

2025 ENVIRONMENTAL PRIORITY ISSUES

together for a healthy and sustainable Iowa future



PROTECT COMMUNITIES FROM LIFE-ALTERING DISASTERS

When a watershed works together to plan for slowing the movement of water, extreme rain events have less impact on people and property. We know that planning, coordination, and local leadership are as important before a disaster occurs as they are once a town is destroyed. We also know what practices work to slow water – natural infrastructure like floodplains, wetlands, and ponds – to reduce impacts locally and downstream. Iowa must invest in planning for more water, coming faster, if we are going to keep our communities and farms stable and safe into the future.

- ✔ Give counties the power to invest in natural infrastructure
- ✔ Increase the sales tax to fund the Natural Resources Trust Fund and prioritize projects that will slow the flow and benefit water quality.
- ✔ Fund watershed resource coordinators in all 56 watersheds in the state to facilitate installation of flood mitigation practices and connect landowners with programs.



PRIORITIZE THE POTENTIAL OF EVERY CHILD

Every child should have access to safe drinking water. The legacy of lead service lines threatens the bright futures of children across Iowa, with impacts on their early development that last a lifetime. The federal government has provided significant dollars to pay down part of the cost for replacing lead service lines in Iowa, but our water utilities don't have the resources to reach the people who need this support.

- ✔ Support programs and funding that will facilitate the replacement of lead service lines.



PUT POWER IN THE HANDS OF IOWANS

Iowans pay 100% of a utility's costs in their monthly bills and have no choice of electric provider. The legislature and the Iowa Utilities Commission have a responsibility to keep energy affordable and reliable.

- ✔ Adopt an open and transparent integrated resource planning (IRP) process that will give policymakers and ratepayers daylight into how our utilities are planning to keep the lights on and to make energy more affordable.



WE ARE THE IOWA ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL.

FOR IOWANS. FOR THE ENVIRONMENT. FOR OUR FUTURE.

CLEAN WATER • RENEWABLE ENERGY • HEALTHY AIR • COMMUNITY RESILIENCY

For 30 years, the Iowa Environmental Council (IEC) has been a trusted voice on policy that addresses the most pressing environmental and conservation issues facing Iowans today. We are made up of a broad coalition of members – both organizations and individuals – who care deeply about the things that make Iowa special: fresh water to drink and recreate in, clean air to breathe, reliable and affordable utilities, health and resilience for all Iowa communities, both urban and rural.

As Iowans, we respect our natural resources and the joy of experiencing our greatest asset: our environment. We believe it's up to all of us to work together to protect it for future generations.



IEC'S PROGRAM AND RESEARCH AREAS OF EXPERTISE:

CLEAN ENERGY

To meet current and future energy needs and maintain its position as a clean energy leader, Iowa must continue to accelerate its transition to clean energy solutions that are economic and environmentally sound. This includes shifting away from coal to clean sources of energy including wind power, solar power and energy efficiency.

CLEAN WATER

Iowa has placed increasingly severe strain on our water resources. This threatens drinking and recreational water, soil, natural areas and wildlife habitat. To meet current and future needs and preserve our natural resources, we must develop and adopt solutions that are economical, sustainable, and environmentally sound. This includes reducing pollution from urban and agricultural sources to restore Iowa's land and water.

CLIMATE RESILIENCY

Communities that are the hardest hit by the impacts of climate change and pollution may also have the least amount of capacity to respond to them. Iowans face environmental burdens that impact our daily lives. From public health and agriculture, to increasing stress on our economy and environment, the impacts of climate change are happening now, they're happening here in Iowa, and they are intensifying.

Looking for data, subject-matter expertise, or historical information about Iowa's environmental policy? We're here for you! Contact us.

