

ILLINOIS' 2025 ENVIRONMENTAL

# LEGISLATIVE AGENDA



THE OFFICIAL LEGISLATIVE AGENDA FOR ILLINOIS' ENVIRONMENTAL MOVEMENT





## PROUDLY LEADING ILLINOIS' ENVIRONMENTAL MOVEMENT SINCE 1975

IEC works with over 130 affiliate member organizations, the public, and many supportive lawmakers ahead of every legislative session to introduce Illinois' Environmental Legislative Agenda. After many months of research, convenings, public town hall gatherings, priority setting, and bill drafting, we have proposed policy solutions to many critical environmental issues within our 2025 legislative agenda.

As communities across the Prairie State face a barrage of new and exacerbated challenges brought on by the Trump administration, with sweeping impacts on our environment, IEC is eager to work with a new Illinois state legislature in 2025 to make progress in key areas, including protection for Environmental Justice communities, reducing harmful plastics expansion, tackling climate-warming air pollution in our transportation sector, modernizing a more affordable power grid, and the continued protection of our nation-leading Climate and Equitable Jobs Act (CEJA) legislation for our clean energy economy. Additionally, we see some exciting opportunities to strengthen climate and conservation programs at the Illinois Department of Agriculture and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources as we pursue policy changes to improve conservation and sustainable agriculture practices in our state.

Now that key bill filing deadlines have come and gone, all of our priority bills have been introduced, and a more complete picture of our agenda for this year has come into focus. We are tracking hundreds of bills backed by our partners and opponents alike that could impact environmental resources, climate change, and public health. As we continue to review bills and proposed amendments, our priorities will reflect developments on the ground at the Capitol. Below, you'll find IEC's proposed Illinois' Environmental Legislative Agenda for 2025.

There will be ample opportunities throughout the course of the legislative session to voice your support for the most important bills in this agenda by taking action with IEC to contact your elected representatives, attending lobby days at the State Capitol, and staying informed over the coming months. To be notified of those opportunities, stay in touch with us by signing up to receive email updates from IEC [by clicking here.](#)



## ABOUT IEC

### Our Mission

IEC's mission is to advance equitable public policies that ensure a healthy environment across Illinois through collaboration, power building, and advocacy. Ultimately, we envision an Illinois where informed decision-makers and empowered communities successfully champion the environment.

### 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.



## ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

### **Environmental Justice Air Permitting - HB 1608/SB1307 (HARPER/VILLANUEVA)**

IEC will continue prioritizing the measure introduced in 2023 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.

### **Climate Refugee Task Force - SB 1859 (GUZMÁN)**

Illinois needs to be prepared for the upcoming displacement of millions of people around the country and the world as the effects of Climate Change continue to increase historic droughts, floods, and forest fires. This bill will create a task force to assess the resources and assets that the state will need to develop to alleviate these risks.

### **Cumulative Impact of Trash Disposal Sites - HB 2419/SB 2267 (HIRSCHAUER/VILLA)**

Trash disposal sites have often been located in environmental justice communities. This bill requires county boards to look at vehicle emissions, the cumulative impact of additional sites, and increase language and accessibility for public hearings.

## CLEAN ENERGY

### **Clean and Reliable Grid Affordability Act - SB 2473/HB 3779 (CUNNINGHAM/A. WILLIAMS)**

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

### **Solar Bill of Rights - HB 3322 (DIDECH)**

Everyone in the state should have the right to benefit from solar energy. The Solar Bill of Rights will prevent municipalities from banning solar panels and address the myriad of issues with municipal and cooperative electric utilities, including governance transparency, ratepayer rights, and residents' ability to invest in home solar.





### **Clean and Healthy Buildings Act - SB 2269/HB 3525 (VILLANUEVA/A. WILLIAMS)**

Illinois buildings are the third largest contributor to greenhouse gas emissions, and the largest emitter in Cook and the collar counties. This policy modernizes new buildings first and then existing ones to run on clean electricity, replacing gas burners and stoves with safer, more efficient heat pumps and electric appliances.

