



2024 LEGISLATIVE REPORT



Building Power for People and the Environment



ABOUT THE ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL

Who We Are

Since 1975, the Illinois Environmental Council (IEC) 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 operating in Illinois, IEC carries out its mission to advance public policies that create healthy environments across Illinois through education, advocacy, and movement building.

What We Do

IEC works at all levels of government by bringing together the Illinois environmental community to influence decision-makers and ensure clean air, clean water, and healthy communities. We coordinate our affiliate member organizations to share resources, mobilize supporters, and respond quickly to the most pressing issues facing the environment in Illinois. From building consensus around an annual environmental agenda to lobbying city, state, and federal decision-makers, IEC takes pride in leading our environmental movement in Illinois.





LETTER FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

JEN WALLING



As the 2024 Spring legislative session of the Illinois General Assembly drew to a close in the early hours of May 28, we were excited, and even a bit surprised, by the success we achieved this year. Many of our priorities passed both chambers and are headed to Governor Pritzker's desk. With his signature, nearly 30 new pro-environmental policies will become new Illinois law. Going into an election year with an expected budget deficit, we anticipated that it would be more challenging than usual to pass critical pieces of legislation this session. Despite these difficulties, we made significant progress on some of our environmental priorities for the year.

We gained crucial ground on carbon capture and sequestration passing legislation that grants us some of the strongest protections in the nation. We also saw many bills related to conservation and waste reduction head to the Governor's desk.

We also defended the Climate and Equitable Jobs Act (CEJA) and other renewable energy efforts from attacks that would have stalled our clean energy future.

This 2024 Legislative Report outlines these successes; however, none of this would have been possible without our affiliates, partners, legislative champions, and the many of you who reached out to their legislators. If you were one of the hundreds of Illinoisans who took action with us this session to contact your legislators, we want to thank you! Our team at the Capitol is much stronger when we have your support. We could not build power for people and the environment without your tireless action, and we encourage you to write to your lawmakers again to thank them for their support of proposals that are important to you and us.

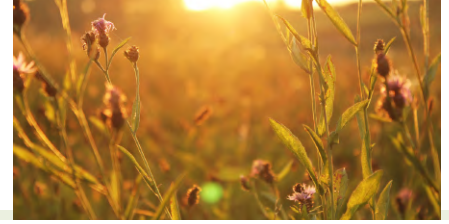
Overall, we successfully demonstrated the growing power of our environmental movement in Illinois. Still, some of our priorities will have to wait for the upcoming veto session later in the year or the Spring session of 2025.

The work always continues. Thank you for your continued support.

Jen Walling

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE & EQUITY



While all pieces of environmental justice-focused legislation stalled in the General Assembly this year, the federal government vindicated environmental justice (EJ) communities. After community groups filed civil rights complaints with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA), the US EPA compelled the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) to change provisions around its permitting process. These changes will help protect vulnerable communities, especially communities of color, and raise their voices against polluting industries.

Coal Ash Removal in Waukegan – HB1608 / SB1578 (Rep. Mayfield / Sen. Johnson)

TO BE CONTINUED... This bill requires the removal of all coal ash from the Waukegan Electric Generating Station to protect the largest public drinking water supply in Illinois. This bill has stalled in the House.

Environmental Justice Air Permitting – HB4197 / SB1823 (Rep. Harper / Sen. Villanueva)

TO BE CONTINUED... This legislation was written and supported by environmental justice organizations to require the review of the cumulative impact of air pollution sources and the denial of unhealthy air pollution permits for impacted communities. This bill has stalled in the House.

Health and Equity Insights Act – HB5013 / SB838 (Rep. Avelar / Sen. Cervantes)

TO BE CONTINUED... This bill establishes that IEPA must develop a system to count trucks and establish emission monitoring around truck-attracting facilities. It also establishes an Insights, Jobs, and Environmental Justice Grant to support the work of overburdened communities in deploying the network of air monitors. This bill had a subject matter hearing in the Senate, with leadership encouraged to work on it next year.

Not-for-Profit Demographics – SB2930 (Sen. Johnson / Rep. Gonzalez) PASSED!

This bill enhances transparency and diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts by requiring non-profits to report on the demographics of their board members and directors. If Gov. Pritzker signs the bill, it will become Illinois law.

Warehouse Worker Protect Act – HB2547 (Rep. Olickal / Sen. Villanueva)

TO BE CONTINUED... This bill creates a Warehouse Worker Protection Act to combat unfair quotas that violate workers' rights. This bill stalled in the Senate.

CEJA Workforce Updates – HB5005 (Rep. Vella / Sen. Stadelman) PASSED!

