



2016
ANNUAL
REPORT
January - December 2016



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Ralph Rosenberg – *Executive Director*

New Staff

In 2016, the Council welcomed three new members to its team: Development Director Judy Downs, Communications and Outreach Director Emily Holley and Manager of Government Affairs Kerri Johannsen.

Our mission: A safe, healthy environment and sustainable future for Iowa

Founded in 1995, the Iowa Environmental Council is the largest and most comprehensive environmental coalition in the state. We are a nonprofit, nonpartisan alliance of diverse organizations and individuals working together to protect and preserve Iowa's environment.

Together, we unify Iowans to advocate for clean water & land stewardship, clean energy, and a healthy climate.

By amplifying the voices of Iowans and leveraging our collective influence, we advocate for a cleaner, healthier Iowa at the legislature, rule-making agencies and when necessary, in the courts.

Through education, advocacy and coalition building, we raise awareness, generate action and create large-scale change that makes Iowa a better place to live, work and explore.

2016 DONATIONS

\$10,000 +

Holthues Trust
Jim Hubbell

\$5,000 – \$9,999

Anonymous
Iowa Foundation for Education, Environment and the Arts
Cultivating Compassion: The Dr. Richard Deming Foundation
Growing Green Communities
Fred and Charlotte Hubbell Charitable Fund

\$1,000 – \$4,999

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Raccoon River Watershed Association
RDG Planning and Design
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Marvin Shirley
Trees Forever
Virtual IT
Frederick and Emily Weitz
Frank Fogarty and Connie Wimer

\$250 – \$499

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Harry Bookey and Pamela Bass Bookey
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\$100 – \$249

1000 Friends of Iowa
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Conservation Corps Iowa & Minnesota
Conservation Districts of Iowa
Conservation Foundation of Dickinson County
Mary Cowdrey
Ray and Sandra Crabtree
Pam Crossley
Dallas County Environmental Health Department



521 E. Locust St., Ste. 220 • Des Moines, IA 50309

Phone: 515-244-1194 • Email: iecmal@iaenvironment.org

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 Des Moines Water Works
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\$50 – \$99

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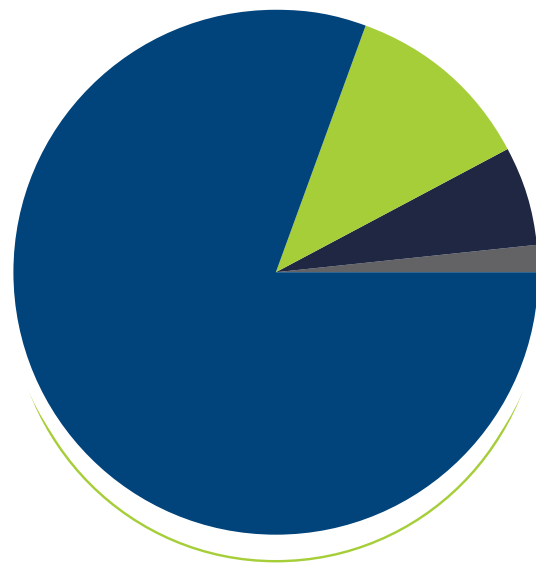




FINANCES

January 1, 2016 – December 31, 2016

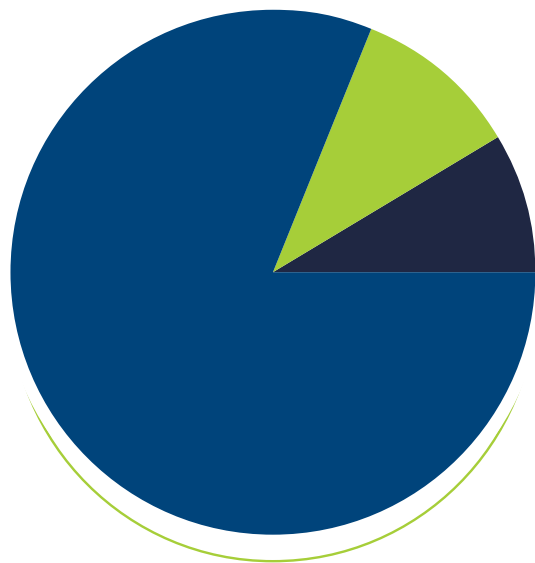
The Iowa Environmental Council is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, non-governmental organization. Our work is supported by our members, individual and corporate gifts, and foundation grants. This support is bolstered by dedicated and passionate board members, volunteers, and staff. We did not receive any government funding in 2016. Remaining revenues at the end of 2016 are cash reserves for fiscal year 2017.



Total Revenues

■ Event Income.	\$ 52,885.00
■ Memberships and Donations	\$ 97,782.00
■ Other Income (Interest, Rent, Misc.)	\$ 13,287.00
■ Grants	\$ 687,540.00

TOTAL \$ 842,494.00



Total Expenses

■ Program Expenses.	(\$ 712,962.00)
■ Administrative Expenses	(\$ 89,309.00)
■ Fundraising and Events	(\$ 74,380.00)

TOTAL (\$ 876,651.00)



EVENT HIGHLIGHTS



Environmental Lobby Day

Attendees: 200+

Participating organizations: 34

More than 200 conservation advocates gathered at the Capitol on Tuesday, March 22, 2016 to speak with legislators about the need to commit long-term, sustainable funding to support conservation and clean water in Iowa. This year, the event was expanded to include a greater emphasis on continuing Iowa's clean energy leadership. The annual event was co-sponsored by the Iowa Environmental Council, the Iowa REAP Alliance and Iowa's Water & Land Legacy Coalition.