- **Thermal Energy Networks - SB 2258/HB 3609 (PETERS/A. WILLIAMS)** This bill requires each investor-owned gas and gas/electric utility company to pilot a Thermal Energy Network project as an alternative to traditional gas pipe replacements, including at least one pilot in an environmental justice community per gas utility company territory.
- **State Navigator Program - HB 3650 (LILLY)** This bill requires the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity to implement an online statewide resource to assist building owners and renters with accessing electrification and energy efficiency upgrades, maintain a contractor list, and to provide other assistance to help electrify homes.
- **Whole Building Data Access - HB 3312 (CANTY)** Several Illinois utilities do not release energy efficiency data. This bill increases building owners' ability to take advantage of clean energy initiatives by requiring all utilities to release whole building energy use information.

### **Muni Co-Op Transparency - HB 2902 (YANG ROHR)**

Municipal electric utilities and rural electric cooperatives (“munis and coops”) are not required to utilize industry best practices to plan for future electricity needs. This bill would require munis and coops to complete three-year Integrated Resource Plans and ensure ratepayers have access to ethical lobbying disclosures.

### **Divestment**

- **U Of I Fossil Fuel Divestment - HB 1155 (GUZZARDI)** This bill would mandate the University of Illinois System to not invest any endowment fund in fossil fuels.
- **Pension Fossil Fuel Divestment - SB 130/HB3961 (FEIGENHOLTZ/JOHNSON/GUZZARDI)** Through this legislation, Illinois state pensioners can ensure that their pensions are both economically safe and environmentally sound by keeping investments out of the fossil fuel industry.



## ZERO WASTE

### **Polystyrene Plastic Ban - SB 1531 (FINE)**

Polystyrene foam foodware, which breaks up into small pieces but never fully breaks down, pollutes land, water, and air. This compromise bill will ban all foam foodware from distribution beginning in 2030.

### **Plastic Reduction Bills - HB 1600/SB 1194 (“Skip the Stuff” by GONG-GERSHOWITZ/EDLY-ALLEN) and HB 1146 (“Plastic Bag Ban” by NESS)**

These bills would reduce unnecessary single-use plastics.

### **PFAS Ban - HB 2516/SB 117 (MORRISON/RASHID)**

PFAS, often called “forever chemicals,” are extremely difficult to break down and are present in many items, including food packaging, cookware, and clothing. This bill would ban intentionally added PFAS in many consumer products.

### **Reduce Landfill Methane Emissions - HB 1707/HB 3802 (MASON)**

Illinois ranks eighth in total greenhouse gas emissions from landfills. These bills reduce the amount of organic material in landfills, incentivizing and requiring the use of finished compost, and improving methane leak detection and gas capture methods from existing landfills.

### **Food Scrap Landfill Ban - SB 1398 (JOHNSON)**

Food scraps in landfills create methane emissions and wastes food that could be eaten or composted. This legislation establishes a food scrap hierarchy and introduces food scrap separation requirements, starting with the largest generators in 2028 and covering most generators by 2034.

## CONSERVATION

### **Protecting Our Wetlands - HB 3596/SB 2401 (MOELLER/ELLMAN)**

In Sackett v. EPA, the US Supreme Court dramatically weakened the Clean Water Act, putting Illinois’ few remaining wetlands at risk. This legislation protects Illinois’ wetlands to safeguard aquatic environments from pollution and provide clean drinking water, recreation, and wildlife habitat.

### **Right to Recreate on Illinois Rivers - HB 1873 (YANG ROHR)**

Illinois boasts some of the most beautiful rivers and streams in the Midwest, and yet our right to responsibly recreate on Illinois’ shared waterways is in jeopardy. To preserve access to our natural waterways, this legislation clarifies that right for generations to come.

### **IL Natural Resources & Agricultural Legacy Funding Match - SB 1879/HB 2475 (KOEHLER/LILLY)**

It’s time to create a new grant program within the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) to support permanent land conservation in Illinois. The program will provide grants to nonprofits and local governments to purchase conservation easements on natural areas and farmland.



**Climate Resiliency - SB 2306 (VENTURA)**

This legislation will expand the financing of the Illinois Finance Authority to include climate resilience projects that protect clean water and reduce the impacts of extreme weather events.

**Indigenous People's Conservation Rights - HB 1605 (WEST/WALKER)**

This legislation empowers Illinois landowners to enter into voluntary land protection agreements with a federally recognized Indian tribal nation.

