

Tuesday, April 1, 2025



Dear HEC Supporter,

For Hoosier Environmental Council (HEC), every Earth Month is an opportunity to express our gratitude to the friends, donors, fellow nature-lovers and climate activists who support our work all year round. Now more than ever, with unprecedented regulatory rollbacks at the state and federal level, being an environmentalist is a call to act.

For more than four decades, we've worked together to protect Hoosiers' air, water, and land. In good times and in the most trying ones, your support has made it all possible. And this Earth Month, that support can provide twice the power, thanks to a **generous gift match challenge** from Richard D. and Marni McKinney Waterfield!

Throughout April, every individual gift donated to HEC will be matched by Dick and Marni, up to a total of \$25,000! Please consider [making a gift today](#). Your donation will go twice as far in our fight to ensure a healthier, more sustainable future for all Hoosiers.

Double Your Gift Today!

Share your favorite photos with HEC!

This Earth Month, help us showcase Indiana's natural beauty! We invite you to submit your photos of nature around our state to be featured in our promotional materials. Whether it's a serene landscape, wildlife in action, or you and your family enjoying nature, your snapshots can inspire others to love and protect our environment.

Please send photos to comments@hecweb.org and join us in celebrating the beauty of Indiana's outdoors.

DEADLINE: Saturday, April 12, 2025

Submit a Photo



HEC files lawsuit to protect White River from coal ash!

Despite years of negotiations between Hoosier Environmental Council, state regulators, and AES Indiana, an IDEM permit allowing water contaminated with coal ash to be discharged into the White River near Martinsville has moved forward. With no other recourse available, HEC [filed this legal challenge](#).

Watch [Dr. Indra Frank's interview with Fox59](#) for more coverage of this lawsuit.



Coal Ash ponds at Eagle Valley.

HEC's push to defeat HB 1037 has gone into overtime!

HB 1037 || Storm Water Management || OPPOSE:

Last week we shared that [HB 1037](#), authored by Rep. Doug Miller (R-48), was not given a vote in committee after powerful opposing testimony, including from HEC's Water Policy Director, Maria Iturbide-Change.

On March 31st, things got more interesting when the bill was pulled from a hearing to the surprise of senators on the Environmental Affairs Committee. HEC speculates that the votes were not there for it to move forward - **your actions are making a difference!** This bill would prevent local authorities from creating erosion control protections that are “more stringent than” the statewide general permit issued by IDEM. However, the statewide permit leaves storm water management of sites less than one acre up to local authorities. If it sounds like a catch 22 - it is. The bill would essentially eliminate all stormwater controls on construction sites less than an acre - which is the vast majority of them. Please keep up the momentum and make sure your senator knows you oppose HB 1037.

Tell your legislator to oppose HB 1037 now.

Tell your legislators to vote NO on HB 1007, SB 423, and SB 424.

HB 1007, SB 423, and SB 424 || Energy Generation Resources || OPPOSE:

SMRs, or Small Modular (nuclear) Reactors are a high-risk and expensive form of energy generation. [HB 1007](#), [SB 423](#), and [SB 424](#) are bills that expose rate payers to too much financial risk – even if the construction of a planned SMR is never completed. SB 424 was passed by the House and Senate and was signed by the Speaker and President Pro Tempore last week. HB 1007 passed out of the Tax and Fiscal Policy Committee last Thursday and is on its way to the Senate floor. [Tell your legislators that you're not willing to carry the cost burden](#) that electric utilities themselves refuse to take on.

Tell Your Legislator to Vote No on HB 1007, SB 423, and SB 424

Good bills worth supporting!

SB 307 || Environmental waste inventory and grant program || SUPPORT:

[SB 307](#), authored by Sen. Andy Zay (R-17) and Sen. Eric Bassler (R-19), seeks to establish a state-wide inventory of environmentally contaminated sites (usually from industrial areas, so-called “brownfields”) for the purpose of creating a comprehensive strategy for clean-up and reuse. HEC supports this bill, but it has not been scheduled for a hearing this week as we expected. Please let Senators Zay and Bassler know you appreciate this bill and would like it to move forward.

