



Iowa
Environmental
Council

IMPACT REPORT 2024

DEAR FRIEND OF THE ENVIRONMENT,



Before I joined the team at the Iowa Environmental Council in April of 2024, I knew the organization was a respected voice in Iowa. I understood that IEC had a reputation for progress. Its victories in advancing renewable energy and protecting Iowa waterways were well established.

But in my now 12 months on the job, I have come to realize that this movement is so much more. As I've had the honor of meeting the founders of IEC – who had the foresight 30 years ago to lay the groundwork for what would become the state's largest environmental coalition – and learning from our member organizations, I see the beauty and strength in the diversity of voices that are reflected in IEC's mission today.

I've walked alongside IEC's supporters, through prairies they've painstakingly restored, through farms they've regenerated, along the banks of wetlands that now welcome birds and wildlife, not monoculture.

Every day, I have the incredible privilege of working with a brilliant staff of researchers, policy experts, legal professionals, and community organizers who are relentlessly dedicated to finding new ways of making positive change. This team does not give up, even when faced with challenges.

And don't get me wrong: These challenges and new assaults against our environment can feel heavy. But when people ask why we do what we do, the answer is simple: **Because we love Iowa, and we believe it is worth protecting.** And I know that the only way we can do that is together. The progress we've made – and the progress we must continue to make – is collective and collaborative. We are in this together, and we cannot do it without your support.

With gratitude,

Sarah Green

Sarah Green, Executive Director

IEC's mission is a just, healthy environment and sustainable future for all Iowans.



Connect with IEC

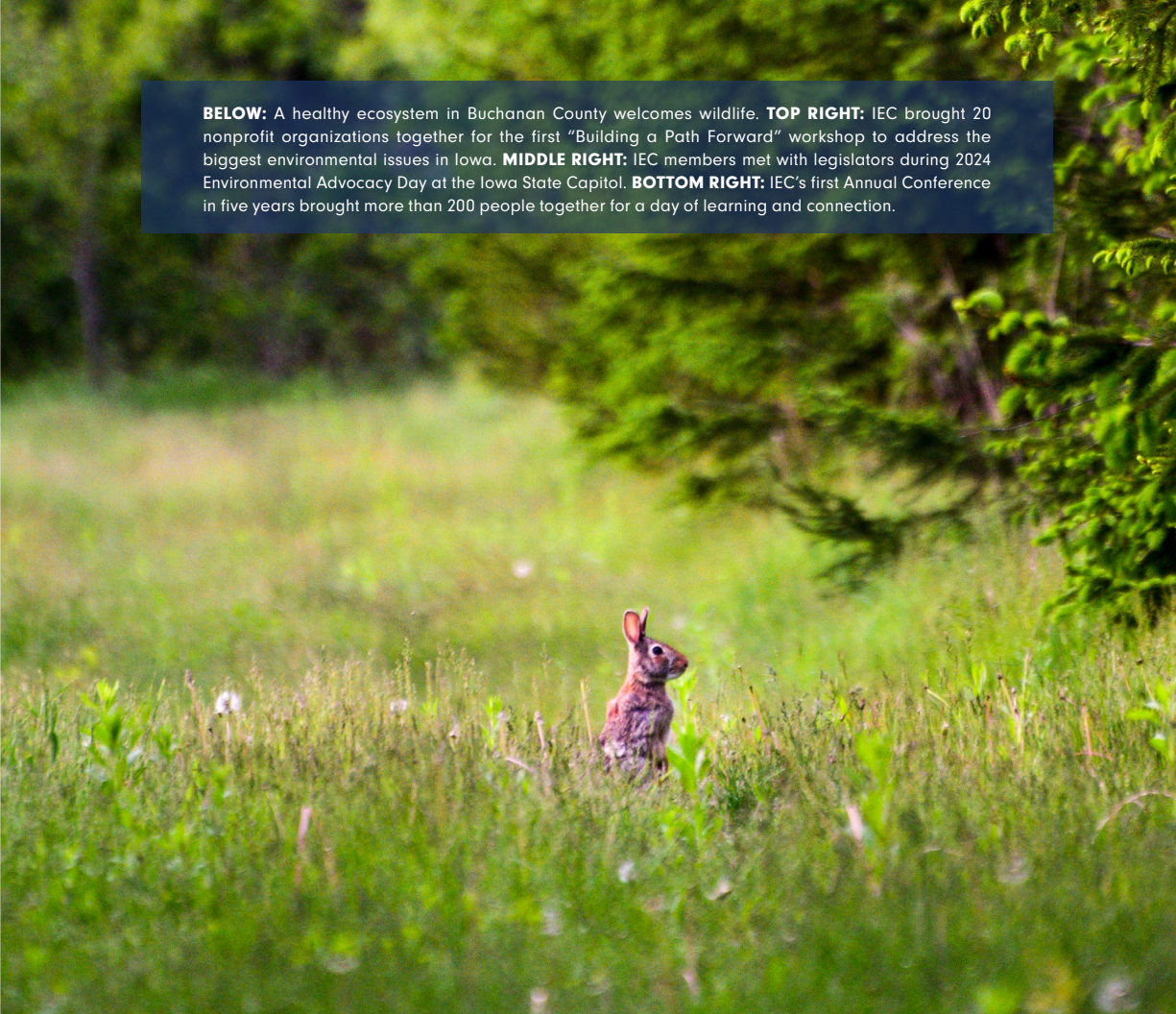
 iaenvironment.org  [@iaenvironmentalcouncil](https://www.facebook.com/iaenvironmentalcouncil)

