



2021 ANNUAL REPORT



LETTER FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENTS

The Illinois Environmental Council Education Fund (IECEF) and the Illinois Environmental Council (IEC) embarked on 2021 with the funding, staffing, and affiliates to convene our state's environmental community to educate and build power for people and the environment in Illinois while playing an outsized role in the passage of landmark climate legislation.

After a three-year campaign, on September 13, 2021, the Illinois General Assembly passed the Climate and Equitable Jobs Act (CEJA), the most comprehensive and equitable clean energy legislation in the nation. Our educational events and town halls were attended by over 1,400 Illinoisans, and we educated elected officials on nine farm and open space conservation tours.

With continued focus and increased resources over the years, IEC's commitment to education and advocacy created the support, shaped the story, and set the stage for the passage of nation-leading climate legislation right here in Illinois.

Ten years ago, IEC had an executive director, one other staff person and an intern. This year, we have 16 full-time staff members and over 100 affiliate member organizations. Jen, Matt, Colleen, Jeff, Tucker, Paloma, Dany, Brian, Iyana, Tonyisha, Eliot, Lindsay, Ariel, Crystal, Aly, Ben, Kimberly, Sam, and Shriya – we are so grateful for all of their work, and the expertise they bring to every project our organization sets out to accomplish.

Just ten years ago, IEC's annual budget was a meager \$135,000. In the years since, we have built a strong, vibrant, and financially sound organization. In 2021,

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IEC and IECEF had a combined revenue of \$3 million. The IECEF was able to purchase a building in Springfield to serve as a hub for the environmental movement.

It didn't happen overnight; just ten years ago, 150 people attended our annual lobby day. In 2021, our lobby day events topped 1,000 registrants.

Ten years ago, IEC prioritized polluted runoff from farm fertilizer as a major Illinois water quality issue. This year, we doubled the state budget allocated to addressing the problem.

After decades of science told us that lead-contaminated water was too toxic for human consumption, this year, IEC finally passed a bill to inventory and replace all lead service lines in the state.

Our education programming has never been stronger. IEC now has staff and dedicated programs across three geographic footprints, city, state, and federal, and across five issue areas. The support of our members, affiliates, and funders helps IEC to share resources, create informed decision makers, and facilitate robust policy development to maximize environmental protection.

In 2021, we hosted more than 30 educational events that empowered enviros across Illinois to become stronger advocates for the environmental issues they care about most. Our educational events and town halls were attended by over 1,400 Illinoisans, and we educated elected officials at nine farms, open spaces, and other conservation tours.

In short, 2021 was another strong year in the books for IEC/IECEF. We look forward to continuing to serve Illinois and our shared environment in 2022 and beyond.



Stacey Paradis
IECEF Board President



Anne McKibbin

IEC Board President





IEC BOARD, YOUNG PROFESSIONALS BOARD & IECEF/IEC STAFF

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POLICY PLATFORM

CARRYING OUT THE 2021 POLICY PLATFORM

IEC released an updated <u>2021 Policy Platform</u> ahead of the 1st year of the 102nd General Assembly. This platform describes principles that guide our decision-making for each of the issue areas we work in, including Water, Energy, Sustainable Transportation, Open Space & Conservation, Sustainable Agriculture & Food Systems, Waste Reduction, and Allyship & Power Building. For the first time, we included an "Allyship and Power Building" plank in our platform

that formally recognized our commitment to building power for people and our environment in Illinois by actively combating social and political power dynamics that disenfranchise marginalized communities across a broad range of issues beyond those that fall squarely within traditional environmental policy. In it, we acknowledge our call to stand in solidarity as allies with those fighting for justice and to strengthen our democratic institutions where power drives policy change.

HIGHLIGHTS

STATE

Climate and Equitable Jobs Act

After a three-year campaign, on September 13, 2021, the Illinois General Assembly passed the Climate and Equitable Jobs Act (CEJA), the most comprehensive and equitable clean energy legislation in the nation. This historic victory is a story about the power of people and the environmental movement in Illinois standing up to big fossil fuel and utility companies—and winning. CEJA achieves all of our core objectives:

- Puts Illinois on a path to 100% clean energy and delivers carbon-free power by 2045
- Creates thousands of good-paying jobs, especially in communities most impacted by climate change
- Establishes nation-leading equity programs
- · Reduces pollution at the scale science demands and
- Holds utility companies accountable for corruption.

Read our Statement on this historic victory <u>here</u>.

Lead Service Line Replacement

For the first time in history, every Illinois municipality must develop and execute a plan that inventories, removes, and replaces all lead service lines while prioritizing replacement in our most vulnerable communities. There was strong bipartisan support for this proposal following a years-long fight to pass this legislation. Illinois is now the second state in the nation to require lead service line replacement.

Watch our press conference on this critical legislative victory here.





HIGHLIGHTS CONTINUED

CITY

We Released Our First Chicago Aldermanic Scorecard

IEC released an inaugural Chicago City Council Environmental Scorecard! The scorecard is a tool for Chicagoans to see how their alderperson performed on environmental issues based on the votes they took on environmental issues over the prior two years. While no alderperson scored under a 75%, only nine achieved a perfect score.

Historic Environmental Investments in Chicago's 2022 Budget

As yet another testament to the growth of our movement, near the end of 2021, the City of Chicago passed the mayor's 2022 budget, which included the largest one-time investment into environmentalism in city history. This critical investment included funding for environmental justice projects, as well as a study to determine the cost of reestablishing Chicago's Department of Environment. This budget was made possible by the people power and pressure from our movement to address the climate crisis as well as Chicago's legacy of environmental racism. Still, it's just a first step that hopefully opens the door for even more wins for our community.