This bill facilitates the speed at which CEJA workforce hubs can be implemented by exempting them from accreditation by the Board of Higher Education. It also establishes a 14th location for CEJA workforce programming in Kankakee.

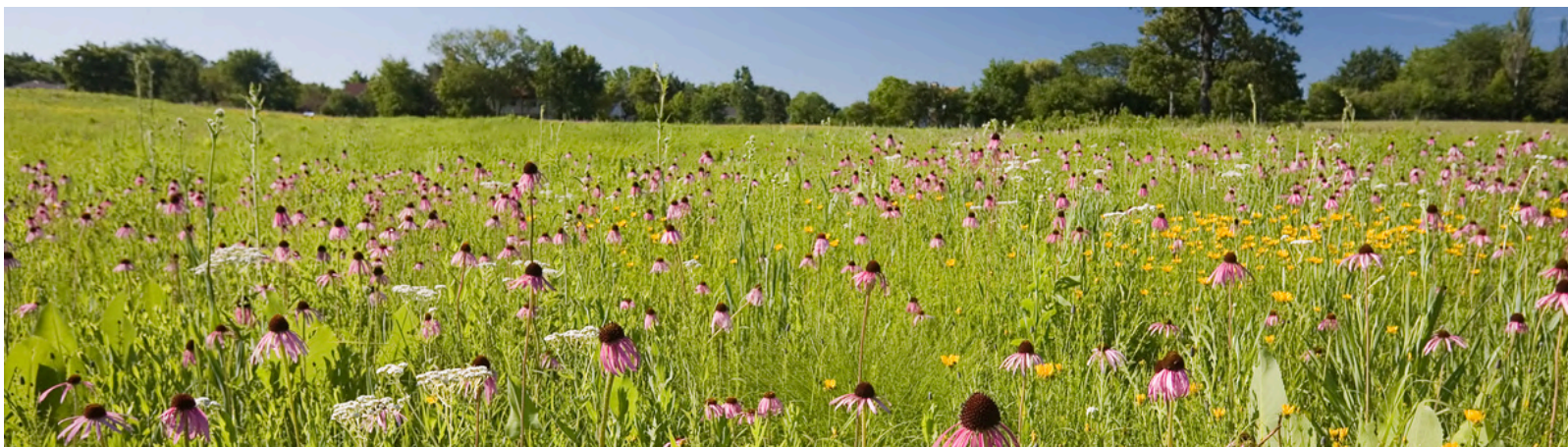
Clean Lighting (HB2363) shines brightly, accelerating the switch to LED lighting, while the Outdoor Lighting Control Act (SB3501) tackles light pollution head-on. Additionally, the Utility Termination Grace Period (HB4118) protects customers from utility shut-offs. Meanwhile, we successfully stopped Solar Facility Setbacks (HB4135) and an anti-building decarbonization bill (HB5244), which would have substantially limited new solar and undermined our building decarbonization and electrification efforts.

PASSED! This bill provides some of the nation's strongest guardrails to protect our air, water, climate, and communities from the risks associated with each stage of the CCS process. It also includes moratorium language similar to HB4835, which we supported. Gov. Pritzker supported this legislation during the negotiation process and is expected to sign it into law.

TO BE CONTINUED... This bill presents comprehensive solutions to achieve a cleaner, more reliable, and affordable power grid in Illinois.

This bill speeds up the phase-out of fluorescent bulbs to energy-efficient LED bulbs. If Gov. Pritzker signs the bill, it will become Illinois law.

This bill prevents gas and electric companies from shutting off a resident's primary heat source once the resident shows they are pursuing grants or other resources to pay their gas or utility bill. If Gov. Pritzker signs the bill, it will become Illinois law.



CLEAN ENERGY



EPA BESS – SB3481 (Sen. Feigenholtz / Rep. Moeller) PASSED!

This bill allows for safer storage practices by requiring battery storage facilities to register with IEPA and for the Pollution Control Board to create future rules for the operation of battery storage facilities. If Gov. Pritzker signs the bill, it will become Illinois law.

Outdoor Lighting Control Act – SB3501 (Sen. Ellman / Rep. Costa Howard) PASSED!

This bill minimizes light pollution by regulating the installation and replacement of outdoor lighting “units” on state properties. It also implements new requirements like fully shielded units, limited light trespass, and responsible lighting like dimming controls and motion sensors. If Gov. Pritzker signs the bill, it will become Illinois law.

Solar Facility Setbacks – HB4135 (Rep. DeLuca) STOPPED!

