

Legislative Report

2025 Spring Legislative Session

104th General Assembly

ZERO WASTE:

**SINGLE-USE
PLASTIC REDUCTION
LEGISLATION MOVES
FARTHER THAN
EVER BEFORE**

INSIDE:

**COMPOST
AWARENESS
WEEK ADOPTED**

**CLIMATE
DISPLACEMENT
ACT PASSED**

**"REWILDING"
HEADS TO
GOVERNOR'S
DESK**



Founded exactly 50 years ago by a group of determined environmental activists who saw the need for a unified voice at the State Capitol, the Illinois Environmental Council (IEC) has spent the past 50 years serving as the convener, agenda-setter, and leading voice of Illinois' environmental movement in Springfield. Through each legislative session, IEC and its affiliate member organizations have worked to grow the number of Green Champions in the legislature and advance strong environmental policies — securing significant victories for lasting protections along the way.

Not every session yields a new nation-leading law, and every session is certainly a rollercoaster ride, this year's more so than usual. It is not uncommon for legislators to delay action on most of the large policy proposals until the final weeks and days of the legislative session. This year, they waited too long to accomplish too much and ultimately ran out of time to pass two of the top priorities — the Clean and Reliable Grid Affordability (CRGA) Act and comprehensive transportation reform and funding legislation — both of which are desperately needed. **Make no mistake, they missed two big opportunities to protect Illinoisans from some of the worst impacts of Trump and his fossil fuel supporters.**

Still, our coalition of environmentalists, consumer voices, and transit advocates set the agenda in both of those key fights, a refreshing dynamic confirming that our power-building strategies are working, even when we don't pass every bill we set out to. That means we were able to hold our own at the negotiating table and emerge with strong environmental bills that we were proud to stand behind. And our clean energy and transportation legislation are on track to pass before the end of this year. It won't be easy. We still have much work to do in the meantime, and we'll need your help to get them both across the finish line.

After literal decades of working to phase out the use of toxic, single-use polystyrene foam, we came closer than ever to making it happen. We ran into a late-session battle with misinformation regarding the recyclability of foam and supply chain impacts perpetuated by fossil fuel interests who want to refine oil to churn out plastic pollution unfettered. Still, hope is alive as we work with our allies in the House to get this important bill passed.

I do want to briefly address the hurdles we encountered in those final days and hours, which prevented our success on multiple issues. It's essential to comprehend the challenges we face and their implications for our work. Every year, we face deep-pocketed fossil fuel lobbyists. That's a given. **This year, we saw a significant uptick in their opposition,** even attracting opposition from national groups like the American Petroleum Institute, funded by the Koch brothers.

To me, it means that we are doing all the right things. We're proposing strong bills that worry big polluters. It means our power is growing, and they're bringing out the big guns. And it means we're poised for even greater fights ahead as we threaten their antiquated business models with environmental policies that the people of Illinois deserve.

It also means that legislators and decision-makers in state government will have to be braver, bolder champions for our environment. We will be holding them accountable to that standard in our annual Environmental Scorecard because the need to protect our communities and our climate from dirty fossil fuel interests and Trump administration attacks is too great.

It is unclear at this time when exactly the legislature will reconvene to take up these critical proposals before year-end. When they do, we'll again be in the fray, building power for people and the environment in the halls of government, at the negotiating table, and anywhere the fight takes us. We'll need you to have our backs along the way, taking action and holding your legislators accountable alongside us.



Together,

Jen Walling
Executive Director

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 130 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.





Environmental Justice & Equity

State Sen. Graciela Guzmán and IEC Legislative Director Dany Robles testify in support of the climate migration taskforce.

Environmental Justice & Equity

Nationally, we face numerous obstacles in continuing to protect our environmental justice communities from further harm caused by industrial pollution. The Trump administration has been woeful in its environmental oversight and is actively rolling back Biden-era environmental justice victories. With this in mind, we will continue to provide education to Illinois decision-makers to ensure that state policies will protect the health of vulnerable communities throughout the state, especially communities of color who continue to be on the front line against polluting industries. Our biggest priority is to pass statewide air permitting reform legislation that prevents the further accumulation of industrial pollutants in those communities.

