



**Iowa
Environmental
Council**

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Water and Land Stewardship 2020 State Legislative Priorities

The Iowa Environmental Council supports large-scale landscape change in the form of conservation practices that will improve water quality, manage water quantity, and benefit the state's economy.

Invest in clean water

- Support funding the Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund, with an emphasis on maintaining the original formula.
- Support monitoring, measurement, and accountability provision for publicly supported water quality projects.
- Support funding for state agencies and other entities necessary to ensure protection of our environment and public health, including: the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR), soil and water conservation efforts of the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS), and entities that collect and provide public data about Iowa's water quality.
- Support dedicated funding for local watershed planning and coordination efforts and on-the-ground services to implement conservation practices and projects, including salary and benefits for watershed coordinators.
- Support full funding at \$20 million for the Resource Enhancement and Protection Program (REAP) as well as extending or eliminating the scheduled REAP sunset.
- Support other sources of water quality funding consistent with Council goals and priorities.

Mitigate agricultural pollution

- Support mandatory vegetative buffers along public waters/public drainage systems.
- Support policies and programs that reduce pollution from conventional row-crop and industrial-scale livestock production, including incentivizing and/or requiring conservation practices and infrastructure that have additional benefits such as protecting soil health, diversifying agricultural crops, developing renewable energy, and/or providing critical wildlife habitat.
- Support strengthening the Nutrient Reduction Strategy to include timelines/benchmarks toward achieving goals.
- Strongly oppose any efforts to weaken water quality standards or public health protections for Iowans.

Protect source water

- Support policies and regulations that protect the quality of both public and private drinking water sources, including monitoring and testing.