This legislation would have undermined our state's law preventing excessive county regulation of solar developments. The proposed setback increase would have halted most solar projects across the state.

Right of First Refusal – HB5234 (Rep. Walsh) STOPPED!

This legislation would have granted Ameren and ComEd the right of first refusal (ROFR) for interstate transmission, making it more costly and difficult to bring new renewable energy to and through Illinois.

Energy “Efficient” Building – HB5244 (Rep. Walsh) STOPPED!

This legislation would have required all buildings to use climate-polluting methane gas.

EPA GHG Black Start – HB5323 (Rep. Evans) STOPPED!

This legislation would have undermined CEJA emission limits in favor of methane gas use at all times and created a security risk by exposing critical energy infrastructure information.

Brownfield Procurement – HB5359 (Rep. Hoffman) STOPPED!

This legislation would have shifted CEJA funds to a more expensive incentive category, which could result in fewer projects and megawatts of clean energy.

Energy Credit Targets – HB5544 (Rep. Walsh) STOPPED!

This legislation would have allowed the Illinois Power Agency to initiate competitive procurements and contracts for energy storage and abide by existing rules for Labor, prevailing wage, and diversity requirements.

CLEAN ENERGY



Solar Bill of Rights – HB5315 (Rep. Didech)

TO BE CONTINUED... This bill prohibits burdensome policies for electric utility customers who want to generate their own energy. While this legislation was ultimately held in the House, we will continue to work on this bill throughout the summer.

U of I Fossil Fuel Divestment – HB5268 (Rep. Guzzardi)

TO BE CONTINUED... This bill holds the University of Illinois to its promise to divest its assets from the fossil fuel industry. It stalled in the House.

Powering Up Illinois – HB5610 (Rep. Tarver)

TO BE CONTINUED... With the number of electric vehicles projected to be distributed in Illinois, it will be important that the electric companies have the ability to make timely and beneficial grid plans to ensure we don't disrupt service for the rest of their customers. This bill stalled in the House.

South Suburban Airport – HB5496 (Rep. W. Davis) UNFORTUNATELY PASSED

This bill allows for unsolicited bids for the Peotone airport, an unnecessary cargo airport development that passed last year with HB2531.



EQUITABLE TRANSPORTATION



With IEC formally getting involved in Transportation policies this year, we were able to make deep strides in building relationships with state lawmakers, agencies, and stakeholders to set us up for future sessions. While we were met with a hurdle in advancing the Clean Vehicle Sales mandate when we received massive opposition to our Clean Car Standards Bill (HB1634), we did not let this slow down our work. We had wins in ensuring that local governments have support to plan out their bike path infrastructure (SB3202) and in developing a fund to help build out high-speed rail projects in the future (HB5349).

More importantly, we worked collaboratively to introduce the most ambitious transportation policy in the country, The Clean and Equitable Transportation Act (HB5829 / SB3936). This comprehensive bill is a collection of policies targeting the most important needs to reduce greenhouse emissions in transportation: public transit governance reform and funding, zero-emission vehicle infrastructure, and prioritizing active modes of transportation projects. Stay tuned for 2025, it will be a big one for transportation.

Bikeway Planning Act – SB3202 (Sen. Toro / Rep. LaPointe) PASSED!

This bill allows municipalities or counties to prepare a bicycle transportation report to identify the number of bike commuters, map land use for the development of bikeways, and identify bike parking facilities, and connections to other transportation modes. The report should also include a bike safety education plan and discuss traffic law enforcement's responsibility for the area of the plan. If Gov. Pritzker signs the bill, it will become Illinois law.

High-Speed Rail Stock Fund – HB5349 (Rep. Chung / Sen. Stadelman) PASSED!

This bill creates a High-Speed Rolling Stock Fund to fund high-speed locomotives, passenger railcars, and other rolling stock equipment. If Gov. Pritzker signs the bill, it will become Illinois law.

Clean and Equitable Transportation Act – HB5829 / SB3936 (Rep. Delgado / Sen. Villivalam)

TO BE CONTINUED... The Clean and Equitable Transportation Act HB5829 (CETA) is a package of comprehensive transportation and jobs bills from the Illinois Clean Jobs Coalition. These bills work together to direct state transportation investments to reduce emissions and increase affordable options (SB3934/HB5825), implement long overdue transit governance and funding reforms for Northeast Illinois with statewide benefits (SB3937/HB5823), and increase the availability and reliability of zero-emissions vehicles and their accompanying charging infrastructure (HB5824).