Local Siting Review — HB2419

(Hirschauer/Villa) – **PASSED!**

This bill requires local governments to ensure hearings for major trash facilities are accessible for individuals with disabilities and non-native English speakers and allows local governments to ask for a vehicle emission study.

Climate Displacement Act — SB1859

(Guzmán/Guzzardi) – **PASSED!**

In a bold commitment to proactive, people-centered climate policy, this bill establishes Illinois' first Climate Displacement Task Force. A landmark step toward preparing our state for the human impacts of climate change, we are especially proud that environmental justice (EJ) and community voices were prioritized, with representation from immigrant rights groups, labor, housing advocates, and EJ organizations built into the Task Force.

Environmental Justice Air Permitting — HB1608/SB1307

(Harper/Villanueva) – **TO BE CONTINUED**

While this year we received new language that was developed in coordination with the governor's office, ultimately it did not make it to a committee hearing. 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.

Great Lakes CCR Protection — HB1175

(Mayfield) – **TO BE CONTINUED**

Requires the removal of all coal ash from the Waukegan Electric Generating Station to protect the largest public drinking water supply in the State of Illinois.





Clean Energy

During this legislative session, we fought to prepare Illinois for a significant increase in electricity demand driven by the emergence of new energy-intensive industries, such as AI data centers, coming online. Without thoughtful planning, consumers will face higher utility bills and will see increased power outages. We kept Illinois on track for 100% clean power by defeating more than 30 bad bills that would have raised the cost of clean energy, restricted renewable energy developments, and prolonged legacy fossil and unregulated advanced nuclear projects.

Instead of going backward, we set the agenda in Springfield with the Clean and Reliable Grid Affordability Act (SB40, Amendment 006), which includes new battery storage, strengthens grid planning, and improves transparency for municipal utilities and rural electric cooperatives to build an affordable and reliable electric grid that delivers clean, cost-effective power to every home in Illinois. This bill is still in play, and we anticipate bringing it to a vote before the end of the year.



Clean Energy

CCS Compensation — SB1697

(Fine/Hoffman) – **PASSED!**

This bill prohibits the construction of CO2 pipelines when surface conditions would damage farming operations and ensures landowners can pursue financial or land restoration compensation for any damages incurred.

Clean and Reliable Grid Affordability Act — SB40, Amendment 006

(Cunningham/A. Williams) – **TO BE CONTINUED**

The rise of energy-intensive data centers, combined with a lack of strategic planning to modernize transmission infrastructure, is taking a toll on our outdated power grid and hindering our progress toward Illinois' climate goals. The CRGA Act would develop more clean energy resources, upgrade the grid to increase capacity, provide consumers with tools to reduce their energy bills, and enhance state planning.

- **Muni Co-Op Transparency — HB2902**

(Yang Rohr) – **TO BE CONTINUED**

Municipal 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.

- **Solar Bill of Rights — HB3322**

(Didech) – **TO BE CONTINUED**

The Solar Bill of Rights will ensure everyone in the state can benefit from solar energy and address the myriad issues with munis and coops, including governance transparency, ratepayer rights, and residents' ability to invest in home solar.

- **Whole Building Data Access — HB3312**

(Canty) – **TO BE CONTINUED**

This bill increases building owners' ability to take advantage of clean energy initiatives by requiring all utilities to release whole-building energy use information.

- **Thermal Energy Networks — SB2258/HB3609**

(Peters/A. Williams) – **TO BE CONTINUED**

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.

Clean Energy

The Residential Automated Solar Permitting Platform Act — SB2395/HB3265

(Cunningham/Evans) – **TO BE CONTINUED**

This bill establishes a statewide instant permitting standard, which would expand access to the benefits of solar energy and support increased solar adoption in our communities.

Clean and Healthy Buildings Act — SB2269/HB3525

(Villanueva/A. Williams) – **TO BE CONTINUED**

Illinois buildings are the third-largest contributor to greenhouse gas emissions in the state. This policy modernizes new buildings first, followed by existing ones, to run on clean electricity. It replaces gas burners and stoves with safer, more efficient heat pumps and electric appliances.

- **State Navigator Program — HB3650**

(Lilly) – **TO BE CONTINUED**

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 provide other assistance to help electrify homes.