 [@iaenvironmentalcouncil](https://www.instagram.com/iaenvironmentalcouncil) and [@iowawaterwatch](https://www.instagram.com/iowawaterwatch)

 [Iowa Environmental Council](https://www.linkedin.com/company/iowa-environmental-council)  [@iowaenviro](https://www.youtube.com/@iowaenviro)



BELOW: A healthy ecosystem in Buchanan County welcomes wildlife. **TOP RIGHT:** IEC brought 20 nonprofit organizations together for the first “Building a Path Forward” workshop to address the biggest environmental issues in Iowa. **MIDDLE RIGHT:** IEC members met with legislators during 2024 Environmental Advocacy Day at the Iowa State Capitol. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** IEC’s first Annual Conference in five years brought more than 200 people together for a day of learning and connection.



CLEAN WATER

In 2024, the IEC Water Program:

- Petitioned the Environmental Protection Agency to take action under the Safe Drinking Water Act to remediate nitrate contamination in Northeast Iowa drinking water sources
- Demanded accountability from the Iowa DNR for inadequate protections of water quality due to rule changes for Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs)
- Intervened in a federal lawsuit to defend wetlands protections against a coordinated attack from out-of-state special interests
- Educated Iowans about the impacts of outdated tile drainage regulations, pesticide application, and other industrial agriculture practices that contribute to flooding, degraded soil health, and nitrate pollution in Iowa and exacerbate the dead zone in the Gulf
- Called on the DNR to use unspent funds on increased monitoring for surface waters and public and private wells impacted by flooding

“Through legal, regulatory, and coalition-building avenues, IEC continues to defend the bedrock environmental protections that promote the safe, clean water that Iowans deserve.”

— Michael Schmidt, IEC General Counsel





11,000
Iowa Water Watch
supporters who received
weekly emails in the
summer, highlighting
pollution at Iowa's public
beaches, including 15
advisories for microcystin
and 146 for E. coli



0 TONS
Of toxic coal ash
leachate dumped into
the Des Moines River
(because IEC and
partners called it out
and stopped it)



200
SUPPORTERS
Engaged for IEC's Safe
Drinking Water Act petition
webinar and in-person
events in Dubuque and
Strawberry Point

RENEWABLE ENERGY

In 2024, the IEC Energy Program:

