



Iowa
Environmental
Council

ANNUAL REPORT 2019



Dear Friend of the Environment,

As all of us at IEC reflect on 2019, a common theme emerges: growth. Growth in our staff. Growth in our leadership team. Growth in our program efforts. Growth in our donor and supporter engagement and their incredible generosity and goodwill.

IEC is thriving thanks to a rich history, loyal friends, and a diverse coalition of advocates. As you'll see in the following pages, a strong foundation can lead to powerful results. There is still much we desire to add to our plans, but thanks to your support, we have much to celebrate and even more to advance in the year ahead.

With gratitude,
Sarah Lohmeier
2018-2019 IEC President

Jennifer Terry
IEC Executive Director



IEC BOARD AND STAFF

2019 Board of Directors

Ross Baxter – Vice President – representing Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation

David Courard-Hauri – representing Drake Environmental Action League

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Kevin Griggs – representing Practical Farmers of Iowa

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Monte Marti – representing Allamakee County Protectors

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Jennifer Terry – Executive Director

Kerri Johannsen – Energy Program Director

Ingrid Gronstal Anderson – Water Program Director

Nathaniel Baer – Energy Program Specialist

Angelisa Belden – Director of Communications

Jordan Bles – Director of Fundraising and Development

Michael Schmidt – Staff Attorney

Kitty Jacobson – Finance and Operations Administrator

Jordan Oster – Energy Outreach and Advocacy Coordinator

Alicia Vasto – Water Policy and Advocacy Specialist

Steve Guyer – Energy and Climate Policy Specialist

Haley Boyd – Communications and Development Assistant

Raihan Rashidi – 100% Iowa Organizer

2019 Past Staff

Cindy Lane – Water Program Director

New and Changing Staff

The Council grew to double the size of its staff in 2019.

The energy program expanded, adding **Jordan Oster** in January as the new Energy Outreach and Advocacy Coordinator and **Steve Guyer** in November as the new Energy and Climate Policy Specialist. During the second half of 2019, the energy team worked to operationalize 100% Iowa, an exciting new renewable energy grassroots outreach program.

Raihan Rashidi joined IEC as a 100% Iowa organizer in December 2019; **Kristen Weaverling** and **Paige Penningroth** began their work with 100% Iowa in 2020.

In February, IEC welcomed **Michael Schmidt** as the Council's Staff Attorney. **Alicia Vasto** joined the water program in January 2019 as the Water Policy and Advocacy Specialist and **Ingrid Gronstal Anderson** assumed the role of Water Program Director in April following **Cindy Lane's** out-of-state move. IEC expanded fundraising resources with the addition of **Jordan Bles** as the Director of Fundraising and Development in July 2019.

Learn more about IEC's staff and board leaders at iaenvironment.org/whoweare.





2019 DONATIONS



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 Sharon Tinker
 Nathan Unsworth
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 Michael Welsh

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Renate and Neil Bernstein
Blank Park Zoo
Joe Bolick
Joseph Bolkom
Bozz Prints
Susan Burgess
Robin Ahnen-Cacciatore
and John Cacciatore
Alex Cahill
Thomas Carsner
Lain Adkins and
Holly Carver
Caucus Bistro
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Environmental Education
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Conservation Board
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Improvement Corporation
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Kamyar Enshayan
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Iowa Audubon
Iowa Chapter of the
American Fisheries Society
Iowa Environmental
Health Association
Iowa Policy Project
Iowa Prairie Network
Iowa Roadside Management
Iowa Whitewater Coalition
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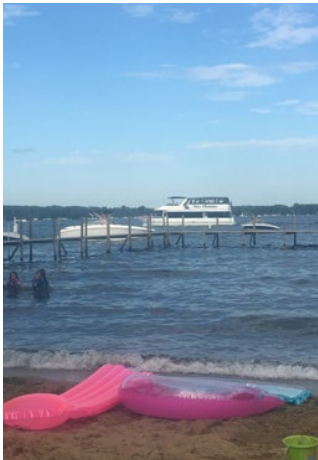
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IEC ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBERS

The Iowa Environmental Council is a nonprofit, nonpartisan alliance of diverse organizations and individuals working together to protect and preserve Iowa's environment. Our coalition is made stronger by the support and engagement of more than 70 businesses and not-for-profit organizations from across Iowa.