EQUITABLE TRANSPORTATION



Metropolitan Mobility Act – HB5823 / SB3937 (Rep. Buckner / Sen. Villivalam)

TO BE CONTINUED... This bill establishes standards that increase the availability and reliability of zero-emission vehicles, move our public fleets to zero emissions, and increase the buildout of charging infrastructure while facilitating a race to the top for vehicle workers.

Clean Car Standards – HB1634 / SB2839 (Rep. Gonzalez / Sen. Simmons)

TO BE CONTINUED... This bill requires IEPA to adopt the Advanced Clean Truck and Clean Car standards. This bill stalled in the House.

Bike Trail Signage – SB3309 (Sen. Simmons)

TO BE CONTINUED... This bill regulates the authority of building warning signs of highway crossings for paved bike paths and bike paths for highways to the authority responsible for the maintenance of these roads. It stalled in the Senate.

Electric School Buses – HB4196 (Rep. Moylan / Sen. Villivalam)

TO BE CONTINUED... This bill requires the EPA to establish a Fleet Electrification Incentive Program to provide fleet owners and operators grants to promote the use of eligible electric vehicles. It stalled in the Senate.

Transit to Trails Program – HB5277 (Rep. Slaughter / Sen. Villivalam)

TO BE CONTINUED... This bill establishes a grant program through IDOT for projects that facilitate travel by public transportation to public outdoor recreation sites for outdoor activities, including hiking, biking, boating, picnicking, hunting, fishing, wildlife observation, or other nature-based activities. It stalled in the Senate.

Electric Vehicles Transportation Act – HB5824 (Rep. Gonzalez)

TO BE CONTINUED... This bill establishes standards that increase the availability and reliability of zero-emission vehicles, move our public fleets to zero emissions, and increase the buildout of charging infrastructure while facilitating a race to the top for vehicle workers.

Transportation Choices Act – HB5825 / SB3934 (Rep. Canty / Sen. Aquino)

TO BE CONTINUED... This bill establishes targets to reduce emissions by 80% and achieve net-zero emissions for the transportation sector by 2050 and aligns state spending to support clean and equitable transportation.

Transit Appropriations Bill – HB5828 / SB3938 (Rep. Delgado)

TO BE CONTINUED... This bill begins the conversation on how Illinois will allocate \$1.5 billion in new funds to save Illinois public transportation.

ZERO WASTE



It was another big year for source reduction, recycling, and composting in Illinois. Lawmakers introduced and continued to build consensus around bills that facilitate source reduction, especially of methane emissions, food waste, and single-use plastics. During this session, the General Assembly passed critical and common-sense legislation like Large Event Facility Recycling (SB2876), Small Plastic Bottle Act (SB2960), and Menstrual Products Donations (HB4264) that will help reduce Illinois's methane emissions, food waste, and plastic waste. These bills will allow donations without fear of liability, support the shift from single-use plastics to reusable and refillable containers, encourage sound product stewardship and EPR policy, create markets for recycled content and finished compost, and more.

Beverage Container Deposit Program – SB85/HB4205 (Sen. Murphy / Rep. Huynh)

TO BE CONTINUED... This bill creates a statewide cash deposit program for the recycling of used beverage containers to reduce waste. While these bills did not move forward, we will continue to fight to reduce waste from beverage containers.

Plastic Bag Ban – SB2211 / HB4448 (Sen. Edly-Allen / Rep. Ness)

TO BE CONTINUED... This bill disallows grocery stores from offering plastic bags. While these bills did not move forward, we plan to continue working on the legislation in the future.

Large Event Facility Recycling – SB2876 (Sen. Villa / Rep. Tarver) **PASSED!**

This bill requires facilities with a capacity of 3,500 or more people to participate in recycling and composting. If Gov. Pritzker signs the bill, it will become Illinois law.

Small Plastic Bottle Act – SB2960 (Sen. Fine / Rep. Buckner) **PASSED!**

This bill reduces plastic waste by disallowing hotels from providing new, mini toiletry bottles in guest spaces. If Gov. Pritzker signs the bill, it will become Illinois law.

Recycling Needs Assessment – SB3165 (Sen. Koehler / Rep. Chung) **PASSED!**

This trailer bill to the Statewide Recycling Needs Assessment Act (SB1555) includes more specific provisions to assist this important assessment and related task force. If Gov. Pritzker signs the bill, it will become Illinois law.

Landfill Methane Emissions – SB3393 (Sen. Fine)

TO BE CONTINUED... This bill focuses on reducing the amount of organic material that ends up in landfills, incentivizing and requiring the use of finished compost, and more advanced methane leak detection and gas capture methods from existing landfills.

It stalled in the House.

