

LOOKING BACK AND LOOKING AHEAD

When we think about IEC's founding nearly 30 years ago, we're proud. Proud to think about business and community leaders like Charlotte Hubbell and Buz Brenton coming together with a new idea that the interests of lowa's environment and lowa's business community weren't so far apart, and that with a collaborative coalition-led effort, our state's environment and our people could flourish.

After nearly 30 years however, it can be hard to think that much has changed for the better. Our waters remain polluted. We hardly see the animals or people living on our farms. The flora and fauna of our landscape continue to morph into cookiecutter row crop acres. Our air is tainted with coal particulate pollution.

But IEC's vision has remained and the work we do has made a difference. Today you see wind turbines and solar panels as you travel our highways, powering our homes and businesses. Our state is criss-crossed with popular bike trails that improve livelihoods in local lowa towns. The state's final ag drainage wells will close this year. Through all the consolidation and expansion and degradation of the last 30 years, IEC has found ways to collaborate and take action to improve lowa at every level.

As you read on in this report, you'll learn about how our expert staff at IEC used legal, policy, and collaborative resources and took action that delivered real change in 2023. It was a year that brought uncertainty, changes to environmental laws and resources, another year of statewide drought, and other challenges, but we're focused on the good: IEC's efforts to improve animal feeding operation siting rules, the court rulings that supported our calls to close down coal power generation in lowa, the growing attention to nitrate and other ag inputs on human health, and more.

We are deeply appreciative to you for your support of this work, whether it was contacting your legislators through an Action Alert, submitting comments in response to a rule change, participating in a rally, attending a webinar, coming to an IEC fundraising event, supporting IEC's work with a donation – or maybe all of the above! IEC's success is only possible with your voice and your support.

Read on to learn more about the work of the organization in 2023, and then commit to coming along for the journey once again in 2024. IEC will welcome new staff and launch new work, build on our environmental justice initiatives, and convene our Annual Conference for the first time in five years, in addition to the work our team does so well every day. We are excited for what's ahead and look forward to engaging with you in the months and years to come!

With thanks.

Catherine "Katie" Cownie 2022 – 2023 IEC President Jennifer Hermsen 2024 - 2025 IEC President















MEET OUR TEAM

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Meet the people, volunteer leaders, and the members of IEC

1 Source Solar

1000 Friends of Iowa

Allamakee County Protectors -

Education Campaign

American Institute of Architects,

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Audubon Minnesota

Big Grove Brewery

Blank Park Zoo

Boone County Chamber of Commerce

Bozz Prints

Cedar Rapids Linn County Solid

Waste Agency

Center for Energy &

Environmental Education

CHEEC

Center for Rural Affairs

Citizens' Climate Lobby

Citizens for a Healthy Iowa

Clayton County Energy District

Common Good Iowa

Conservation Corps Minnesota & Iowa

Conservation Districts of Iowa

C-Wise

Dallas County Environmental

Health Department

Des Moines Founders Garden Club

Des Moines' Selma

Des Moines Water Works

Dickinson County Conservation Board

Drake Environmental Action League

Dubuque County Energy District

East Okoboji Lakes

Improvement Corporation

Energy Association of Iowa Schools

Environmental Advocates

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Heartland Rewilding

Ideal Energy

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Impact7G

Iowa Association of County

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Iowa Groundwater Association

Iowa Interfaith Power & Light

Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation

Iowa Pheasants Forever

Iowa Prairie Network

Iowa Rivers Revival

Iowa Stormwater Education

Partnership

Iowa Unitarian Universalist Witness

Advocacy Network (IUUWAN)

Iowa Whitewater Coalition

Iowa's County Conservation System

I-Renew

Izaak Walton League of America,

Des Moines Chapter

Izaak Walton League of America,

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National Mississippi River Museum

and Aquarium

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Thumbprint Soap

Trees Forever

Urban Ambassadors

The Vernon Company

Waste Commission of Scott County

Whiterock Conservancy

Wings2Water

VISION

lowa utilizes 100% clean electricity by 2035.