- Researched and published the “Coal in Siouxland” report, which revealed increased asthma rates and lung disease in Northwest Iowa communities near coal plants
- Hired a full-time organizer in Sioux City, who made significant progress on local policy change and corporate accountability for polluters
- Called on Iowa DNR to improve its air quality network to monitor for pollution in communities with the highest asthma rates
- Coordinated tours of renewable energy sites for Iowa policymakers
- Weighed in on MidAmerican Energy’s first public planning process in over a decade, which found the utility should add solar
- Intervened in a rate case to push for transparency and accountability in Iowa’s utility market, and contest Alliant’s continued reliance on expensive coal



75

Attendees to a rally in downtown Omaha at the Berkshire Hathaway shareholder meeting, demanding a transition away from fossil fuels (including plants still burning coal in Iowa)

343

Registrations for webinars to help Iowans better understand our energy grid and advocate for renewable energy sources



"In 2024, we doubled down on community organizing as an essential tool for making progress on the fossil fuel transition. We centered local voices and residents' lived experience with the impacts of pollution on personal and environmental health."

— Jordan Oster, IEC Energy Program Director



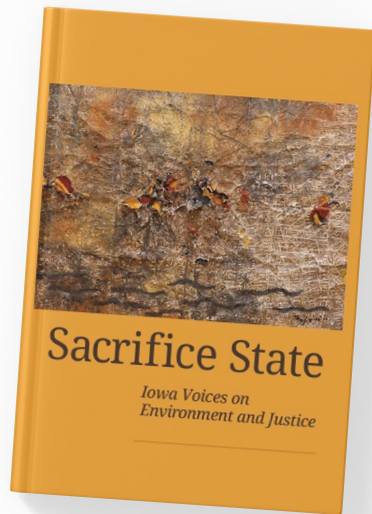
CLIMATE INITIATIVES

"The communities that are the hardest hit by the impacts of climate change and pollution often also have the least amount of capacity to respond to them. We're here to advance a future where Iowans are prepared, supported, and resilient to these impacts."

— Cody Smith, IEC Director of Climate Initiatives

In 2024, the Climate Initiatives Program:

- Trained teams of health navigators from rural and urban communities experiencing environmental justice disadvantages to support the health and resilience of residents
- Published a new book, "Sacrifice State: Iowa Voices on Environment and Justice" with Drake Community Press, featuring testimonials from more than 100 diverse Iowans throughout the state
- Hosted a webinar for 70+ policymakers and Iowans about the dangers of lead service lines carrying water into Iowa homes — and what we can do about it
- Developed a website connecting individuals, nonprofits, and local governments with available energy and infrastructure funding resources
- Presented IEC's environmental and health equity project work to partners at the CDC Foundation during a national conference



12 Iowa communities identified for environmental justice, health equity, and climate resilience support work

216 Collaborations with local leaders in counties and cities throughout Iowa to help them access federal funding and other resources

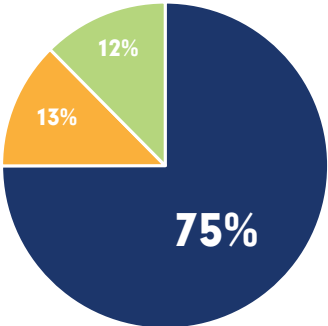
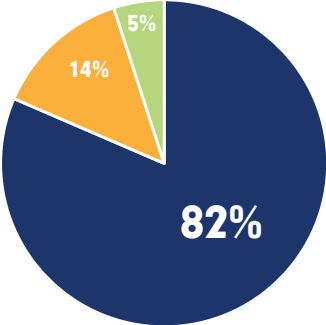
IEC participated in an Earth Day rally, calling attention to the impacts of pollution on lowans' health and wellbeing.