ZERO WASTE



Polystyrene Foam Foodware Ban – HB2376 (Rep. Gong-Gershowitz / Sen. Fine)

TO BE CONTINUED... Building on last year's success passing a bill to prohibit State agencies from using foam foodware, we filed a bill that all retailers in the State also be prohibited from using foam foodware. This bill stalled in the Senate.

Battery Stewardship Act – SB3686 (Sen. Koehler / Rep. Chung) **PASSED!**

This bill establishes an EPR program for portable and medium-format batteries in Illinois. It requires the battery producer to bear the collection, transportation, and recycling of all battery chemistries and manage them through a battery stewardship organization. If Gov. Pritzker signs the bill, it will become Illinois law.

Natural Organic Reduction – HB3158 (Rep. Cassidy / Sen. Simmons)

TO BE CONTINUED... This bill provides an environmentally friendly alternative burial option. While it was held in the Senate, we expect it to be re-introduced next year.

Menstrual Products Donations – HB4264 (Rep. B. Hernandez / Sen. Loughran Cappel)

PASSED! This bill reduces waste and gives individuals access to menstrual products by allowing them to be donated without fear of liability. If Gov. Pritzker signs the bill, it will become Illinois law.

Landfill Gas Management – HB5283 (Rep. Mason)

TO BE CONTINUED... This bill requires landfills to install collection and control systems soon enough to capture methane gas that would otherwise be released into the atmosphere, due to the quick decay rate of food waste.



CONSERVATION & SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE



If this legislative session was any indication, conservation and agriculture policy is going to remain a hot topic going into 2025. Lawmakers' interest in creating a more robust local food economy was on full display with legislation that will help support small grocery stores and infrastructure for small producers. The state has also finally launched the Good Food Purchasing Task Force, a major step towards reforming Illinois' procurement code related to food purchasing. While many of our pesticide bills do not get across the finish line we look forward to working with our partners to get these important pieces of policy enacted.

In the conservation realm, all eyes were on protecting Illinois' remaining wetlands, left vulnerable from last year's U.S. Supreme Court decision stripping many provisions of the Clean Water Act. IEC and our affiliates worked very hard on this legislation, spending hours at the negotiating table with opponents and state agencies. Very lively committee hearings in the Senate saw the bill eventually move to the Senate floor. Unfortunately, we were unable to pass this bill before adjournment, but negotiations will continue during the Summer and we look forward to passing this during the Veto session this fall. **Stay tuned!**

Wetlands Protections – SB771 / SB3669 / HB5386 (Sen. Ellman / Rep. Moeller)

TO BE CONTINUED... This bill codifies legal protections for Illinois wetlands left vulnerable as a result of a 2023 US Supreme Court decision that severely limited the federal EPA's interpretation of the Clean Water Act. This legislation will ensure that wetlands in Illinois still receive protection even in the face of federal regulatory uncertainty. While it stalled in the Senate, we will continue to push this legislation.

Exotic Weed Act – SB 2747 (Sen. Edly-Allen / Rep. B. Hernandez) **PASSED!**

This bill allows the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) to add species to the Exotic Weed Act by rule, which should make IDNR much more responsive to emerging invasive species threats. If Gov. Pritzker signs the bill, it will become Illinois law.

Pesticide Preemption – SB2757 (Sen. Fine)

TO BE CONTINUED... This legislation enables local governments to enact tougher restrictions on pesticides by removing language in the Illinois Pesticide Act which prohibited local governments from having restrictions on pesticide use that are stricter than state law. It stalled in the Senate.

Forests, Wetlands, and Prairies Grant Program – SB2781 (Sen. Ventura / Rep. Huynh)

PASSED! This bill creates a Forests, Wetlands, and Prairies Grant Program to restore degraded lands and promote the growth of native vegetation to help mitigate the impact of climate change. If Gov. Pritzker signs the bill, it will become Illinois law.

CONSERVATION & SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE



Unmanned Aircraft Regulation – SB2849 (Sen. Morrison / Rep. Rita) PASSED!

This bill allows forest preserve districts to regulate recreational drone activity on their properties. If Gov. Pritzker signs the bill, it will become Illinois law.

Prescribed Burn Liability – SB2972 / HB4717 (Sen. Bennett / Rep. Keicher)

TO BE CONTINUED... This bill makes it easier for prescribed burn practitioners and other conservation professionals to obtain insurance coverage. Current liability measures in statute make it nearly impossible for these activities to be covered. We will continue to work on getting insurance coverage for prescribed burns.

Food Infrastructure Grant – SB3077 (Sen. Koehler / Rep. Harper) PASSED!