Heat Pumps — HB1051

(Vella) – **ENACTED BY RULE!**

Changes regulations to allow heat pumps to be installed safely on smaller-sized lots. Instead of legislation, IEC and industry stakeholders collaborated with the Illinois Department of Public Health to establish favorable rules.

State Pension Divestment — SB130/HB3961

(Johnson/Guzzardi) – **TO BE CONTINUED**

Keeping state pensions invested in the fossil fuel industry can not only damage potential returns but also help support a diminishing industry past its financially beneficial life.

U of I Fossil Fuel Divestment — HB1155

(Guzzardi) – **TO BE CONTINUED**

Holds the University of Illinois to its promise to divest its assets from the fossil fuel industry.





Equitable Transportation

Equitable Transportation

Even before the COVID pandemic, Illinoisans knew that our transportation sector didn't provide the kind of service and infrastructure that our communities across the state deserve. Now, as 40% of Chicago's public transit services hang over a quickly approaching fiscal cliff and downstate communities see their transportation options dwindle, it's clear that reforming and funding our transportation sector is an urgent priority with significant climate impacts.

IEC and our partners backed a bold proposal to fix and fund transportation, offering an ambitious plan for a new transit agency in Northeastern Illinois and a committee to oversee innovation and infrastructure development for Downstate transit agencies. These changes will help coordinate operations, fare integration, and capital projects to make public transit safe, efficient, and reliable.

Clean and Equitable Transportation Act — SB2486/HB3778

(Villivalam/Delgado) – **TO BE CONTINUED**

Transportation pollution makes up the largest contribution to climate-warming greenhouse gas emissions in Illinois. To reduce these emissions and the toxic air pollution they produce, we are leading a statewide campaign to increase access to public transit and clean mobility options for all Illinoisans, while also electrifying vehicles and expanding charging infrastructure across the state. We are advocating for these pillars in 2025:

- **Public Transit Governance Reform & Funding — SB2111 and HB3438**

(Delgado/Villivalam) – **TO BE CONTINUED SOON**

The Regional Transit Authority faces a \$770 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 — SB1680/HB2629**

(Aquino/Canty) – **TO BE CONTINUED**

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. We made strides this year to get IDOT briefed and will work with them over the year to continue refining the bill.



Equitable Transportation

ZERO-EMISSION VEHICLES & INFRASTRUCTURE:

With the federal government reversing clean vehicle standards across the board, it will become more challenging to increase the number of electric vehicles on the road. We stood strong against bills that would slow down progress for EV adoption in our state and supported bills that would facilitate investment in electric infrastructure.

Powering Up Illinois — SB2196/HB3349

(Johnson/Tarver) – **TO BE CONTINUED**

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.

EV Rebate Program Reform — HB2380

(LaPointe/Ellman) – **TO BE CONTINUED**

Expands the EV Rebate program to accept applications for the entire year and focus more funding for low-income families.

Motor Vehicle Franchise-Sales — SB1939

(Villivalam/Walsh) – **STOPPED!**

Would have limited sale of vehicles to automobile franchise dealers, limiting the ability for EV manufacturers to directly sell to their customers.

ACTIVE MODES OF TRANSPORTATION:

A key method to reduce our carbon emissions in transportation is to encourage people to use their personal vehicles less by making communities safer for biking and walking.

Pedestrian Fatality Investigations — SB1559

(Feigenholtz/A. Williams) – **PASSED!**

Would create safer streets for pedestrians and cyclists to transition to cleaner modes of transportation by requiring IDOT to conduct a traffic study at any federal or municipal highway where a pedestrian fatality has occurred.

Veh CD-Bicycle Definition — SB2285

(Simmons/Jiménez) – **PASSED!**

Changes the definition of a bicycle to account for low-speed electric bicycles to ensure that Illinois legislation has clear guidance for future laws.

Micromobility Fire Safety — SB2247

(Villivalam/Ortiz) – **PASSED!**

Allows Illinois residents to have safer choices in e-bike and e-scooter mobility by having the most up-to-date safety standards for distributors of these devices in our state.