Pro H₂O

Attendees: 200+

On Thursday, June 16, over 220 people gathered at Noce in Des Moines's Western Gateway neighborhood for a sold-out Pro H₂O. The event featured Chris Kolb, President of the Michigan Environmental Council and CO-Chair of the Flint Water Advisory Task Force and honored Tom Hadden, Susan Heathcote and Paul Johnson for their work to protect and preserve Iowa's natural resources.



2016 Annual Conference

Attendees: 250+

Exhibitors: 24

The Council held our 2016 Annual Conference, ECoNomics: Dollars, Sense & Sustainability on October 6 at the FFA Enrichment Center at the DMACC Ankeny Campus. The event featured environmental law leader Rob Bilott, ecological economics expert John D. Erickson and over a dozen other speakers. Over 250 environmentalists, Council members, students and business leaders gathered to hear from speakers, learn from exhibitors and network.

2016 Event Sponsors

Cultivating Compassion: The Dr. Richard Deming Foundation Growing Green Communities Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation Wells Fargo BNIM	Des Moines Area Community College Environmental Law & Policy Center Impact7G Iowa Association of Water Agencies	Leopold Center for Sustainable Communities Practical Farmers of Iowa Raccoon River Watershed Association Trees Forever
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Thank You to Our 2016 Event Committee

David Courard-Hauri, *Co-Chair*
Ryan Peterson, *Co-Chair*
Ross Baxter
Katie Cownie
Sarah Lohmeier

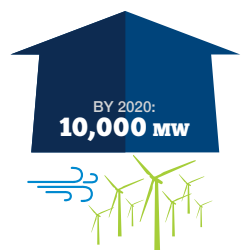


PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

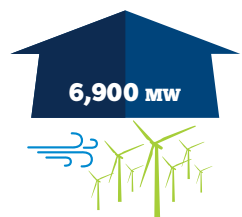
Energy Program

Day to day, our energy program work is focused on transitioning Iowa to **100% clean energy**.

Iowa significantly advanced its leadership on wind energy in 2016:



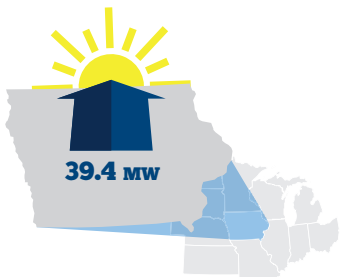
The Council actively supported major wind projects proposed by MidAmerican (2,000 MW) and Alliant (500 MW). Once built, these projects will put Iowa close to the **10,000 MW** milestone by 2020.



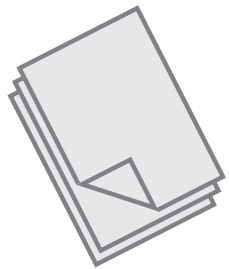
Iowa ended the year with over **6,900 MW** of installed wind capacity, ranking second nationally, and now generates over **36%** of energy from wind, ranking first nationally.



These two wind projects alone add to up a **\$4.5 billion** commitment to new wind power. Additional wind and solar projects committed or built in 2016 bring the renewable energy investment to about **\$5 billion**.



By November 2016, distributed solar grew to **39.4 megawatts** – more than Illinois, Minnesota, Wisconsin, and most other Midwestern states.



Iowa stakeholders finalized a **comprehensive, statewide technical reference manual** to support and enhance utility energy efficiency programs.



The Council advanced clean energy on boards, commissions, and stakeholder groups, including the Iowa Energy Plan Energy Resources Work Group, Midcontinent Power Sector Collaborative, the Iowa Energy Efficiency Technical Reference Manual Oversight Committee, the Net to Gross Oversight Committee, the RE-AMP Iowa state table, and the board of directors of Wind on the Wires.



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Water Program



We brought attention to the needs of Iowa's watersheds. At the beginning of the 2016 legislative session, we issued a policy paper entitled, "**Healthy Lands, Healthy Waters**" that established significant need for the state to adopt a comprehensive, coordinated approach to addressing the challenges faced by Iowa's watersheds. Despite resistance, the Council was one of the first groups calling for watershed solutions. In 2016, continuing into 2017, watershed level solutions have become well accepted.



We raised concern for public health and gained considerable attention for linking public health concerns with nitrate in drinking water. Our report, "**Nitrate in Drinking Water: A Public Health Concern for All Iowans**" garnered widespread attention in the news. The report reviewed the findings of research conducted in Iowa, the U.S., and abroad that have found nitrate in drinking water associated with several birth defects, bladder cancer and thyroid cancer.



We demanded action from the EPA on Mississippi River Pollution. IEC worked in partnership with the Mississippi River Collaborative to release a report entitled, "**Decades of Delay**," calling the EPA out for their lackluster efforts in fighting nutrient pollution in the Mississippi.

Outreach

Action alerts

During the 2016 Iowa Legislative Session, the Council generated **4,000 emails and letters** from advocates to policymakers in support of policies that advance clean water, healthy land and continued clean energy growth.

Op-ed/guest columns

During 2016, Council staff were featured and quoted in **more than 100 stories** in news outlets across the state.

New member organizations

The Council welcomed **4 new member organizations** in 2016 – Blank Park Zoo, Citizens for a Healthy Iowa, Earth Made Clean and Impact 76 – expanding our collective knowledge, resources and influence.



Iowa
Environmental
Council

