Monday, May 4, 2026

{{FirstName or 'Friend'}},

Scholars trace the origins of the phrase, "April showers bring May flowers," all the way back to Chaucer's The Canterbury Tales, which means people have been warning each other about "April showers" for at least 600 years. With all that history, we wouldn't have thought any April shower could catch us by surprise - but that was before the HEC community showered us with record-breaking levels of generosity and support last month!

On April 29 – *a full day before the deadline* – the combined support of our donors helped HEC meet its largest-ever Earth Month gift match! Your contributions help our state move a step closer toward a brighter future, where all Hoosiers benefit from abundant access to pure air, clean water, natural lands, and affordable, clean energy. **Thank you to everyone who donated in any amount** to our April fundraising campaign, and to HEC Board Vice Chair Ellen Rosenthal and The Netherleigh Fund for making our Earth Month gift matching challenge possible.

Like you, we're thrilled to welcome May's flowers (thanks to all those who responded to our most recent call for photos!), but we're not bidding farewell to Earth Month festivities just yet. If you missed the party in April, there are two more invitations for you to celebrate with us in May. You'll find them printed in golden font in our 'Upcoming Events' section, below.

Stay tuned to all the wonderful things that bloom at HEC thanks to your generous support!

From left to right: Bloomington Earth Month Celebration (photo by Shannon Curtis Kellogg), Zionsville Greenfest (photo by Jalessa Slade), Children's Museum Earth Day Celebration (photo by Eve Earley), and Porter County Earth Day Celebration (photo by Jocelyn Keranen)

Indra Frank: 2026 Environmental Resilience Hero

We've always considered **Indra Frank** a hero, but now it's official: HEC's current Coal Ash Advisor and past Water Policy Director was just named a **2026 Hoosier Resilience Hero by Indiana University Environmental Resilience Institute!**

In her long career as an environmental advocate in Indiana, Indra combined her medical expertise as a Johns-Hopkins educated physician and her extensive environmental knowledge to improve the state's environmental health. From building statewide coalitions to protect wetlands to serving on the Indiana Lead Coalition to reduce lead poisoning in Hoosier homes, Indra's unfaltering dedication has improved the lives of thousands of our neighbors.

Please join HEC in warmly congratulating Indra on this much-deserved recognition!

Calling all Indy Residents to Comment!

Pictured: AWS data center campus in New Carlisle, Indiana. *Photo courtesy of South Bend Tribune.*

Marion County residents: it's time to speak up! Last month, the Indianapolis Department of Metropolitan Development (IndyDMD) presented draft zoning policies for local data centers to a committee of the Indianapolis City-County Council. Residents of Indianapolis-Marion County have been invited to provide feedback on the proposed regulations to IndyDMD - which is **accepting public comment on the draft ordinance through 8:00 a.m. on Monday, May 18, 2026.**

The draft zoning regulations and related FAQs can be found on IndyDMD's data center webpage, where you can also submit a comment using their convenient online form. For help formulating your comments, check out HEC's blog post on the topic.

HEC strongly encourages city residents to take advantage of this opportunity to weigh in on the fairly thin (in our view) slate of regulations the city is proposing. Given the enormous impact the proposed regulations could have on the entire Indianapolis community, we're also calling on IndyDMD to significantly extend and expand opportunities for Indy residents to provide feedback and refrain from any new approvals of data center developments while the proposed regulations are under consideration. Read our blog post to learn more, or head to the IndyDMD data center page to make your voice heard!

Visit IndyDMD's Data Center Page

Check out HEC's Blog Post

HEC News & Views

- If data centers are extraordinary, then we shouldn't use ordinary rules, with Rebecca TeKolste, Journal Gazette, May 1, 2026

Upcoming Events

The events below are in Eastern Standard Time unless otherwise denoted.
Staff from HEC will be present at all events listed in golden type.

- **May 12 | 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM |** Water Stakeholder Input Workshop, Knox Community Building 55 East Lake Street, Knox, Indiana, 46534
- **May 17 | 12:00 PM - 5:00 PM** | Eco Fest Fort Wayne, Headwaters Park, 333 South Clinton Street Fort Wayne, IN 46802
- **May 30 | 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM** | Earth Day Indiana, Garfield Park, 2345 Pagoda Dr, Indianapolis, IN 46203
- **June 6 | 8:30 AM - 1:00 PM** | Pike Farmer's Market, Common Ground West Church 5429 Lafayette Road Indianapolis IN 46254
- **June 13 | 8:30 AM - 1:00 PM** | Pike Farmer's Market, Common Ground West Church 5429 Lafayette Road Indianapolis IN 46254
- **June 20 | 8:30 AM - 1:00 PM** | Pike Farmer's Market, Common Ground West Church 5429 Lafayette Road Indianapolis IN 46254
- **June 27 | 8:30 AM - 1:00 PM** | Pike Farmer's Market, Common Ground West Church 5429 Lafayette Road Indianapolis IN 46254

Your support makes the programming described in this email possible. Thank you!

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