2024 FINANCIAL PICTURE

2024 TOTAL REVENUE

(Unaudited)

■ Grants and Other Program Specific Funding.....	\$1,590,449
■ Fundraising and Events	\$264,232
■ Other	\$97,287
(Project Support, Investments, Misc)	
TOTAL	\$1,945,741



2024 EXPENSES

(Unaudited)

■ Program Expenses.....	\$1,234,145
■ Administrative Expenses ..	\$207,392
■ Other.....	\$204,429
TOTAL	\$1,645,966

MEET OUR TEAM

2024 IEC Board of Directors

- Kate Compton
- David Courard-Hauri
- Catherine Cownie
- Amanda Drish
- Jonathan Gano
- Naura Heiman Godar
- Kevin Griggs
- Jennifer Hermesen
- Justyn Lewis
- Paulina Mena
- Craig Miller
- Brian Riley
- Laura Sarcone
- Kevin Techau
- Nathan Unsworth



Iowa
Environmental
Council

IEC Staff

Noah Daniel, Renewable Energy Siting Associate

Colleen Fowle, Water Program Director

Sarah Green, Executive Director

Steve Guyer, Senior Energy Policy Counsel

Lexi McKee-Hemenway, Campaign Organizer

Sarah Howe, Water and Climate Resiliency Specialist

Kitty Jacobson, Finance and Operations Administrator

Kerri Johannsen, Senior Director of Policy and Programs

Bethany Kohoutek, Marketing and Communications Director

Jordan Oster, Energy Program Director

Raihan Rashidi, Energy Policy Manager

Michael Schmidt, General Counsel

Cody Smith, Director of Climate Initiatives

Nan Strutzenberg, Director of Development

IEC MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

1 Source Solar

1000 Friends of Iowa

Allamakee County Protectors

American Institute of Architects, Iowa Chapter

Blank Park Zoo

Cedar Rapids/Linn County Solid Waste Agency

Center for Energy and Environmental Education

Center for Rural Affairs

Clayton County Energy District

Common Good Iowa

Conservation Corps of Minnesota & Iowa

Conservation Districts of Iowa

C-Wise

Dallas County Environmental Health Department

Des Moines Founders Garden Club

Des Moines Water Works

Dickinson County Conservation Board

Drake Environmental Action League

Energy Association of Iowate Schools

Environmental Law and Policy Center

EOR Iowa, LLC

Friends of Big Rock Park

Friends of Des Moines Parks

Friends of Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge

Good Neighbor

Green Bay GoSolar Development

Ideal Energy

Iowa Association of Water Agencies

Iowa Audubon

Iowa Bicycle Coalition

Iowa Cancer Consortium

Iowa Division of the Izaak Walton League of America

Iowa Environmental Health Association

Iowa Farmers Union

Iowa Interfaith Power & Light

Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation

Iowa Prairie Network

Iowa Renewable Energy Association

Iowa Rivers Revival

Iowa Stormwater Education Partnership

Iowa Unitarian Universalists Witness Advocacy Network

Iowa Waste Reduction Center

Jefferson County Farmers and Neighbors

Johnson County Conservation

League of Women Voters of Iowa

Linn County Conservation Board

National Mississippi River Museum

Northern Polk Pheasants Forever

Okoboji Protective Association

Oneota Community Co-op

Polk County Conservation Board

Poweshiek CARES, Inc.

Prudenterra

Raccoon River Watershed Association

Raygun

RDG Planning and Design

SafeNetRx

Science Iowa

Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Sisters of St. Francis

Sustainable Iowa Land Trust (SILT)

The Gazette

The Vernon Company

Wings2Water

GWA Solar

Trout Unlimited

Thank you to the following individuals who contributed to the success of IEC in 2024: Angelisa Belden, Jordan Bles, Haylee Bergeland, Michaëlle Gallagher, Marshall James, Lauren Luerkens, Alicia Vasto, Josh Ventling, Kristen Weaverling.



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As we look toward 2025, your support is needed more than ever: Attend an IEC event. Send an IEC Advocacy Action Alert. Register for our webinars. Share our messages with your networks. Consider a financial gift to keep our momentum going.

Thank you for standing with Iowa's environment.

Give at iaenvironment.com/donate

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