



2026

Legislative Agenda

See Illinois' 2026 Environmental Legislative Agenda, including all of the most important environmental bills this session!

104TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY
2026 SPRING LEGISLATIVE SESSION

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Our Agenda.

The Illinois Environmental Council (IEC) works with experts at our over 130 affiliate member organizations, passionate members of 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 meetings, priority-setting, and bill drafting, we have proposed policy solutions to many critical environmental issues in our 2026 legislative agenda.

Now that key bill filing deadlines have passed and all of our priority bills have been introduced, a clearer picture of our agenda for this year has emerged. 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.

Many factors affect the progress we expect to make in any given legislative session. For instance, in 2026, we're coming off a monumentally successful session last year where we passed not one but two major climate bills in the Illinois General Assembly—the Clean and Reliable Grid Affordability (CRGA) Act and the Northern Illinois Transit Authority (NITA) Act. We aren't resting on our laurels, but we typically see legislators express enthusiasm for other issues on the heels of taking a meaningful bite out of such a large issue.

Additionally, we're in an election year. Legislators are admittedly focused on running their campaigns, knocking on doors, and being present in their districts. This has made both time and attention difficult in the early days of this legislative session. There are far fewer scheduled session days than normal this year, most of them coming after the primary in March. So, we expect the action at the Capitol to pick up significantly after that time.

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.



Because our team is actively tracking hundreds of bills over the course of this legislative session, it's helpful to highlight a few of our top priorities. In 2026, we're fighting hard to get legal protections in place for Illinois' historic wetlands—an ongoing battle since the US Supreme Court gutted the federal Clean Water Act, leaving most wetlands vulnerable to developer bulldozers. We're also working to pass new legislation that will ensure Big Tech, which is rushing to rapidly build massive, energy- and water-intensive data centers in Illinois, pay their fair share, bring their own new clean energy capacity, and contribute more to their neighboring communities than they take. And we're closer than ever to phasing out antiquated, toxic polystyrene foam foodware containers, the worst of the worst single-use plastic.

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](#).

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Lake Michigan, Chicago

Environmental Justice



Environmental Justice Air Permitting - SB 3772 / HB 5374 (VILLANUEVA/GABEL)

Environmental justice (EJ) areas experience the cumulative impact of many types of pollutants. This legislation will reform permitting to ensure the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Illinois EPA) accurately defines EJ communities and accounts for cumulative impacts, especially amid federal rollbacks.

Make Polluters Pay Act - SB 2981 / HB 4773 (GUZMÁN/GABEL)

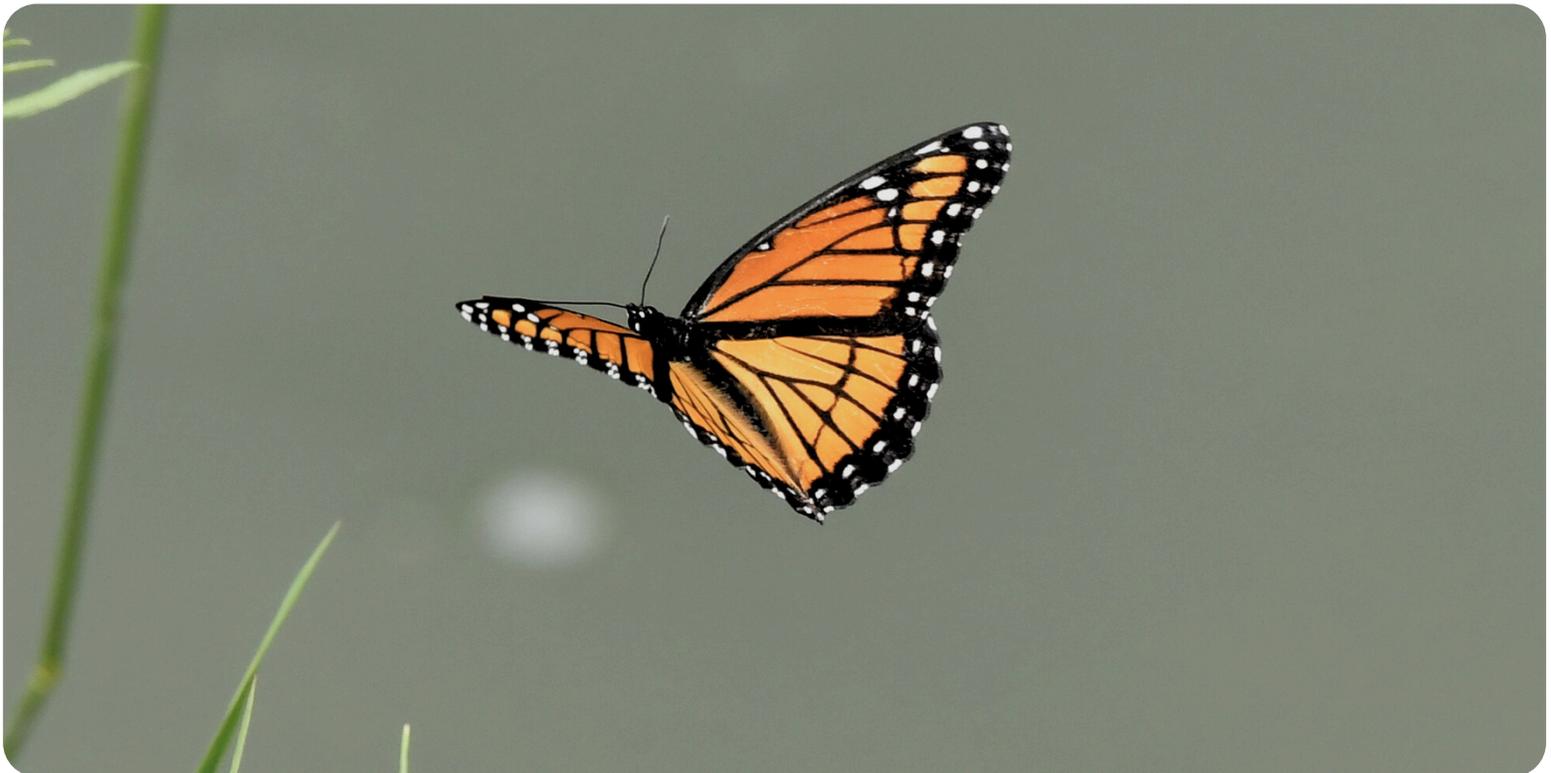
The biggest contributors to climate change, like fossil fuel companies, billionaires, and major polluting industries, are not financially responsible for the environmental damage they cause, while ordinary people and governments bear the costs. This bill shifts the cost of pollution from families and taxpayers to the largest corporate polluters by requiring them to cover environmental damages, cleanup, and climate-related impacts.