Zero Waste

It was an exciting session for zero waste legislation. IEC and our partners were able to move several zero waste bills further than we ever have in previous sessions, including SB1531, which would phase out toxic polystyrene, and SB1872/HB1146, which would phase out plastic bags.

A few resolutions aimed at reducing plastic and food waste passed, including “**Skip the Plastic Day**” (SR22/HR63) and “**Compost Awareness Week**” (SR100).



Zero Waste

Skip the Plastic Day — SR22/HR63

(Halpin/Johnson) – **ADOPTED**

Celebrates April 1, 2025 as Skip the Plastic Day to bring awareness to plastic waste.

Compost Awareness Week — SR100

(Fine) – **ADOPTED**

Declares May 4-10, 2025 as Compost Awareness Week in the state of Illinois to reflect International Compost Awareness Week, or “ICAW”.

Polystyrene Foam Ban — SB1531

(Fine) – **TO BE CONTINUED**

Polystyrene foam foodware, which breaks up into small pieces but never fully breaks down, pollutes land, water, and air. This compromise bill would phase out the distribution of all foam foodware beginning in 2030.

PLASTIC REDUCTION BILLS:

These bills would reduce unnecessary single-use plastics, including phasing out plastic bags and takeout utensils throughout the state of Illinois.

“Skip the Stuff” — HB1600/SB1194

(Gong-Gershowitz/Edly-Allen) – **TO BE CONTINUED**

“Bye Bye Bags” — SB1872/HB1146

(Castro/Ness) – **TO BE CONTINUED**

Reducing Landfill Methane Emissions — HB1707/HB3802

(Mason) – **TO BE CONTINUED**

Illinois ranks eighth in total greenhouse gas emissions from landfills. This bill reduces 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.

Solid Food Waste Ban — SB1398

(Johnson/Mason) – **TO BE CONTINUED**

Establishes hierarchy for those required to divert food scrap: 1) prevent or reduce food waste, 2) divert for human consumption, 3) divert for agricultural use, consumption by cattle, and 4) composting or anaerobic digestion. The diversion ban would begin in 2028, with those generating 104 tons or more per year of food scrap, each year the tonnage limit goes down. By 2033, any person generating 5 tons or more per year must comply with the hierarchy of use.

Natural Organic Reduction — SB2383

(Simmons) – **TO BE CONTINUED**

Provides an environmentally friendly alternative to traditional burial options.



Conservation & Sustainable Agriculture



Conservation & Sustainable Agriculture

The House Agriculture Committee held multiple subject matter hearings about the damage being done to Illinois farm communities by the Trump administration's program cuts. We had some success in combating these challenges, including expanding on-farm poultry processing to provide smaller operations with more options and reinstating the Good Food Purchasing Taskforce as a step towards reforming Illinois' procurement code related to food purchasing.

At a time when conservation is under threat nationwide, our partners showed up at the Capitol this session. From testifying in committees for the first time to hosting our largest Conservation Lobby Day to date, and expanding stewardship opportunities with tribal partners, they were there. Although some major priorities, such as the wetlands protection bill and crucial pesticide legislation, did not make it over the finish line this year, we are hopeful that our continued conversations over the summer will result in the passage of these crucial protections next session.

OSLAD Funding — SB2466

(Aquino) – **PASSED!**

Boosts grant funding for acquiring open space lands and supporting conservation projects in distressed communities and locations. However, this fund was significantly swept in the FY26 budget.

Indigenous Peoples' Conservation Rights Act — HB1605

(Gordon-Booth/Walker) – **PASSED!**

Adds federally recognized native american tribes to the list of entities that can hold a conservation easement.

Township Open Spaces — HB1367

(Ortiz/Edly-Allen) – **PASSED!**

Provides townships with new tools to protect open space in their communities by reducing the size of parcels that are protected and requiring a voter referendum to sell or use a property purchased for open space in a manner that was not originally intended.

Rewilding Illinois — HB2726

(Moeller/Ventura) – **PASSED!**

Defines the term “Rewilding” in state statute for IDNR to use as a strategy for ecological restoration.

Gray Fox Season — HB3760

(Walsh/Holmes) – **PASSED!**

The Gray Fox is an important predator in Illinois and its population is in decline. This bill allows IDNR more control over the hunting season in order to manage conservation of this important animal.