SB 310 || Energy Audit of State Government Campus || SUPPORT:

This bill takes a small step toward an eventual full energy audit of the Statehouse and adjacent Indiana Government. Bill authors Sen. Andy Zay (R-17) and Sen. Eric Bassler (R-39) believe the state should show leadership in energy conservation. [SB 310](#) would authorize a study to determine the cost and efficacy of a full energy audit. HEC testified in support before the House Committee on Government and Regulatory Reform on 3/24, and the bill was recommitted to Ways & Means that day. HEC will continue to monitor and support this effort. Again, please let Senators Zay and Bassler know you appreciate this bill and would like it to move forward.

Your Advocacy Resources:

Find your state legislators and their contact information. Be sure to save this information in your contacts!

[Find Your Legislator](#)

For the latest details on what we're watching at the Indiana General Assembly, check out our Bill Watch page.

[Bill Watch 2025](#)

Learn how YOU can make a difference this Legislative Session using HEC's Legislative Advocacy Guide.

[Legislative Advocacy Guide](#)

Green Businesses

In addition to the very generous match for individual donations this month from Richard D. and Marni McKinney Waterfield, these incredible HEC Green Businesses have also stepped up, giving a percentage of their proceeds to HEC in honor of Earth Day. Please make a point of supporting and thanking them for their ongoing commitments to Indiana's environment!

1. [Silver in the City](#): Donating 22% of proceeds of April 22, Earth Day
2. [BRICS](#): Donating 15% of proceeds on April 22, Earth Day
3. [The Rejoicing Vine](#): Donating 10% of proceeds on Sunday, May 4th





THE REJOICING VINE

Voices United for Indiana's Environment

The World We Share
Voices United
for Indiana's
Environment

April 05, 2025
Program 3—4:30 PM
Resource Fair & Reception 4:30—5:30 PM
Location
Unity of Indianapolis



Advocacy and artistry combine at 'The World We Share: Voices United for Indiana's Environment,' hosted by HEC and the Indianapolis Women's Chorus. This free event merges powerful community singing with important discussions on environmental preservation in Indiana. Join us to engage with leading environmental advocates and learn how you can contribute to a sustainable future.

The main event from 3-4:30pm will be followed by an environmental resource fair, offering the chance to connect [with our speakers](#) and impactful local organizations.

Register Now

Meet Our Featured Speakers



Dr. Gabe Filippelli
*Indiana University
Environmental
Resilience Institute*



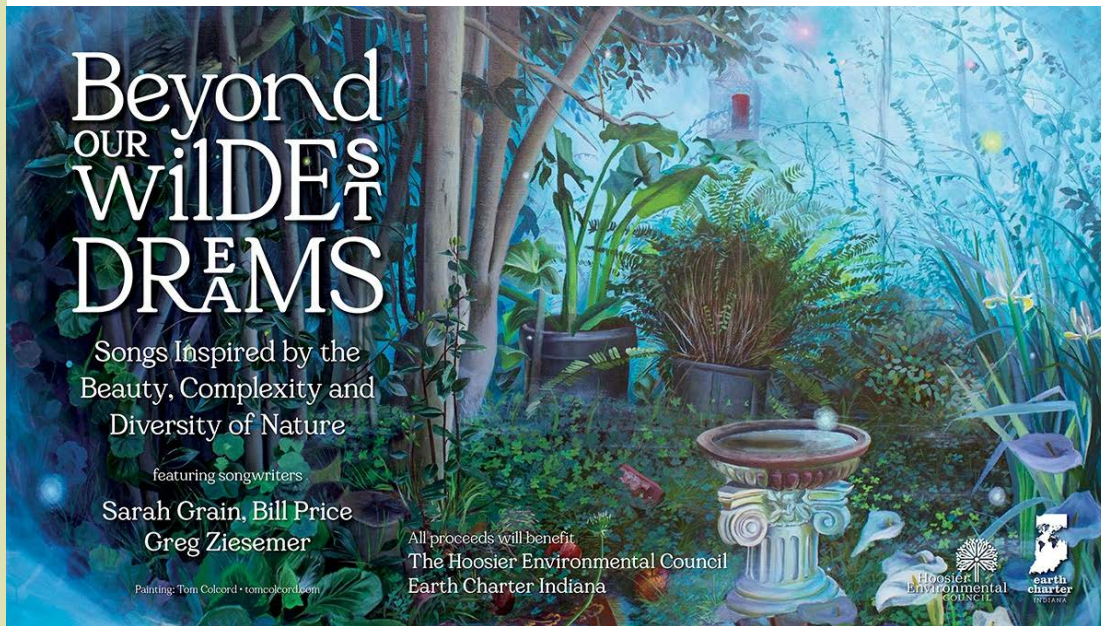
**Representative
Carey Hamilton**
*Indiana House of
Representatives,
District 87*



