



# *ILLINOIS' 2024 ENVIRONMENTAL* **LEGISLATIVE AGENDA**





IEC works with our over 100 member affiliates, the public, and many supportive lawmakers ahead of every legislative session to introduce a slate of environmental legislative priorities. After many months of research, convenings, public town hall gatherings, priority setting, and bill drafting, we have proposed a substantial number of important environmental solutions in our 2024 Legislative Agenda.

Because we are going into an election year, bills that require new funding allocation will likely require more of an uphill battle than usual. With that in mind, we are taking advantage of the opportunity to educate lawmakers on our larger priorities, priming their support in advance of more opportune timing following this election cycle. Still, we expect to make progress in 2024 in key areas, including the continued protection of our nation-leading Climate and Equitable Jobs Act (CEJA) law and our clean energy future. Additionally, we see some exciting opportunities to continue building our relationships with the Illinois Department of Agriculture and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources as we pursue policy changes to improve sustainable agriculture practices in our state.

With the 2024 session slowly picking up steam and thousands of proposed bills filed, we've got our work cut out for us, as usual. We are already actively tracking over 360 bills introduced that could impact climate change, conservation, and public health. As we continue to review bills and proposed amendments, our priorities will reflect developments on the ground at the Capitol.



## **ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE**

### **ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AIR PERMITTING - HB 4197 (HARPER/VILLANUEVA)**

IEC will continue prioritizing the measure introduced last year by the Chicago Environmental Justice Network. This bill defines environmental justice areas, requires a cumulative impact analysis that can lead to the denial of a permit, and fixes injustices in the law related to prior polluter compliance history and standing at the Illinois Pollution Control Board.

### **MONITOR AIR POLLUTION FROM COMMERCIAL SHIPPING FACILITIES -**

*SB 2385/HB 5013 (CERVANTES/AVELAR)*

We will continue working with the EJ community to develop air quality monitoring programs for populated areas adjacent to commercial shipping facilities, a major source of airborne particulate matter. We will pursue policy to create a state and community-based air monitoring program.

## **CLEAN ENERGY**

### **SOLAR BILL OF RIGHTS - HB 5315 (DIDECH)**

Everyone in the state should have the right to benefit from solar energy, whether by self-generation or by being part of a participating utility. The Solar Bill of Rights will prevent municipalities from banning solar panels within their borders. The bill, when amended, will also address the myriad of issues with municipal and cooperative electric utilities including issues of governance transparency, consumer rights, and ability for residents to invest in home solar.

### **CARBON CAPTURE SEQUESTRATION - SB 3441/HB 4835 (MCCLURE/MOELLER); HB 3119 (WILLIAMS)**

The combination of Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) funding and Illinois' unique geology means that energy developers are looking to quickly deploy CCS projects in Illinois. Illinois needs protection from the issues that these sites and pipelines can cause. Further, we cannot let CCS divert our attention from our clean energy goals.

### **TRANSMISSION AND CAPACITY - SB 3637 (CUNNINGHAM)**

Illinois faces significant challenges in meeting its clean energy targets due to the current outdated power grid and a lack of strategic planning for the modernization of transmission infrastructure. To address those inadequacies, this Transmission and Capacity bill seeks to reduce peak demand, build more clean resources, upgrade the grid, and improve state planning.



## **Building Decarbonization**

Behind the transportation and power sectors, Illinois buildings are the third largest contributor to greenhouse gas emissions and are the largest emitter in Cook and the collar counties. There is a huge opportunity to modernize, first new buildings and then existing ones, to run on clean electricity, replacing gas burners and stoves with heat pumps and electric appliances.

## **ZERO WASTE**

### **POLYSTYRENE BAN - HB 2376 (FINE/GONG-GERSHOWITZ)**

Polystyrene foam, which breaks up into small pieces but never fully breaks down, pollutes land, water, and air. Building on our success, we will continue our work to ensure that retailers and restaurants in the state are also prohibited from using foam foodware.

### **PFAS BAN - SB 2705/HB 5042 (FINE/MOELLER)**

PFAS, often referred to as “forever chemicals,” are extremely difficult to break down and are present in many items, including food packaging, cookware, and clothing. As we learn more about the harm these chemicals pose to our health and environment, it is important that we reduce our exposure to these chemicals by eliminating PFAS in a variety of products.