1 Source Solar
1000 Friends of Iowa
Allamakee County
Protectors
American Institute
of Architects -
Iowa Chapter
Blank Park Zoo
BNIM
Bozz Prints
Bur Oak Land Trust
Caucus Bistro
Cedar Rapids Linn County
Solid Waste Agency
Center for Rural Affairs
Citizens Climate Lobby
Clayton County
Energy District
Conservation Corps
Minnesota & Iowa
Conservation Districts
of Iowa
Dallas County
Environmental Health
Department
Des Moines Water Works
Dickinson County
Conservation Board
Drake Environmental
Action League
East Okoboji Lakes
Improvement
Corporation
Ecocare Supply
Energy Association of
Iowa Schools
Environmental Advocates
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Conservation System
Izaak Walton League -
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Johnson County
Conservation
Lake MacBride
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Polk County
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Air Quality Division
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Spirit Lake Protective
Association
State Hygienic Lab
Sustainable Environmental
Consultants
Sustainable Iowa
Land Trust
Terracon
Trees Forever
UNI-Center for Energy &
Environmental Education
Waste Commission of
Scott County
Whiterock Conservancy

ADVOCACY WORK

IEC is an environmental organization focused on law and policy solutions to address our state's environmental issues to create large-scale change. We engage in this work using a multi-pronged approach: outreach and partnerships, legislative policy and rulemaking, and the courts when necessary.

The Council grew outreach and advocacy efforts throughout the year, engaging more lowans around the state in the process of advocacy and education.

Legislative Events



IEC hosted two legislative events in 2019. A new **Legislative Day** in February brought attendees to the State Capitol for Advocacy Training and a workshop followed by in-person meetings with their legislators.

On March 21 IEC held **Environmental Lobby Day** where dozens of organizations and individuals took to the Capitol Rotunda. This annual event brings together IEC members, member organizations, and partners to call on legislators to prioritize environmental issues. Representative Andy McKean, Senator Claire Celsi, Mollie Aronowitz with Peoples Land Management Company, and Todd Miller with 1 Source Solar joined IEC for remarks about the importance of clean energy and clean water to Iowa's economic growth.

IEC also co-hosted several clean energy advocacy days. **Electric Vehicle Day on the Hill** was held in March, where electric vehicle owners connected with policymakers to show the value of EVs and express support for pro-EV policies. **Energy Efficiency Day** in January featured contractors, nonprofits, and efficiency service companies that shared how their services save residents money, protect health and safety, and employ local lowans for this beneficial work.

Legislative Tours



Seven state legislators gained unique insight about the benefits of renewable energy through a series of legislative tours hosted by IEC's Energy Program and our partners. These tours took place in Boone, Lee, Marion and Polk Counties. Local leaders toured homes and businesses that implemented energy-saving efficiency measures such as LED lighting and improved insulation, farms controlling their expenses using solar installations, and more. Personal conversations with those benefitting from clean energy helps legislators understand the impact of their decisions and consider future policy improvements.

Action Alerts



IEC's success relies on the engagement of our statewide coalition. In 2019, IEC sent six Action Alerts to our supporters on issues ranging from the federal Waters of the US definition to state-level solar net metering policy. 1,840 lowans took action, generating 6,530 messages to city, state, and federal officials on laws and policies that would impact our environment.

Not all actions require a message to a legislator, such as submitting public comments on state agency reports or other content. IEC encouraged our engaged constituents to submit comments on the Iowa DNR's proposed use designation of 109 river and stream segments, Iowa DNR's draft 2018 Impaired Waters List (released November 2019), and the U.S. EPA's repeal of the 2015 Waters of the United States Rule.

IEC OUTREACH

IEC significantly expanded outreach activities in 2019, adding new events, engagement platforms, and tools to connect with Iowans across the state. The Council itself grew in size, adding more members and supporters, new sponsors, and partners to our coalition.

IEC continues to position itself as a strong watchdog for Iowa and a leader in using evidence-based research and collaborative partnerships to advance policy.



