

SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT:

# HEC's Progress on the Journey for Indiana's Future



## HEC's Goals

### Fostering a Sustainable Future

### Protecting our Waters

### Preserving our Natural Spaces

## Our Recent Progress

HEC's legal and technical actions forced Duke Energy to withdraw a controversial cleanup plan for leaking coal ash ponds at its Gallagher power plant in New Albany that contain 3 million tons of coal ash.

HEC created a Wetland and Water Permit Citizen Guide to expand efforts in watchdogging developments in the Upper White River watershed. Get your digital copy at [rb.gy/4bufwf](https://rb.gy/4bufwf)

HEC helped coordinate a grassroots coalition working to stop a destructive and unneeded new-terrain Mid-States Corridor highway, co-hosting three town hall meetings with over 300 attendees, and preparing fact sheets and formal comments.

## Our Priorities for the Future

HEC will continue increasing awareness of the negative impacts of industrialized agriculture by way of online webinars focused on specific counties in Indiana, as well as an expansion of our focus to include education about more sustainable alternatives to factory farming.

HEC is working with a broad array of partner organizations to prepare for water and wetland-related bills in the 2023 legislative session. In the last 4 years, the Indiana General Assembly has passed 7 bills reducing protection for waterways.

HEC is helping to facilitate a statewide coalition working to increase state investment in land, water, and wildlife conservation; meeting with legislators and non-traditional allies; authoring opinion columns; and developing supporting materials.

HEC's progress and our priorities for tomorrow are made possible because of the kind support of people like you.

Please support our work with an end of year gift by December 31<sup>st</sup>. [hecweb.org/donate](https://hecweb.org/donate)

# Celebrating the Journey

and Traveling the Path of Environmental Progress

OUR SEMI ANNUAL REPORT

DECEMBER 2022



## HEC by the Numbers

In communities across Indiana, HEC:

- 1 Hosted our 15th annual **Greening the Statehouse**, and our first-ever hybrid conference, celebrating the **50th Anniversary** of the Clean Water Act.
- 2 Held our 8th annual **Ride for the Mounds** in Daleville, supporting the expansion of the establishment of the Mounds Greenway along the west fork of the White River. Thank you to the **40 riders** who participated in this fun day!



- 3 Continued our leadership of a statewide coalition on lead poisoning, successfully petitioning regulators to expand care to more children impacted by lead. **Indiana will go from caring for around 200 lead-poisoned children per year to around 2,000.**

- 4 HEC contributed to the Indiana Wetland Task Force, whose final report (found online at [rb.gy/8ei4z2](http://rb.gy/8ei4z2)) has solid recommendations for the future of Indiana's wetlands to help the state have a healthy hydrologic system. **Indiana has already lost more than 85% of its original wetlands** due to agriculture, roads, and development.

- 5 After 6 years of effort by HEC and our partners, AES's Eagle Valley power plant in Martinsville is being required by the state to improve their cleanup plan. This will affect nearly **3 million tons of coal ash** at the facility.

- 6 Expanded our environmental health work with a new project which aims to reduce environmental triggers of asthma, like indoor and outdoor air quality. **6% of children and 9.7% of adults in Indiana currently have asthma.**

- 7 Launched our brand-new volunteer program, the HEC HOPE Team (Hoosiers Organizing for Planet Earth). The HOPE Team made its first big splash at this year's water-themed GTS conference. **23 of your fellow, green-minded Hoosiers have already jumped in.** Join us at [hecweb.org/get-involved/volunteer/](http://hecweb.org/get-involved/volunteer/)

- 8 Following the **17 Principles of Environmental Justice**, facilitated a working group and Community Benefit Agreement supporting responsible development in an Indianapolis community that had not seen private investment in 50 years.

## HEC's Path Forward: Introducing Our New Executive Director

Hello Friends of Hoosier Environmental Council!



It is with great excitement and enthusiasm that I write to you as HEC's new executive director.

The Hoosier Environmental Council has earned respect among both activists and lawmakers for its excellent work and being knowledgeable and effective advocates. I am honored to join this impressive team and grateful to the HEC board for this opportunity.

I come to HEC with over 25 years in nonprofit work. I spent 17 years as the leader of Global Gifts, an Indiana based nonprofit fair-trade organization. During that time Global Gifts grew sales from \$196,000 to over \$1.8 million and grew from a staff of one to over 25 employees. Professionally, I have led strategic planning efforts, developed business plans, and have raised funds for causes I care about. I've been a longtime HEC supporter, a volunteer advocate on environmental issues, and I led an effort to install solar at my place of worship. I have met with elected officials

about environmental policy, been a speaker at rallies, and advocated for solar and improved mass transit systems. I also actively opposed the coal bailout bill in 2020. My wife and I have two young sons, and I want to do everything I can to leave a better world for their generation and those to follow.

Environmental concerns are societal issues, and they require a collective response that can only come through strong, thoughtful policy. Having clean water to drink, air to breathe that does not lead to asthma and other respiratory illnesses, a climate that allows families to plan for a bright future, and farmers to plan for their next harvest are fundamentally basic rights of all Hoosiers. I look forward to reaching out into the Indiana environmental community and meeting the many leaders, advocates and supporters who are taking up this cause. I want to learn about your work, your interests, and how we can most effectively work together toward our shared goals. The Hoosier Environmental Council has been a powerful leader; I look forward to building on this success with you and I thank you for your support of HEC and the work you do on behalf of Indiana's environment.

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Executive Director  
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