### **REDUCE LANDFILL METHANE EMISSIONS - SB 3393/HB 5283 (FINE/MASON)**

Illinois ranks 9th in total greenhouse gas emissions from landfills. We are focusing on reducing the amount of organic material that ends up in landfills, incentivizing and requiring the use of finished compost, and better and more advanced methane leak detection and gas capture methods from existing landfills.

### **BANNING PLASTIC BAGS - SB 2211/HB 4448 (Edly-Allen/Ness)**

Plastic bags are crowding our landfills, filling our oceans, and ending up in everything from marine animals to microplastics in our food and water. This bill bans all carryout bags, replicating a successful New Jersey law.

## **OPPOSE CHEMICAL RECYCLING**

Chemical recycling is a dangerous false solution to the growing plastic waste crisis – and it shouldn't be considered recycling. Even worse, it generates hazardous waste, including carcinogens and/or neurotoxicants, and increases pollution in already overburdened communities, hindering both environmental progress and environmental justice under the guise of recycling. We expect to need to continue defending against bills allowing for the expansion of this practice in 2024.



## CONSERVATION

### **WETLANDS - SB 3669/HB 5386 (ELLMAN/MOELLER)**

Wetlands play a critical role in protecting aquatic environments from pollution and providing drinking water, recreation, and wildlife habitat. In Sackett v. EPA, the US Supreme Court dramatically weakened the Clean Water Act when it held that current law does not protect wetlands that do not have a continuous surface connection to a federally protected body of water. It is now up to Illinois to protect our few remaining wetlands.

### **RIGHT TO RECREATE ON ILLINOIS RIVERS - HB 4708 (YANG ROHR/ELLMAN)**

Illinois boasts some of the most beautiful and accessible rivers and streams in the Midwest. Yet, our right to responsibly recreate on Illinois' shared rivers and streams is in jeopardy. To preserve access to our natural waterways, we must pass a new law clarifying that right for generations to come.

### **IL NATURAL RESOURCES & AGRICULTURAL LEGACY FUNDING MATCH -**

*SB 2011 (TURNER)*

It's time to create a new grant program within IDNR to support permanent land conservation in Illinois. The program will make grants to non-profits and local governments to purchase conservation easements on natural areas and farmland. These grants can be used as match funding to access federal conservation dollars.

## SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

### **NUTRIENT LOSS REDUCTION STRATEGY**

Pollution from agricultural runoff continues to impact our native ecosystems and water supplies. The state must continue dedicating long-term funding to the implementation of the Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy, including increased funding for the Fall covers for Spring Savings Program to the tune of 500,000 acres throughout Illinois.

### **IMPROVING PESTICIDE AND HERBICIDE REGULATIONS - HB 4932 (FAVER DIAS), HB 4956 (MUSSMAN), HB 5018 (HIRSCHAUER), HB 5075 (LADISCH DOUGLASS), HB 5390 (SYED)**

Pesticides and herbicides continue to negatively impact our natural environment and public health. Our state must reform regulations to ensure that damage to natural areas and private property is held accountable.

### **IMPROVING LOCAL FOOD INFRASTRUCTURE - SB 3077 (KOEHLER)**

Illinois is renowned for its rich agricultural lands, yet our state imports 95% of the food we eat. Illinois' reliance on a global and corporate-controlled food supply undermines sustainable family farmers in our state and threatens our food security. A Local Food Infrastructure Grant Program will invest in critical infrastructure to scale up the processing, aggregation, and distribution of local food to meet the needs of Illinois communities.

*Sustainable Agriculture continues on next page*

## **GOOD FOOD PURCHASING POLICY - HB 5052 (HARPER)**

Illinois has some of the most fertile farmland in the world, yet we still import over 95% of the food we consume. To reduce the distance between where our food is grown and where it is consumed, we are dedicated to Illinois passing the Good Food Purchasing Policy, requiring our government to review procurement policies and make changes to incentivize the purchase of locally sourced, ethically raised, and worker-supported food.