Expanding Processing for Farmers — HB2196

(Meier/S. Turner) – **PASSED!**

Brings Illinois' on-farm poultry processing rules closer in line with federal and neighboring states by increasing the number of poultry from 5,000 to 7,500 birds annually that farmers are allowed to safely process. This is an important step in expanding options for small, new, and beginning farmers, while also boosting local economies.

Celebrating Black Farmers & Growers Week — HR152

(Harper) – **ADOPTED**

Declares May 11th-17th, 2025 as “Black Farmers and Growers Week.” Encourages the people to learn about the history of Black farming communities and the contributions made by African Americans to agriculture in the United States.

Conservation & Sustainable Agriculture

Celebrating Prescribed Burn Month — SR172/HR174

(D. Turner/Grasse) – **ADOPTED**

Declares April 2025 as “Prescribed Burn Awareness Month” to highlight the historical importance that fire brings to ecological restoration.

Celebrating Emiquon’s 25th Anniversary — HR337

(Hammond) – **ADOPTED**

Congratulates The Nature Conservancy on its 25th anniversary of the Emiquon Preserve, and highlights their profound commitment to conservation.

Turtle Trapping — SB1427

(Anderson) – **STOPPED!**

Legalizes the trapping and harvesting of snapping turtles via non-selective trapping.

Celebrating Soil Health Week — HB54

(Meier) – **PASSED THE HOUSE**

Designates early March as a time to spotlight soil’s environmental benefits, including carbon sequestration, water filtration, and reduced nutrient runoff. This resolution seeks to boost public awareness of sustainable soil management practices essential for resilient agriculture and ecosystem health.

Climate Resiliency Project — SB2306

(Ventura) – **TO BE CONTINUED**

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.

Wetlands Protections — SB2401/HB3596

(Ellman/Moeller) – **TO BE CONTINUED**

Seeks to codify in state law protections for wetlands and other small bodies of water which were left vulnerable as a result of a SCOTUS decision in 2023 severely limiting the federal EPA’s interpretation of the Clean Water Act; this will ensure that wetlands in Illinois still receive protection even in the face of federal regulatory uncertainty.

Right to Recreate on Illinois Rivers — HB1873

(Yang Rohr) – **TO BE CONTINUED**

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.

Conservation & Sustainable Agriculture

Pesticide Notice for Schools & Parks — HB1596

(Faver Dias) – **TO BE CONTINUED**

Requires notification when spraying pesticides at large scales around schools, parks, playgrounds and forest preserves to prevent undue exposure of children to potentially harmful chemicals.

Pesticide Operator License — SB1574/HB3844

(D. Turner/Olickal/Joyce) – **TO BE CONTINUED**

Creates two distinct pesticide operator licenses, one for large-scale operators and one for small-scale operators, with customized certification tests. This change aims to improve pesticide management and reduce environmental pollution.

Livestock Siting Reform — SB2331

(Ellman) – **TO BE CONTINUED**

Mandates that new large-scale livestock facilities serving 50 or more animal units be located at least two miles from both occupied residences and populated areas. This amendment aims to reduce environmental hazards, such as waste runoff and air pollution from concentrated livestock operations, thereby safeguarding public health and local ecosystems.

Public Participation in Livestock Facility Siting — SB2332

(Ellman) – **TO BE CONTINUED**

Strengthens public oversight for new medium and large livestock facilities by mandating timely public notification, extended community review, and informational meetings before construction begins. This process is designed to ensure that such operations adhere to environmental standards, reducing risks of water contamination, air pollution, and broader ecological disruption.

Protecting Water Supplies During Livestock Facility Siting — SB2333

(Ellman) – **TO BE CONTINUED**

Bars approval of major livestock facility expansions—adding 500 or more animal units—unless a verified water supply report confirms sufficient resources for both the livestock and nearby residents. This measure seeks to protect local water availability and quality from the strain of intensified agricultural operations.

Local Good Food Program — HB3701/SB2187

(Harper/Preston) – **TO BE CONTINUED**

Creates the implementation model for the Good Food Purchasing Policy at all state institutions, establishing procurement goals for food that incentivize sourcing from sustainable, local, and ethical producers.