This bill creates a grant program under the Illinois Department of Agriculture to help fund the expansion of local food infrastructure for small to medium-sized producers for activities like food processing. If Gov. Pritzker signs the bill, it will become Illinois law.

Grocery Initiative Grants – SB3219 (Sen. D. Turner / Rep. Harper) PASSED!

Subject to appropriation, this bill allows the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity to institute a grant program for upgrading equipment in farmer-owned grocery stores and markets. If Gov. Pritzker signs the bill, it will become Illinois law.

Pesticide Application Notice – SB3342 (Sen. McClure / Rep. Faver Dias) PASSED!

This bill requires notice for pesticide applications when spraying on public right-of-ways. If Gov. Pritzker signs the bill, it will become Illinois law.

Official State Mushroom – SB3514 (Sen. Lewis / Rep. Mussman) PASSED!

This bill designates the "giant puffball" as the official State mushroom. If Gov. Pritzker signs the bill, it will become Illinois law.

Ag Easement – HB56 (Rep. Harper / Sen. Harmon)

TO BE CONTINUED... This bill creates the Farm Restoration Program Act, providing resources for technical assistance for farmers from socially disadvantaged communities and a conservation easement program allowing for the matching of federal dollars to establish permanent easement on agricultural land to enable permanent protection. It stalled in the Senate.

Youth Conservation Program – HB255 (Rep. Mussman / Sen. Villa) PASSED!

This bill creates the Youth and Young Adult Conservation Education Act, directing the IDNR to establish a Youth and Young Adult Conservation Program in order to provide educational and employment opportunities to youth and young adults while furthering the development and maintenance of the state's natural resources. If Gov. Pritzker signs the bill, it will become Illinois law.

CONSERVATION & SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE



Right to Recreate — HB1568 / HB4708 (Rep. Yang Rohr)

TO BE CONTINUED... This bill affirms that Illinoisans have the right to recreate on Illinois river systems. While this was held in the House, we intend to work with this legislation's sponsor next year.

Forestry Fix — HB1855 (Rep. McCombie / Sen. Chesney) **PASSED!**

This bill requires IDNR to provide the General Assembly with more data annually on the utilization of forest development funds with the hope there are fixes that can be implemented in the future to ensure the funds are being used properly. If Gov. Pritzker signs the bill, it will become Illinois law.

Restrict Mowing for Pollinators — HB2048 (Rep. Faver Dias)

TO BE CONTINUED... This bill instructs IDOT to regulate mowing during certain times of year to promote pollinator habitat for insects and bird species. While this was held in the House, we intend to work with this legislation's sponsor again next year.

Open Spaces — HB3642 (Rep. Favor Dias / Sen. Edly-Allen)

TO BE CONTINUED... This bill requires that any property designated as open space under the Township Code needs voter approval before being used for other purposes, including being sold.

Property Tax Incentive — HB5026 (Rep. Hirschauer)

TO BE CONTINUED... Acknowledging the public benefit of private conservation, this bill incentivizes private property owners to voluntarily protect their land for conservation purposes. It stalled in the House.

Local Good Food Program — HB5052 (Rep. Harper)

TO BE CONTINUED... This bill creates the implementation model for the Good Food Purchasing Policy at all state institutions, setting in place procurement goals for food that incentivize sourcing from sustainable, local, and ethical producers. It stalled in the House.

Restricted Use Pesticides — HB5075 (Rep. Ladisch Douglass)

TO BE CONTINUED... This bill prevents members of the general public from purchasing at retail the pesticides 2,4-d, dicamba and atrazine, all of which are linked to extensive damage to natural areas and private property. It stalled in the House.

Homeowners' Native Landscaping Act — HB5296 (Rep. Faver Dias / Sen. Villa) **PASSED!**

This bill prevents Homeowners Associations from restricting residents' ability to plant native landscapes within their yards, as long as they do not infringe on neighboring properties and ensure the plants are native species. If Gov. Pritzker signs the bill, it will become Illinois law.

CONSERVATION & SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE



Ban on Dicamba — HB5390 (Rep. Syed)

TO BE CONTINUED... This bill bans the sale and use of dicamba, a volatile herbicide linked to damage to both natural areas and off-target agricultural commodities. It stalled in the House.

Prairie Lawns — HB5433 (Rep. Harper / Sen. Fine)

TO BE CONTINUED... This bill establishes the Prairie Lawns Program. Subject to Appropriation, it allows IDNR to reimburse homeowners up to \$400, prevents homeowners associations and common interest communities from prohibiting the planting of pollinator habitats, and establishes demonstration neighborhood grants as part of the program. It stalled in the Senate.