Media Coverage

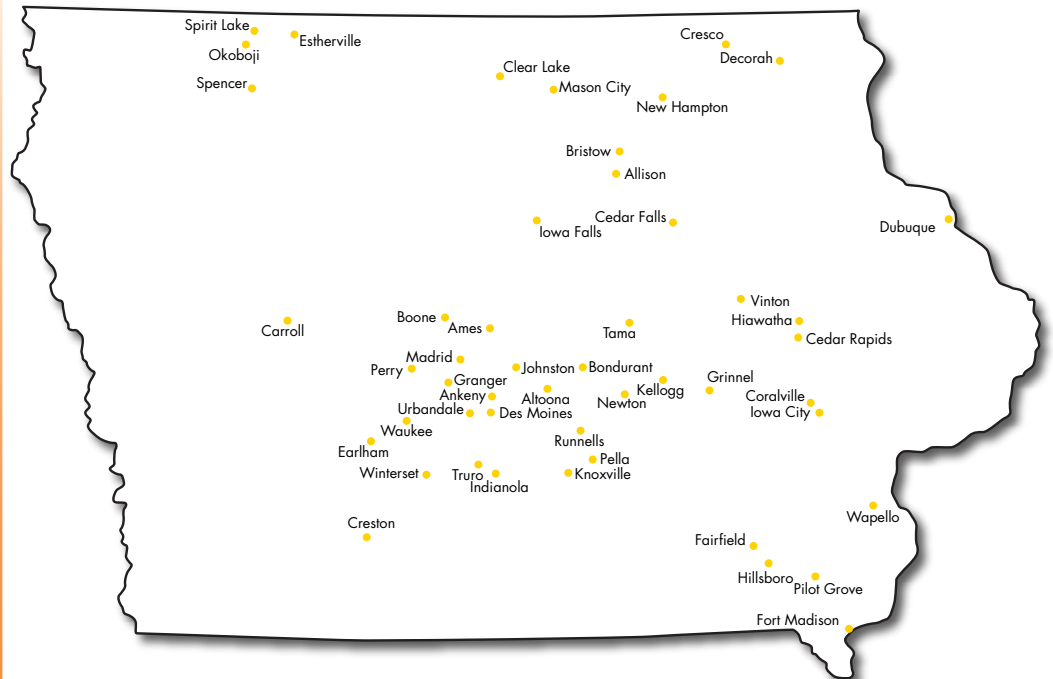
In 2019, IEC's impressive work garnered significant media attention around Iowa and beyond.

IEC was included in 160 stories and opinion pieces in a variety of print, radio, online, and on-air stories for our work including the Wind Turbines & Health paper, our Nutrient Reduction Strategy analysis, and more.

Notable coverage included The Guardian, CBS News, Progressive Farmer, major Iowa newspapers, and others.



IEC staff visited these communities as part of our work



More Iowans than ever were introduced to IEC and its work through new outreach events in 2019. The Water Program hosted a series of Women for Water programs, a new half-day educational program for women landowners in Perry, a breakfast at the Point to Point Swim in Okoboji, and the first annual End-of-Summer Beach Bash in Des Moines. The Energy Program hosted a number of solar and energy efficiency legislative tours around the state, in addition to the new Bright Ideas Breakfast and the Beneficial Electrification Summit.

IEC exhibited and sponsored at many events throughout Iowa, such as Bur Oak Land Trust's Prairie Preview in Iowa City, the Iowa Governor's Conference on Public Health, the Des Moines Farmers Market, Cedar Rapids' EcoFest, the Northern Iowa Green Expo in Clear Lake, the Okoboji Blue Waters Festival, RAGBRAI in partnership with Niman Ranch, and the Blank Park Zoo Monarch Festival.

Our staff provided education and leadership as presenters at a number of community and industry-focused events, including the Iowa IDEAS Conference in Cedar Rapids, a webinar with UNI's Center for Energy and Environmental Education, the 2019 National New Leaders Council Convention hosted in Des Moines, the Iowa Association of Water Agencies, Des Moines' monthly Green Drinks group, and others.



ENERGY PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



Wind Energy Projects

IEC's Energy Program celebrated many successes in 2019, starting with the January 2019 release of the *Wind Turbines and Health* paper, published in conjunction with the University of Iowa's Environmental Health Sciences Research Center and the Iowa Policy Project. The paper analyzed peer-reviewed scientific studies researching health effects of wind turbines, finding no evidence that wind turbine sound causes damage to human health.



Solar Energy Success

Clean energy supporters joined IEC in an unexpected battle during the 2019 legislative session following the introduction of a bill seeking to eliminate net metering for solar energy systems, among other changes that would decimate the burgeoning solar industry in Iowa. IEC rallied supporters through action alerts, digital ads, and other tools, while the Council partnered with unlikely allies to stall the so-called "Sunshine Tax." The legislation did not advance during session and IEC actively engaged legislators and industry partners in the off-session to prepare for the next steps in 2020.



Iowa Utilities Board Cases

IEC frequently participates as an intervenor in cases before the Iowa Utilities Board (IUB) and 2019 was another year of work to ensure Iowans would benefit from clean, affordable energy. Alliant Energy filed a rate case with the Iowa Utilities Board, seeking to increase rates as much as \$20 a month for some residential customers. IEC partnered with the Environmental Law and Policy Center to call on Alliant to analyze its spending on fossil fuel generation, to set rates that encourage energy efficiency and solar, and to curb unnecessary spending on gold-plating the electric grid.

