Iowa Environmental Council

# 2027 PRIORITIES for HEALTHY IOWANS and a SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT



## STRENGTHEN MONITORING AND ACCESS TO INFORMATION ABOUT TOXIC POLLUTION IN OUR WATER, AIR, AND SOIL TO PROTECT THE HEALTH OF IOWANS.

Decision makers, researchers, and everyday Iowans deserve transparency and accountability when it comes to understanding how cancer-causing pollution is entering our environment.

- **Fund Iowa's real-time water monitoring network at $600,000 per year and a one-time appropriation of $500,000 for needed technology replacement.**
- **Require the electronic filing of manure management plans with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources to prevent over-application of manure.**
- **Require commercial pesticide applicators to submit electronic spraying records to the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship within seven days of application to make investigating pesticide drift and overspray incidents faster, easier, and less costly.**

## MODERNIZE IOWA'S ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT LAWS BY INCREASING OUTDATED ADMINISTRATIVE PENALTY CAPS FOR MAJOR POLLUTERS.

Iowa's administrative penalty cap for many environmental violations was set at $10,000 in 1992 — and it has not changed. After three decades of inflation and Iowa's worsening public health challenges, it's past time to create an actual deterrent to polluters. Iowa should increase the penalty to $25,000, and index cap to inflation moving forward.

Iowa's current penalty cap on pesticide application violations is just $500. This amount does not reflect the consequences of improper pesticide use. Human health, water quality, and wildlife all suffer when pesticides are misapplied. At a time when Iowa has the fastest-growing cancer rate in the nation, we cannot afford weak penalties for clear violations of our laws.

## PROTECT IOWA'S HEALTH AND WATER FROM COAL PLANT POLLUTION.



Coal ash is a byproduct of burning coal for electricity, and it contains toxic substances such as arsenic, mercury, and lead that can make Iowans sick and pollute water. There are 69 known utility coal ash disposal sites across 16 Iowa counties.

- **Prohibit the discharge of coal ash leachate into the state's waterways to prevent contamination of drinking and recreational water supplies. Legislators should require expanded groundwater monitoring and robust mitigation measures at all coal ash landfill sites to ensure timely detection and cleanup of pollution.**

Iowa Environmental Council

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We are the Iowa Environmental Council.

# FOR IOWANS. FOR OUR ENVIRONMENT. FOR OUR FUTURE.

## IEC'S PROGRAM AND RESEARCH AREAS OF EXPERTISE

### CLEAN ENERGY

Renewable energy is the fastest and most affordable way to meet Iowa's growing energy needs. Deploying clean energy in Iowa supports jobs and economic development and keeps energy rates low. At the same time, coal plants threaten the safety of air and water in the communities where they still operate. We must speed the transition away from coal to clean energy.

### SAFE WATER

People in every part of the state have a right to clean, safe water. Our rivers, streams, and lakes are increasingly contaminated with pollution that makes them unsafe for drinking and recreation, while Iowa's aquifers are threatened by overuse. Our landscape and people are being overwhelmed. We must invest in transformational policy to restore balance to our environmental and economic systems and keep Iowans healthy and well.

### CLIMATE RESILIENCE

Reducing exposure to environmental contaminants in our air, water, and soil helps build a brighter future for Iowa by protecting the health of Iowa families. Similarly, strengthening community resilience to climate-fueled extreme weather helps Iowa prepare for a rapidly changing future. IEC works with Iowa communities on disaster preparedness exercises, technical assistance, and policy guidance.

## WHO WE ARE

For 31 years, the Iowa Environmental Council (IEC) has been a trusted leader in policy, legal, regulatory, research, and public engagement work focused on Iowa's most pressing environmental and public health challenges. Our broad coalition of member organizations and individuals is united by a shared commitment to protecting what makes Iowa special — clean and accessible water, healthy air, reliable and affordable energy, and healthy, resilient communities across both urban and rural areas.

As Iowans, we respect our natural resources and the joy of experiencing our greatest asset: our environment. We believe it's up to all of us to work together to protect it for future generations.



**Looking for data, subject-matter expertise, or technical information about Iowa's environment? Contact us.**

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