Clean Water

Clean Water

Illinois has abundant water resources—Lake Michigan, rivers, streams, and aquifers—however, they face increasing pressure from a variety of threats. This session, we made progress on a handful of key clean water protections, including legislation (HB3614/SB1723) that will protect the water of nearly one million Illinoisans from the risks posed by proposed carbon injection well projects. We also helped pass a bill (HB2391) that allows treated wastewater to be used for industrial purposes, an especially important step given the growing number of water-hungry data centers coming to Illinois. Finally, after years of advocacy, Illinois will phase out the use of PFAS in many everyday products and firefighting gear, a major step forward for public health and environmental protection (HB2516 and HB2409).

Mahomet Aquifer — HB3614/SB1723

(Ammons/Faraci) – **PASSED!**

In 2023, Illinois passed nation-leading legislation to regulate Carbon Capture and Sequestration, but the Mahomet Aquifer, which supplies clean water to nearly one million people throughout Central Illinois, was originally left unprotected. This bill extended that legislation to protect the sole-source aquifer and public drinking water from proposed carbon injection well projects.

PFAS Phase-Out — HB2516

(Rashid/Morrison) – **PASSED!**

Phases out the use of PFAS (per and polyfluoroalkyl substances) aka “forever chemicals,” in the manufacturing of children’s products, cosmetics, intimate apparel such as sleepwear or underwear, menstrual products, and dental floss by 2032.

EPA Wastewater Industry Use — HB2391

(Simmons/Katz Muhl) – **PASSED!**

Changes the Environmental Protection Act to allow treated municipal wastewater to be used for both irrigation and industrial purposes, as long as it’s done under a permit in order to reduce pressure on freshwater resources.

Increasing Wastewater Management Jobs — HB1699

(Avelar/Ellman) – **PASSED!**

Ensures we have safe water by increasing job training opportunities for individuals to become certified wastewater operators.

PFAS Firefighting PPE — HB2409

(Kelly/Villivalam) – **PASSED!**

Requires sellers of firefighting gear containing PFAS chemicals to notify buyers, starting in 2026, of the presence of these harmful substances. Additionally, the 2027 ban on the sale of such gear would reduce PFAS contamination risks to both firefighting personnel and the environment.

Clean Water

PFAS in Wastewater — HB2955

(Rashid/Villivalam) – **TO BE CONTINUED**

Creates the PFAS Wastewater Citizen Protection Committee and gives them several duties, including the creation of a PFAS action plan.

Plastic Pellets — HB3278

(Mason/Morrison) – **TO BE CONTINUED**

Ensures that plastic pellets, the raw product used to make most plastics, are defined as a pollutant to prevent them from entering a waterway.

Microfiber Filtration — HB1370/SB30

(Didech/Morrison) – **TO BE CONTINUED**

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

EPA Emerging Contaminants — SB1609

(Simmons) – **TO BE CONTINUED**

It would provide essential funding to address the threats posed by drinking water contaminants and ensure that the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency has the financial resources needed to protect public health and water supplies in Illinois.





FY26

STATE BUDGET



FY26 STATE BUDGET

CLEAN ENERGY

The FY26 budget includes over \$36 million in federal energy-related appropriations to the Illinois EPA, supporting the state's implementation of major federal clean energy programs under the federal Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) and Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA). These funds advance energy efficiency, workforce development, and building decarbonization across Illinois. Unfortunately, future federal appropriations are currently in jeopardy as the Republican-controlled Congress considers President Trump's budget bill, which would eliminate future IRA and IIJA investments in climate and clean energy for the states.

In terms of state-generated funding, we welcomed continued investment in state climate and clean energy programs with \$394 million allocated across multiple state funds to carry out the goals of the Climate and Equitable Jobs Act, including operations, grants, and contracts. To accelerate clean energy deployment, \$56 million was appropriated to the Illinois Power Agency to fund renewable energy purchases. Additional funding supports EPA energy grants and capital improvements at public facilities, including solar and efficiency upgrades.

Low-income energy assistance remains a major priority, with more than \$779 million appropriated to maintain affordability and help consumers manage rising energy costs. This includes nearly \$300 million from the Supplemental Low-Income Energy Assistance Fund and \$480 million from the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Block Grant Fund.