CLEAN AIR, WATER, & CLIMATE RESILIENCE



Throughout the past year, Illinois experienced significant flooding and heavy rainfall across the state. Federal disaster declarations were issued for Cook County to facilitate recovery from severe flash flooding. Southern Illinois contended with river overflows that caused extensive damage to residential properties.

The legislature responded to these challenges by committing to public health & safety. The successful passage of the Landlord/Tenant Flood Disclosure bill (SB2601) requires landlords to disclose flood risks to residents so that they are better informed and prepared to protect themselves and their homes. Meanwhile, the Water Plan Task Force Act (SB2743) ensures that the state has a current and comprehensive water management strategy. This year, IEC also made great strides in regulating PFAS in the fight for clean water and public health for people and the planet. These measures are crucial steps toward mitigating the impacts of climate disasters and safeguarding Illinois' communities.

Thanks to the passage of the Climate Education bill (HB4895), comprehensive, science-backed climate change curriculum will be required in K-12 schools. This marks a win in combating misinformation and inspiring future generations to become informed about the climate crisis.

Mold Remediation Awareness — SB1087 (Sen. Tracy / Rep. Frese) **PASSED!**

This bill requires the Department of Public Health to create a public awareness campaign about the dangers of indoor mold. If Gov. Pritzker signs the bill, it will become Illinois law.

Landlord/Tenant Flood Disclosure — SB2601 (Sen. Porfirio / Rep. Rashid) **PASSED!**

This bill requires landlords to notify tenants of a property's flooding hazards prior to signing a lease agreement. In the event of a significant flood, it gives the tenant permission to terminate the lease, receive rent reimbursement, and bring action against the landlord if they were not notified of flood hazards. If Gov. Pritzker signs the bill, it will become Illinois law.

Transportation Flood Insurance — SB2628 (Sen. Koehler / Rep. Chung) **PASSED!**

This bill requires any state agency development in a special flood hazard area to be flood-proofed or to be located outside of a special flood hazard area when feasible. Additionally, it encourages state agencies to use flood-related data to inform the location and design of future agency development. If Gov. Pritzker signs the bill, it will become Illinois law.

PFAS Product Ban — SB2705 / HB5042 (Sen. Fine / Rep. Moeller)

TO BE CONTINUED... This bill prohibits the sale of certain products that contain PFAS to reduce the amount of PFAS in our waste stream and requires product disclosures to increase public awareness.

CLEAN AIR, WATER, & CLIMATE RESILIENCE



Washing Machine Microfiber Filter – SB2727 / HB4269 (Sen. Morrison / Rep. Du Buclet)

TO BE CONTINUED... This bill requires all washing machines sold after January 2030 to include a filter that prevents harmful, plastic microfibers from entering our waterways and drinking water. It stalled in the House.

Water Plan Task Force Act – SB2743 (Sen. Ellman / Rep. A. Williams) PASSED!

This bill establishes the State Water Plan Task Force to identify critical water issues and their solutions in the State Water Plan and publish an updated Plan at least every ten years. The Plan guides agency action, funding, and legislation related to water issues in Illinois. If Gov. Pritzker signs the bill, it will become Illinois law.

Clean and Healthy Buildings Act – SB3935 / HB5835 (Sen. Villanueva / Rep. A. Williams)

TO BE CONTINUED... This bill would accomplish a responsible and equitable transition for existing buildings by increasing consumer protections and creating a State Navigator Program one-stop-shop for decarbonization and weatherization resources.

PFAS Registry – SB3360 / HB4627 (Sen. Ellman / Rep. Moeller)

TO BE CONTINUED... This bill allows IEPA to work with an interstate clearinghouse to create a registry so the public can access information about products containing PFAS and make informed purchasing decisions.

Flooding Relocation Assistance – SB3586 (Sen. Belt)

TO BE CONTINUED... This bill increases the state's relocation assistance maximum to be the same as the federal government's so that eligible recipients can receive funding sooner. While this bill stalled in the Senate, we will continue to work on the legislation over the summer.

Water Reuse – HB3046 (Rep. A. Williams / Sen. Villivalam) PASSED!

This bill allows the adoption of rules regarding recycling sewage treatment plant effluent reuse. If Gov. Pritzker signs the bill, it will become Illinois law.

Global Warming Potential – HB3141 (Rep. Blair-Sherlock / Sen. Ellman)

TO BE CONTINUED... This bill requires CMS to establish a maximum acceptable Global Warming Potential (GWP) standard for state purchases of appliances and building materials. It stalled in the Senate.