Our efforts brought Alliant to the table, where IEC and ELPC successfully negotiated a settlement approved by the IUB in January 2020. That settlement included Alliant's first-ever economic analysis of their coal plants, which will take place in 2020. IEC will push for a robust analysis that looks at the true economic costs of coal and the benefits of moving more quickly to a 100% renewable electric system.

100%
IOWA

Reaching More Iowans

During the second half of 2019, IEC worked to launch 100% Iowa, an exciting new grassroots outreach program focusing on promoting and advocating for renewable energy growth in Iowa. Staff attended outreach events and implemented a major social media push, promoting clean energy in Iowa and growing IEC's base of grassroots activists in 2020 and beyond. Learn more at 100percentiowa.com.



WATER PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



Setting Numeric Limits

IEC Water Program staff continued to advance solutions to nutrient pollution in Iowa's waters in their work in 2019. In February, IEC and Environmental Law and Policy Center argued in front of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources' Environmental Protection Committee for their petition asking the state to set numeric criteria for nitrogen and phosphorus in Iowa's recreational lakes. The petition was denied, but it was a critical step in the path to setting numeric limits.



Water Watch Continues

2019 was the second year of IEC's popular Weekly Water Watch series, an email newsletter tracking state beach advisories and highlighting important water news and research. The summer of 2019 featured a large number of high-profile algae blooms at popular public water bodies including Lake MacBride, Lake Rathbun, Spirit Lake and others. Correspondingly, dangerous microcystin toxin advisories were also on the rise in 2019. Our newsletter and stories highlighted the increased threats of these blooms and its impacts on public health and local economies.



Addressing Nutrient Pollution

IEC's groundbreaking publication *The Slow Reality of the Nutrient Reduction Strategy* increased pressure on policymakers to prioritize clean water. In July, IEC released data showing the implementation rates of conservation practices outlined in the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy (NRS) compared to what is necessary to meet the goal of reducing nutrient pollution by 45%. At the current rate of adoption, the practices analyzed were nearly 100 to more than 31,000 years away from reaching the scale necessary to reduce nutrient pollution by the state's goal. This publication gained significant media coverage, including reaction from the NRS's most ardent defenders.



Drinking Water Contamination

The NRS publication came on the heels of an alarming report IEC released in conjunction with Environmental Working Group revealing the lack of private well testing in Iowa and high frequency of contamination among the tested wells. The report reviewed 15 years of private well testing data and found that two-thirds of wells were tested only once in the 15 year period. Those that were tested were frequently contaminated with nitrate and/or coliform bacteria. IEC continues to share this important public health data in an effort to ensure safer, cleaner water for all Iowans.



FUNDRAISING EVENT HIGHLIGHTS



Pro H2O

Advocates for clean, safe water in Iowa gathered for the 7th annual Pro H2O on Thursday, June 14, 2019, at The River Center in Des Moines. IEC's largest and most festive fundraiser of the year, Pro H2O celebrates Iowans' collective work to protect Iowa's waterways and honors individuals around the state for their work in protecting and preserving Iowa's natural resources.

2019 honorees included an Innovation Award to Joe Bolick and Jennifer Trent with the Iowa Waste Reduction Center; Leaders in Business Awards to Big Grove Brewery based in Johnson County, SingleSpeed Brewing Company in Waterloo for their sustainability efforts, and Mollie Aronowitz of Peoples Land Management Company for her work to connect producer profitability with conservation; and the Tenacity & Youth Awards to Courtney Wolken, an A.P. Biology teacher with Newton Community School District and Steve Hopkins, nonpoint source coordinator with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, for their work increase awareness and engagement of a local water body.



Bright Ideas Breakfast

IEC hosted its first-ever energy focused event on September 26, 2019. More than 100 energy professionals, advocates, and community and business leaders gathered at the Iowa Events Center in Des Moines for a breakfast featuring education, discussion, and awards.

Sonia Aggarwal, Vice President at California-based think tank Energy Innovation, led a session on the economics of energy generation in the US and opportunities for a carbon-free future. Local business leaders James Cade of Ruan Transportation, Chris Deal of MODUS Engineering, and Shashi Menon of EcoEngineers participated in a panel discussion on how energy policy impacts their industries.