ACTION

Push MidAmerican Energy to eliminate coal by 2030.





Reaching 100% clean energy in lowa is key to realizing IEC's vision of a sustainable future for all lowans. In 2023, IEC pushed MidAmerican Energy to deliver on its clean energy vision by shuttering itspolluting coal plants in lowa and moving to 100% true renewable power in lowa.

Years of legal efforts by IEC and partners culminated in several court victories in 2023. The lowa Utilities Board ordered MidAmerican Energy to reveal internal study data on the economics of its coal plants, which showed that coal is a financial drain on customers and that solar was the most affordable path for future renewable generation. Despite this, the utility continues burning coal and has failed to make workable plan to transition to clean energy. IEC's challenges to MidAmerican's Wind PRIME project secured a critical win in the form of a stakeholder process to model and evaluate the costs of MidAmerican's plans for the future.

In 2023, the IEC-led coalition Clean Up MidAm focused its efforts in the Sioux City region, home to two of MidAmerican Energy's oldest and most polluting coal-fired power plants. IEC alerted supporters to MidAm's plan to dispose of toxic coal ash wastewater in the Missouri River, generating hundreds of comments to the Iowa DNR opposing the action, stopping the plan in its tracks. IEC and Clean Up MidAm hosted a learning session on coal plant pollution in the area, building a growing movement of local residents pushing back on the utility's use of coal.

Later in the year, IEC participated in public discussions and planning for ratemaking reforms, a review initiated by the lowa legislature in the 2023 session. The lowa Utilities Board submitted a report to the legislature at the end of the year with recommendations to address ratemaking transparency in lowa. Those recommendations included a goal sought by IEC: implementing an IRP, or integrated resource plan, in lowa, something more than 40 other states require for utility operation in the U.S.

IEC's actions are resulting in real change: stopping damaging utility operations, improving utility oversight, developing prudent policy that protects lowans, pushing investor-owned utilities to act in the best interests of their customers, and ultimately, making progress toward our vision of a cleaner, healthier lowa.



Learn more about IEC's work to close down coal plants in lowa.

Damaging agricultural impacts on lowa's land and water are growing and our systems to address and correct these threats are not keeping up. Throughout 2023, IEC took several actions independently and in collaboration with others to identify these gaps, make corrections, and call for actions that move us to a future with cleaner water and healthier soil.

The Governor's January 2023 moratorium on agency rulemaking paused IEC's yearslong work to improve concentrated animal feeding operation (AFO) siting and manure storage rules. The Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) addressed AFO siting in its rule review later in the year. The drafted changes were not protective of water quality, especially after intervention by the governor's office late in the process. IEC and a coalition of partners were ready: we submitted formal comments, attended public hearings, and encouraged hundreds of public comments to IDNR in favor of stronger siting rules to protect sensitive landscapes and lowa's waterways.

To support calls for stronger AFO oversight, IEC released reports highlighting the dangers and costs related to concentrated animal operations in lowa. *Animal Feeding Operations in lowa's Floodplain: A Risk to lowa Waters,* published in partnership with the Environmental Law & Policy Center (ELPC) with analysis from the Environmental Working Group, highlighted the illegal construction of dozens of AFOs in flood-prone areas in the state.

The Costs of CAFOs: Impacts on Your Wallet and Your Health called attention to how much every lowan pays for AFOs in our state, from the costs associated with treating drinking water for AFO pollution, to increased healthcare expenses and lost recreational income.

IEC's rulemaking actions took place as we mounted a media campaign for the tenth anniversary of lowa's Nutrient Reduction Strategy (NRS). In anticipation of NRS proponents celebrating a claimed success, IEC launched lowa's Declining Decade, a standalone website that brings together reports, publications, articles, and other content that highlights the lack of progress on reducing fertilizer pollution in lowa. Industry leaders are being forced to respond, finally providing context with their claims of success and acknowledging that it is not enough.

IEC is driving real change for lowa's water: calling for the closure of regulatory loopholes, seeking improved protections for sensitive landscapes, and changing the narrative on lowa's nutrient pollution efforts.