With these investments moving Illinois closer to a cleaner grid, we remain concerned about the long-term impacts of ongoing funding sweeps, including the \$2 million allocation from the Energy Efficiency Fund to the BRIDGE emergency reserve, which diverts resources from critical clean-energy projects.

New Appropriations

- \$2.2 million to support the HOMES Rebate Program and the HEEHRA Rebate Program, which provide household-level incentives for energy efficiency and electrification upgrades
- \$2 million for the Energy Audit Training Program, expanding the state's energy efficiency workforce pipeline
- \$20.26 million allocated to the EPA for expenses and grants associated with the State Energy Program under the IIJA
- \$7 million to enhance enforcement of the Illinois Energy Conservation Code
- \$2.6 million for the Energy Revolving Loan Program
- \$2.91 million for the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program
- \$350 million for the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity to carry out the Energy Transition Act
- \$4 million to the Illinois Power Agency from the Illinois Power Agency Operations Fund for the Energy Transition Act
- \$28.5 million from the Coal to Solar and Energy Storage Initiative Fund to the Energy Transition Act
- \$12 million appropriated to the Illinois Commerce Commission for the Energy Transition Act
- \$56 million to the Illinois Power Agency from the Illinois Power Agency Renewable Energy Resources Fund for funding of renewable energy resource purchasing
- \$299,750,000 from the Supplemental Low-Income Energy Assistance Fund for the Energy Assistance Act
- \$480 million from the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Block Grant for the Energy Assistance Act
- \$500,000 appropriated to the EPA for all costs associated with the Safety Aid for the Environment in Carbon Capture and Sequestration Act (SAFE CSS Act)

Reappropriations

- \$11,171,538 reappropriated to the Environmental Protection Agency for grants related to the Renewable Energy, Energy Efficiency, and Coal Resources Development Law
- \$69,845,992 reappropriated to the Capital Development Board for energy efficiency projects at state facilities

FY26 STATE BUDGET

EQUITABLE TRANSPORTATION

We remain laser-focused on identifying new funding and revenue sources to save and reform public transportation operations across the state. Although we did not achieve this goal in the final budget, we are committed to accomplishing it before the end of the year. We will also continue working with decision-makers to move our state in the direction of our long-term vision, ensuring that we shift funds away from highway expansions and toward projects that reduce emissions by promoting shared road usage and active modes of transportation.

The FY26 includes many provisions for the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) to disburse funds, ensuring they support construction costs, make grants, and provide project assistance to various entities across the state. They include supporting the Multi-Modal Transportation Bond Fund, which includes over \$140 million to support infrastructure improvement at public ports, \$75 million for infrastructure improvement for grade crossings between public highways and railroads, and over \$1.5 billion for construction and project assistance for capital projects with the Regional Transit Authority. These include projects such as the new Damen Green Line Station, a new Metra Station at Chicago State University, Green Line Cottage Grove Station Repairs, and Blue Line O'Hare branch improvements.

The Road Fund will allocate funds to support various improvements throughout the state for multiple programs, including CREATE (Chicago Region Environmental and Transportation Efficiency) and EV Infrastructure Charging. CREATE appropriates over \$100 million for road construction and project support for various intersections throughout Chicago, including 75th St, Ogden Junction, and Dolton Junction. Meanwhile, the Road Fund will provide over \$103 million in support for the IDOT's efforts in Transportation Enhancement, Congestion Mitigation, Air Quality, the National Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure program, High Priority, and Scenic Byway Projects. An additional \$149 million will be appropriated from the Road Fund to the Department of Transportation for costs associated with the National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) program, and another \$44 million for local match for costs associated with NEVI.