The event also celebrated Iowa businesses leading the way with clean energy adoption: Agri-Industrial Plastics in Jefferson County and Ideal Energy in Fairfield were honored with Business Innovation Awards. Jenny Steffensmeier of Steffensmeier Welding & Manufacturing received the Partner in Policy Award.

This new event helped to raise funds in support of IEC's Energy Program while celebrating the important energy advances being made in Iowa.





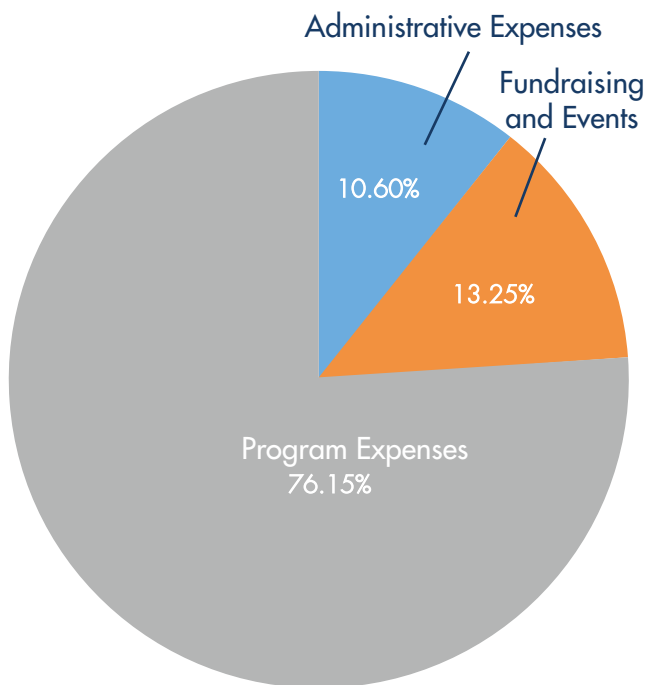
FINANCIAL REPORT

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 foundation grants. This support is bolstered by dedicated and passionate board members, volunteers, and staff.

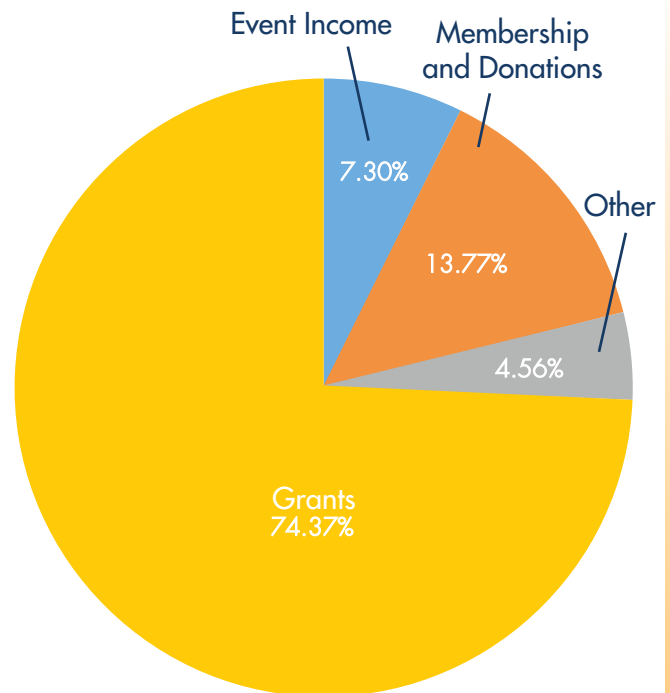
We did not receive any government funding in 2019.

Remaining revenues at the end of 2019 are cash reserves for fiscal year 2020.



2019 Total Expenses (Unaudited)

| | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|
| ■ Fundraising and Events..... | \$132,909 |
| ■ Administrative Expenses..... | \$106,418 |
| ■ Program Expenses | \$764,221 |
| TOTAL | \$1,003,548 |



2019 Total Revenue (Unaudited)

| | |
|---|--------------------|
| ■ Event Income | \$74,397 |
| ■ Memberships and Donations..... | \$140,371 |
| ■ Other Income (Endowments, Interest, Misc.) .. | \$46,460 |
| ■ Grants..... | \$757,999 |
| TOTAL..... | \$1,019,227 |

The logo for the Iowa Environmental Council features a stylized green graphic on the left consisting of a curved line at the top, followed by three wavy lines, and two horizontal lines at the bottom. To the right of this graphic, the words "Iowa", "Environmental", and "Council" are stacked vertically in a green, sans-serif font.

Iowa Environmental Council

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