CLEAN AIR, WATER, & CLIMATE RESILIENCE



PFAS Monitoring – HB4702 (Rep. Rashid)

TO BE CONTINUED... This bill requires monitoring for PFAS in various water and wastewater systems to track the levels and lead to the sources of pollution. The bill stalled in the House.

Climate Education – HB4895 (Rep. Yang Rohr / Sen. Johnson) **PASSED!**

As climate change and its impacts affect everyday life, students need and are calling for a comprehensive education curriculum. This bill codifies climate change as an educational requirement and allows ISBE to create professional development materials for teachers. If Gov. Pritzker signs the bill, it will become Illinois law.

Air Quality Task Force – HB4903 (Rep. Faver Dias / Sen. Johnson) **PASSED!**

This bill creates an Air Quality in Schools Task Force to study the quality of air Illinois students experience. If Gov. Pritzker signs the bill, it will become Illinois law.

Flooding/Climate Safe Housing – HB5484 (Rep. Katz Muhl)

TO BE CONTINUED... This bill requires a report on the evaluation of affordable climate housing within the state and how improvements can be made. It stalled in the House.



STATE BUDGET



The Governor and legislative leaders signaled early in session that the Fiscal Year 2025 (FY25) state budget would be tight. The remaining federal funds authorized as part of pandemic relief have since dried up, removing a bit of cushion the legislature had gotten comfortable with over the last few years. Still, we did manage to achieve funding wins that moved the needle on environmental protection. We were grateful to see the funding for many of the environmental programs remain fairly the same compared to prior years or even increase, including \$130 million for the Open Space Land Acquisition and Development fund, \$960k for Fall Covers for Spring Savings, and \$15 million to IEMA for flood mitigation assistance.

We also saw significant dollars go towards transportation and clean water. The new budget shows increased funds for the Electric Vehicle Rebate Program, the Office of Planning and Programming to support Transportation Enhancement, Congestion Mitigation, Air Quality, and the National EV Charging Infrastructure program, thanks to funds coming from the Road Fund. The budget also included \$200 million for drinking water infrastructure projects.

While we were relieved to see that the traditional conservation dollars housed within the Department of Natural Resources had been left intact, we were disappointed to see a major slash in funding for Soil and Water Conservation Districts, essential on-the-ground conservation organizations that have struggled with financial insecurity for almost two decades. IEC and our partners lobbied heavily for a budget that would give them fiscal stability moving forward, but this latest move from the General Assembly has sent a clear message that their future is not only unclear but in peril. IEC will continue to seek budget solutions that support our partners at the districts.



STATE BUDGET



CONSERVATION & SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

- \$250k for Illinois Health Soils Initiative staffing
- \$7.5 million Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs), which is a decrease of \$4m over FY24
- The Fall Covers for Spring Savings provide cover crop insurance discounts to farmers and is appropriated at \$960,000, which is an increase of \$300k over F24
- \$130 million total in Open Space Land Acquisition and Development fund
- \$54.2 million appropriated for the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program
- \$31 million reappropriated for the Open Land Trust Program
- \$1.5 million to IEPA for nonpoint water pollution projects
- \$15 million to IEMA for flood mitigation assistance
- \$1 million to IDNR to convert the defunct Route 53 into a state park or “greenway”

CLEAN ENERGY

- \$70 million is reappropriated from the Capital Development Fund to the Capital Development Board for energy efficiency projects at state facilities
- \$35 million is reappropriated from the Rebuild IL capital fund to DCEO
- \$500k total for SAFE CCS
- \$28 million for Coal to Solar per CEJA

CLEAN VEHICLES

- Over \$14 million to fund rebates for electric vehicles and ethanol fuel research
- A reappropriation of \$70 million for electric vehicle charging infrastructure and electrifying transit
- \$10 million for CEJA admin and state fleet electrification
- \$25 million for the Clean Heavy-Duty Vehicle Program
- \$99.5 million reappropriated to DOT for Transportation Enhancement, Congestion Mitigation, Air Quality, and National EV Charging Infrastructure program
- Nearly all of the Volkswagen settlement funding remains unspent and \$80 million was reappropriated for FY2025

CLEAN WATER

- \$4M appropriated for the Lead Poisoning Screening, Prevention, and Abatement Fund
- \$10 million to IEPA from the EPA Energy Projects Fund for all costs associated with the Great Lakes Environmental Justice grant program
- \$20 million for grants to address contaminants in drinking water
- \$200 million for drinking water infrastructure projects
- Nearly \$260 million for lead service line replacement loans and \$20 million for grants



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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.