## **EQUITABLE TRANSPORTATION**

### **CLEAN AND EQUITABLE TRANSPORTATION CAMPAIGN**

While CEJA addressed decarbonizing the power sector, transportation emissions remain Illinois' largest contributor to greenhouse gasses, having grown to contribute 33% of total emissions. To reduce these emissions, we will be leading a campaign to impact several transportation agencies to ensure there are cleaner mobility options for Illinoisans. As the RTA faces a fiscal cliff in 2025, Illinois will need to step in and fully fund transportation with \$1.5 billion a year. However, we cannot continue funding the system as is. We will introduce legislation to improve the services and governance of public transit. We will simultaneously continue the work of electrifying all vehicles in Illinois and shifting transportation projects away from highway expansion.

### **ADVANCED CLEAN TRUCKS - SB 2839/HB 1634 (SIMMONS/GONZALEZ)**

While trucks and other large vehicles make up only around 7% of vehicles on the road, they are responsible for about 67% of NOx, 59% of particulate matter, and 36% of greenhouse gas emissions. We will push the legislature to follow the lead of fifteen other states that have passed or are in the process of finalizing clean truck rules, which would require vehicle manufacturers to sell an increasing percentage of zero-emission trucks and school buses.

### **ELECTRIFY BUSES**

Bus transportation by municipalities and school districts is a key component of a decarbonized future. We will introduce legislation that requires all bus purchases by schools to be all-electric by a target date.

### **STATEWIDE CLEAN CAR STANDARD - SB 2839/HB 1634 (SIMMONS/GONZALEZ)**

California and other states have begun requiring the increased decarbonization of cars, one of the largest emitters of air pollution. IEC will ensure that Illinois joins the ranks of other leading states by adopting ACC2 standards, which require all new passenger vehicles to be zero-emission by 2035.



*Transportation continues on next page*

**PEDESTRIAN AND CYCLIST SAFETY & FUNDING** - *SB 3564 ; SB 3202 (TORO); HB 4489 (NESS); SB 2863 (SIMMONS)*

Fatalities have gone up for pedestrians and cyclists over the past decades, a trend that can continue with the introduction of EVs, which tend to be heavier and quieter than conventional vehicles. As such, we will work with transportation agencies to advance projects that will prioritize the safety of alternative modes of transportation. Additionally, we will collaborate with our affiliate network to procure sources of funding to establish e-bike rebate programs for Illinois residents.

## **CLEAN WATER**

**MONITORING PFAS IN WASTEWATER AND REGISTRY OF PRODUCTS CONTAINING PFAS** - *SB 3360/HB 4627 (ELLMAN/MOELLER); HB 4702 (RASHID)*

Understanding where PFAs originate from is an important first step to remediation when that technology becomes available. It allows consumers to make informed decisions about using products containing PFAs. We need to implement a monitoring system that will allow wastewater facilities to determine sources of PFAs and pass legislation requiring manufacturers to disclose information about the PFAs content in their products.

**URBAN FLOODING** - *SB 3458 /HB 5297 (HALPIN/HARPER); SB 3586 (BELT); HB 5484 (KATZ MUHL); SB 2416 (HALPIN)*

Historic flooding events that hit urban areas like Cicero especially hard will become increasingly common as climate change creates more extreme weather. We need legislation that ensures annual funding for flooding prevention, mitigation, and loss recovery. We also need to update floodplain data and proper flood insurance training for agents.

**ACCESSIBILITY OF THE WATER REVOLVING FUND**

The Water Revolving Fund provides loans to local governments to improve their water treatment systems and construct green project reserves. The state should be increasing access to these funds for underserved populations that need them the most.

**EXPAND LEAD SERVICE LINE REPLACEMENT FUNDING**

Our work continues after the passage of the Lead Service Line Replacement and Notification Act in 2021. The replacement of lead service lines is going slowly, so it is essential that we expand funding to prioritize childcare facilities to protect our most vulnerable.

**MICROFIBER FILTRATION** - *SB 2727/HB 4269 (MORRISON/DIDECH)*

Microfiber is a type of plastic that is released when washing synthetic clothing. To prevent these fibers from entering our wastewater, washing machines must have microfiber filtration systems, and IEC will push the General Assembly to mandate these systems.



Illinois Environmental Council  
520 E Capitol  
Springfield, IL 62701  
[www.ilenviro.org](http://www.ilenviro.org)