VISION

lowa's water is safe and clean for everyone.



ACTION

Reduce fertilizer pollution from AFOs and agricultural production.







Learn more about how IEC is addressing AFO pollution.



VISION

Diverse voices are engaged in, and benefit from, environmental policy.



ACTION

Meet diverse lowans where they are to hear their stories and their concerns.



EJ Summit, Des Moines



The effects of pollution are not felt equally. Access to lowa's land and waters is not equal. People who have had less political power – particularly people who are Black, Indigenous, and People of Color, as well as low-income communities – have faced greater burdens from environmental degradation and pollution. They have not been well-represented in groups like IEC that advocate for a cleaner environment.

In 2023, IEC took steps to meet diverse lowans where they are to listen and learn from those experiencing environmental harms and how IEC can help address environmental injustice. In January, IEC hosted an Environmental Justice summit following the MLK Jr. Day Prayer Breakfast in Des Moines, inviting community members from Central lowa to share their experiences and concerns in table discussions. At events in Sioux City, Storm Lake, and Waterloo, IEC heard from residents about the impacts of legacy pollution, brownfields, water quality concerns, and other issues.

In addition to listening and learning from under-represented voices, IEC is working to educate others across the state about environmental justice and what these issues look like in lowa, from higher utility bills to lack of access to outdoor spaces to increased air pollution.

As part of that work, IEC joined as an lowa partner of the Heartland Environmental Justice Center, the EPA's Region 7 Environmental Justice Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Center (TCTAC). These TCTACs are intended to provide training and other assistance to build capacity for navigating federal grant application systems, writing strong grant proposals, and effectively managing grant funding. Each of the technical assistance centers will also create and manage communication channels to ensure that all communities have direct access to resources and information.

IEC's work in this space is making real change possible: bringing marginalized voices forward, educating ourselves and lowans about issues impacting our local communities, and empowering those individuals and communities to benefit from the solutions available through federal funding opportunities.



Learn more about IEC's history and recent environmental justice work in a new space on our website.





IEC built upon the successes of 2022, continuing our slate of quarterly fundraising events, connecting with new donors in communities such as Storm Lake and Davenport, building new relationships through house parties, and gaining new support through the environmentally-focused lowa Gives Green day of giving.

IEC benefitted from the generosity of several special grants and generous gifts of support in 2023, including an incredible anonymous \$25,000 matching gift in support of IEC's water program; a major grant from the Green State Credit Union Foundation for the Iowa Water Watch program and newsletter series; several matching gifts to drive donations for Iowa Gives Green, Giving Tuesday, and year end gifts, including a matching gift from long-time IEC supporter Jennifer Garst, who passed away in November 2023.

IEC was also the recipient of the organization's first ever federal EPA grant in 2023, giving the organization a role in building leadership and capacity for environmental justice in lowa, and creating programs to build the capacity of vulnerable lowans to have meaningful involvement in addressing environmental and public health issues.

Thanks to these incredible gifts, our slate of enjoyable fundraising events, the addition of new programs and partnerships, and a growing supporter pool, IEC welcomed more new donors in 2023. This growth is reflected in the 2023 revenue report, with fundraising and events bringing in more than \$300,000, an increase of more than \$20,000 over the previous year. That net revenue will support our program work in the upcoming year.

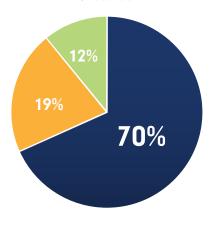
The numbers included here reflect IEC's unaudited financial reports for 2023. The Iowa Environmental Council is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, nongovernmental organization. Our work is supported by our members, individual and corporate gifts, and private and public grants.



Thanks to the sponsors, supporters, andfriends who make our work possible. Learn why individual and business support is the key to our success!

2023 Total Expenses

Unaudited



Program Expenses	\$977,537
Fundraising & Events	\$260,489

Adminstrative Expenses.....\$169,627

Total* \$1,406,528









Hank You

President's Circle

(\$10,000+)

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See the complete list of IEC donors from 2023. Thank you for your support!