Raina Maiga
*Confront the Climate
Crisis*

**Mrs. Elizabeth
Gore**
*Martindale
Brightwood
Environmental
Justice Collaborative*

Benefits Concert for HEC & Earth Month Indiana



Come support HEC and Earth Charter Indiana at "Beyond Our Wildest Dreams," a benefits concert hosted by songwriter Bill Price. Bill will be joined by fellow songwriters Sarah Grain and Greg Zieseemer. What better way to celebrate Earth Month than with songs inspired by the beauty, complexity, and diversity of nature?

Tickets to this event are \$20 at the door.

Upcoming Events

The events below are in Eastern Time unless otherwise denoted.

- (Apr 5 | 3-5:30pm) [The World We Share: Voices United for Indiana's Environment](#), Indianapolis Women's Chorus x HEC Community Sing, Unity of Indianapolis, 907 N. Delaware St., Indianapolis, IN 46202
- (Apr 10 | 10am-3pm) [Sail Away into Lake Michigan's Future](#), Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N 25 E Chesterton, IN 46304
- (Apr 12 | 7:30pm) [Beyond Our Wildest Dreams: Songs Inspired by the Beauty, Complexity and Diversity of Nature](#), Roberts Park UMC, 401 N. Delaware St., Indianapolis, IN 46204
- (Apr 16 | 11am-2pm) [Indiana State University Earth Day Celebration](#), ISU Campus, 200 N 7th St., Terre Haute IN 47809
- (Apr 19 | 6am-7pm) [Knobstone 50: Trail Race](#), Deam Lake State Recreation Area, 1217 Deam Lake Rd, Borden, IN 47106
- (Apr 19 | 12-4pm) [Bloomington Earth Day Celebration](#), Switchyard Park, 1601 S Rogers

St., Bloomington IN 47403

- (Apr 26 | 10am-1pm) [Elkhart Earth Day Celebration](#), Elkhart Environmental Center, 1717 E Lusher Ave, Elkhart, IN 46516
- (Apr 26 | 10am-3pm) [St. Luke's Green Home Symposium](#), St. Luke's UMC, 100 W. 86th St., Indianapolis, IN 46260
- (Apr 26 | 10am-3pm) [Earth Day Celebration at the Children's Museum](#), The Children's Museum of Indianapolis, 3000 N Meridian St., Indianapolis, IN 46208

HEC in the News

- [Sen. Eric Koch wrote the most environment-related bills this legislative session](#), with David Van Gilder, *The Statehouse File*, March 21, 2025.
- [Lawsuit claims AES power plant is filling White River with toxins, posing risk to Martinsville drinking water](#), with Indra Frank, *Fox59*, March 26, 2025.
- [Indiana Environmental Group Sues the State for Allowing Powerplant to Discharge Coal Ash Wastewater to the White River](#), with Indra Frank, *MENA FM*, March 26, 2025.
- [Lawsuit: Toxins in White River, Martinsville Drinking Water at Risk](#), with Indra Frank, *WIBC FM*, March 26, 2025.

Your gift makes programming like the events and efforts in this email possible. Thank you!

Support Our Work and Double Your Gift this April

Hoosier Environmental Council | 317-685-8800 | comments@hecweb.org | www.hecweb.org

STAY CONNECTED



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