- \$14 million appropriated to fund the electric vehicle rebate program, consistent with FY25
- \$70 million still unspent from the Volkswagen Settlement, reappropriated for prioritizing investment in medium and heavy-duty charging and electrifying public transit, fleets, and school buses
- \$103,860,120 from the Road Fund to the Department of Transportation for Transportation Enhancement, Congestion Mitigation, Air Quality, National Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure program, High Priority and Scenic Byway Projects, an increase of 4.4% from FY25
- \$25 million remains unspent for the Clean Heavy Duty Vehicle Program, reappropriated for FY25
- \$466 million to support the dozens of downstate transit agencies in operating expenses, an increase of 1.7% from FY25
- \$594 million appropriated from the Public Transportation Fund to the Department of Transportation to disburse to the Regional Transportation Authority, an increase of 12% from FY25
- \$149 million from the Road Fund to the Department of Transportation for costs associated with the National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure program

FY26 STATE BUDGET

CONSERVATION & SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

Despite our tireless advocacy and growing bipartisan support, our state lawmakers chose to maintain the reduced \$4.5 million in operational funding for our Soil and Water Conservation districts (SWCDs). While we are pleased to see that \$3 million was appropriated for landowner cost-share programs, this outcome falls short of what's needed to support the critical work of our conservation districts. This fight is not over — we will continue to advocate for a more secure funding model for SWCDs that reflects the essential role they play in protecting Illinois' soil, water, and communities.

The budget allocates \$960,000 for the Fall Covers for Spring Savings (FCSS) program, an Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDOA) initiative that encourages farmers to adopt cover crop practices. Eligible participants receive a \$5-per-acre discount on their crop insurance premiums for each acre of cover crops planted in the fall and verified in the program. This incentive is designed to promote soil health, reduce erosion, and minimize nutrient runoff, aligning with the state's Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy. While the governor's budget proposed a 31% budget reduction for FCSS, even as demand for the program rises, we successfully defended against this cut and maintained level funding from 2024.

In addition to broader fiscal shifts outlined in the budget, we also saw a series of funding sweeps authorized through the Budget Implementation Bill (BIMP). These sweeps direct the transfer of funds from various state accounts into the Budget Reserve for Immediate Disbursements and Governmental Emergencies (BRIDGE) Fund to support urgent and unforeseen needs. Specifically, the bill required the transfer of \$10 million from the Open Space Lands Acquisition and Development (OSLAD) Fund and \$2 million each from the Natural Areas Acquisition Fund and the Energy Efficiency Fund. While they helped shore up emergency reserves, they redirected resources away from key environmental, conservation, and energy efficiency programs, which have the potential to delay long-term investments in natural resource protection and sustainable development.

- \$10 million swept from the Open Space Lands Acquisition and Development (OSLAD) Fund
- \$2 million swept from the Natural Areas Acquisition Fund
- SWCD funding restored to \$7.5 million
- The Fall Covers for Spring Savings program, which provides cover crop insurance discounts to farmers, remains level at \$960,000 for 150,000 acres

FY26 STATE BUDGET

CLEAN WATER AND WASTE

Illinois lawmakers prioritized stormwater, wastewater, and clean drinking water with the FY26 budget. Heavy flooding in Chicagoland in 2023 and 2024 correlated with increased funding towards flood mitigation efforts in 2026. On the drinking water side, scientific studies continue to raise the alarm about emerging contaminants such as PFAS. The expanding body of research coincides with greater funding allocated towards planning and remediation. Furthermore, Illinois' commitment to the Brandon Road Lock and Dam project was solidified as the legislature included funding for the federal project to ensure invasive carp stay out of the Great Lakes. Unfortunately, the pace of replacing Illinois' lead service lines will slow down as funding from the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) was paused by the Trump administration and may be eliminated entirely.

Some key waste reduction initiatives also fell short this session, including several pieces of legislation that would have incentivized divesting organic materials from landfills (thus reducing methane emissions) and provided funding for improved recycling in an effort to promote a circular economy. These important priorities will be negotiated over the coming months and will be reintroduced next spring.

- \$250 million appropriated for lead service line replacement loans (a decrease of \$10 million from last year) and \$20 million for grants
- \$561 million for wastewater treatment compliance, the same level as last year
- \$37 million appropriated for emerging contaminants in drinking water. This is in addition to a \$70 million reappropriation, an increase of \$37 million from last year
- \$252 million for flood mitigation assistance, an increase of \$237 million
- \$50 million reappropriated for non-federal cost-sharing participation with US Army Corps of Engineers' barrier project near the Brandon Road Lock and Dam site
- \$2 million for grants to meet the needs of water-intensive industries and water technology startups
- \$300,000 in new funding for the Battery Recycling Program, authorized by IIJA





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