**Property Tax Incentive and Income Tax Credits for Land Protection - HB 1609/SB 2200 (HIRSCHAUER/GUZMÁN) and HB 3457/SB 2281 (GUZZARDI/MARTWICK)**

These bills provide tax relief and incentives for private landowners who voluntarily enroll their property into a permanent land protection agreement.

**Township Open Space - HB 1367 (FAVER DIAS/EDLY-ALLEN)**

This legislation gives townships new tools to utilize and protect open space in their communities by requiring a voter referendum to sell or use a property purchased for open space in a way that was not originally intended.

**Rewilding - HB 2726 (MOELLER)**

Rewilding strategies include the restoration of land to its natural state, the reintroduction of native species (particularly apex predators and keystone species), and the restoration of ecological processes as defined by State-specific baselines. This legislation will add rewilding as a conservation strategy available to IDNR.

**Improving Pesticide and Herbicide Regulations - HB 1645 (MUSSMAN) and HB 1596 (FAVER DIAS)**

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

**Conservation Pesticide License - HB 3844/SB 1574 (HARPER/TURNER)**

This bill creates a new pesticide licensing test for small-scale applicators such as government agencies and conservation groups to support this green workforce.



**Deforestation Free Procurement - HB 3197 (DIDECH/VENTURA)**

This bill requires state procurement practices to prioritize deforestation-free products.

**Rx Burn Month Resolution - (KEICHER)**

This resolution designates March as Prescribed Burn Awareness Month in Illinois.

## SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

**Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy - SB 1689 (KOEHLER) and SB 1789 / HB 2729 (ELLMAN/MOELLER)**

Pollution from agricultural runoff continues to impact our native ecosystems and water supplies. These bills dedicate funding and mandate buffers from rivers, lakes, and streams to reduce pollution.

**Good Food Purchasing Policy - SB 2187/ HB 3701 (PRESTON/HARPER)**

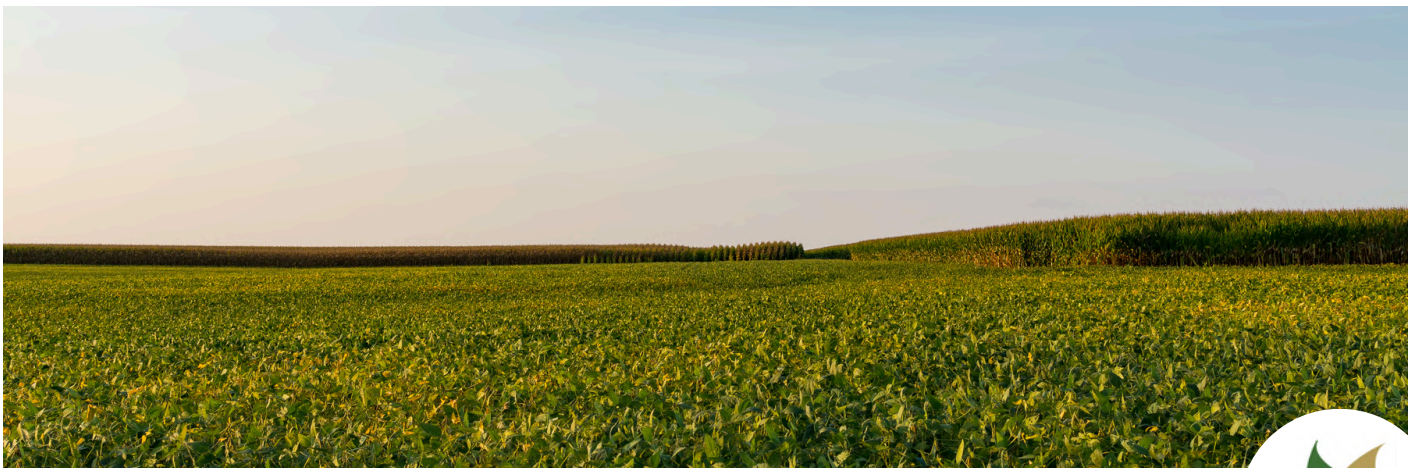
Illinois has some of the most fertile farmland in the world, yet we still import over 95% of the food we consume. To reduce the distance between where our food is grown and where it is consumed, Illinois must pass this bill to require our government to review procurement policies and make changes to incentivize purchasing locally sourced, ethically raised, and worker-supported food.