IEC's Newest Program Area

This year, IEC launched a federal program in earnest, bringing a federal policy director on board to communicate our environmental priorities to Illinois' Congressional Delegation and ensure that our federal representatives bring home resources to advance the issues our members have affiliates care about most.

Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act

IEC worked with the Illinois Congressional Delegation to make a case for the passage of the <u>Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA)</u> as a step in the right direction toward enacting a comprehensive climate action bill. IIJA badly addresses needed investments in electric vehicle charging stations and electric school buses, replacement of harmful lead service lines, clean technology research and development, grid modernization, and more. Because of the passage of CEJA, Illinois is uniquely suited to strategically spend these investments to advance our climate pollution mitigation strategies and environmental priorities.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE & ALLYSHIP

CEJN Introduces the EJ Act

In Spring 2021, our partners at the Chicago Environmental Justice Network, along with Governor Pritzker and IEPA, introduced HB4093, or the Environmental Justice Act. This bill would radically change the way Illinois makes air permitting decisions, making it harder for dirty industry to encroach on EJ communities and empowering communities to use legal avenues to defend the health and safety of their neighbors.

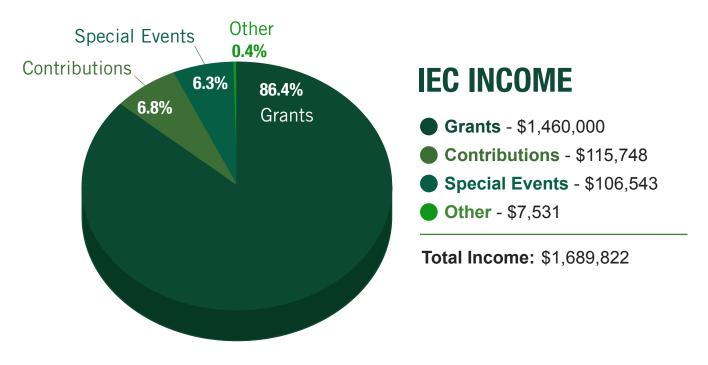
Read CEJN's press release to learn more about what's in the monumental bill.

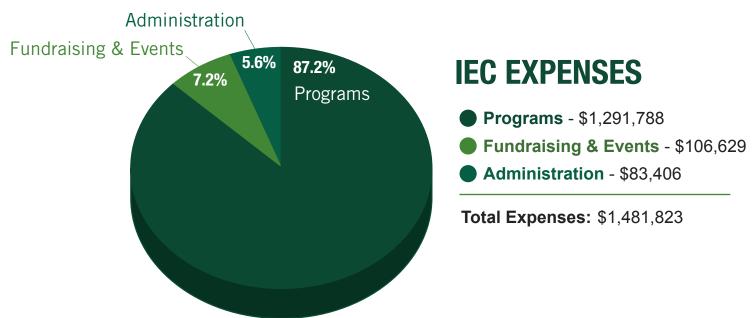
IEC hosts our first **Environmental Justice Lobby Day**

During the 2021 legislative session, IEC & partners gathered 1,000 Illinoisans from every corner of the state for a Virtual Environmental Justice Lobby Day. During this Lobby Day, hundreds of Illinoisans met with their legislators—around 80 lobby meetings total!— to advocate for the Climate & Equitable Jobs Act (CEJA), the Lead Service Line Replacement Act, and Environmental Justice permitting reform, which would later be reintroduced as the Environmental Justice Act.



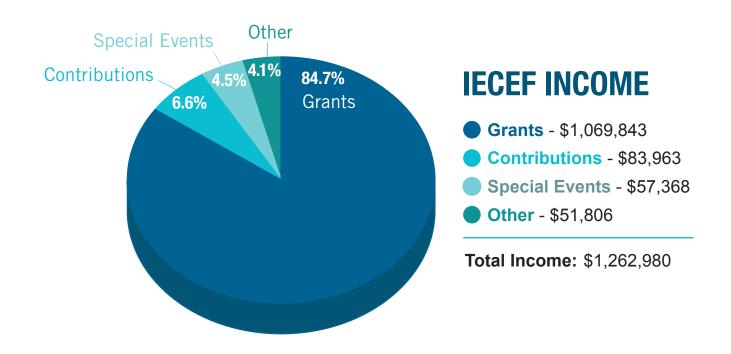
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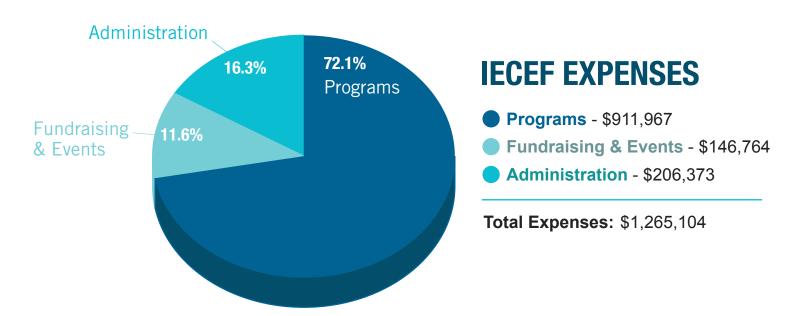






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Since 1975, the Illinois Environmental Council has worked to safeguard Illinois—its people, its plants and animals, and the natural systems on which all life depends by building power for people and the environment.

Representing over 100 environmental organizations in the state, IEC carries out its mission to advance public policies that create healthy environments across Illinois through education, advocacy, and movement building.