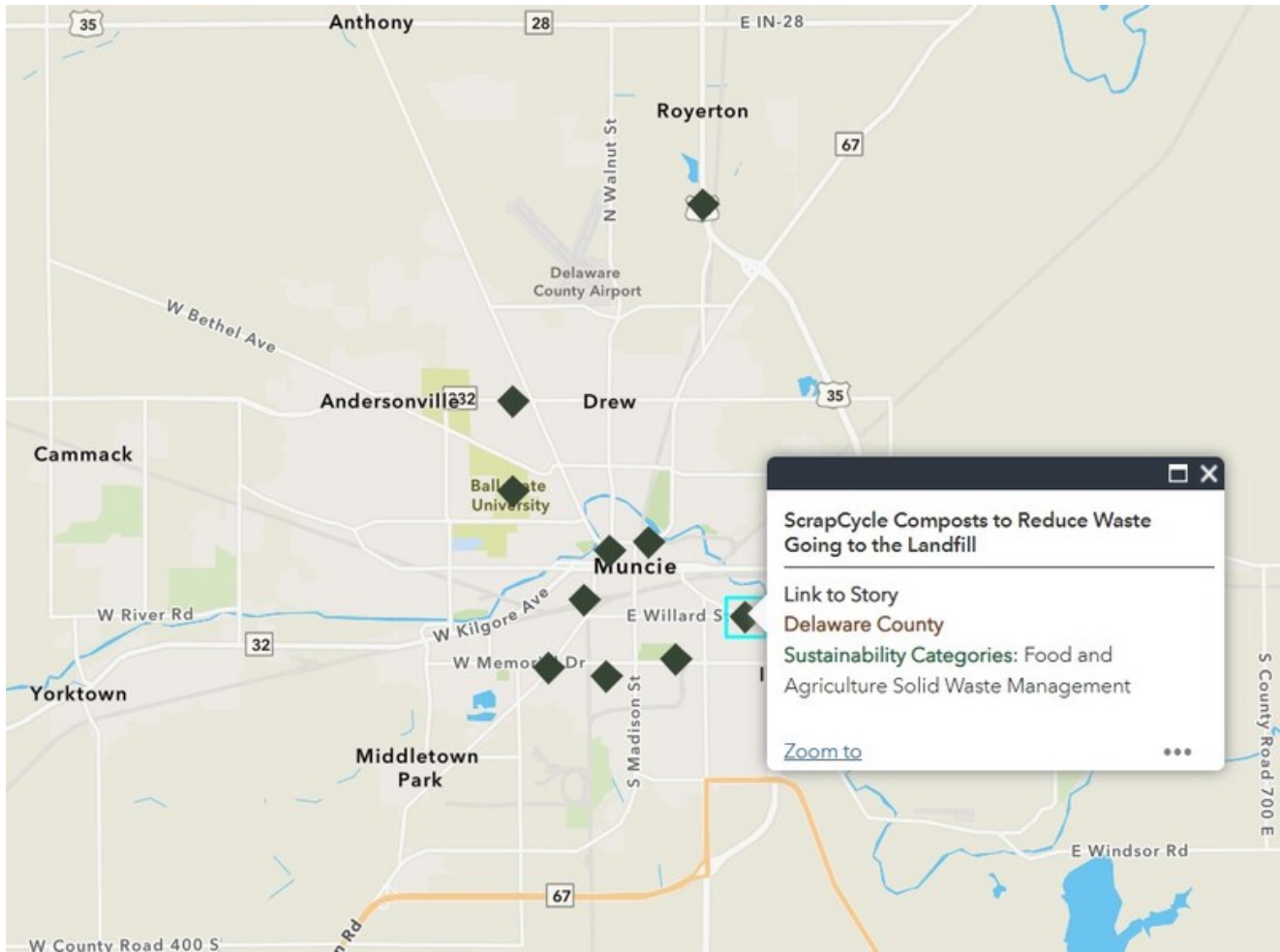
In all, 11 stories were generated. Each Sustainability Story includes a feature story, a list of key takeaways, and photographs with captions. More stories will be produced in future iterations of the course, including stories more broadly distributed across Indiana.

Geography Students Build an Interactive Map to Organize the Stories

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The interactive map is the website landing page. On the map, users can filter the Sustainability Stories according to county or category



Each point on the map contains the organization's basic information, and a link to a more detailed page where the full Sustainability Story is housed

In Spring 2022, students in Adam Berland's GIS Design course (Geography 448) generated a website to share the Sustainability Stories publicly. The website is organized around an interactive map that can be used to explore organizations around the state that prioritize sustainability in their operations.

The interactive map contains links to the Sustainability Stories generated by the Journalism students during the prior semester. Additionally, the map links to case studies featured by our project partners at the Environmental Resilience Institute at Indiana University. More Sustainability Stories will be added to the map as this project grows.

Sustainability in Action

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Both the fall Journalism class and the spring Geography class took field trips to Indianapolis to learn more about sustainability firsthand.

Learning about sustainable agriculture at Growing Places Indy

Geographic Information Systems (GIS) students seeing how GIS is applied at Keep Indianapolis Beautiful

IUPUI Sustainability Director Jessica Davis describes how sustainability efforts in the Bottleworks District enhance the social, environmental, and economic vitality of the area



Growing Places

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[Skip to main content](#)

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[Skip to main content](#)

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[Skip to main content](#)

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Next Steps

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Community members volunteer for the White River Cleanup

The goal is to grow the Sustainability Stories project into a resource that can be used for public engagement, education, and to facilitate networking across the state. We aim to highlight organizations in all 92 Indiana counties across sectors including government, for-profit companies, and non-profit organizations. This goal will be met by generating new Sustainability Stories in future Journalism courses, crowdsourcing content from organizations themselves, and through our project partners at the Environmental Resilience Institute and the IUPUI Office of Sustainability.

[← Sustainability in Action](#)

Next Steps