Climate Displacement Report - SB 2980 (GUZMÁN)

This bill extends the report deadline for the Climate Displacement Task Force from June to December 2026.

Warehouse Pollution Reduction Act - SB 3732 / HB 5600 (VENTURA/ORTÍZ)

Heavy diesel truck traffic associated with the growing number of warehouses located in EJ communities is harming air quality and increasing health risks. This legislation requires warehouses to adopt pollution-reduction measures and accelerate emission cuts in disproportionately impacted communities, and directs the Illinois EPA to develop an air quality modeling program to evaluate and publicly share pollution impacts.



Clean Energy



Data Centers: Protecting Our Water, Energy, and Ratepayers (POWER) Act - SB 4016 / HB 5513 (VILLIVALAM/GABEL)

The unprecedented influx of energy- and water-intensive data centers coming online threatens consumers' electricity bills, our climate goals, and communities' health. This legislation requires data centers to fully fund their energy capacity and water needs using new, clean, locally delivered resources and minimizes data center impacts on our water, air, consumers, and climate goals.

Balcony/Plug-in Solar - SB 3104 / HB 4524 (VENTURA/DIDECH)

Many homeowners and renters are required to navigate the same lengthy approval process as utilities, regardless of the size or complexity of their solar system. This bill reduces barriers to adopting plug-in solar—moveable solar panels that connect to a standard outlet and primarily offset a customer's electricity use—by exempting these systems from interconnection requirements, utility approvals, and restrictions imposed by local governments or homeowners' associations.

Instant Solar Permitting - SB 2395 / HB 3265 (CUNNINGHAM/EVANS)

Residential solar faces unnecessary delays and red tape. This bill expedites solar adoption by automating the permit application process, saving prospective solar panel consumers time and money.



Zero Waste



Foam Foodware Phase Out - SB 1531 (FINE/GONG-GERSHOWITZ)

Polystyrene foam foodware is the worst of the worst single-use plastic. This material leaches styrene, a carcinogen, and is a top source of plastic pollution. This legislation, which has already passed the Senate and must now pass the House, will phase out polystyrene foam foodware by 2030 to reduce toxic exposure, plastic waste, and climate pollution.

Food Waste Diversion - SB 2852 (JOHNSON)

As food scraps break down in landfills, they produce methane gas, which escapes into our atmosphere and becomes one of the primary carbon emissions driving the climate crisis. This bill diverts edible food and food waste, expanding composting and anaerobic digestion programs, and establishing procurement and grant initiatives to support implementation. The result is a system that keeps edible food in the hands of people who need it while ensuring organic waste is transformed into compost that strengthens our soils.

Skip the Stuff - HB 1600 (GONG-GERSHOWITZ/EDLY-ALLEN)

Restaurant plastic utensils create unnecessary single-use plastic waste and contribute to our microplastics crisis. This bill requires third-party restaurant delivery apps to provide single-use plastic utensils only upon customer request, and enforcement can occur if they do so without request.



Conservation



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

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.

Pesticides Notification - HB 1596 (FAVER DIAS)

Children and families are unknowingly exposed to toxic pesticides near schools, parks, playgrounds, and forest preserves. This legislation requires notification when pesticides are applied near these sensitive sites to reduce unnecessary exposure and improve transparency.

