SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT: HEC’S RECENT PROGRESS AND PRIORITIES FOR THE FUTURE

Our Work

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HEC successfully advocated for six good bills set to become law. This new legislation will fund lake and river restoration, preserve Indiana’s air permit program, address recycling and disposal of solar and wind systems, establish PFAS chemical testing for firefighters, and require childcare centers and preschools to test drinking water for lead and act if it is present. HEC and our allies were also successful in preserving current levels of wetland protection.

Progress

HEC expanded our environmental health work statewide, especially in the areas of lead pollution and environmental risks for asthma. HEC has grown our environmental health reach with the addition of two staff members and has become a trusted partner with the Indiana Department of Health to address asthma and lead in children.

Thanks to the Indiana Department of Health, and six partnering organizations including the NAACP and Minority Health Coalition, HEC expects to help 15 communities raise awareness of lead poisoning, leading to 9,000 children being tested. We will release an interactive map this summer of communities that are most at risk of suffering from asthma related health disparities and further expand our environmental causes of asthma work with additional staffing.

HEC helped win approval for the 200-Megawatt Locomotive Solar Project. This pollinator-friendly project will provide enough clean, renewable energy to power around 30,000 homes and will reduce CO2 emissions by 653 million lbs.

With HEC’s encouragement, IDEM requested $3 million in federal funding to create a climate pollution reduction plan, allowing Indiana to bid for $4.6 billion in nationally available funding to implement proposed projects.

HEC plans to continue increasing access to both local community solar and utility solar while advocating for and educating about the incredible incentives for climate action through federal legislation.

Priorities for the Future

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HEC will work with state and local governments to create legislation and policy that improves community solar access, protects more wetlands, and cleans up and prevents coal ash pollution.

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Environmental Justice

HEC’s work is made possible by people like you. Please give by June 30th and your gift will be matched by the Efroymson Family Fund! Give safely and securely at hecweb.org/donate. Thank you!
The Hoosier Environmental Council continues our 40-year legacy advocating for strong environmental policies and practices and improved quality of life for Hoosiers. We see those two things as interconnected.

HEC by the numbers

1. HEC is actively engaged in 22 advocacy coalitions, whose membership includes approximately 140 nonprofit organizations.

2. In the past several months, we’ve held 12 learning and advocacy workshops for 538 people on topics including climate, clean energy, food system reform, and sound environmental policy.

3. As statewide environmental policy experts, we provided expertise to local and state government, submitting technical comments on 7 proposed rules and other policy changes regarding wetlands, coal ash pollution, forest preservation, farmland and floodplain protection, climate action, and multi-land use practices, including redeveloping brownfields.

4. In the past 6 months, HEC was quoted or mentioned in news stories over 70 times including editorials that ran in about two dozen media outlets.

5. HEC staff and volunteers completed more than 5,500 grassroots advocacy contacts during the 2023 legislative session. Additionally, HEC tracked 80 bills, testified in 13 hearings, and had at least 80 meetings with lawmakers.

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