**Livestock Facilities Management Act Reform - SB 2331 (ELLMAN), SB 2332 (ELLMAN), and SB 2333 (ELLMAN), HB 3610**

The negative impacts caused by large-scale industrial livestock confinement operations in Illinois need to be addressed by fixing the state's broken regulatory system. These bills reduce environmental hazards such as waste runoff and air pollution.

**Soil Health Week Act - HB 54 (MEIER)**

This year, Illinois will celebrate its fourth annual Soil Health Week. This bill makes that celebration permanent by dedicating the first full week of March as Soil Health Week going forward.





## CLEAN & EQUITABLE TRANSPORTATION

### Clean and Equitable Transportation Act - SB 2486/ HB 3778 (VILLIVALAM/DELGADO)

Transportation emissions are the largest contributor to greenhouse gasses in Illinois. To reduce these emissions, we are leading a concrete effort to increase access to public transit and clean mobility options for all Illinoisans while also electrifying vehicles and increasing charging infrastructure across the state.

- **Public Transit Governance Reform & Funding - SB 5/HB 1833 (VILLIVALAM/DELGADO)** The Regional Transit Authority faces a \$750 million fiscal cliff in 2026, and Illinois must step in to fully fund transportation. This legislation funds the system while also reforming governance to improve public transit services across Northeast Illinois.
- **2050 Greenhouse Target in Transportation Sector - SB 1680/HB 2629 (AQUINO/CANTY)** For Illinois to meet our climate goals, the Department of Transportation (DOT) must prioritize funding transportation projects that support multi-modal transportation options, including safer and climate-friendly options, not just highway expansion.





**Zero-Emission Vehicle Infrastructure** - Many Illinoisans are beginning to see the climate and health benefits of shifting their vehicle to zero-emission technology, yet there are concerns about the affordability of the vehicles and charging infrastructure.

- **Powering Up Illinois - SB 2196/HB 3349 (JOHNSON/TARVER)** This bill grants public utilities flexibility to update their grid plans in a timelier manner to ensure that thousands of new zero-emission cars and trucks can be charged in Illinois.
- **Zero Emission Delivery Zones - SB 1592 (CERVANTES)** Third-party delivery services are a growing industry in our state, and many of these deliveries can be done by zero-emission bikes, cars, and vans to reduce emissions and congestion.
- **Electric School Bus Vouchers - SB 1970 (SIMMONS)** This legislation will create a voucher program to ensure school districts can afford to purchase electric buses.
- **E-Bike Rebate - SB 1521 (GUZMÁN)** This bill creates a rebate program so that low- and moderate-income families can afford to get around their communities using climate-friendly electric bikes.

**Lowering Speed Limits - SB 2070/HB 2934 (PORFIRIO/HIRSCHAUER)**

Fatalities have increased for pedestrians and cyclists over the past few decades. This legislation ensures Illinoisans can safely utilize clean alternative modes of transportation that will help reduce greenhouse gas emissions.





## CLEAN WATER

### **Water Affordability and Accountability - SB 75/HB 1613 (MURPHY/SYED)**

To keep water affordable for all, Illinois must put up barriers to stop private water companies from quickly buying up water and wastewater systems across the state and using special surcharges to spend customers' money faster and speed up rate hikes.

### **Increasing Wastewater Management Jobs - HB 1699 (AVELAR)**

To keep our water safe in the long run, this legislation increases job training opportunities for Illinoisans to become certified wastewater operators.

### **Microfiber Filtration - HB 1370/SB 30 (DIDECH/MORRISON)**

To prevent plastic microfibers from contaminating our wastewater, this legislation phases in the adoption of microfiber filtration systems in washing machines.

### **Mahomet CCS Ban - SB 1723/HB 3514 (FARACI/AMMONS)**

In 2023, Illinois passed nation-leading legislation to regulate Carbon Capture and Sequestration, but our waterways remain at risk from proposed carbon injection well projects in the Mahomet Aquifer, which supplies fresh, clean water to nearly one million people throughout Central Illinois. This practice must be banned to protect the sole source aquifer and public drinking water.







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