Farmer Tax Benefits - SB 2281 / HB 4849 (MARTWICK/GUZZARDI)

Illinois is losing farmland and open space to development at an alarming pace, threatening local food systems, wildlife habitat, clean water, and rural economies. This bill gives landowners a practical, flexible financial tool to keep productive farmland in agriculture and protect critical natural lands while maintaining private ownership.

Eliminating PFAS from Pesticides - SB 3400 / HB 4523 (MARTWICK/BLAIR-SHERLOCK)

PFAS contamination from pesticide products poses long-term risks to human health, water quality, and the environment. This legislation requires full disclosure of PFAS content in pesticide products, prohibits the registration and use of pesticides with intentionally added PFAS, and establishes a future ban on PFAS-containing spray adjuvants beginning in 2030.

Prescribed Burn Liability Claims Fund - SB 3399 / HB 5306 (MARTWICK/MOELLER)

Prescribed fire is a critical land management tool, but liability concerns limit its use across Illinois. This legislation creates a Prescribed Burn Liability Claims Pilot Program, administered by the Department of Natural Resources, to provide coverage for losses from properly conducted prescribed burns by certified managers and to support broader, safer use of prescribed fire on the landscape.





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Sustainable Agriculture



Agrivoltaic Definition Update - SB 2958 / HB 4830 (KOEHLER/CHUNG)

Agrivoltaics is a rapidly emerging approach that integrates agricultural production with solar energy development, but inconsistent legal definitions create barriers to adoption. This legislation establishes a clear, standard definition for dual-use solar and agricultural systems to support renewable energy generation while maintaining productive farmland.

Livestock Facility Setback Requirements - SB 2331 (ELLMAN/GUZMÁN)

Communities located near large livestock operations often experience negative impacts from odors, air pollution, and water contamination. This legislation requires new or expanded facilities serving 50 or more animal units to maintain minimum setbacks from occupied residences and populated areas to better protect public health.

CAFO Local Oversight and Notification - SB 2332 (ELLMAN/GUZMÁN)

Local governments and residents often have limited notice or input when new concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs) are proposed in their communities. This legislation strengthens local oversight by requiring timely notification, public notice, and an opportunity for county boards to request an informational meeting before the construction of a medium or large-sized CAFO may proceed.

Water Supply Verification for Facility Expansions - SB 2333 (ELLMAN/GUZMÁN)

Large livestock facility expansions can place significant strain on local groundwater resources, potentially affecting nearby residents and farms. This legislation requires the Illinois State Water Survey to verify that sufficient water supplies exist for both the expanded facility and neighboring properties before major expansions are approved.

Land Buffer Requirement - SB1789 (ELLMAN)

Requiring vegetative buffers is one of the most cost-effective, science-based tools we have to protect our rivers and drinking water from nutrient runoff, pesticides, and sediment pollution. This legislation requires landowners whose property is adjacent to a water body to maintain a buffer of non-invasive vegetation to protect against nutrient runoff and soil erosion.

Cover Crops Incentives - SB 3721 / HB 5512 (TURNER/HARPER)

Traditional agriculture relies on practices like heavy fertilizer use and monocropping, which degrade soil and water quality, drive climate pollution, and undermine long-term farm and ecosystem resilience. This legislation helps promote more sustainable agricultural practices by establishing a Fall Cover Crop Spring-Savings program that incentivizes farmers to plant cover crops.

Equitable Transportation



Clean Vehicle Infrastructure - HB 5482 (B. HERNANDEZ)

This legislation supports the state's goal of reaching one million electric vehicles (EVs) on the road by 2030 by expanding charging infrastructure at tollway stations, requiring new home and apartment construction to be EV-ready, and increasing funding for the EV rebate program.

Diesel Emission and Fleet Data - SB 3980 (PORFIRIO)

In an effort to prevent pollution before it occurs, this bill modernizes diesel emission testing and collects basic fleet data to guide smarter investments in zero-emission technologies.

School Bicycle Education - SB 2966 / HB 4697 (GUZMÁN/YANG ROHR)

This legislation requires age-appropriate active transportation safety training for public school students in grades K–8 and allows nonpublic schools to provide comparable instruction.

Clean Water

Groundwater Governance - SB 3162 (ELLMAN)

While legislation on data centers will examine water use by these emerging, high-water-use industries, it has become clear that Illinois is already in a groundwater crisis that worsens each year due to unclear state authority governing groundwater use. This legislation will lay the groundwork for future efforts to hold large water users accountable for their impacts on our drinking water supplies across the state.

Lead Service Line Replacement - BUDGET

IEC supports accelerating lead service line replacement by improving how grant funds are distributed, helping state and local agencies move more quickly to remove lead from drinking water.





We're also working to pass new legislation that will ensure Big Tech, which is rushing to rapidly build massive, energy- and water-intensive data centers in Illinois, pay their fair share, bring their own new clean energy capacity, and contribute more to their neighboring communities than they take."



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